



BellHouse - a collaboration in ceramics

Rupert Johnstone (1), Felicity Liggins (2), Carlo Buontempo (2), Seth Honnor (3), Jocelyn Spencer-Mills (3), Paula Newton (2), and Emily Williams (3)

(1) RAMP Ceramics, Silverton, United Kingdom, (2) Met Office, Exeter, United Kingdom
(felicity.liggins@metoffice.gov.uk), (3) Kaleider, Exeter, United Kingdom

In the Spring of 2016, the UK-based arts organisation Kaleider and the EU-funded FP7 climate services project EUPORIAS made an International Commission Call inviting artists to submit ideas for playable artworks to be debuted at the EUPORIAS General Assembly at the Met Office in October 2016. We received over 60 applications worldwide and were overwhelmed with the quality of ideas. We commissioned Rupp Johnstone from RAMP Ceramics to create his exquisite playable artwork – BellHouse.

BellHouse is a playful, interactive sound sculpture that translated the non-verbal communication of the delegates presenting at the EUPORIAS General Assembly into the chimes of 35 bells in an opened sided house. A motion capture system devised by the Met Office Informatics Lab activated striking mechanisms associated with each ceramic bell generating a continuous chiming whilst each speaker at the 250 delegate conference presented their research.

BellHouse also invited Met Office scientists to interact with it through their work. Some of our favourite data translated into sound included Mt. Etna's volcanic plumes, the European drought of 1976, the solar wind, 250 years of English and Welsh temperature and precipitation anomalies and reanalysis data based on citizen science.

Here we present an exploration of the why and how of BellHouse, outlining some of our reflections on its effectiveness alongside its legacy.