

ALIVE IN THE UNIVERSE

Andrew Hewish

Omphalos - A Meditation on Time

Saturday 18 May 2019

The Palazzo Pesaro Papafava

Casanova Museum, Calle de la Racheta, 3764, 30121 Venezia VE

A film installation as part of a series curated by Caroline Wiseman and David Baldry at the The Palazzo Pesaro Papafava, which includes amongst others Maggi Hambling, Issam Kourbaj, Sarah Lucas, Matthew Darbyshire and Ermias Kifleyesus

Omphalos, 2019.

Two screen looped video projection

10 mins

Omphalos I-IV, 2019.

Marble plaster, wood.

50 - 70cm

The *Omphalos* is a sacred stone ovoid form that sat at the heart of the Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi. the seat of the Oracle - the Pythia - and the mystical centre of the Greco-Roman world.

Zeus sent eagles around the world, determining that they would meet at its navel, or Omphalos - at the centre of the world. Having met over Delphi, Zeus threw a stone, which landed at the sacred site, and remained at the Temple.

Chronos, Time - demanded (as the devourer of all things), that Zeus be delivered up in order to be eaten. He was given instead a stone, wrapped to look like the baby Zeus, which Chronos then swallowed.

This is reflected the form of the stone in the museum at Delphi carved to look wrapped in a net or woven cloth. It is also thought to have been kept wrapped in actual cloth, and mounted on a tripod in the Temple. It is not known if this is the actual stone of myth.

The *Omphalos*, then, is that which fools time. Later, Zeus' survival in the substitution with the stone, allowed him to later overcome Chronos. It is the *axis mundi* that connects heaven and earth.

There is a marble *Omphalos* at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Christian centre of the world.

The Foundation Stone, believed by some to be at the centre of the Dome of the Rock and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, is thought, following an ancient Caananite belief, to be the navel of the world. There is a belief within Christian fundamentalism that the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem at the navel of the world will usher in the end of time.

You are invited to a symposium on

TIME

Saturday 18 May 3 - 4 pm

presented by Professor David Berman
(Deputy Head of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary, University of London)
and Caroline Wiseman author of *A Timeless Moment* and co-curator of *ALIVE IN THE UNIVERSE*, Venice Biennale 2019

Venetian food and drinks from 4 -7.30pm

RSVP Caroline@aliveintheuniverse.com

Andrew Hewish is a graduate of the Royal College of Art living and working in London.