X = 2140

In the coming 120 years, how can humans decide

to dismantle, remember and repair

the lands called *Sellafield* ?

sculptures by Wallace Heim

Florence Arts Centre

Egremont, Cumbria CA22 2NR

22 February 2020 – 28 March 2020

Wednesday – Sunday 11:00 – 16:00

opening launch 26 February 2020, 14:00 – 19:00

There will be five human generations between 2020 and 2140, the year by which the Sellafield site is to be decommissioned, its purposes changed and its legacies cast. Each generation will make decisions on this future while enduring unpredictable ecological changes and uncertain political, economic and technological conditions.

Wallace Heim’s three sculptures play with the iconic architecture of Sellafield, to create metaphoric ‘fonts’. The sculptures offer ways of thinking about a decision outside the everyday and its usual procedures. Fonts are devices for acknowledging the past, for marking the present and sending hopes for a future. The sculptures ask about what kinds of knowledge will be useful; what different forms of clean-up and remediation will be needed; and what it feels like to care for the soils, waters, stones and living beings on whom these generations of humans depend.

The exhibition is part of the ‘Sellafield Site Futures’ project by an interdisciplinary team at the University of Manchester, looking at the contentious history and future of the site. The researchers hosted three workshops in the summer of 2019 in Whitehaven, bringing together participants from West Cumbria, some affiliated with the nuclear industry and supply chain, others working in the arts and heritage sectors, scientists and ethicists, and others engaged in conservation and ecological initiatives. Heim’s sculptures are a response to the questions and conflicts that were raised.

The exhibition is supported by the University of Manchester’s Beam research network and the Dalton Nuclear Institute and is funded by the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC).

Wallace Heim

Wallace’s work spans sculpture, theatre design and philosophy. She also writes and produces spoken word audio pieces. Her field is art and ecology, with a focus on how art and performed works create an understanding of nature-human relations, in times of climate instability. She has exhibited in London, the United States and Kassel, Germany. She was the designer that started the Gate Theatre in London. Her academic work is trans-disciplinary, with a basis in environmental philosophy, aesthetics and ethics. She lives in Cumbria.

[www.wallaceheim.com](http://www.wallaceheim.com)

Sellafield Site Futures

The Sellafield Site Futures project emerged from research conducted by the Beam social and nuclear research network at The University of Manchester, hosted by the Dalton Nuclear Institute. [logo Beam] For more information, contact details and project updates, visit https://www.mub.eps.manchester.ac.uk/thebeam/.

Florence Arts Centre

Florence Arts Centre is a creative and performance space based on the site of the last working Iron Ore Mine in Europe Florence Mine, a short walk from the historic market town of Egremont in West Cumbria.