

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Contact for press enquiries
Kye Wilson, Project Manager
07760 483 403
studio@kyewilson.co.uk

Southampton based artist James Paddock receives Arts Council England funding for first London solo exhibition.

Life's rhythms are magnified and everything around the psychotic character is at a hyper level. The everyday is intensified and the normal journey is taken to another world, another land – a new place. Birdsong, the sea, the wind is in communication with the psychotic character – a world in which people communicate telepathically.

James Paddock has been awarded Arts Council funding to develop PYLON, a new mixed media installation inspired by experiences of psychosis. The artwork will be exhibited at A-side B-side Gallery in London from 4 – 10 September 2019 as Paddock's first London solo exhibition.

The installation takes the viewer on a journey of a psychotic young woman (performed by actress and performance artist, Amber Weyman) who travels on foot, as the psychotic experience unravels. The artwork uses moving image and special audio techniques (binaural sound) to convey the psychotic experience to audiences through an immersive installation.

PYLON is a continuation of Paddock's enquiry into often-overlooked topics of contemporary society in this case mental health. Paddock says, *"I wish to contribute to breaking down stigma surrounding mental illness. When people think of psychosis, they might imagine an unreality in their minds. By discussing such a difficult and often controversial topic through the medium of art I hope to offer an alternative route to understand the condition and help dispel the surrounding myths. I am pleased that Arts Council England recognised the importance of my work and the contribution it can make to tackling difficult subjects in society."*

For Paddock PYLON marks an important point in his artistic career. *"I've relished the opportunity the solo exhibition has given me to push my practice and explore new audio techniques. I have worked site-specifically and developed the sculptural element of the installation in direct response to the characteristics of the gallery space, heightening the immersive experience for the audience."*

Phil Gibby, Area Director of South West Arts Council England, said: *"We are really pleased to support PYLON through our National Lottery project grants programme. This investment allows James Paddock to develop his creative practice and find new ways to tell his story. At the Arts Council we believe that arts and culture can have a positive impact on wellbeing and this project opens the door to discussions around the experience of different types of mental health issues."*

Follow the development of PYLON across multiple online platforms:

Blog: www.jamespaddock.net/pylon-2019/

Instagram: @jamespaddock100 #pylon

Image Credit: PYLON, Production Still, James Paddock, 2019

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Notes to Editors

About James Paddock

James Paddock produces conceptual artworks using mixed media. His work explores and critiques aspects of contemporary society, questioning the current narratives in today's western society and discussing often frequently overlooked topics, such as mental health, social isolation, human conditioning and freedoms in the western world. He tackles these difficult issues with insight and awareness bringing them to the attention and breaking down social stigma. Paddock graduated with a BA Fine Art degree from Cardiff School of Art & Design and Winchester School of Art. Recent exhibitions include: Passion For Freedom, London; Espacio Gallery, London; Solent Showcase, Southampton; and Santora Space205, California (curated by Diana Ali mentor on BBC1 arts series).

www.jamespaddock.net

www.axisweb.org/p/jamespaddock

About A-side B-side Gallery

Tinsel Edwards and Catherine Magnani founded A-side B-side Gallery in late 2011. Studios reside alongside the gallery space, which house a collective of both emerging and established artists whilst supporting ambitious collaborations within an experimental and evolving creative space. The gallery is a not for profit company, supported in kind by friends of the gallery, grants and donations.

www.asidebidegallery.com

About Arts Council England

Arts Council believe that great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. We champion, develop and invest in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts we support activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

PYLON is supported by public funding through the National Lottery Project Grants from Arts Council England.



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