



## Press Release



NEW COMMISSION:

***The Black River of Herself*** by Patrick Hough (2021)

**Exhibition:**

Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland  
15 October 2021 - 9 January 2022

Patrick Hough's new film *The Black River of Herself* receives its gallery premiere at NGCA, Sunderland. Bringing to life a fictional Irish Bog Body – an ancient corpse naturally preserved over thousands of years in Ireland's peat bog lands, the film is a haunting allegory of human-induced planetary change.

The film traverses 300 million years of history across its three sequences, during which the revenant figure of The Bog Body returns to the surface of a world on the brink of ecological collapse. Brought to life through an innovative mix of practical puppetry effects and animatronics, The Bog Body urges its human discoverer to open their eyes; to learn from the many worlds that have gone before or face inevitable extinction.

As the race to save the Bog Body turns into an allegory about the future of the planet, Hough punctuates the narrative with panoramic views of an evergreen Irish landscape, whose rugged, weather-beaten features look like they have been there from time immemorial. But it is the dramatic interplay between the two central protagonists that encapsulates the film. Beautifully

scripted by novelist Daisy Hildyard, its wry, saturnine exchanges are disarmingly affectionate and genuinely affecting: the flesh and bones of a subtle and haunting piece of filmmaking that lingers powerfully in the mind.

*The Black River of Herself* (2021), by Patrick Hough. Created in collaboration with Film and Video Umbrella. Produced by Tracy Bass. Supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland and Arts Council England.

## Notes to editor:

### FVU Press Contact

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### More information

<https://www.fvu.co.uk/projects/the-black-river-of-herself>



### Press Images

Available to download [here](#). All images should be credited:

*The Black River of Herself* (2021), by Patrick Hough. Created in collaboration with Film and Video Umbrella.

### Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/617045720>

### Trailer Embed

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<iframe src="https://player.vimeo.com/video/617045720?h=63461c522c&title=0&byline=0&portrait=0&speed=0&badge=0&autoplay=0&player_id=0&app_id=58479" width="3840" height="2160" frameborder="0" allow="autoplay; fullscreen; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen title="Patrick Hough - The Black River of Herself Teaser Trailer (2021)"></iframe>
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**Patrick Hough** is an Irish artist living and working in London. Incorporating moving image, photography and installation, Hough's work excavates the increasingly entangled nature of archeological, geological and ecological worlds. Patrick received a BA in Fine Art Media from NCAD, Dublin in 2011 and an MA in Fine Art from the Royal College of Art, London in 2013. He is a recipient of the 2017 Jerwood/FVU Awards, the 2017 PLASTIK Award at PLASTIK Festival of Artist Moving Image, Dublin and a 2019 Film London FLAMIN Productions award.

His most recent film *The Two Faces of Tomorrow* will premiere at the Cork Film Festival in partnership with The National Sculpture Factory, Cork, this November.

Recent exhibitions and screenings include; The Museum of Ancient History, UCD Classical Museum, Dublin, IRL; Athens International Film and Video Festival, Athens, Ohio, USA; FEST New Directors New Films Festival, Espinho, Portugal; Objects of Doubt, Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London; Operating Manual For Spaceship Earth, Irish Architecture Archive, Dublin.

**Film and Video Umbrella** commissions, curates and produces artists' moving-image works, and presents them in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners across the UK. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of the vibrant and expanding area of moving-image practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced more than 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to short film and video pieces, as well as online commissions.

[fvu.co.uk](http://fvu.co.uk)

**Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art** has been bringing art from around the world to Sunderland and revealing the depth of talent in the North-East for 50 years. Working closely with artists, it stages exhibitions and events, creates publications and most recently, has begun to create a collection of contemporary art for the future. Since 2017, the gallery has been based inside National Glass Centre, where it has focused on new work made in photography, film & video, and twenty-first century media.





[Download images](#)

All images should be credited:

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