

### Biographical note

Acclaimed 20th century novelist and poet Malcolm Lowry was born in New Brighton in 1909 and grew up in Caldy, on the Deeside of the Wirral. He left Merseyside to study at Cambridge University, and on graduation departed England for Europe, America and then Mexico, where his famous novel *Under the Volcano* is set. Settling in Canada when war broke out, he rewrote the book over many years, finally publishing it in 1947 to critical acclaim but few sales. Regarded as a Modernist classic, the book concerns a single day - the Day of the Dead - in the life of an alcoholic, former British consul, as the world is heading towards War. Lowry returned to England, dying in mysterious circumstances in Sussex in 1957.

### Lowry Lounge venues:

- Williamson Art Gallery, Slatey Road, Birkenhead CH43 4UE
- Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX

### More information:

<http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk/events/view/events/3890>

Organised by the Firminists and Bluecoat

**Bluecoat**  
Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts

# THE 2018 LOWRY LOUNGE: SOUNDING LOWRY



**SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER  
AT THE WILLIAMSON ART  
GALLERY, BIRKENHEAD AND  
BLUECOAT, LIVERPOOL**

## THE 2018 LOWRY LOUNGE: SOUNDING LOWRY

Bluecoat, Liverpool's contemporary arts centre, has celebrated the life and work of Merseyside-born writer Malcolm Lowry (1909-57) every year since 2009, the centenary of his birth, when it staged a programme of events and an exhibition, *Under the Volcano* – its title taken from Lowry's famous novel published in 1947.

### Afternoon programme 2-4pm at the Williamson Art Gallery

This year's *Lowry Lounge* is in two parts, the first in Birkenhead. Lowry had his first taste for adventure in 1927 when he sailed as a deckhand from Birkenhead Docks to the Far East, a voyage that informed his first novel, *Ultramarine*. At the Williamson there will be an installation by artist **Alan Dunn** and an illustrated introductory talk by **Bryan Biggs** and **Helen Tookey** focusing on Lowry's Wirral origins.

### Evening programme 6-9pm at Bluecoat

The second part of the Lounge has a musical focus:

- ***The Lighthouse Invites the Storm***

**Alan Dunn** and **Helen Tookey** introduce a film of this performance commissioned last year from Dunn, Martin Heslop

and Jeff Young that reconnected Lowry with his New Brighton birthplace, and developed in collaboration with retired seafarers in Wallasey.

- ***Symphony of Scorpions: Malcolm Lowry and Modern Jazz***  
Illustrated talk by **Mark Goodall** examining the relationship between jazz and Lowry's writings, with reference to the work of British Jazz composer and writer Graham Collier (1937-2011).

- **Open Malc**

**Robert Sheppard** introduces musical, poetic and other live contributions from the floor, including:

- **John Hyatt and Thalia Styx** - *The dead dog flew out of the ravine into someone's arms: Lowry re-versed*. A sound work and live singing using recordings of the Mersey and a section of *Under the Volcano*.
- **Patricia Farrell** – *Porcelain and Volcano* reading.
- **Chris McCabe** – reading from his novel *Dedalus* and a poem about Lowry from a collaborative work with Vahni Capildeo.
- **Helen Tookey** – poems made in response to Lowry.
- **James Byrne** – a reading about a recent visit to Mexico.
- **Ailsa Cox** – reads an excerpt from Lowry's story, *Strange Comfort*.
- **Alan Peters** – self-penned Lowry piece, with harmonica.
- **Mark Goodall** - self-penned song about Lowry, with guitar accompaniment

The evening will conclude with a Lowry-themed disco and a toast to Wirral's greatest writer.

**Tickets:** Williamson free, just turn up; Bluecoat £7/£5