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18. 9. – 28. 11. 2010

Grand Organ

by Danica Dakić, Liverpool 2010

Single-channel video projection (HD), sound, color, 12'04"
Music composed by Bojan Vuletić
Director of Photography: Egbert Trogemann
Film Editing: Amra Bakšić Čamo
Sound Design: Bojan Vuletić

Exhibition venue
Liverpool Cathedral
www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

In cooperation with the children and teenagers of
The Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir
(Director of Music: Timothy Noon)
The Liverpool Signing Choir
(Founder and Senior Choir Co-ordinator: Catherine Hegarty)
The Sparrows from Sparrow Hall, Fazakerley

Special thanks to
St. George's Hall, Liverpool and its staff
and all those who have helped make this project possible.

Commissioned by
Liverpool Biennial *International 10*

"Grand Organ", initially inspired by the majestic organ located in St. George's Hall, was filmed entirely inside St George's Hall in Liverpool. This polyvalent space, an imposing example of neo-classical architecture built 1842–1854 was designed as courts of justice as well as a place for civic leisure and entertainment. The building – with its courthouse, prison cells, and concert hall – was a setting for a tale of entrapment, performed by children and young people of three local choirs: boys of Metropolitan cathedral choir, girls from the Liverpool Signing choir, and the "Sparrows" of the "Sparrow hall". Bonded to and rooted within local history, pride and heritage, this work transcends the particularity of the place by bringing to the forefront the element of 'performance' implicit in the legal system. Throughout the production Dakić has visually elaborated on the notions of polyphony, justice, and childhood besides investigating the relationships between language and music, between the bodies and the space, between laws and subjects, between the individual and the community.

Musical conception by Bojan Vuletić:

The central musical idea for "Grand Organ" is a polyphonic invention for cathedral boys' choir that translates individual voices into an instrument, an "organ". The organ stops can be achieved in this system of "human pipe voices" by adding different singers with different colours and pitches to the unison voice. Consequently, the massive musical body of an organ is substituted by another large musical body, a choir, in a very intimate, small and therefore paradoxical way.

The single voices were sung by the boys of the

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and recorded, mixed and mastered by Bojan Vuletić during the film production in 2010.