

Liam Young

Liam Young is a speculative architect who operates in the spaces between design, fiction and futures. Trained as an architect in Australia, he has worked for a number of the world's leading design practices. As technology increasingly became the fundamental driver of urban change Young became frustrated with the slow pace of traditional architecture and set up his own speculative futures think tank, Tomorrow's Thoughts Today, a collaborative practice, working across science, technology and architecture. To ground his design fiction practice in the realities of present Young has also cofounded the research studio Unknown Fields, an award winning nomadic workshop that travels on annual expeditions to the ends of the earth to investigate emerging trends and uncover the weak signals of possible futures.

Young now manages his time between exploring distant landscapes and prototyping the future worlds he extrapolates from them. He tells stories about the future city using fiction, film and performance as imaginative tools to explore the implications and consequences of emerging technologies and ecological conditions. His projects include Under Tomorrow's Sky, a science fiction movie set for a fictional future city developed through collaborations with scientists and technologists and most notably Electronic Countermeasures, a swarm of quadcopter drones that drift through the city broadcasting a pirate internet and file sharing hub.

tomorrowsthoughtstoday.com
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LOOP>>60Hz: City of Drones

A Digital Landscape by
Liam Young + John Cale + FIELD
Live at www.cityofdrones.io

Accompanying the live performances of LOOP>>60hz is an interactive digital environment, which is part of the Barbican's Digital Revolution exhibition and will also be hosted on The Space. Developed by John Cale, Liam Young and digital artists FIELD, this interactive environment charts the story of a lost drone drifting through an abstract cityscape, and players are invited to pilot a virtual craft and remotely explore this imaginary world. Painting the sky with aerial contrails and buzzing between the buildings, the audiovisual choreography echoes throughout the online landscape.

LOOP>>60Hz: *City of Drones* is commissioned by the Barbican and The Space

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LOOP>>60Hz: Transmissions from The Drone Orchestra

A performance by John Cale & Liam Young

12 & 13 Sep

barbican.org.uk

LOOP>>60Hz : Transmissions from The Drone Orchestra

Featuring

John Cale
Dustin Boyer
Joey Maramba
Deantoni Parks
with very special guest **Nick Franglen**
Liam Young

Credits

John Cale
Nita Scott producer
Dustin Boyer project engineer
Rob Verschoor FOH sound engineer
Eric De Bie monitor engineer
Rob Donnelly Jackson surround sound engineer
TEAM ARM pre-production
Ralph Esposito pre-production lead
ARM Studios, Los Angeles studio/rehearsal facilities

Liam Young
Andreas Müller software lead
Keri Elmsly producer
Aymie Backler project manager
Denis Stratton lead pilot
Liam Young with Universal Assembly Unit
costume design

costume production team
Samantha Lee, Oliviu Lugoian-Ghenciu,
Zhan Wang, Harry Kay, William Gowland,
Dimi Constantinides, Quiddale O'Sullivan,
Jennifer Chen, Chris Cooper, Charlie Carr
Gomm, Panja Göbel, Richard Strange

pilots
Oliviu Lugoian-Ghenciu, Alan Perin,
Ayhan Dawood, Dan Bishop

Philip Tarry drone technician

Dan Terry lighting design

With special thanks to

RNSS – PA hire
Games On Track
Drone Speakers – Mini Rig
Rehearsal Facilities kindly provided by Mill Co
The Helicopter Girls
John Nussey
Giorgia Polizzi
Ryan McCann, Domino Record Co

DJI Drone Hardware and Technical Support



Please note it is compulsory to turn off all mobile devices before you enter the Theatre as they may interfere with the performance.

Produced by the Barbican
Co-commissioned with The Space

For nearly 50 years, John Cale has thrived at the vanguard of a myriad of creative disciplines, from setting the stage for an underground, noise-bending attack on rock and roll with the Velvet Underground, to the truly unclassifiable music he makes today. This brave new commission sees Cale joining forces with speculative architect and storyteller Liam Young to explore the emerging soundscape of a new generation, the distant rumble of drone propellers.

Loop>>60hz shifts the conversation about drones from one that is predominantly centred on militarised and surveillance applications to one that looks at what alternative opportunities they may present. This is not to exclude or ignore the extraordinary atrocities that these technologies are carrying out, but we simultaneously need to have a different kind of discussion. There are now more civilian drones in the sky than there are military ones. As with all technology, it is when it gets democratised that we really start to see its true potential.

Against a score of original compositions and tracks expressly selected and reinterpreted from Cale's seminal career *Loop>>60hz* imagines the possibilities of the drones as emerging cultural objects. If these technologies are no longer unseen objects overhead, or propelled along classified flight paths, but brought into close and intimate relations with us, then how might we see them differently? When their transmission fades, when the drones lose their signal and without their protocols for terror and surveillance, do they drop from the sky, do they fall in love or do the drones drift endlessly, forever on loop?

Challenging the format of a stage-based seated performance, the drones, drifting overhead, will occupy the volume of the theatre. As members of the band they are both disembodied instruments and a nomadic broadcast infrastructure, dissolving the line between the audience and the stage. Through the membrane of the safety net you will literally feel the downdraft wash across your face, whilst the hum of their propellers form an active audio layer within the immersive soundscape of the performance.

Our bold commissioners, and a project team driven by their relentless desire to experiment, innovate and explore by any means necessary have made this project possible. We are running autonomous choreographed flight indoors, and due to the experimental nature of the software and emergent state of the technology it may be subject to glitches. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Our thanks and appreciation goes out to DJI who have generously supported this project with

hardware and expert advice and to all of our team for their passion and unrelenting hard work.

Programme notes © John Cale and Liam Young
#loop60hz

About the Artists

John Cale
'A pioneer who refuses to stop innovating' NME

Over the course of a career that began in the 1960s, John Cale has built up a body of work as a musician, singer, songwriter, producer, film composer and visual artist. Cale has been at the vanguard of a myriad of creative disciplines the artist who began his musical career in a youth orchestra in Wales and wrote his first composition while still at school developed a penchant for avant-garde at a London art college, and was guided to New York by the hand of Aaron Copland and John Cage. He abandoned conventional wisdom, throwing away his classical scholarship and trading it in to contour his beloved viola into what would become his signature sound. An encounter with LaMonte Young set Cale on a new path, cultivating the then unfamiliar practice of holding a single chord for hours, creating an inexplicable movement and rhythm that was unique to each listener. All this set the stage for a hugely influential underground career.

Along the way he has explored feedback, white noise, protopunk, new wave, ambient, noise pop, electronic, baroque, alternative, drone, experimental, classical and much else besides. And he has made innovations throughout; whether by tuning his instrument to the hum of a refrigerator, or by tucking paperclips into piano strings to augment a tonal scale, his unwavering pressure on technological boundaries has led him to this exciting new frontier. Now, linking up with an innovator in another field like Liam Young, Cale is embarking on one of his most exciting collaborations to date, combining two seemingly disparate disciplines to explore and extend the link between art and technology like never before.

'Drone : a bleak tapestry of unholy noises, searing into the listeners ears and with any luck transporting them to a place they'll not want to leave for long while.' John Cale

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