

## **In Ictu Oculi** Three meditations (2017)

**In Ictu Oculi** is another work forming part of a current cycle of works that have the idea of *Memento Mori*, or *Vanitas* and memorial, at their centre. Such concepts provide an underlying tension to a growing number of works in my output.

This particular piece, (the meaning of the title being *in the blink of an eye*), is an extended meditation upon the transience of time and that all things come to an end – *tempus edax rerum*, be they cultures, individuals or civilisations. The notion of journey is important here and the formal architecture it employs utilises metaphors of labyrinth (a single, but convoluted through-route) and maze (a pathway with many branches, choices of path and dead-ends) in negotiating its musical structures.

The work runs continuously without a break, though it is articulated by the following titled sections:

*Ubi sunt qui ante nos fuerunt?* [Where are those who were before us?]

**Stele I** [A marker stone, slab or column decorated with figures or commemorative inscriptions, common in prehistory]

*Ozymandian fallacy*

### **Stele II**

*Timor mortis conturbat me* [the fear of death dismays me]

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*Hoc in memoria mea avia.*

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