

# Will Arthur MACLEAN & WATSON

## CAIRN GORM: READING A LANDSCAPE A NORTHERN VIEWPOINT

### Cairn Gorm Mountain, Scotland

Located in and around the base station of the Mountain Railway, the project comprises three main elements: large format works in text and image by Arthur Watson & Andy Rice; a viewpoint, seating and staircase by Will Maclean & Arthur Watson with soundworks by Stanley Robertson & Norman Shaw, and a camera obscura building by Fergus Purdie with video projection by Mel Woods & Lei Cox.

Overlooking Loch Morlich and the Spey Valley the Northern Viewpoint could be read as a re-figuration of Ossian's Hall, an 18th century folly above the Black Lynn Falls near Dunkeld. Each attempts to underpin its particular landscape with elements of cultural significance; the sublime enhanced by historic and literary association. On Cairn Gorm we quote place names, lines from James Macpherson's Ossian and travellers' folk tales, reminding us of a once diverse and sometimes transient population, while a cumulative poetry of climbers' route-names reflects a more recent mountain community.

Using traditional building methods and local stone the viewpoint echoes the Land Raid Memorials by Will Maclean on the Isle of Lewis - a resonant amalgam of contemporary sculpture and vernacular form. The structure also channels water from the hill through three stone buttresses and under bronze plates carrying lines from Ossian.

THE FLOWERS OF SPRINGTIME SHALL COME  
MORNING POURS FROM THE GATES OF THE EAST  
MOUNTAIN-SIGHS ON DARK STREAMS

