

Photographing The European Music Archaeology Project 2016 - 2018

EUROPEAN MUSIC ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT



With the support of the
Culture Programme of the European Union



David John Lake

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Project: Photographing The European Music Archaeology Project (EMAP – www.emaproject.eu)

Phase 1: Tintignac Carnyx,

Background to Research

The EMAP project started in June 2013 - with initial EU funding of approximately 4 million Euros. The intention of the project was to highlight Europe's ancient cultural roots through a range of musical, scientific and "sensorial" research projects. In order to do this, EMAP recruited a team of archaeologists, musicologists, researchers, makers of musical instruments, composers, musicians, film-makers, photographers, sound designers and multimedia artists, and put them together with the scientific and organizational support of universities, museums, public bodies, music festivals, research centres, music archives and academies. In 2016 EMAP revealed the results of its research for the first time with a musical concert in Glasgow, followed by a European-wide tour and exhibition, *ARCHÆOMUSICA*, touring Europe between June 2016 and May 2018.

Research Question

How can photography capture and promote the cultural heritage, memory, sounds, and spirit of ancient reconstructed musical instruments ?

Dates of project: 2015 - 2017

Phase 1: November 2015: Reconstructed 2000 years old Tintignac Carnyx, Bronze Age giant Celtic trumpet.

Phase 2: March 2016: Reconstructed 40,000 year-old vulture, swan, mammoth and bone flutes.

Phase 3: Historical Greek woodwind instruments, June 2017

Research Project

To develop technically accurate and visually informative photographic images that capture the cultural and historic significance of the ancient musical instruments within this research project.

Research Problem

How can photography capture and promote the cultural heritage, memory, sounds, and spirit of ancient reconstructed musical instruments? A synesthetic visual challenge: to capture sound and aura of ancient musical instruments.

The European Music Archaeology Project (EMAP – www.emaproject.eu) has involved creating reconstructions of ancient musical instruments, requiring photographic visual inquiries and representations to be made out of the musical instruments produced. Images went beyond the traditional observational and illustrative uses of photographic practices - with a brief that challenged photography as an archaic practice: to explore new cultural and technological shifts within current photographic research methodologies, processes and image production workflows, to creatively and critically expand the possibilities of photographic practice in order to capture, reproduce and communicate visually the sound, spirit and memory of the ancient musical instruments photographed, to call to mind the sounds and ancient cultures and represent the research project in impact and dissemination activities.

Research methods of inquiry

The size, structure and materiality of the 6ft highly reflective Bronze Age Tintignac Carnyx offered a unique range of technical and synaesthetic photographic challenges. Research methods of inquiry critically examined the synaesthetic ability of photographic light to capture and communicate the sound and aura of the reconstructed Tintignac Carnyx through object materiality, texture and shape, investigating the problematic nature and visual impact of photographic light quality on the bronze surfaces of the highly polished Celtic instrument, and exploring the ethereal quality of digital photographic light painting techniques and the composite image in constructing a cultural narrative.

Research methodology: composite photographic light painting

The fundamental principle employed in photographing the Bronze Age Celtic trumpet was relatively straightforward. If the subject did not move and the camera did not move then in principle it should be possible to create a series of multiple layered photographic captures (images) of the Tintignac Carnyx that could then be superimposed in post-production into a single composite image, allowing the photographer to critically and visually deconstruct the Tintignac Carnyx into several individual component parts – with each layered component part responding to a diverse range of technical lighting and visual challenges asked by the Tintignac Carnyx's bronze reflective surfaces.

Research process and workflow

1. Initial research into the Tintignac Carnyx involved a series of experimental lighting investigations using a continuous light source (strobe modelling lamp). Here the lamp was moved around the Bronze Age Celtic trumpet to map out its visual characteristics, reflective qualities, textures and object form, using a combination of direct and diffused studio lighting techniques to determine the individual type and quality of photographic light best suited to capturing the bronze structure (example plates 1 & 2)

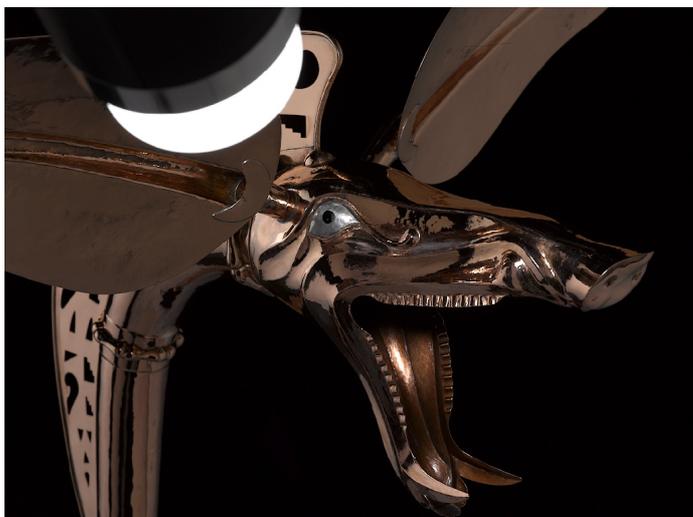


Plate: 1

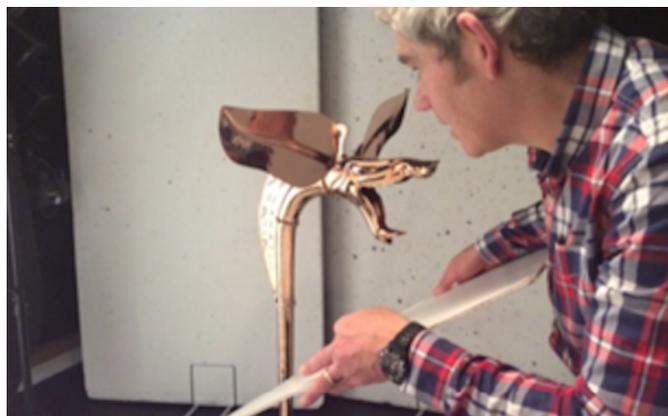


Plate: 2

2. After identifying, mapping out and visually deconstructing the Tintignac Carnyx into a series of individual component parts, these component parts were then photographed separately using a single studio strobe source (electronic light unit) several times to create a diverse lighting range (image bank) of direct and diffused lighting techniques for each component part of the composite image (Example plates 3, 4, & 5).



Plate: 3



Plate: 4

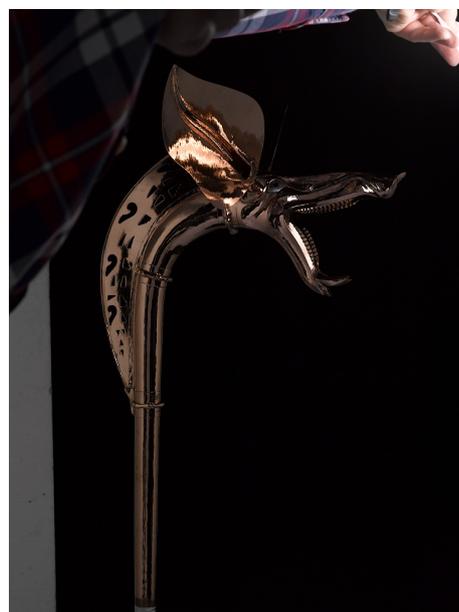


Plate: 5

3. The final composite image for this project was digitally constructed in Photoshop CC 2015, through the combined processes of image stacking and layer masking. The layering of one image on top of the other uses Photoshop's layer masks to hide, reveal and combine image detail contained within the stacked images. Plates 6 & 7 reveal the complex research investigations, image sequencing and composite masking processes and post-production techniques involved in the making of the Tintignac Carnyx image.

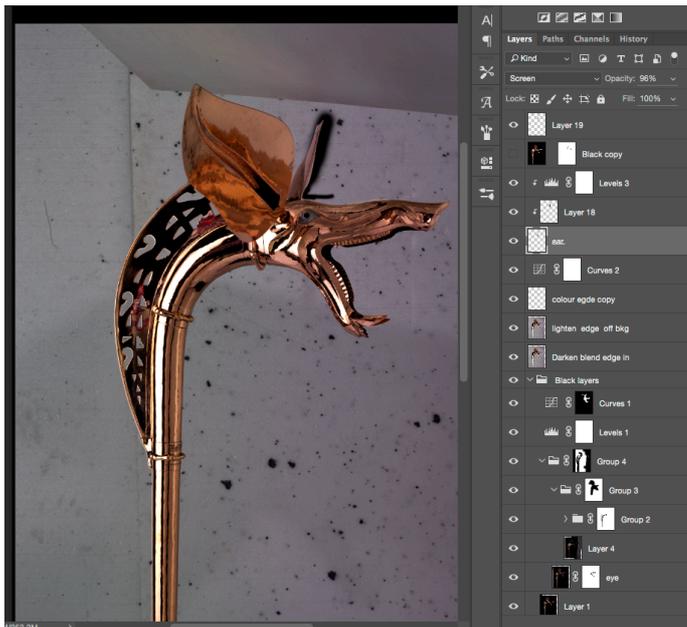


Plate: 6

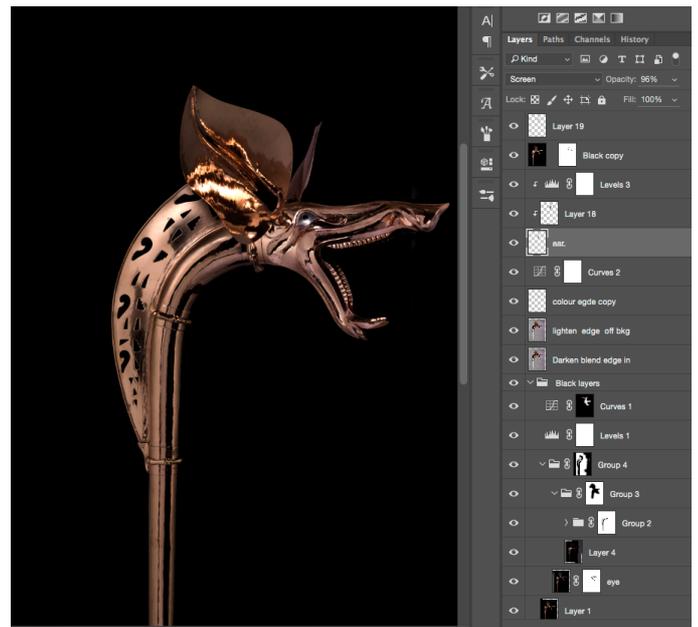


Plate: 7

Significance and Impact

The Tintignac Carnyx (Bronze Age giant Celtic trumpet) produced for this project was used by music archaeologist Cajsa S. Lund, Head researcher and project manager for EMAP Sweden; Linnaeus University, Växjö-Kalmar, Sweden, to create project impact at the EMAP Archæomusica, 'Exploring Music and Sounds from Ancient Europe'. This exhibition was premiered in the city of Ystad in Sweden on June 6th 2016. The Tintignac Carnyx image has also been used by EMAP as their conference banner and on promotional booklets, flyers and educational publications related to the exhibition. The Tintignac Carnyx photographic images produced for this project have also been used by Delphian Records to promote recordings made at University of Huddersfield, under the supervision of Professor Rupert Till.

EMAP media reviews

<http://www.emaproject.eu/news.html>

<https://musicarchaeologyrecordings.wordpress.com/recordings/dragon-voices-the-giant-celtic-horns-of-ancient-europe-european-music-archaeology-project-volume-3/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MuseoCienciaDeValladolid/photos/a.257233294377215.43705.255834584517086/1002260996541104/?type=3&theater>

www.musikisyd.se/en/emap-2/

<http://www.ystad.se/kommun--politik/nyheter/arkiv/sparade-avpublicerade/archaomusica/in-english/>

<http://www.emaproject.eu/component/content/article.html?id=146:the-carnyx-from-tintignac>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXTIAwmslHo>

<https://www.cyi.ac.cy/index.php/starc/research-information/starc-ongoing-projects-ri/emap-european-music-archaeology-project.html>

<http://www.emaproject.eu/events/concerts.html - #conciertoinaugural>

<http://www.gearjunkies.com/2016/03/ystad-sweden-to-host-world-premiere-of-a-unique-exhibition-about-musics-journey-through-time-and-place/>

Originality

The originality of this photographic project lies in its critical, investigative and synaesthetic approach towards archaeological photographic practice. It explores both conventional and non-traditional photographic image making processes, critically exploring the potential of the digitally constructed photograph to capture, reproduce and communicate visually the sound, spirit and memory of ancient musical instruments photographed.

Delphian Records media reviews

http://www.historicbrass.org/TheStacks/RecordingReviews/RecordingReviews2016/JohnKenny_DragonVoices/tabid/1535/Default.aspx

<http://www.theartsdesk.com/classical-music/classical-cds-weekly-glazunov-shostakovich-wagner-dragon-voices>

Published works



EMAP exhibition poster, 2016



EMAP exhibition Poster Spain 2017

Archæomusica, a unique travelling exhibition created by EMAP (the European Music Archaeology Project) about Europe's musical roots, stretching from 40,000 BC to the Middle Ages.

The Abbey in Ystad, 6 June 2016 – 8 January 2017

The image shows a carnyx, an Iron Age horn: reconstruction based on an archaeological find made at Tintignac, France. Photograph: David John Lake.



<http://www.emaproject.eu/events/concerts.html> - #conciertoinaugural



EMAP exhibition post card, 2016

A screenshot of a Google Images search result. On the left is a large image of the dragon-like brass instrument mouthpiece. On the right is a search interface with the following text: "Ystad, Sweden to host world premier..." followed by "Gearjunkies.com - 1169 x 1178 - Search by image". Below this is another line of text: "Ystad, Sweden to host world premiere of a unique exhibition about music's journey through time and place | Gearjunkies.com". There are buttons for "Visit page", "View image", "Save", "View saved", and "Share". Below these are "Related images:" with a grid of eight smaller images, including a dragon-like mouthpiece, a colorful abstract image, a keyboard, a keyboard, a keyboard, a keyboard, a keyboard, and a crown. At the bottom, it says "Images may be subject to copyright. - Send feedback".

Google images



Cries - Tintignac Carnyx

EMAPProject European Music Archaeology Project

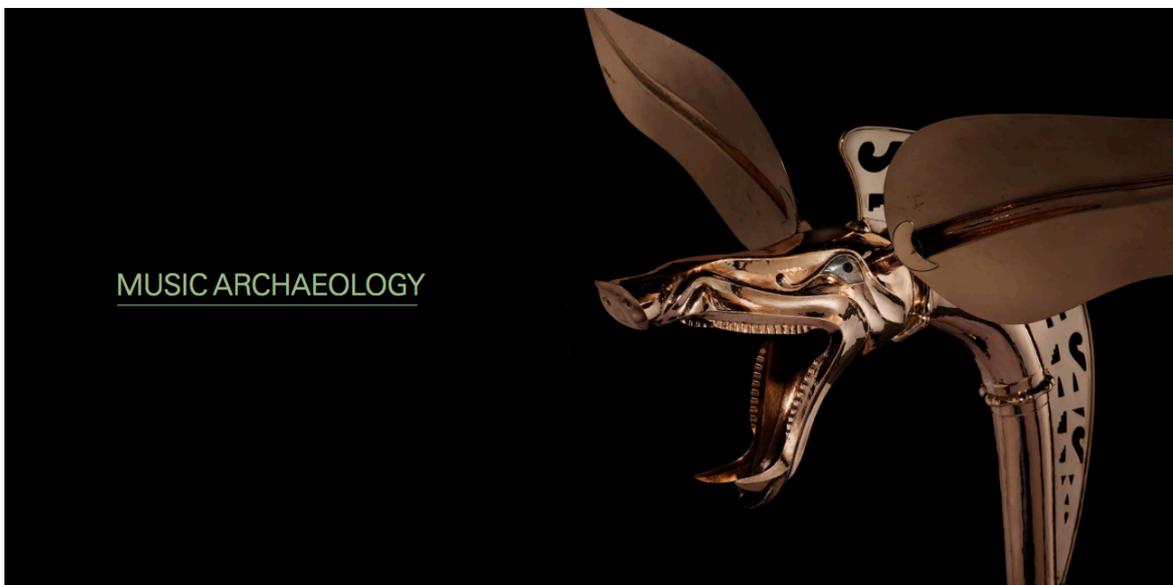
Subscribe 55

169 views

Sound recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azo7mSt8o9M>

DELPHIAN RECORDS

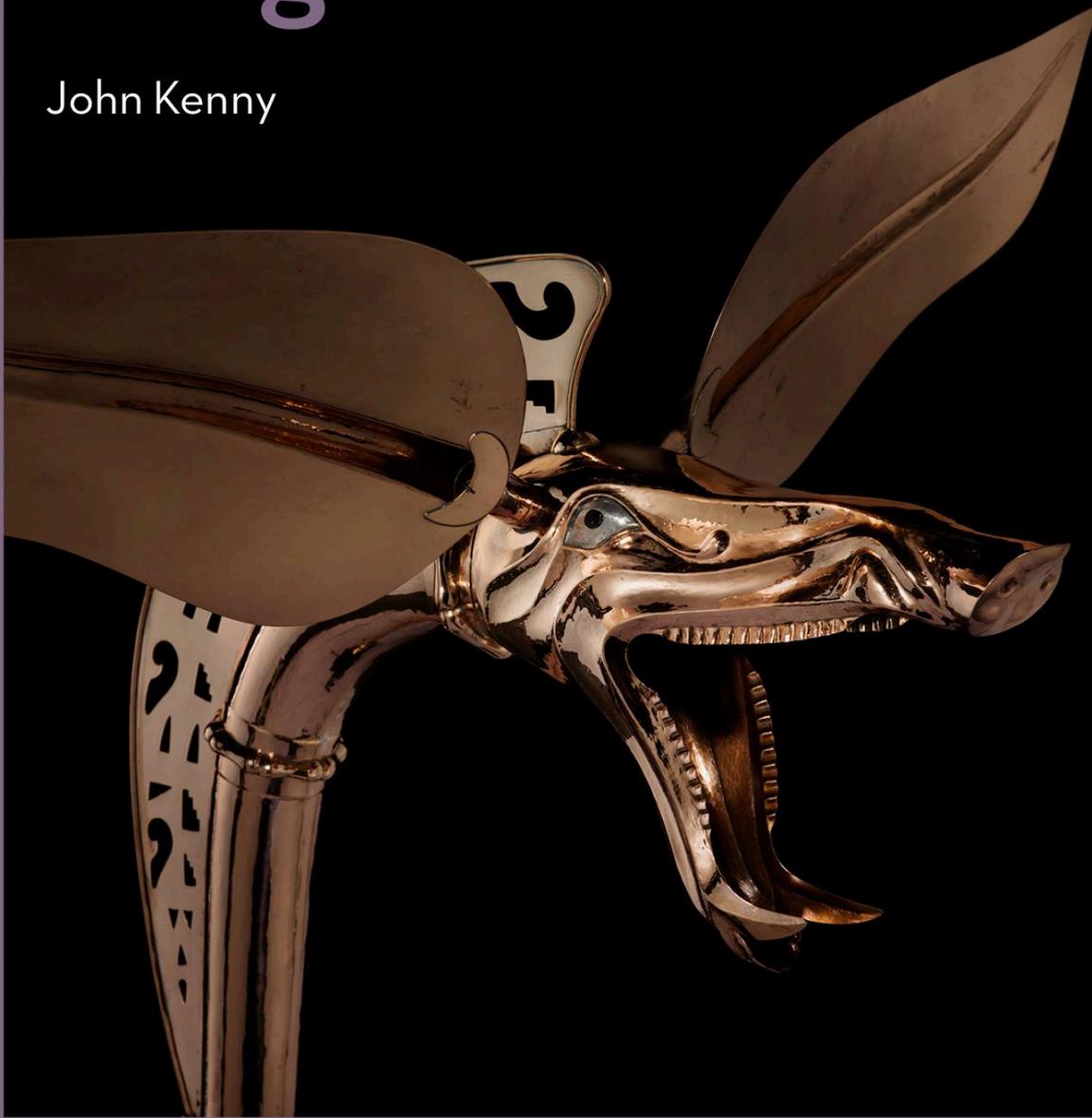
<http://delphianrecords.co.uk/product-group/dragon-voices-the-giant-celtic-horns-of-ancient-europe-emap-vol-3/>



THE ANCIENT CELTIC MUSIC OF THE CARNYX

DragonVoices

John Kenny



Dragon Voices: the giant Celtic horns of ancient Europe [EMAP Vol 3]
The [EMAP](#) series is produced in association with the University of Huddersfield.
Photography: David John Lake (2016)