

CHARLES MONKHOUSE

Practice Profile



Nocturnal Rainbows Ullswater 2016



Sites of Meaning 2007



Brocken Spectre 2017

I am an artist working in rural and public spaces to create permanent installations and temporary light works.

The permanent installations are developed with surrounding communities. So *Sites of Meaning*, which marked the seventeen entrances to Middleton and Smerrill, was created with local parishioners while in *Companion Stones* poets and artists of the Peak District paired twelve historic guide stoops of Derbyshire with contemporary sculptures.

The lightworks explore and articulate space on buildings and in landscape working with LEDs controlled by microchips, GPS and radio. Operating under the cover of dark, revealing what is hidden by the light of day, the installations create a set of visual koans that query the static gaze, and challenge the very act of seeing.

This year I have been developing *Brocken Spectre* with the support of an Arts Council grant. Brocken spectres are a rare but beautiful interplay between light and mist, that place an iridescent glory around the shadow of the viewer's head. Brocken Spectre's first public showing was at Rievaulx Abbey during Holy Week 2017.

My work responds to and finds its meaning in its context and location. To this end, I work with local stakeholders who inform and enrich the final outcomes. Partners have included English Heritage, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, Peak District National Park Authority, National Trust, local schools and communities, and professional artists and writers.

CHARLES MONKHOUSE LIMITED

Registered company 6993253

01629 636 920

07885 625 834

www.charlesmonkhouse.co.uk

mail@charlesmonkhouse.co.uk

CHARLES MONKHOUSE

Curriculum Vitae



Evening Glory on Old Man of Coniston 2005



Sites of Meaning Sculpture Residency 2006



Derwent Pulse Electric Parade 2014



Nocturnal Rainbows on Ullswater 2016

CURRENT AND RECENT PROJECTS

- 2016 - **Tunnel2Tunnel** - working with the Tunnel2Tunnel Management Partnership to develop a community arts programme leading to a walk annotated by sculptures across the Hope Valley.
- 2016 - **Brocken Spectre** - an Arts Council funded research and development programme leading to an installation at Rievaulx Abbey in 2017 in collaboration with English Heritage.
- 2016 **Nocturnal Rainbows** - commissioned by Lakes Culture to promote World Heritage Site status, LED rainbows floated across Coniston Water, Ullswater and Grasmere over a week.
- 2015 **Derwent Pulse Legacy** - a celebration of Derwent Pulse at Rowsley, Bakewell, Derby University and Buxton Museum & Art Gallery which included photographs, legacy screen and Derwent map.
- 2014 **Derwent Pulse** - pulsating lights along the River Derwent supported by workshops and a spectacular electric parade. Commissioned by the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

CURRENT AND RECENT POSITIONS

- 2017 - **Chair : Level Trustees** - a charity based in rural Derbyshire that develops, supports and promotes the creativity of people with learning disabilities.
- 2005 - **Creative Director : Night Stations** - a programme of collaborations leading to nocturnal light installations in rural environments and public spaces.
- 2010 - 2017 **Part-time Lecturer : Chesterfield College** - with responsibility for HND in Art and Design and Contextual Studies.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- 2008 - 2015 **Chair : Arts in the Peak** - an organisation that campaigned for, supported and promoted art and artists in the Peak District.
- 2014 **Walking Encyclopaedia : Air Space Gallery Stoke-on-Trent** - mixed exhibition of artists whose practice is based on walking.
- 2012 **Cargoes : Breath of Fresh Air** - residency with students and communities on East Midlands Canals. Outcomes includes **Night Vision**, a nocturnal walk that recreated the Cromford Canal.
- 2012 **Markham Vale Mining Memorial** - working with poet Ann Atkinson to create concept designs for a memorial for miners who lost their lives at the Markham Vale pits.

CHARLES MONKHOUSE LIMITED

01629 636 920
07885 625 834

www.charlesmonkhouse.co.uk
mail@charlesmonkhouse.co.uk

- 2011 **With the Flow : Northamptonshire** - complementing Sywell Echo, a program of walks and workshops for schools and communities with writers Sue Stewart and Joel Stickley.
- 2011 **Sywell Echo** : commissioned for FLOW Northamptonshire, the reflections of 100 LEDs traced the river system beneath the Sywell Reservoir.
- 2011 **Seeing the Light : BendInTheRiver** – a residency exploring Brocken spectres and Heiligenschein with concluding installation in X Church, Gainsborough.
- 2011 **Meander** - a light installation which redrew a possible historical course of the River Derwent in the Hope Valley. Commissioned by Derbyshire Arts Development Group's re:place programme.
- 2008 - 2010 **Companion Stones** - devised and led artists and poets in creating sculptural companions for 12 Derbyshire guide stoops. An Arts in Peak Project with the Peak District National Park Authority.
- 2009 **Borderland** - constellations across the Staffordshire Roaches, developed in workshops with members of Borderland Voices in Leek.
- 2007 **Simultaneous Contrast** - an exploration of the sensation and language of colour with Sallyann Carlin leading to posters for Matlock, Bakewell, Ashbourne and Wirksworth Festivals.
- 1999 - 2007 **Sites of Meaning** - working with parishioners of Middleton and Smerrill to mark the seventeen entrance of their parish with text on stone sculptures.
- 2007 **Double Negative** - a nocturnal illumination of the bed of Coniston Water, commissioned by the 2007 FRED Festival in Cumbria.
- 2005 **Evening Glory** - as installation of lights on the Old Man of Coniston for the 2005 FRED Festival in Cumbria.
- 2001 **Parsley Hay Railway Cutting** : light installations as part of a Year of the Artist residency at Parsley Hay organised by Arts in the Peak.
- 2001 - 2003 **Limits of my Language** - a meditation on Meccano, a touring exhibition of prints and sculpture, Leicester City Art Gallery, Doncaster Art Gallery and Buxton Museum and Art Gallery.
- 1999 - 2000 **Illumine** - a year witnessing every moonrise, each recorded by camera, whether the moon was visible or not. Large format images developed with University of Derby.
- 1983 - 1985 **Gallery Exhibitions:**
 Leicester Polytechnic Gallery, sculpture (with painter Martin Wiltshire);
 Sheffield Polytechnic Gallery, sculpture (with painter and printmaker Peter Knight);
 LYC Gallery, Banks, Cumbria, drawings and sculpture;
 Brighton Polytechnic, drawings and sculpture;
 Loughborough College of Art & Design, drawings and sculpture.
- 1980 **Cumbrian Drawings and Maps** - Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, drawings projections of the Cumbrian landscape.
- 1980 **View Finders** - Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, a major exhibition exploring the depiction of the Cumbrian Landscape curated by Mary Burkett.
- 1978 - 1982 **Stage sets for Chesterfield Arts Centre Theatre** including :
 Hannah Mitchell's *The Hard Way Up* - Edinburgh Fringe and touring;
 Walter Brierly's *Means Test Man* – Edinburgh Fringe and touring;
 Jonathan Swift's *Lapputa* - Chesterfield and Darmstadt.