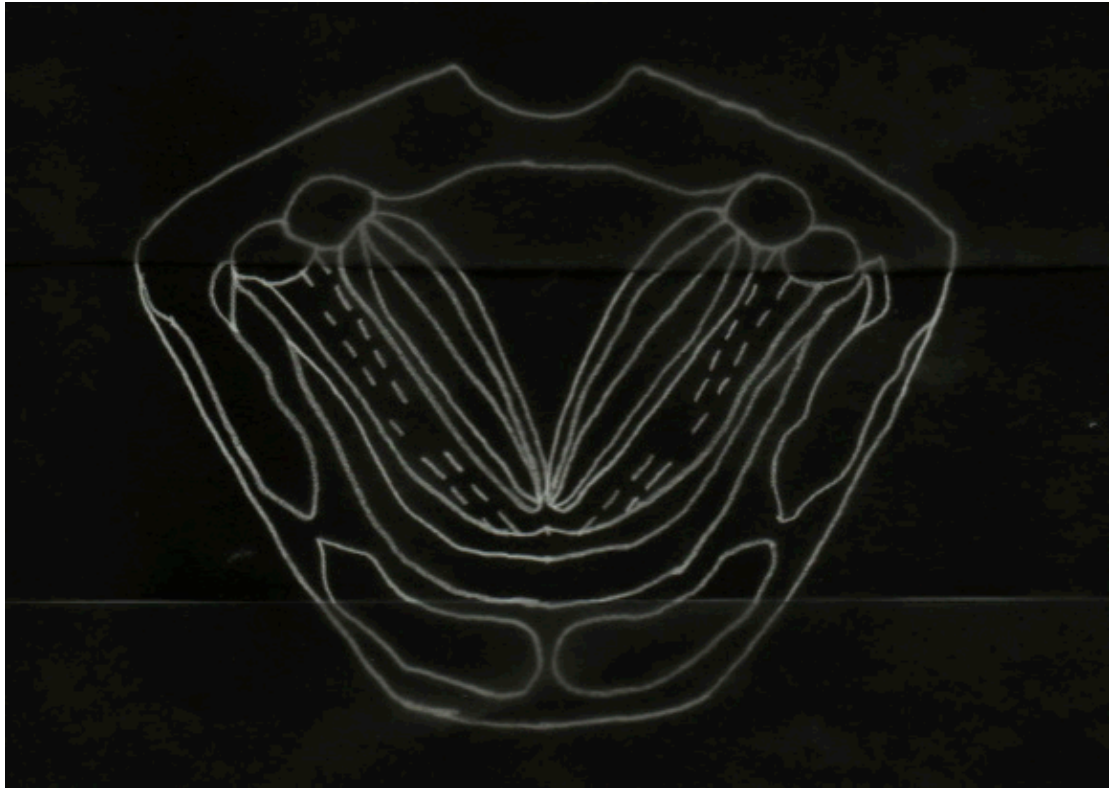


PRESS RELEASE

POLYPHONY - an exhibition by ELLEN SOUTHERN at CENTRESPACE GALLERY, BRISTOL



Vocal Cords – drawing by Ellen Southern (2016)

OPENING EVENT – Friday 2nd September, 7pm – 9.30pm featuring live vocal performances.

Exhibition Open: 11.30 am – 6pm, Saturday 3rd – Tuesday 6th September (inclusive).

You are welcome to contact the artist for additional viewings outside of these times. See @ellen_southern and www.ellensouthern.co.uk for the latest updates

Address: Centrespace Gallery, 6 Leonards Lane, Bristol BS1 1EA. Access from Corn St and St Stephens Street. See <http://www.centrespacegallery.com> for more info and directions.

Gallery contact: Ruth Piper, Gallery Co-Ordinator 0117 929 1234. Office hours Weds and Thurs 10am – 5pm. Email: info@centrespacegallery.com

Artist contacts: mail@ellensouthern.co.uk 07830650082

About:

Polyphony – ‘Many Voices’

In this exhibition I will present and explore the multidisciplinary, polymathic, or, to put it in vocal terms, polyphonic (‘many voices’) nature of my practice. My work spans the mediums of sound art, field recording, drawing, video, installation, performance and photography.

This 'polyphonic practice' is influenced by a passion for singing in amateur choirs, together with a fascination for what I term 'vocalising site': explorations of spatial acoustics via live and recorded voices, with a particular interest in heritage sites.

Polyphony will showcase further work in progress from my current project, 'Site Singing', which I exhibited in July 2015 at Centrespace. This was an interactive presentation of vocal sound-works and drawings created in various lesser-visited English Heritage sites in the South West region, with OS maps, photography, video, a sound-drawing station and comfortable reading and drawing area for visitors. This project will be accompanied with a selection of sound-based performance works (audio, video projections, photography and drawings), to be installed and presented together for the first time, by which visitors are invited to observe and listen in on how the works may 'speak' to each other in 'many voices'.

The opening event will feature a live site-specific durational performance for 4 female voices, vocally exploring the acoustic spaces in around the gallery. And, as I regularly sing 'shapenote' music with Bristol Sacred Harp (<http://www.bristolsacredharp.org>), this rhythmic, down-to-earth style of sacred community singing will also ring around the gallery to launch the show.

Documentation of Site Singing exhibition, Centrespace Gallery summer 2015:

<https://sitesinging.wordpress.com/2015/07/07/site-singing-exhibition-3rd-7th-july-3015/>

Press quotes:

"Engaging sound-sketches, inspired by visits to some of Bristol's finest heritage sites"

– Bristol Life

"Southern is a genuine polymath...the execution [of her sound-sketches] requiring dedication, planning, and hard work. [They are] all created by the artist using her own voice [with] each piece drawing on her fine art and drawing background"

– Louise Trimby, Bristol 24/7

Site Singing exhibition visitor comments:

"Beautiful show – atmospheric and enigmatic" S.O

"Intriguing and awesome on several levels. A great project"

"Very unusual and original idea – keep moving it forward"

"Thought this idea was very original and fitted with the beautiful architecture and landscape. Need to check out these places. Thanks"

"Listening to the space and listening to yourself. Fantastic!!"

"Very evocative of places I've been to (and some I haven't!). I shall be going to some of these sites because of this exhibition"

"Beautiful, evocative exhibition. I love the way the sound and drawings hover and interweave a subtle version of the places. Great photos! Thanks!"

"Very interesting and different from anything I have encountered before. I look forward to the next exhibition"

Example of multimedia work to be exhibited: *Luminaire* (video of live performance for 4 voices, 5mins) will be shown for the first time as part of the exhibition:

<https://vimeo.com/78108791>