

**ARTSPACE**  
**31 MARCH 2001**  
**3 pm + 5 pm**

**LEA DONNAN**  
**THE FIRST RITUAL**



The First Ritual is a devotional ceremony for new recruits to the Cult of Magda. The recruits will make their first act of devotion via the intimate embrace of the Anonymous Idols – enigmatic figures who form a base from which to understand collective human experience. Freed from their modern day entrapments the recruits don a reverential garment containing the persona of a cult idol. A period of rest in the garment as a form of worship intimately aligns them with the cult's holy lost souls - this experience is the gift of their new faith.



The First Ritual is part of Donnan's ongoing project relating to the Cult of Magda which explores personal and industrial residue of past lives and attempts to create a point of intersection between the past and present, bringing into existence a modern religious collective memory and marrying it with bygone experiences of a century ago.



Working from a studio beneath the seven abandoned levels of Scots Church, soon to be redeveloped, Donnan's work is informed by the derelict state of the building and traces of habitation it contains. The performance coincides with the Temporary Fixtures exhibition project as it responds on a personal level to Scots Church as a site suspended in time and to the impact of redevelopment on the inner city environment, including spaces utilised by artists.