

Welcome to this audio description of **In Memoriam**, by Luke Jerram

Luke Jerram's ceremonial art installation has been created as a memorial to those we have lost in the COVID-19 pandemic. The artwork has also been made in tribute to the NHS staff and volunteers who have worked so tirelessly to care for so many. With the Queen Elizabeth Hospital just a short distance away, and surrounded by the expansive green expanse of Woolwich Common, In Memoriam offers a space for reflection, remembrance, and recognition. The structure allows people to enter, contemplate and explore the artwork, whilst adhering to the rules of social distancing. Luke Jerram says of his work: *"With so much tragic loss over recent months I'm hoping the artwork may be of value to those experiencing trauma and/or bereavement."*

In Memoriam is comprised of 120 flags created from bed sheets, 2.5 metres long. Each flag is attached to its own white pole, which stands approximately 5.5 metres tall. The top of each flag is attached to a horizontal beam, about 1.5 metres long, that allows the flag to remain unfurled, even in still, breezeless conditions. The bottom of each flag finishes about an arm's length above head height. The proximity of the flags creates the feeling of a there being a ceiling overhead. 33 of the flags are blue, the specific blue of the NHS logo, and are arranged to stand in a cross-shape, a universal medical symbol, in the centre. The remaining white flags surround it and spread out to form a circular boundary, 36 metres in diameter. The cross and circular shapes of the installation are best perceived from a higher perspective, perhaps a surrounding hill, or drone camera. They can also be perceived by lying on the ground within the structure and looking up towards "the ceiling".

Altering weather conditions means that the artwork changes minute by minute, as it reflects, responds to, and makes visible shifting air currents. Whether caught by a soft breeze, or a strong wind, the flags ripple, or flap together, with an almost synchronised movement. Luke Jerram himself observes: *Our capacity to weather the pandemic is shaped by inequalities. In Memoriam makes visible what must ultimately become, the winds of change.*

The site of In Memoriam will be used for a variety of performances throughout the festival. Performances will change daily, and will include speeches; poetry; dance; choir and music performances.