

Alchemy

FILM and MOVING IMAGE FESTIVAL

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 October 2011



A magical weekend inspired by the four elements – Fire, Earth, Air and Water, packed with screenings, art installations around the town and special events.

Now in our second year, Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival is fast becoming a real cultural highlight for the Scottish Borders, attracting local, national and international filmmakers and audiences. We are proud to present the festival in Hawick, a mill-town with a great tradition of innovation and creativity. This year, our programme offers a host of feature films, experimental short films, moving image installations and special events, all themed around landscape and the four elements. In addition to the main screenings and events at Heart of Hawick – Tower Mill, we are delighted to be offering an expanded programme that includes two full days of screenings in the cosy 42 seat Hawick Film and Video Group cinema, as well as several artist-led moving image installations in empty shops around the town. We have lots of other great stuff in the pipeline, so be sure to check the website for late additions to our screenings, installations and events. A festival supplement will also be available at the ticket office. We hope you are at once entertained, transformed and inspired by all that you see and hear.

Richard Ashrowan, Creative Director

FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

1pm
SCHOOLS WORKSHOP SCREENING
ANIMATED ALCHEMY

Running time: 45m

Children from different Hawick schools came together to create an animation film based on the festival theme of the four elements – Fire, Earth, Air and Water. The finished film will receive a world premiere today, in front of an audience from schools in the area. The film will be accompanied by themed short films to entertain and inspire. Ages 8+

Tickets: Free
HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



7.30pm
FILM
AERIAL ROOTS and SCOTTISH SCREEN ARCHIVE

Running time: 1h plus Q&A

Nowhere is the element of earth so viscerally felt than in the practice of farming. Su Grierson is an artist and member of a Perthshire farming family. In her film *Aerial Roots*, she selected film from the Scottish Screen Archive and responded by creating new video, images and recordings of contemporary farming practice. The film is a vibrant visual testament to the persistence of agricultural husbandry and the skills that harvest the soil and shape much of Scotland's landscape. The screening of *Aerial Roots* (13 minutes) will be accompanied by a specially compiled selection of farming and elemental related films from the Scottish Screen Archive.

* There will be an audience Q&A with Su Grierson after the screening.

Tickets: £4
HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



www.alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk

Image © Julie Brook



SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER

11am MOVING IMAGE: SHORTS ELEMENTALS: PRESENCE

Icelandic Love Corporation (Iceland), Steven Ball (UK), The Olivers (UK), Ashley Nieuwenhuizen (UK), Claudia Borgna (UK), James Cunningham (Indonesia), Henry Coombes (UK)
Running time: 1h2m

There is something fundamental and deeply affecting at the heart of mankind's relationship to the elements. What might happen in our moments of physical and psychological encounter? Three high-class housewives escape to an Icelandic snow cap, we take a walk along the paved earth of New Kent road, meditating upon the enshrouding and enshrouded earth, a narrative on death. A man takes a sensory journey through the nature of the earth's surface. We experience a shocking encounter between worm, snail and human, while the banality of a plastic bag is elevated in an elemental ritual of sweeping. A time-lapse in a paddy-field invokes us to share in the shifting elemental forces of a day's progress. This selection of short films by national and international artists is from our open submissions programme.

Tickets: £4
HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



12noon FILM RIVERS AND TIDES

Thomas Riedelsheimer / Germany/Finland/UK/Canada 2001 / 1h30m / PG

Scottish artist Andy Goldsworthy fashions extraordinary sculptures from wood, ice, leaves and stone that are designed to move, change and erode over time. Following Goldsworthy from his home in Dumfriesshire to Canada and France, director Thomas Riedelsheimer records the painstaking construction of such ephemeral pieces as an igloo made of driftwood, a stone wall laced with wool and the sculptor's signature rock cones.

Tickets: £4
HAWICK FILM & VIDEO GROUP CINEMA, 8 CROFT ROAD



2pm FILM – SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING THE DRUIDS – TRAVELS IN DEEP ENGLAND

Louise Milne / Scotland 2011 / 1h7m plus Q&A

Edinburgh based Louise Milne's new documentary takes us on a poetic journey through the magical darklands of deepest England. The film follows a group of modern Druids and their friends over the course of the ritual year. Shot at Stanton Drew stone circle, and in the wild beauty of King Arthur's West Country, *The Druids* explains the appeal of this nature faith, just recently recognised as an official religion in the UK. Milne explores the basic elements of Druidry, its history, major festivals, rituals, myths and legends, while evoking the Druids' sense of spiritual connection to the land, giving us an understanding of what it is to be Druid in the 21st century.

* There will be an audience Q&A with Louise Milne after the screening.

Tickets: £4
HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



2pm MIXED PROGRAMME HAWICK FILM & VIDEO GROUP Running time: 55m

A selection of homemade films from Hawick's very own filmmaking society. Programme includes *The Nature of Selkirk Hill* [scenes of local wildlife], *A Grand Day Out* [a trip down the River Tyne], *Let It Snow* [heavy snow-fall last winter to an appropriate musical accompaniment], *Wallington Walkabout* [a summer outing to a stately home] and *The Flowers & Fruits of Selkirk Hill* [stunning nature study images].

Tickets: £4
HAWICK FILM & VIDEO GROUP CINEMA, 8 CROFT ROAD



4.30pm MOVING IMAGE DOUBLE BILL THAT UNTRAVELL'D WORLD: JULIE BROOK SOUND ASPECTS OF MATERIAL ELEMENTS: JOHN GRZINICH Running time: 1h plus Q&A

That Untravell'd World shows the landscape work that was developed by Scottish artist Julie Brook when she lived for over a period of 3 years on the uninhabited west coast of Jura. The elements, and processes of making and destruction, are integral to the works which include temporal sculptures involving stone and ice fire-stacks, the wind and the sea.

Sound Aspects Of Material Elements documents in-situ processes of exploration and sonification of the landscape, along with the numerous objects and structures found there. All the sound recordings emphasize how the combinations of certain materials (metal, wood, glass) with natural elements (water, wind fire), take on alchemical characteristics as we listen in.

* Julie Brook (Scotland) and John Grzinich (Estonia) will participate in an audience Q&A.

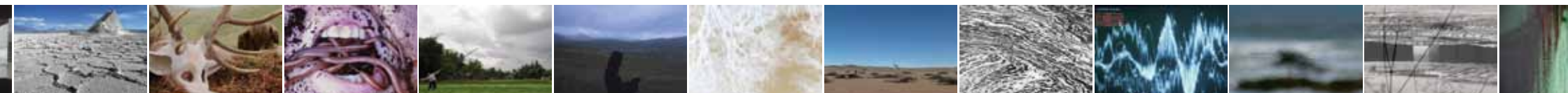
Tickets: £4
HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



4.30pm FILM WHY HAS BODHI-DHARMA LEFT FOR THE EAST? Bae Yong-Kyun / South Korea 1989 / 2h17m / U

A classic of meditative cinema, *Why Has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?* was seven years in the making, filmed with one camera and hand-edited by Bae Yong-Kyun. The film follows the lives of three generations of Buddhist monks living together on a hilltop in South Korea, centred on the life of Kibong, a young man who decides to leave his unsatisfying life of ennui in the city. The film traces the lives of the three monks in their daily rituals, penetrated with hauntingly beautiful images of water, fire, earth and air, visually elucidating the tenets of Buddhist thought while captivating us with its quiet pace and understated yet powerful drama.

Tickets: £4
HAWICK FILM & VIDEO GROUP CINEMA, 8 CROFT ROAD



7.30pm

FILM

BURNING ICE

Peter Gilbert / USA 2010 / 1h19m plus Q&A / 15

In September 2009, documentary filmmaker Peter Gilbert joined more than 40 observers – including musicians KT Tunstall, Laurie Anderson, Jarvis Cocker, Martha Wainwright, Robyn Hitchcock, Ryuichi Sakamoto and writers Suzan-Lori Parks and Andrew Revkin – on an ice-breaking ship for a nine-day voyage off the coast of Greenland with artist-led climate change project, Cape Farewell. Their goal was to see, experience and contemplate the effects of climate change first-hand – and to begin a creative conversation with the rest of the world about one of the most important and pressing issues facing the future of humanity.

* David Buckland, Director of Cape Farewell and producer of *Burning Ice*, will introduce the film and participate in an audience Q&A after the screening.

Tickets: £4

HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



9pm

ALCHEMY PARTY

HEAR-SEE-THERE

An elemental clash of audio-visual experimentation between sound artist James Wyness and moving image artist and Creative Director of the festival, Richard Ashrowan. This special collaboration will accompany the Alchemy reception and party, with films of the four elements live-mixed, mashed, squished, mutated, layered and thrown through space in a visual improvisation sonically disturbed and agitated by layers of freely improvised field recordings. We've no idea what might happen, so just come along to hear-see it for yourself.



Tickets: Free, with a free glass of wine for those with tickets to the *Burning Ice* screening

BEANSCENE AT HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL

SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER

10am

FILM

SLOW ACTION

Ben Rivers / UK 2010 / 45m

Slow Action is a post-apocalyptic science fiction film which exists somewhere between documentary, ethnographic study and fiction. Earth in the distant future, when the sea level has risen to absurd heights forming new isolated islands and archipelagos. Two narrators read accounts from a great library of Utopias, describing the four islands seen in the film.

Tickets: £4

HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER – CONTINUED

11am

FILM

ANARCADIA

Ruth MacLennan / UK & Kazakhstan 2011 / 35m plus Q&A

Anarcadia is shot in the steppe of South-Eastern Kazakhstan. Into this shifting, elemental landscape, two iconic figures – an archaeologist and prospector – seek to uncover its buried meanings and future possibilities. Overlying rival trajectories and competing incentives, MacLennan's overlapping, often contradictory stories echo the fundamental indeterminacy and unpredictability of the desert landscape itself.

* Ruth MacLennan will introduce the film and participate in an audience Q&A after the screening.

Tickets: £4

HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



11am

FILM

MIRROR

Andrei Tarkovsky / Russia 1975 / 1hr46m / U

Mirror is a masterpiece of Russian filmmaking, its poetic stream-of-consciousness visual narrative threaded through with images of the elements. It is Andrei Tarkovsky's most autobiographical work in which he reflects upon his own childhood and the destiny of the Russian people. The film's many layers intertwine real life and family relationships – Tarkovsky's father, the poet Arseny Tarkovsky, reads his own poems on the soundtrack and Tarkovsky's mother appears as herself – with memories of childhood, dreams and nightmares.

* Sean Martin, filmmaker, writer and author of the book *Andrei Tarkovsky* will introduce the screening and participate in an audience Q&A.

Tickets: £4

HAWICK FILM & VIDEO GROUP CINEMA, 8 CROFT ROAD



12.15am

MOVING IMAGE: SHORTS

ELEMENTALS: LANDSCAPE OF FORMS

Tanya Shillina-Conte (USA), Robyn Hall (UK), Mihai Grecu (France), Lin Li (UK), Anne Patsch (UK), Samantha Rebello (UK), Wolfgang Lehrner (Austria), Pat Law (UK), Debra Fear (UK), Patricia Townsend (UK)

Running time: 57m

The elements are as much psychological as physical, embodied both in the natural landscapes of the world we inhabit and as substantial forces within image-making. This programme explores elemental embodiment as a set of both extensive and intensive qualities, in image substance itself and landscape as subject. There are abstract expressions, evocations of the elemental transitions of place, transformed landscapes. Images consumed by fire, a woman awaiting her dead husband to return as a seagull, a final questioning of the nature of substantial forms themselves. This selection of short films by national and international artists is from our open submissions programme.

Tickets: £4

HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL



2.00pm

FILM
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Roy Ward Baker / UK 1958 / 2h3m / PG

A *Night to Remember* portrays in brilliant, semi-documentary style the night of April 14 1912, when the luxury liner Titanic struck an iceberg and sank, taking 1513 passengers and crew members to the bottom of the ocean. Although Kenneth More is ostensibly the star, this multi-layered production boasts more than 200 speaking parts and, for its time, spectacular special effects.



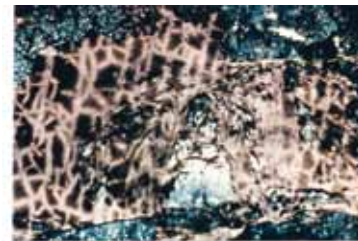
Tickets: £4

HAWICK FILM & VIDEO GROUP CINEMA, 8 CROFT ROAD

3pm

MOVING IMAGE
ELEMENTALS: SERIOUS LIGHT

Pip Chodorov (USA), Stan Brakhage (USA), Barbara Klutinis (USA), Mary Beth Reed (USA), Patrick Bokanowski (France), Jacques Perconte (France).
Running time: 1h5m plus Q&A



Experimental film is an organic, alchemical substance in itself. To make a film you need light, energy, salts and minerals, running water, darkness, acid, heat and wind. The films in this programme express their own materiality. They are cries in the dark, trying to connect their ethereal content with the raw rocky substance of which they are born. Light and airy, heavy and weathered, let them wash over you like the tide. They will awaken your inner yearnings as they fall to dust before your very eyes.

* This selection of mainly 16mm films is specially curated for Alchemy by Pip Chodorov, an American experimental filmmaker and film activist. Pip will introduce the films and participate in an audience Q&A after the screening.

Tickets: £4

HEART OF HAWICK – TOWER MILL

MOVING IMAGE & SOUND INSTALLATIONS

Pat Law | Stephen Hurrell | Norman Shaw | Sigurdur Gudjónsson | Joanna Kane | Alice Betts | Emma Osbourn
Rocio von Jungenfeld | James Wyness plus others to be confirmed.

This year we are excited to be presenting a number of artists' installations in other venues, empty shops and disused buildings around the town of Hawick. There will be impromptu screenings in strange places, including our own mini-cinema and a horse trailer! The trailer will be parked right outside Heart of Hawick, containing a show specially curated by artist Pat Law. A selection of short works by contemporary sound artists will also be played, as premonitions, prior to the main auditorium screenings at Tower Mill, curated by Borders based sound artist James Wyness. Work produced by our three 2011 Alchemy artists in residence – Emma Osbourn, Rocio von Jungenfeld and Alice Betts will also be appearing in this strand. Best of all, these art happenings are free!



At the time of going to press, several locations and projects are unconfirmed or in the process of being created, so please check the website for the latest listings, or email hannah@alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk for a full schedule.

BOX OFFICE & VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

VisitScotland

Heart of Hawick – Tower Mill
Kirkstile
Hawick TD9 0AE

01450 360688 [Box Office] & 01450 373993
[Visitor Information Centre]

Box Office : Opening Hours

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|-----------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|
| Monday | 10.00 | 17.30 | Friday | 10.00 | 19.15 |
| Tuesday | 10.00 | 18.15 | Saturday | 10.00 | 19.15 |
| Wednesday | 10.00 | 17.30 | Sunday | 12.00 | 15.30 |
| Thursday | 10.00 | 18.15 | | | |

Tickets £4 per event unless stated otherwise. Limited number of Weekend Tickets [£24] available by phone or in person at VisitScotland on first come, first served basis. Seating is unreserved. We regret Heart of Hawick cannot exchange or refund tickets.

VENUES

Heart of Hawick – Tower Mill
Kirkstile
Hawick TD9 0AE

Hawick Film & Video Group Cinema
8 Croft Road
Hawick TD9 9RD

There will be several additional venues for artists' moving image installation works around the town. Please check the website for details, a printed supplement will be available nearer the time locally or email hannah@alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk.

Please note that this programme may be subject to change.

Friday 21 October

■ Heart Of Hawick – Tower Mill ■ 8 Croft Road ■ Various venues

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| | | | | | | Schools workshop | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Aerial Roots & Scottish Screen Archive | | | | |
| Moving Image Installations – various venues | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Saturday 22 October

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| | | Elementals: Presence | | | Rivers and Tides | | | Druids | | | | Moving Image Double Bill | | | | | | | | Burning Ice | | | Alchemy Party | |
| | | | | | | | | Mixed Programme HFVG | | | | | Why Has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moving Image Installations – various venues | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Sunday 23 October

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| Slow Action | | Anarcadia | | Elementals: Landscape of Forms | | | | | | | | Elementals: Serious Light | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Mirror | | | | | | A Night to Remember | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moving Image Installations – various venues | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

www.alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk

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Alchemy is a partnership project between Heart of Hawick, Borders Arts Trust and Creative Arts Business Network (CABN), funded by Awards for All and the festival partners.

