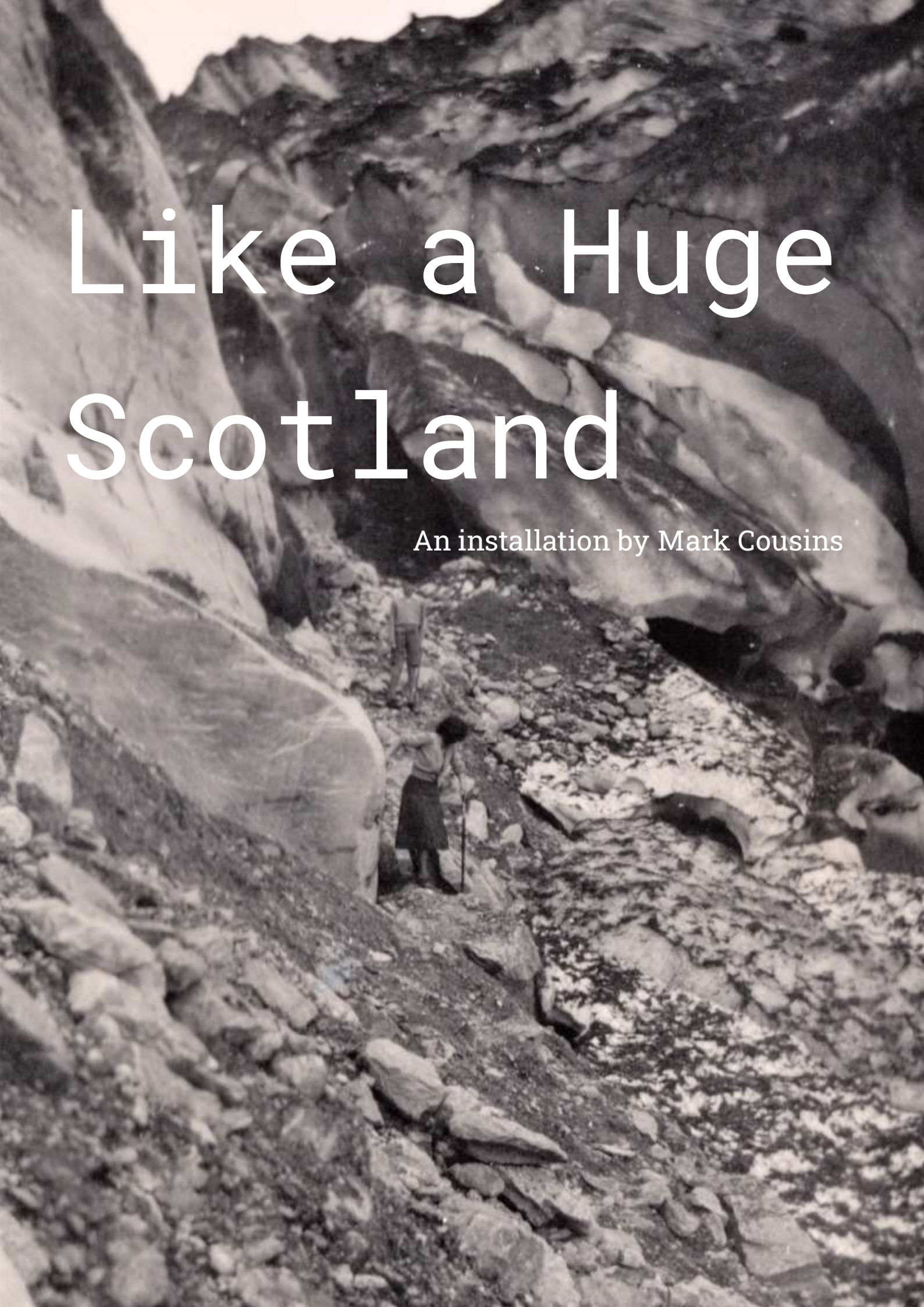
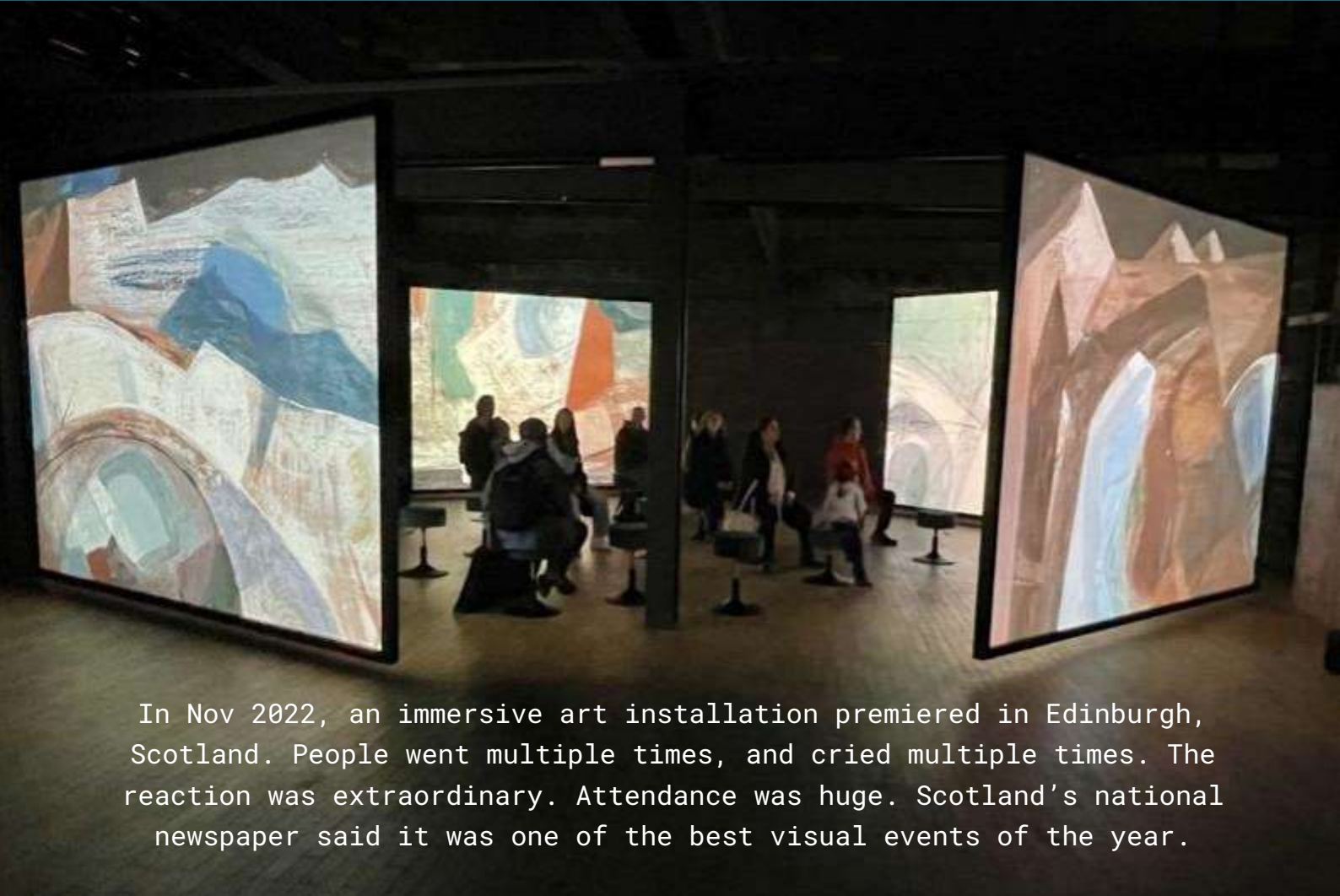


Like a Huge Scotland

An installation by Mark Cousins





In Nov 2022, an immersive art installation premiered in Edinburgh, Scotland. People went multiple times, and cried multiple times. The reaction was extraordinary. Attendance was huge. Scotland's national newspaper said it was one of the best visual events of the year.

Like a Huge Scotland

a four screen art installation

4 pairs of stereo audio

still images shot in 8k

duration 15'

artist Mark Cousins

music Linda Buckley

sound design Ania Pryzgoda

editor Timo Langer

funded by Creative Scotland

supported by the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust



The show was about a woman, Wilhelmina Barns-Graham...



...at two stages in her life. Older and in 1949...



Why 1949? Because in that year she
climbed to a glacier in the Alps.

The climb changed her life.

She painted it for 50 years.



Like a Huge Scotland Themes

The main theme of the installation is **inspiration** – how a moment can become a turning point. The background themes are very contemporary:

Feminism – Barns-Graham was a great artist who has been under-remembered by history

Neurodiversity – She was synaesthetic and had a rare way of looking at the world

Climate emergency – The glacier has almost gone

Aging – How our older self forgets our younger self



Reviews

Beautiful... hauntingly beautiful. Wouldn't have missed it
Alison Watt, painter

So wonderful. A luminous piece.
Lizzie Francke-Daniels, film producer

Feeling slightly breathless after finally spending time with Mark Cousins's exhilarating film/
installation. A beautiful reflection on the life and art of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham.
Nicola Meighan, broadcaster

Extraordinary. Profoundly compassionate and moving.
Jenny Young, trauma therapist

So concise and epic at the same time. Like a poem - so condensed.
Stewart Laing, opera and theatre director

Excellent storytelling, visual imagery & sounds.
Louise Welsh, author

★★★★
Compelling. A moving reflection on time, ageing and the nature of artistic inspiration... spare,
insightful.
The Scotsman

Neil Cooper review:
https://flemingcollection.com/scottish_art_news/news-press/like-a-huge-scotland

Technical Requirements

A 15 minute installation on four 2K video channels running simultaneously with 8 or 4 track sound.

- Four video channels can be projected or played on 4 screens or walls.
- Screens to be positioned in a quadrangle to allow for 360° experience. Minimum screen width of 1.5 m, with maximum distance between screens to be no greater than the width of the screens used. Centre line of screen should be within the viewing band 1.2 to 1.6 m from floor. Video in 4:3 ratio.
- Room must be dark
- Four or eight audio channels required

Included in the Hire

- Video and audio channels supplied on a hard drive
- Subtitles in English
- Exhibition Text in English (introduction and handout)

Viewing Copy

To give you a feel of the piece, and its emotions, we have combined its four screens into a single four quadrant “flat” version for viewing.

LIKE A HUGE SCOTLAND (15 mins, flat version)

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/783387100>

password: willie

The sound and music moved around the audience, but if you listen quite loud you will get the sense of it.

Exhibition Development

A range of additional content is available to complement the installation from recordings of the original live edit of *Like a Huge Scotland* and talks to related Barns-Graham material and merchandise.

Live talks with Mark Cousins or the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust may be available.

Live Edit Recording

Mark Cousins and his editor, Timo Langer broadcast the edit of *Like a Huge Scotland* live on YouTube. The edit provides a unique insight into a rarely revealed process with an internationally renowned filmmaker. Recordings are available.



Recorded Talks

- Professor Pete Nienow, Professor of Glaciology, University of Edinburgh on *Art and ice loss: a personal and scientific reflection mourning rapid glacier loss in the Alps*
- Dr Samantha Walton and climber Anna Fleming discuss Nan Shephard and Wilhelmina Barns-Graham

Additional Exhibition Content

The Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust can provide related artworks, photographs and archive materials for reproduction or loan. Loan conditions and costs may apply.



Merchandise

The Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust can supply a range of books and cards for sale alongside your exhibition.



Mark Cousins

Mark is a Scottish-Irish filmmaker and writer. His themes are the inspiring power of cinema, cities, walking, childhood, archives and recovery.

His 2004 book *The Story of Film* was published around the world. The Times called it "by some distance the best book we have read on cinema." His 930 minute film, *The Story of Film: An Odyssey* ("The place from which all future film revisionism should begin" - New York Times), played at major film festivals and has influenced film education.

Cousins recently completed *My Name is Alfred Hitchcock* and *The March on Rome*, an Italian Palomar production about Mussolini and Fascism. The latter premiered at the Venice film festival, was called "entirely arresting" by the Guardian, won the audience award for Best International Documentary in Brazil, and was nominated for a European Film Academy Award. The former premiered at the Telluride film festival and was called "the best work about Hitchcock since Francois Truffaut" by Historia Del Cine in Spain.

In 2022, he premiered his first art installation, *Like a Huge Scotland*, at the Fruitmarket gallery, Edinburgh, which the Scotsman newspaper called one of the ten best visual art pieces of 2022 and – along with Cate Blanchette and Sarah Polley - was given the Outstanding Contribution to Cinema medal at the Telluride Film Festival.

In 2023 he will receive the Persistence of Vision Award from the San Francisco Film Festival, the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Ismailia Film Festival in Egypt and the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo Award, Contribution to the Art of Film from the Sarajevo International Film Festival.

Wilhelmina Barns-Graham

Wilhelmina Barns-Graham was one of Britain's most significant 20th century modern artists. Scottish born and a prominent member of the post-war St Ives group, she was a sublime painter, draughtswoman, printmaker and a brilliant colourist. Dividing her time between studios in St Ives and St Andrews she followed a consistent artistic vision throughout her sixty-five-year career.



Like a Huge Scotland tour is administrated by the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust.

For further information, please contact

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Available to tour
until 2026