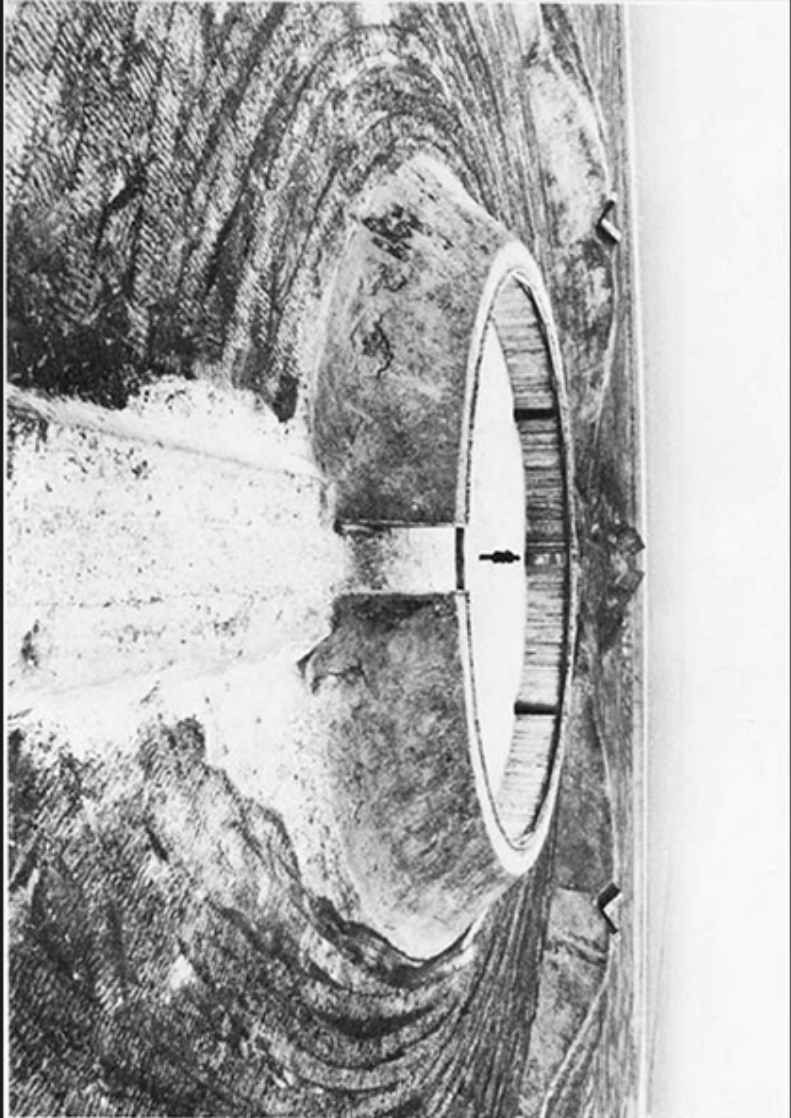


David Beattie
 A quarter turn to face the light
 CCA Derry/Londonderry
 3rd February 2017



Brixols, January 2017

Dear David,

It was a pleasure to speak recently and hear some insights into A quarter turn to face the light. Like works you've previously produced this amire assembly demonstrates the convergence and circulation of energy. I find the temporal specificity of this piece particularly interesting, the way it's activated for just a few hours on a cross quarter day between winter solstice and vernal equinox. Channeling light on shapes the potential reading of this work radically. The timing, lends the work a ritualistic ceremonial quality. Like solstices and equinoxes, cross quarter days have been celebrated throughout Europe for millennia. In Pre-Christian Ireland this time in early February was a religious and agricultural festival; known as Imbolc. The returning sun and lengthening days were honoured by the lighting of bonfires and torches; a tradition Neo-Pagan continue to observe. Several edifices - such as the Hall of Tara - are aligned with the rising sun in the days of early February. On that note, have you ever visited Guaire's Head a few miles from Derry? The name of the monument Stone temple of sun or palace of the sun, combined with the fact that it is illuminated by the rising sun on the vernal and autumnal equinoxes has supported the theory that the edifice was constructed precisely as a site of solar worship.

Perhaps this new work can be related to these ancient monuments. It is, like them a manifestation of that primal compulsion to identify cyclical patterns of solar time. I'm intrigued by the way this work quietly ritualises a phenomenon that appears mundane but is in fact miraculous; I'm referring here to the thermodynamic process whereby energy sourced from the star at the centre of the solar system is transformed into electricity. I'm struck by the fact that the activation and the completion of this work depends upon circumstances that are beyond your control. You have willingly surrendered to a celestial body. And so, I'm compelled to ask, what will happen if, perchance the sun fails to shine on the afternoon of February 3rd? I look forward to hearing about / seeing documentation of the work and wish I could view it on the flesh.

There's always the sun!
 Warmest Regards -
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Printed for the occasion of the solar alignment on the 3rd February 2017. Many thanks to Patrick E Moore, Sara Greave and CCA Derry/Londonderry. A quarter turn to face the light is part of a series of one day projects called "The Edge of Things" selected by CCA and Sara Lynch.