



**University of
Sunderland**

Cope, Nicholas and Howle, Tim (2011) Flags. [Show/Exhibition]

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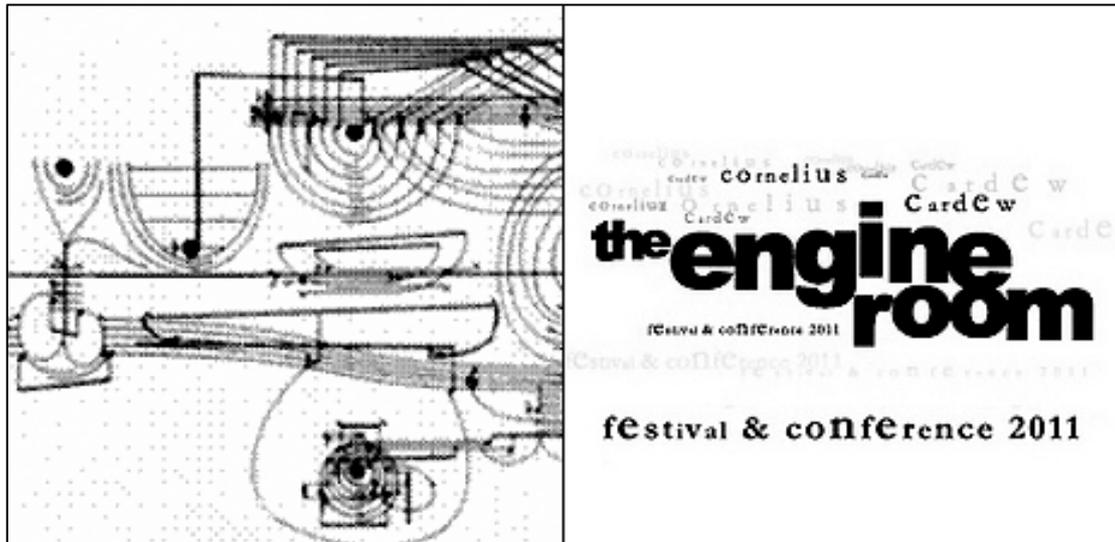
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Flags – Video/DVD in collaboration with Composer Tim Howle, November 2011, 5'09"

<http://youtu.be/AVGvI9ikJBk>

Screening/installation: The Engine Room Exhibition: New Sound and Visual Art Works, (A celebration of the life, works and legacy of Cornelius Cardew) Morley Gallery, London, November – December 2011



**The Engine Room 2011, Morley Gallery,
Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London**

24th November – 16th December 2011

A celebration of the life, works and legacy of experimental musician and composer Cornelius Cardew, organised by Morley College and supported by the Southbank Centre. The festival programme included a mix of performances, improvisations, exhibitions, courses and workshops, and culminated in a weekend conference on 10-11 December 2011.

Cornelius Cardew (1936-1981) was a tutor at Morley College in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and left a lasting impact on the College as well as the wider British contemporary music scene. He was widely known in Britain and throughout the world not only for his avant-garde compositions but also as a political composer and for his position in contemporary music. As a musician and concert organiser he was responsible for many first performances including Boulez's "Structures " with Richard Rodney Bennett at RAM; as well as the music of Cage, Stockhausen, La Monte Young, Terry Riley, Wolff, Rzewski, etc.

http://www.morleycollege.ac.uk/morley_gallery/exhibition_archive/689_morley_gallery_the_engine_room_2011

Flags featured as a single monitor video installation in the exhibition of new work by contemporary sound artists, forming part of The Engine Room, a festival celebrating the life and work of Cornelius Cardew. The soundtrack was composed by Tim Howle, Head of Art, Professor of Contemporary Music at the University of Kent. The video consists of just two shots of Tibetan Buddhist prayer flags, strung across the path ('kora') circumambulating the mountain top of Ganden Monastery, near Lhasa, Tibet. An initial opening, establishing wide shot of the flags in the landscape soon fades to a continuous four and half minute take, panning across the length of the 50m string of flags and closes up into them as the wind blows them through the frame. Symbols and mantras are printed onto the flags in the belief that prayers of compassion, peace and healing will be carried on the wind for the benefit of all, blessing those to whom the prayers are carried.

The work builds on earlier explorations of the encounter of electroacoustic music composition and moving image practice by Tim Howle and Nick Cope in the four 'electroacoustic movie' works from 2002-2008, which have been widely screened nationally and internationally, and published on DVD. (See Nick Cope's PhD, *Northern Industrial Scratch: the history and contexts of a visual music practice*, University of Sunderland, 2012).

Flags re-works an earlier edit of the same video material, *Ganden Prayer Flags*, originally cut with a soundtrack by Phil Thornton, and selected for screening online as part of The Portable Film Festival: Worldwide Encounters: Lonely Planet TV in 2009.