

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

PAUL BENNEY

Speaking In Tongues, the major new work by Paul Benney, will be unveiled for the first time at Leicester Cathedral from Wednesday May 8th to Sunday 8th and will continue to be exhibited there through Pentecost to 6th June 2014.

This monumental piece is a one of Benney's largest works to date measuring 8ft x 12 ft. The subjects - all friends and contemporaries of the artist - are portrayed as Apostles in the Pentecostal state. Benney's depiction of light emanating from the head as an animation of the spirit has echoes in the imagery of many different religions and is a particular fascination for Benney.

Inspired by Goya's painting 'Lunatics in the Yard' 1794, Benney also seeks to explore foundational religious narratives that illuminate the mystical and visionary as a counterpoint to contemporary perceptions of psychiatric pathologies. The outer surface of the work, a highly reflective pigmented resin, encourages us to view ourselves through the reflective nature of this piece as active participants in the work.

As part of a nationwide tour Speaking In Tongues will then travel to London for 'Out of our Heads', curated by James Putnam and Vassiliki Tzanakou at Shoreditch Town Hall from June 13th to June 29th. This exhibition charts the boundaries of contemporary human perception and will include works by Mat Collishaw, Paul Fryer, Conrad Shawcross, Tim Shaw, and Jessica Bugg as well as talks by prominent scientists from a variety of disciplines including neuroscience, psychiatry and philosophy.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance.

(The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, v.3 & 4.)

Leicester Cathedral

St Martins House, 7 Peacock Ln, Leicester, LE1 5PZ

Shoreditch Town Hall

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