

### **Creative Work for *fusion 10*: Land Dialogues**

*Fall of the Derwent* (2016) Margaret Woodward and Justy Phillips,  
Public Art commission, Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park, Tasmania  
Hydrographic Score downloadable from [www.fallofthederwent.net](http://www.fallofthederwent.net).

*Fall of the Derwent* (2016), is a public artwork by artists Justy Phillips and Margaret Woodward. Commissioned and presented by GASP (Glenorchy Art & Sculpture Park) Tasmania, as part of *Swimmable: Reading the River*. *Fall of the Derwent* is an invitation to experience the River(s) Derwent as a living organism that re-composes with every reading – a marking, cutting, flooding deluge in the making. *Fall of the Derwent* is an experiment in hydrographic publishing installed at Wilkinson's Point, Elwick Bay, Tasmania. Accessible 24/7, visitors to GASP are invited to experience *Fall of the Derwent* – a 96 page written text-artwork – by scanning the artwork's permanently installed QR code on the banks of the River Derwent at Wilkinson's Point.

A single scan of the QR code will trigger a digital download of this ambitious hydrographic score onto a smartphone or tablet. The downloadable artwork uses coded html to 'read' the River Derwent's current Energy in Storage Levels (as made public by Hydro Tasmania). By connecting their own river of creative writing, prose and historical research to this dynamic data, each download of *Fall of the Derwent* publishes a completely unique hydrographic score – reflecting exactly the percentage of energy stored that day in the River Derwent system.

This artwork invites every GASP visitor to become a publisher. Like the water held in the Derwent's storage dams, the hydrographic score lies dormant until the act of downloading, releases time and again, a new iteration and flow. The score is also available to download from the project website: [www.fallofthederwent.net](http://www.fallofthederwent.net)

Through a year-long process of research-creation that included in-depth archival research, walking, writing, making, recording and publishing, the artists entered into relation-with the river(s) Derwent as living events. Over two recent summers, the artists walk from the sea to the source of two Rivers Derwent. First, they walk from the seaport of Workington to the valley of Borrowdale in the Lake District National Park (UK) and then from Blackmans Bay to leeawuleena (Tasmania). They encounter more than one namesake on the two Derwent Rivers transecting generations of human and non-human activity, of agriculture, industry and deep geological time.

*Fall of the Derwent* was named after a delicate drawing by George Frankland and later engraved by Thomas Bock and printed by James

Ross in The Hobart Town almanack for the year 1830. The project was launched at GASP on November 26 2016 with a live reading performance event and the hand to hand publication of a limited edition printed cloth bound score. Each unique carbon impregnated score was “published” by a group of nine readers whose intimate gesture of reading and handing over to the audience became a contagious act of making public through moving backwards.

*Fall of the Derwent* includes collaborations with Tasmanian Aboriginal people, Hydro Tasmania, Derwent Estuary Program, Inland Fisheries Service, Parks and Wildlife Service, Telstra, Hop Producers Australia, Saltas, The State Library of Tasmania, Mineral Resources Tasmania and LISTMAP. *Fall of the Derwent* is generously supported by Arts Tasmania, Ian Potter Foundation, Australia Council and Glenorchy City Council and Telstra.

*Swimmable: Reading the River* is a collaboration between artists, scientists, educators, environmentalists, industry and community to deliver temporary and permanent, internationally resonant art in all forms. It serves to connect the local community and visitors to the health of the aquatic environment and introduce new ways of thinking about GASP and the immediate environment.

## IMAGES



*Fall Of the Derwent* (2016) Justy Phillips and Margaret Woodward, Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP), Tasmania. Site download panel.

Image Stuart Gibson



*Fall Of the Derwent* (2016) Justy Phillips and Margaret Woodward,  
Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP), Tasmania. Limited edition  
printed cloth bound score  
Image Stuart Gibson



*Fall Of the Derwent* (2016) Justy Phillips and Margaret Woodward,  
Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP), Tasmania. Documentation  
of hand to hand publishing event, 26 November 2016, GASP.

Image Stuart Gibson



*Fall Of the Derwent* (2016) Justy Phillips and Margaret Woodward, Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP), Tasmania. Documentation of hand to hand publishing event, 26 November 2016, GASP. Image Stuart Gibson



*Fall Of the Derwent* (2016) Justy Phillips and Margaret Woodward,  
Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park (GASP), Tasmania. Documentation  
of hand to hand publishing event, 26 November 2016, GASP.  
Image Stuart Gibson