



33 – 34 Cornwall Road, Waterloo, London SE1 8TJ

## **Press Release**

### **LA VITA NUOVA**

**A collaboration between Susan Haire, painter, and Stephen Dydo, composer**

Private View Friday 7 December, 6 – 9pm

Open 6 – 13 December, 12.30 – 5pm

"In that part of the book of my memory before which little can be read, there is a heading, which says:  
'*Incipit vita nova*: Here begins the new life'." Dante Alighieri

This exhibition is a collaboration between Susan Haire, painter, and Stephen Dydo, composer, in response to Dante's *La vita nuova*. In this book he describes meeting and falling obsessively in love with Beatrice, a transformative experience which led to his new life and the writing of *The Divine Comedy*. Dydo and Haire were introduced to *La vita nuova* through their involvement with Rebus Touring Arts' ([www.rebustouringarts.com](http://www.rebustouringarts.com)) multi-disciplined performance project (theatre, film, dance, music and painting) which recently previewed at the Stowe Festival.

The exhibition is of installation paintings and spatial sounds projected by numerous loudspeakers placed around the gallery. The groups of paintings explore aspects of Dante's book: delicate and fragile series of curved forms represent Love, raw images for the startling vision *Vide cor tuum* ("Behold your heart") and explosively colourful large scale polyptychs for the New Life. Both the music and the paintings develop these ideas through multiple layers. A single piece of music plays as the visitor walks round but its thematic materials will metamorphose as the viewer/listener explores the space. Individual elements in the music are associated with each group of paintings.

The sound for the show will be the first presentation in the UK of an entirely new loudspeaker technology, developed by Bloomline Coryphée in the Netherlands.

The Cello Factory is a stunning, large, new exhibition space five minutes walk from the National Theatre. The building used to be a factory and showroom for stringed instruments and was also where the first Daleks were made.

[www.dydo-haire.com](http://www.dydo-haire.com)

[info@thecellofactory.com](mailto:info@thecellofactory.com) for further details and high res images