

# PLATFORM-7

The Little House, 16a Belmont Hill, London, SE13 5BD, England

## PRESS RELEASE

### **OBSERVING THE WITNESS, POPLAR As part of Silent Cacophony live art intervention across London streets and internationally Remembrance Day, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Throughout Remembrance Day, Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, live art interventions will be taking place in over 30 street locations across London, and in USA, Holland, France, Lebanon and other UK towns, exploring how we all reach our opinion on war and conflict. This is NOT a charity event, highlighting of a political cause or money raising activity.

**Observing the Witness** will be a series of three durational performances that symbolically re-enact some of the indelible events that have happened in Poplar, at the extreme margins of the East End, a recurring target of aerial attacks over two World Wars.

**Silent Cacophony** will be the 5th annual Remembrance event by abstract live performance art company Platform-7. Previous art interventions took place in cemeteries at night, 2009-11, and across the London Underground and the disused Eurostar, Waterloo in 2012.

'Silent Cacophony' uses the locations of Zeppelin and V-rocket attacks to explore silence perceived during war and conflict.

Through both World Wars, Britain had aerial attacks aimed at the civilian population that killed many and had a psychological intention. The first of these attacks, in 1915, was by Zeppelins, huge airships filled with hydrogen that could fly up to 50mph over long distances and, at cruising height with cloud cover, could barely be heard from the ground. The Zeppelin assaults created terror amongst the population, as often, only when bombs began exploding were people first aware of an attack. As Hitler's war faltered, he resorted to trying to recreate this terror with his highly explosive v-rockets, which could travel great distance before silently falling on a random target creating devastating consequence.

A series of live art performance interventions throughout Remembrance Day, financially supported by Arts Council England, SHM-Foundation and Queen Mary, University of London will appear at locations across London and other areas of Britain that became casualties of these attacks, representing the sudden explosions and randomness of these events. Each performance will tell the story of its own particular location, as if the memory were being conveyed by the place itself rather than a person.

#### **Observing the Witness locations:**

9-10 Langdon Park, E14 6NW

11-12 Bazely Street, E14 0EU

13-14 Upper North Street, E14 6FY

**Artist Website:** <http://xname.cc>  
**Event Websites:** [www.silentcacophony.co.uk](http://www.silentcacophony.co.uk)  
**Blog:** <http://www.silentcacophony.co.uk/#!/blog/c12n4>  
**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/PLATFORM7events>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/nomansland.me>

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ENGLAND**

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**xname**, an Italian **conceptual new media artist and PhD candidate** at Queen Mary University of London, **said**: 'this *'live art triptych'* will be a sort of ritual whose aesthetics combine aspects of 'happening', first wave of performance and body art and the more recent 'do it yourself' noise music practice.'

**Curator of Silent Cacophony, John McKiernan of Platform-7, said**: 'these events question how we construct our opinions on war, whether through media, history books, oral history or personal experience, they highlight how war and conflict impacts well beyond those immediately affected and ripples on through the generations.'

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

**Platform-7 Events**: The ethos and name of Platform-7 Events derives from London Bridge Railway station having 16 platforms yet no platform 7, few commuters notice this. The company presents astute art interventions that engage people and encourages us to explore the significant in the everyday, the world that surrounds us and issues that impact our environment. [www.platform-7.com](http://www.platform-7.com)

## Arts Council England

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