



Blue plaque, New Brighton promenade, 2019.

Cover image: Lego ship from *Hear Us O Lord From Heaven Thy Dwelling Place* research project, 2022. Image: Alan Dunn.



THE 2022 LOWRY LOUNGE



SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER

**CELEBRATING
THE WRITER MALCOLM LOWRY**

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75 years since Wirral-born Malcolm Lowry's acclaimed *Under the Volcano* was published, and 65 years since his death, this year's Lounge explores his continuing relevance. What can we learn from a writer who lived a largely precarious existence and whose writing fathomed human despair, and who also valued a natural world he saw increasingly threatened by 'progress'? In what ways does Lowry reward revisiting as a writer for today?

PROGRAMME

11am Welcome and introduction by **Bryan Biggs** and **Helen Tookey**

Hear Us O Lord From Heaven Thy Dwelling Place: Lowry, the Isle of Man and the climate crisis

Alan Dunn introduces *Hear Us O Lord From Heaven Thy Dwelling Place*, an AHRC-funded interdisciplinary research project which reimagines Lowry through the climate crisis. The project is producing new creative material and thinking that connects Lowry's prescient writing about nature with current environmental concerns, particularly over plastic pollution of the ocean.

This has been done through the lens of a series of ferry crossings to the Isle of Man made by a research team of visual artists, mariners, writers, sound recordists and musicians. Lowry's (barely remembered) childhood holiday idyll attained mythical status in his writing as an imagined arcadia.

The findings of the project will be presented by some those involved, including poet **Roger Cliffe-Thompson**, a semaphore performance from **the Art Doctors**, and Leeds Beckett University Fine Art students **Kristina Nenova** and **Frankie Mazzotta's** artists' book, alongside readings from Lowry's own writing by **Patricia Farrell**, **Jeremy Lowry**, **Robert Sheppard**, and Manx-born artist **Cian**

Quayle who also talks about his art practice drawing on Lowry's connections to the island.

A discussion will attempt to draw together the various strands of the enquiry and explore the extent to which Lowry's writing connects to us today.

12.20-1.05pm Lunch break, and Art Doctors outdoor performance

1.05pm Helen Tookey: *Special Reality: Malcolm Lowry's 'Last Notebook'*

Writer Helen Tookey reflects on Lowry's last notebook, written in the Lake District, which she came across in Vancouver in the University of British Columbia's special collections, a discovery she describes as "really beautiful and heart-breaking and links to the wider theme of being in the world, joy and despair."

1.25pm Alberto Rebollo: *It is not Mexico of course, but in the heart*

Alberto Rebollo is a member of the Fundación Malcolm Lowry in Cuernavaca, the setting for *Under the Volcano* that also hosts the annual Malcolm Lowry Colloquium. In this recorded conversation with Bryan Biggs and Helen Tookey, he discusses his ongoing research and Lowry's place in, and relevance to, Mexican culture today. He also reads from his Lowry-inspired novel.

2.40pm

Lowry Question Time

Devised by Lounge regular **Mary Morgans**, this audience participation activity invites questions relating to the writer (submitted on the day and in advance). A panel of Lowry experts including **Colin Dilnot** and **Michael Romer** will respond.

3.10pm

Lowry toast

To end the afternoon, a celebratory drink and opportunity to browse the Bluecoat's modest Lowry reference library and purchase some Lowry-related publications.