

Video transcript

NOW: The Moon

Duration:

2:31

Speakers:

Lucy Askew, Chief Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

Michael Begg, Composer / Sound Artist

Transcript

Lucy:

I think everyone has this interesting relationship with the mysteriousness of the moon. For me, it's deeply mystical.

In our exhibition, you often see the moon both as subject but also as an integral, active part of the work.

Artists for many generations have been interested and influenced and inspired by the moon and that feeling of melancholy that is evoked often in the presence of the moon, in imagery, in our lives

We're here tonight at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and it is a one-night-only performance by Michael Begg, really responding to themes within this exhibition, and things

that are very dear to Michael himself, in terms of the idea of the moon as something that inflects our lives and influences us on a daily basis.

Michael:

There's something that happens to a kid at midnight under the shadow of Black Hill in full moonlight, and it never leaves you. I'm tuned, I resonate to moonlight, so the moon has been a companion for a very long time, and it's very important in my work.

Not only Katie, but the other artists in the NOW show, challenge that sense of time. And our bodies are led by it, the tides are moved by it, but we don't pay it a lot of attention – it's just there, it's almost subconscious.

As people grow older, they have less opportunity to be out at night, late, and be in the company of the moon. I think that's a great sadness.

We have a history that's as long as humankind, that places a god-like importance to the moon and moonlight, that divine female spirit, and a lot of people are led by that.

Lucy:

It's something that is a presence in our lives, every single day, and that passing of time that is traced through the moon is something that we can't really ignore.

Michael:

It's that ability to take these remote sensations and be able to articulate them clearly and simply...I think there's a commonality with all the artists in the NOW exhibition – there's that same ambition.