

James P Graham

<https://jamespgraham.com>

Portfolio

'many fires burn below the surface'
Empedocles



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James P Graham

Iddu

Iddu

a 15 minute 360 degree video projection realised with Super 8 film on the volcanic island of Stromboli, installed within a 10 metre circular space with 12 channel surround sound.

[watch Iddu](#)



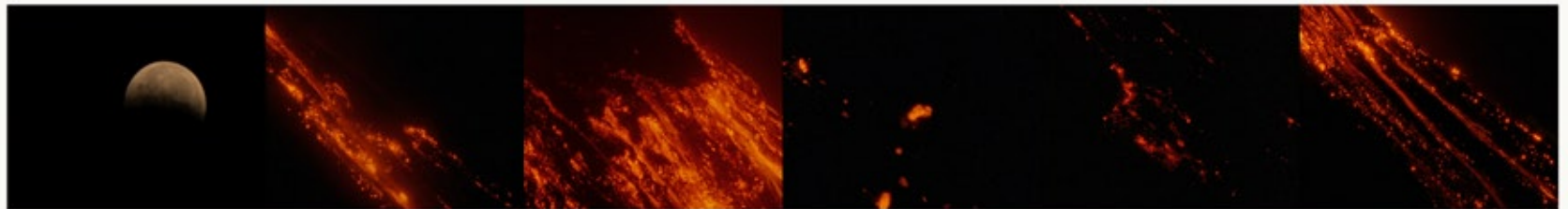
the opening shot - Stromboli seen from Basiluzzo



explosion at 725m



landslide



full moon eclipse and lava flow

Exhibitions

2019

'Pompeii and Santorini - Eternity in one day'
La Scuderie del Quirinale, Rome

2015

'Calling for the Infinite Sphere'
Palazzo di Cozza Caposavi, Bolsena Italy

2011

'Unnatural Nature'
Cob Gallery, London

2010

'Volcano - from Turner to Warhol'
Compton Verney, UK

2010

'Busan Biennial, Living in Evolution'
Busan, South Korea

2009

'Searching for Empedocles'
Islington Metalworks, London

2007

'MUDAM Guest House'
MUDAM Luxembourg

2006

'James P Graham's Iddu'
Sketch London

Iddu

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Iddu (Him) refers to the local name for the island of Stromboli, a small conical land mass formed by 2.5 millenia of constant volcanic activity. the island assumes the leading role in this artwork, conveying the artist's response to the seductive combination of intense beauty and thrill of danger after witnessing Nature's unpredictable, awe-inspiring demonstration of supernatural energy, over which mankind has no control....

Made over a four-year period, this 15 minute film combines 360 and 180 panoramic multi-camera views captured on Super 8 film. Slowly unfurling, these reveal an enveloping vista portraying a place of sanctuary, or a precarious spot beside a threatening cauldron of glowing molten magma. Graham effectively conveys an understated knowledge of this landscape after working briefly with local volcanologists, capturing images of explosive activity with ultra high-speed cameras triggered remotely by a seismometer.

Referencing landscape, Iddu has been conceived as a metaphor for the human psyche and acquisition of wisdom – or 'scientia sacra', as described by Thomas Aquinas in his Aristotelian metaphysics, where 'Knowledge' or 'acquisition of wisdom' is revealed intuitively by the divine, and closely connected with religious faith. Provenance of the work can be traced to Edmund Burke's concept of the sublime as set out in his famous book 'A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful'

The sound is a collaboration between James P Graham and celebrated sound artist Akio Suzuki who visited Stromboli to perform in-situ on the volcano. His instrument 'Analapos' was installed at close proximity to the crater, capturing the available winds and emitting a unique series of sounds – a veritable Aeolian harp. these sounds undoubtedly infuse the work with an extra layer, which seems both primordial and sacred.

Iddu was first displayed in its full 360 degree vista at the Musee d'Art Moderne Luxembourg (MUDAM) in 2007 and was then exhibited in South Korea at the Busan Biennial 2010. A dual-screen version was specially adapted for the exhibition 'Volcano: from Turner to Warhol' at Compton Verney UK summer 2010 curated by James Hamilton and more recently in Rome at the Scuderie del Quirinale at the blockbuster show 'Pompeii and Santorini - eternity in one day'.

The project would have been impossible without the generous funding support of the Arts Council of England and the NESTA Foundation.



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End shot of Iddu - a bee drinking from a volcano shaped shower head