

# Message from the Skies – Love Letters to Europe

Message from the Skies returned to Edinburgh's Hogmanay today with a selection of love letters written for Europe. The words of six internationally celebrated writers will illuminate and animate buildings around the city nightly until 10pm and until Friday 25 January.

You can download the Message from the Skies app from the App Store or Google Play to read or listen to the stories.



Kapka Kassabova, Bright Side Studios, Pippa Murphy – The Scottish Monument, Calton Hill

The 6 buildings and artistic collaborations are:

**Chitra Ramaswamy – Emma Pollock – Daniel Warren – Custom House, Leith**

Guardian columnist and author, Chitra writes a comment piece about her childhood in London, holidaying in Spain, moving to

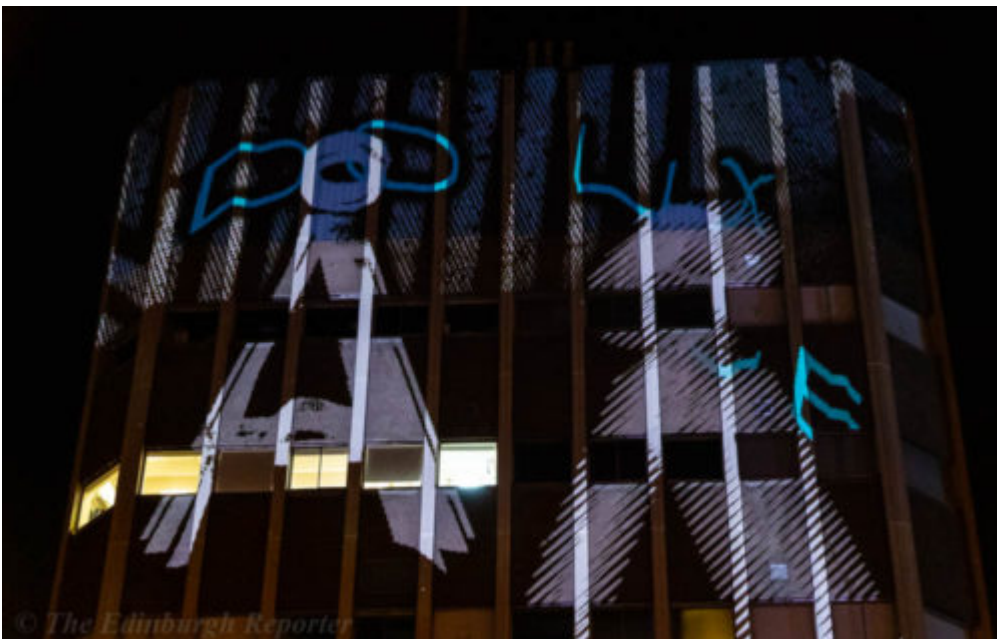
Edinburgh as an adult, discussing her identity as a second-generation immigrant in the UK and in Europe.

**Daniel Warren** will work with archive and live action footage to tell Chitra's story; the film will have an accompanying track composed and performed by **Emma Pollock**.

**Kapka Kassabova – Bright Side Studios – Pippa Murphy – The Scottish Monument, Calton Hill**

Bulgarian born, Highland based writer of narrative non-fiction Kapka writes about the origins of Europa, touching on deep time, mythology and legend. She explores how Europe is more permanent and enduring than detailed political ideas that dominate our everyday world.

Founded by Susanna Murphy and Cristina Spiteri, **Bright Side Studios** is creating images from Kapka's writing which come into focus before dissolving into nothing. **Pippa Murphy** brings together a soundtrack which fuses her music with found audio inspired by ancient Greek, Mesopotamian and Gaelic female chanting.



Louise Welsh, Emlyn Firth – Tech Cube, Summerhall. Photo – John Preece

**Louise Welsh – Emlyn Firth – Tech Cube, Summerhall**

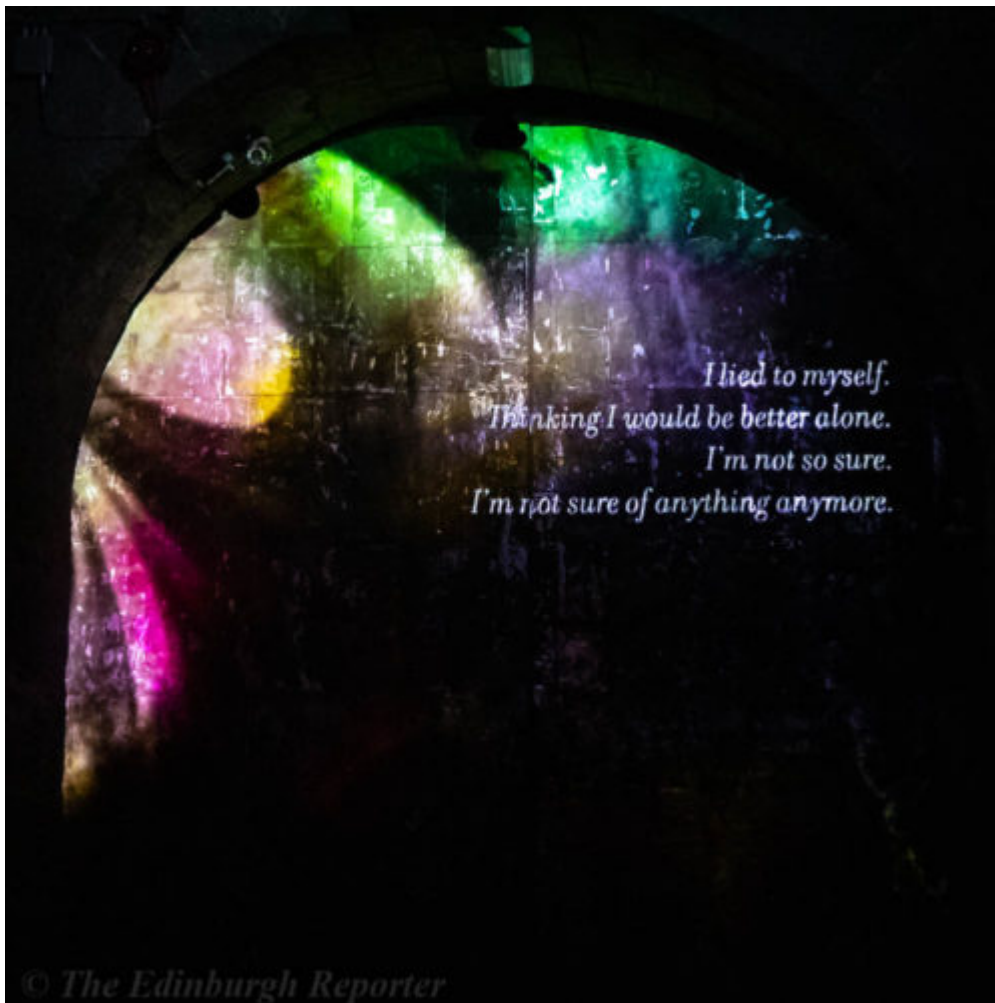
Glasgow-based author of short stories and psychological thrillers, Louise has developed a poetic statement about our shared origins and culture, accompanied by a series of words translated between Scots and European mainland languages which demonstrate that though our dialects are different we can still be understood.

**Emlyn Firth** will use a typographic approach to illustrate Louise's work, playing with themes of language and communication.



Louise Welsh, Emlyn Firth – Tech Cube, Summerhall. Photo – John Preece

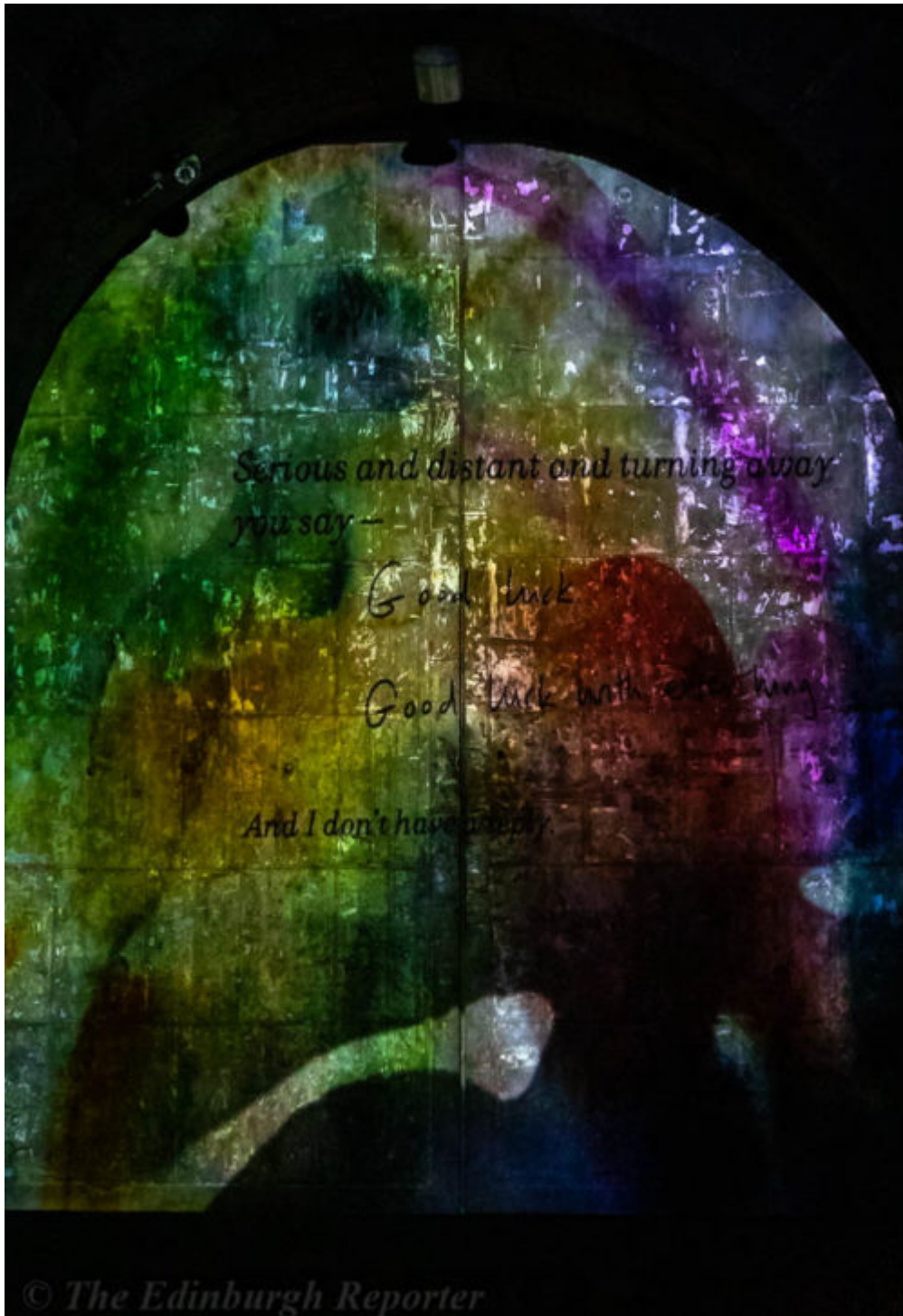
**Stef Smith – MJ McCarthy – Eleanor Meredith – Bongo Club, Cowgate**



Stef Smith, M.J. McCarthy, Eleanor Meredith – Bongo Club, Cowgate. Photo – John Preece

Stef is one of Scotland's most exciting young playwrighting talents, here she writes a poetic letter that charts the decline of a relationship, an emotion-laden narrative where celebration and excess collide.

**MJ McCarthy's** sweeping ambient score and **Eleanor Meredith's** saturated watercolours come together to bring Stef's letter to life.



Stef Smith, M.J. McCarthy, Eleanor Meredith – Bongo Club, Cowgate. Photo – John Preece

**William Dalrymple – RJ McConnell – Double Take Projections – Tron Kirk**

One of the world's leading historical writers, William considers the Scots' historical relationship with mainland Europe, highlighting significant archeological discoveries both at home and further afield to demonstrate the deep and long bonds that connect us.

Composer **RJ McConnell** is creating a jigsaw of musical voices reflecting the different places and eras Dalrymple covers in his writing, while **Double Take Projections** is bringing William's story to life through animation.

### **William Letford – James Houston – Leith Library**

Scottish poet Billy writes a lyrical letter full of nostalgia and humour to a past love with whom he explored Italy as a younger man.

Billy's piece will be brought to life by **James Houston**, who is developing a typographical approach that responds to the rhythm and pace of Billy's writing.



Stef Smith, M.J. McCarthy, Eleanor Meredith – Bongo Club,  
Cowgate. Photo – John Preece