

## Highland Institute for Contemporary Art

### Boyle Family: Loch Ruthven

**24 October – 28 November 2010**

An exhibition of new work by Boyle Family will open at HICA (the Highland Institute for Contemporary Art) on Sunday 24 October, 2-5pm.

For this exhibition the artists will undertake a contemporary archaeological study of the area surrounding the gallery. HICA, occupying a relatively remote site and something of a random location, provides an especially apt venue for this latest Boyle Family exhibition which references their Institute of Contemporary Archaeology, founded by Boyle and Hills in 1966, when they carried out their important event Dig.

HICA is an artist-run project and gallery located near Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland ([www.h-i-c-a.org](http://www.h-i-c-a.org)). Established in 2008, it aims to reassess the history of Concrete Art, a development of Constructivism, which presents artworks as objects in-themselves, while necessarily also seeing them within their context.

Presenting Boyle Family at HICA places their work in relation to this history, where it might exemplify one direction in which this work has evolved. Boyle Family's major contribution to British contemporary art, from early Assemblage pieces to their events, performances and Happenings of the 1960's and their later earth studies, manifest a desire to consider the significance of all parts of the physical environment.

From the global to the microscopic; animal, vegetable, mineral; sensory information, time and movement, random and structured interactions and involvements with the world, human beings; their biology and societies, all have been examined in their artwork's unique focus on the particular as part of the universal.

These projects, initially undertaken by Mark Boyle and his partner Joan Hills, developed as their children, Sebastian and Georgia, grew up and became increasingly involved. They have worked and exhibited together as Boyle Family for over thirty years, with major exhibitions in museums and galleries in Britain and abroad. Following the death of Mark Boyle in May 2005, Boyle Family continue to work and exhibit internationally.

Boyle Family are probably best known for their earth studies: three dimensional casts of the surface of the earth which record and document random sites with great accuracy. Their World Series project began in 1968 and took their concept of contemporary archaeology onto a global scale, with 1,000 randomly selected sites around the world. This project is ongoing, its overwhelmingly grand scale progressing through sites and museum exhibitions in Europe, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. The Sardinian project was the main focus of the Boyle Family British Pavilion exhibition at the 1978 Venice Biennale.

Their most recent World Series project, from the Hebridean island of Barra, is currently being shown at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. More information is available at: [www.boylefamily.co.uk](http://www.boylefamily.co.uk)

The exhibition has been supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, the Scottish Arts Council, The Elephant Trust and the Hope Scott Trust.

Boyle Family at HICA runs from 24 October to 28 November 2010, and is open on Sundays 2 - 5pm, or by appointment.

**For more information or images contact Geoff Lucas or Eilidh Crumlish at:**

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