

Hear Us O Lord (that you can't hear)



As a network, we have been meeting at sea between Liverpool and the Isle of Man to reconsider the short stories of Malcolm Lowry and the impact of industrialisation on our waters, a subject Lowry wrote about in the 1950s. Using the small Isle of Man as a reality but also a poetic metaphor, our network has explored the global shift in moving plastic at sea, windpower, blue carbon, wild swimming, seaweed, and ships engines (Lowry used the refrain of the song *Frère Jacques* to mirror this sound).

Podcast 15 *The network (that you can't hear)*, one of our twenty-minute podcasts, is an abstract montage of sounds about shipbuilding, old mining towns, wildlife sounds, radar blips, waterlines, sunken warships, underwater architecture, tides, foghorns and semaphore.

With a backdrop of three tracks from Sam Mitchell's *Luminescence* collection, *moths, things that writhe in the deep and surf*, the sonic collage floats notions of how technologies — and creative relationships with them — survive from one period to another.

In 2017, New Zealand passed a groundbreaking law granting personhood status to the Whanganu River — to harm it is now the same as hurting a human. In this context, our voices are also environmental, forming a micro-symposium staged on the very oceanic surface, artists' voices dipping below and above to hear echoes of distant engines and ripples of future technologies as the sea rises physically and politically. 🗣️

Glasgow-born artist Dr Alan Dunn devises projects using sound and digital images, collaborating with thousands of citizens, to unlock hidden stories. Alan is a Reader in Art and Design at Leeds Beckett University.

Alan has worked with BBC Radio, Tate Britain, ICA, National Science & Media Museum, Liverpool Art Prize and is currently working on AHRC-funded research between Liverpool and the Isle of Man to consider Wirral-born writer Malcolm Lowry in relation to increased care of our oceans and underwater sound recording.



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Soundcloud link: <https://tinyurl.com/2x5jabed>