

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

'Connection' by Galia Amsel

12th November 2016 – 16th February 2017

Open daily with free entry



'Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth.' (James 1:17)

We are delighted to present 'Connection' an extraordinary glass and light sculpture by the artist Galia Amsel, suspended above the Cornish stone and copper of the font (used for baptisms, or 'christening').

Light and glass are essential to our churches and cathedrals, indeed as you walk around this beautiful Cathedral you will see light cascading through a number of glorious stained glass windows. These stunning windows serve more than one purpose; the cascading light illuminates the space within the Cathedral, bringing light to what might otherwise be dark, and it also shines forth with some of our most sacred Christian stories and messages.

Galia Amsel's sculpture explores similar themes, but through a contemporary lens and with modern materials. Here, an industrial duct brings down the light from above, which arrives finally and beautifully,

in glasswork, emulating fibre optic cables. These 'cables' also gesture towards the title of the piece 'Connection' - cables like these bring us all sorts of connections, and communications, in our busy and complex world. The placement in relation to the font brings out the particular 'connections' involved in being baptised, in which the sprinkling of water symbolises a new beginning (a 'rebirth') as part of the wider Christian community, and a wish to respond to God's call to live a life inspired and shaped by Jesus Christ.

So, as we welcome you to this magnificent building, which invites a range of particularly special connections – with oneself, with others, and with the Divine – we hope this installation is part of a larger conversation where, 'the unfolding of your words gives light' (Psalm 119:130).

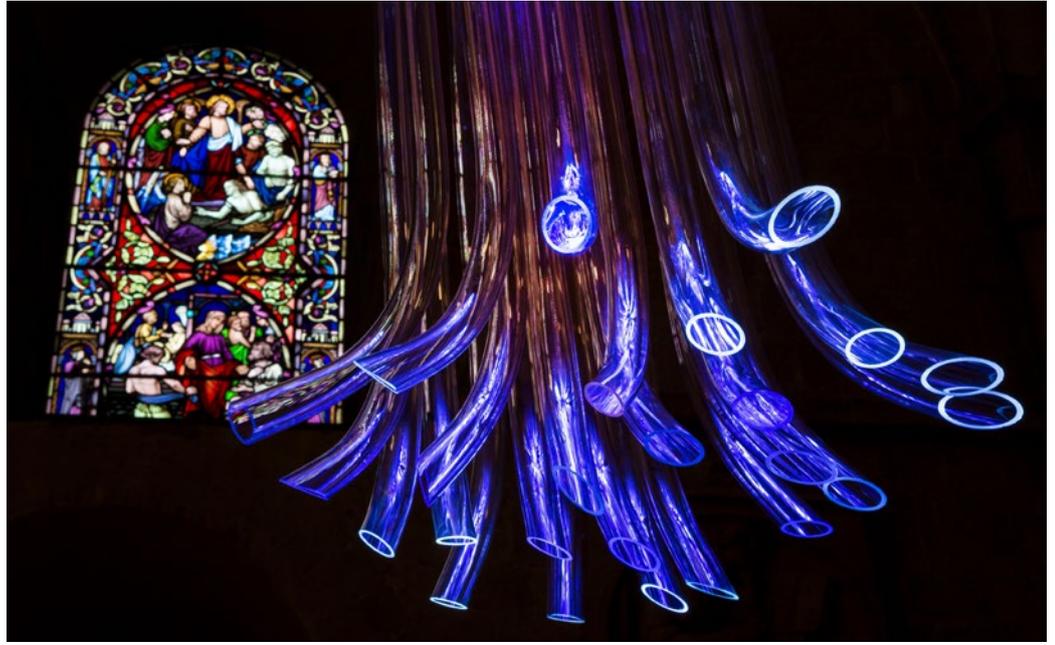
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Galia Amsel trained at the Royal College of Art and has taught in the glass departments of Sunderland, Edinburgh and Glasgow Schools of Art. She moved to New Zealand in 2004. Her work is held in the collections of many museums around the world including: The Victoria and Albert Museum; Museum of Arts and Design, New York; National Museum of Scotland and the Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts. Her glass work is admired by glass makers and collectors alike.

This installation has been curated by Chichester Cathedral and Jacqueline Creswell.



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