

## URCHIN

### DANCING ON THE EDGE

Urchin is a performance journey combining sculpture, choreography and water pilgrimage, it manifests transformation and seeks to make visible the secrets of water.



20 June 2015: Photo by Sara Penrhyn Jones with Jo Shapland and Ariana Jordão

Urchin is a landscape choreography exploring ideas of pilgrimage and transformation that invites people into a social choreography with the common wild at the threshold of land and water. Urchin explores how we are all water carriers, dancing through states.

Inherently playful, Urchin can be rolled and spun on land, floated and flipped on water as well as offering itself as a life raft, precious safety net and shelter. Its hard exoskeleton shell holds a soft living body in a state of dynamic equilibrium.

Seed funded by the National Theatre of Wales, informal exploration of its dynamics took place at Festival No.6 in 2014. This midsummer, in collaboration with choreographer Jo Shapland, it launched the Cymerau 'Water Map' with a physical conversation between a drop of wild water, an urchin....and the sea....

Inspired by Ernst Haeckel's drawings of diatoms, Urchin has evolved into an 'atomic' form. Currently a single atom in conversation with a performer(s), Urchin would like to journey as a molecular configuration with two smaller hydrogen atoms and one larger oxygen atom forming the water molecule H<sub>2</sub>O.

Urchin is a steam bent ash sphere 2.2m diameter that floats in a minimum of 0.4m depth of water. It is responsive to currents and waves. It is moved by trailer and/ or by hand.