

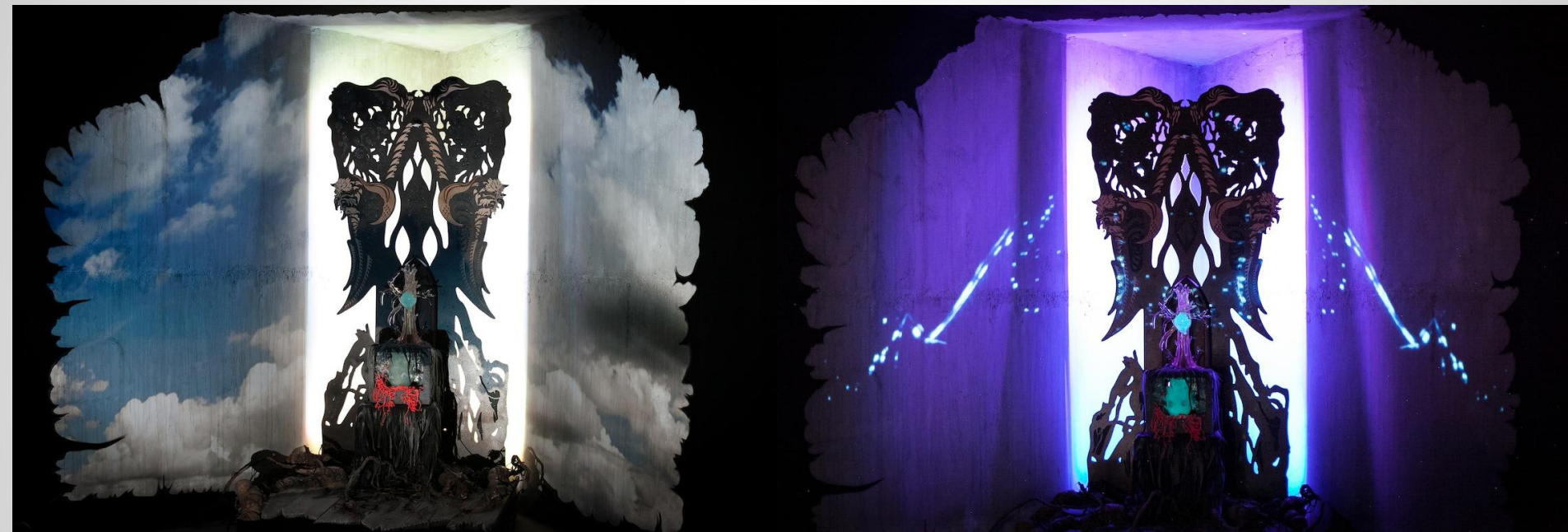
Iyvone Khoo

Ara Lucidus

House of St. Barnabus Chapel

Winter 2015 / 2016

Curated by
James Putnam

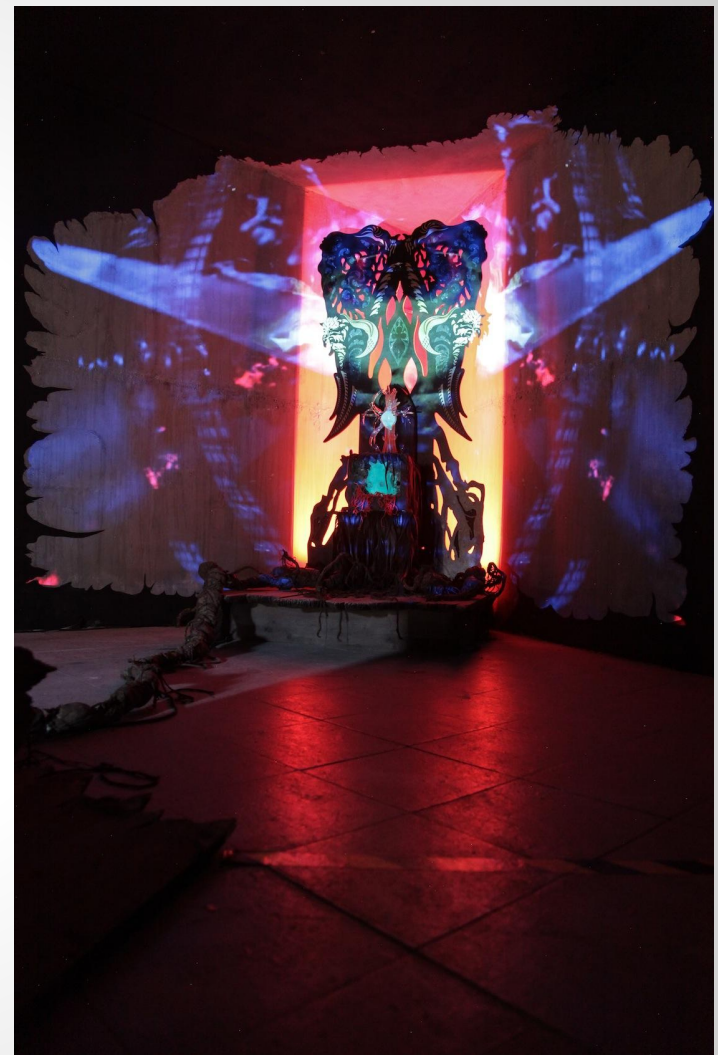


Installation shots of *Aria Lucidus*
Glasstress 2015 GOTIKA
56th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia

Ara Lucidus is an installation piece created by the London based Singaporean artist Iyvone Khoo. The work was originally incepted as a response to the theme Gotika for the 2015 edition of Glasstress, a collateral event of the Venice Biennale where it is currently on show.

Gothic minds were ruled by many fears; fear of God, of Nature and of the unknown. Fireflies were believed to be souls, and their light was seen as a mysterious, magical and supernatural phenomenon.

The installation occupies a juncture where Science, Art and the Spiritual meet. Inspired by a common thread in Bioluminescence, the work embodies the past with the present. Taking references from Dante's *Divine Comedy* the idea crystallised into a contemporary Light Altar using lasers, LEDs, ultraviolet light and video projection alongside wooden, plastic and hand blown glass elements.

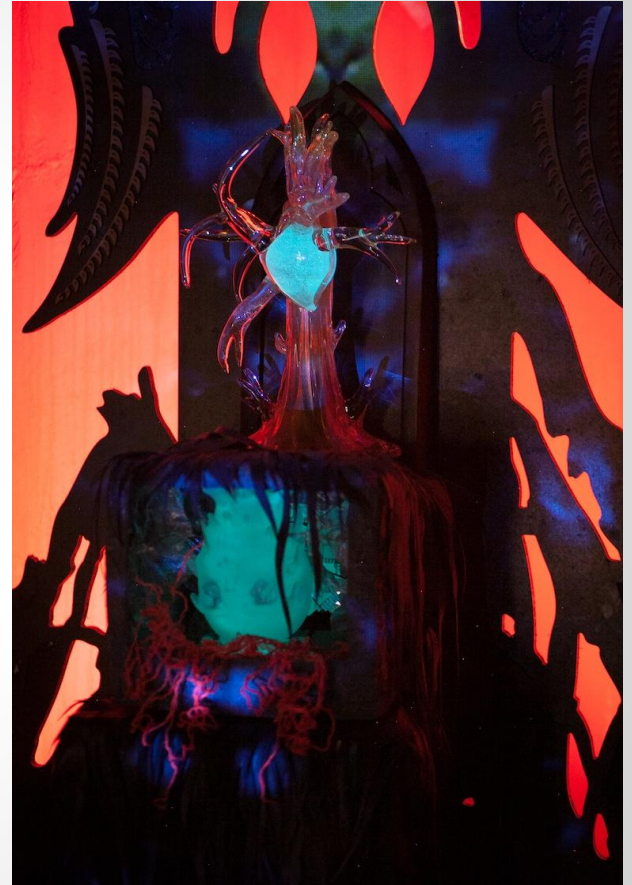




Set in darkness, a throne sits on a wooden raft, with monstrous roots, it clings onto a prayer pew. A television sits on the throne, within it an inverted ghost skull symbolises 'Cold Hell' and Dante's ascension to Purgatory. Growing out of the television, a heart sprouts from a tree, referring to Dante's lost love, Beatrice and his quest for *Illumination* amongst the 'Dark Woods'.

Download a video of the work here:

<http://we.tl/IB7PhPdYcj>



By tracing the origin of the scientific term 'Luciferin' (the light-emitting molecule in bioluminescent organisms) the artist's research has led to the miraculous "Liquor Lucidus", a shining liquid allegedly prepared from flying glow-worms by German monk Albertus Magnus (1193-1280) and undoubtedly the first recorded bioluminescent potion.

Khoo has continued with her research into bioluminescents in this piece by inserting them into the blown glass elements creating illumination from within the installation.



Artist Biography

邱一文, Iyvone Khoo is a Singaporean artist living and working in London.

Her work uses lens-based media as a means to capture glimpses of an experience, with the camera acting as surrogate eyes. Her practice explores the ephemeral transitory nature of being, translating these observations into videos works, light sculptures and installations. She was awarded the MEAD Fellowship at University of Arts London in 2013 and is using her funding to collaborate with scientists from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA, on a science and art project studying light-emitting organisms, such as bioluminescent algae.

Curator Biography

James Putnam is an independent curator and writer. He founded and curated the British Museum's Contemporary Arts and Cultures Programme from 1999 to 2003. His book 'Art and Artifact – The Museum as Medium' (Thames & Hudson) surveys the interaction between contemporary artists and the museum. This also proposes the notion that the museum, the collection and the archive can be integral with art practice. Since 1999 has curated an ongoing series of critically acclaimed projects with contemporary artists at the Freud Museum, London. He was appointed curator of Arte 'all Arte 9, in Tuscany in 2005 and was on the curatorial committee for the 2006 Echigo Tsumari Triennial, Japan. In 2009 he curated 'Distortion' and 'Library' as Collateral exhibitions of the 53rd Venice Biennale. He was a curator for the Busan Biennale, S.Korea (2010). At the 54th Venice Biennale (2011), he curated 'The Knowledge' exhibition and 'White Light/White Heat' – Glasstress as a Collateral Project of the 55th Venice Biennale (2013). Most current projects are 'The Rock & Roll Public Library', 'Conversion' and 'Mechanical Turk' at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015). From 2003-2004 he was Visiting Scholar in Museum Studies at New York University and is currently Senior Research Fellow, Exhibitions at the University of the Arts, London.

<http://www.iyvonekhoo.com/>

<http://www.jamesputnam.org.uk/>

<http://www.glasstress.org/news/glasstress-2015-gotika-67>