

# AMY SHARROCKS

## MUSEUM OF WATER



Created by Amy Sharrocks

Produced by Artsadmin

Cat Harrison  
Artists' Producer  
[cat@artsadmin.co.uk](mailto:cat@artsadmin.co.uk)

t +44 (0)20 7247 5102

f +44 (0)20 7247 5103

[artsadmin.co.uk/projects/museum-of-water](http://artsadmin.co.uk/projects/museum-of-water)  
[museumofwater.co.uk](http://museumofwater.co.uk)

**ARTS  
ADMIN.**



PHOTO BY JESS MWLD

**CHOOSE SOME WATER THAT IS PRECIOUS TO YOU.  
FIND A BOTTLE TO PUT IT IN. TELL US WHY YOU  
CHOSE THIS WATER. WE WILL KEEP IT FOR YOU.**

**Museum of Water** is a collection of publicly donated water that tells stories of the people and places it comes from. It is an invitation to ponder our precious liquid and how we use it.

Artist Amy Sharrocks is gathering a collection of water for future generations to consider. Currently the Museum contains over 1,200 donations from all over the world, ranging from water from a holy river in India, the Flew family snowball, water from a Masai tribe in Africa, a burst London water main, 20 year old evaporated snow from Maine, condensation from a Falmouth window, a mother's breaking waters, New Zealand sea water, 259,000 year old Antarctic water, Norwegian spit, three types of wee, four different breaths and water from a bedside table said to be infused with dreams.

Alongside the Museum, a number of artworks and public programmes have been created in celebration of water. These pieces are developed for each bespoke site and have included Water Bar – a pop-up bar serving only tap water; sound artworks and machines that reveal interviews of donors talking about their water; Swimmer's Manifesto – where the public can demonstrate their love for swimming soap-box style and Water I Would Have Brought where people can write about water that has proved precious to them.

Over the past six years **Museum of Water** has travelled to 50 sites worldwide reaching 60,000 people and was nominated for European Museum of the Year 2016. The museum travelled the UK for two years, exhibiting at Somerset House as part of LIFT 2014, commissioned by Artsadmin at the King's Cultural Institute. It then travelled for 2 years across the Netherlands with Rotterdamse Schouwburg, exhibiting at Het Gemaal (2016), and another two years across Western Australia with Perth Festival, exhibiting in Fremantle Arts Centre (2018).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### QUOTES

“Museum of Water deals with the mundane and the marvellous, the fixed and the free-flowing... it tries to catch what is tangible, embodied, obvious but hard to catch in one’s hands.”

- [Stanley Ulijaszek, University of Oxford](#)

“Walking through the museum, you’re struck by the generosity of the people who donated. Some of the bottles are so personal, so meaningful, it’s almost shocking that they’d let them go.”

- [Steph Harmon, The Guardian](#)

“...this quirkiest of experiences is watertight.”

- [Lyn Gardner, The Guardian](#)

### DOCUMENTATION

[Click here to watch the video from Rotterdam](#)

[Click here to watch the video from Perth](#)

[Click here to view footage from the Somerset House exhibition](#)

### TOUR DATES

Feb 2018	Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth Festival, Australia
Sep 2016	Het Gemaal, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, The Netherlands
Sep 2014	Wadden Sea Festival, Denmark
Jun 2014	Somerset House, London as part of LIFT, UK

**Museum of Water** has also toured to over 40 UK venues and festivals including Big Green Week in Bristol, Lakes Ignite Festival in Windermere, Arts by the Sea in Bournemouth, Coastal Currents in Hastings, Glasgow Botanic Gardens as part of Behaviour Festival, The Storey Institute with Lancaster Arts, Curating Cambridge with Cambridge Junction, Festival of Thrift in Darlington, National Poetry Day at Southbank Centre London and Moseley Baths in Birmingham with Fierce Festival.

## TOURING THE MUSEUM OF WATER

**Museum of Water** is made bespoke to each place it visits, so it can best encapsulate the people of that area and their relationships to water. It is developed in each new location over an extended period of time in collaboration with a local team. Typically it takes two years to develop a new version of the Museum in another country culminating in a large scale exhibition. As part of this bespoke development this time is used to:

- Find and work with local artists
- Make site visits to potential presentation venues
- Train “custodians” of the bottles
- Plan moments of collection – typically this includes special drives at other festivals/ events in that area alongside a regular opportunity to donate
- Start collecting donations
- Create the public programme of events that runs alongside the exhibition
- Design for the final large-scale exhibition

## AMY SHARROCKS

Amy Sharrocks is a live artist, sculptor and film-maker who invites people to come on journeys in which their own experience, communication and expression are a vital part. Undertaking these journeys with a sense of humour, joy and risk, Amy creates work that is rich, unpredictable and different every time. This invitation and the bravery and invention of people's responses, produces new avenues for exploration and fantastic visions within the everyday.

Amy has been making work about people and water for 10 years. This includes the works **SWIM** (2007), where 50 people swam across London, from Tooting Bec Lido to Hampstead Heath Ponds, **drift** (2009) inviting people one at a time to drift on her boat in swimming pools and **London is a River City** (2011) a series of public walks tracing 7 of London's buried rivers. **WALBROOK** was the largest of these walks, where 65 people were tied together to walk silently along the Walbrook riverbed through the City of London at rush hour. In 2016 Amy curated the popular festival of water across Reading, **Do Rivers dream of Oceans?** and she is currently encouraging people to sign up to **Swim the Thames**, a proposal for a mass swim across the River Thames in London.

Other notable works by Amy include live artwork **Invitation to Fall** (2013) and the solo exhibition **Season for Falling** developed after winning the inaugural Sculpture Shock award from the Royal Society of British Sculptors. Amy has been the recipient of many bursaries and grants, most recently nominated for an Arts Foundation Fellowship. Her film **pause** has been shown across Europe and the Middle East, and her work has been included in many collections now: *Walking's New Movement*, *There is Nothing, Downstream*, *Live Art Almanac 1 & 4*, *Artsadmin 30*, *Sculpture Shock*.



PHOTO BY SAUH KLIC