



## PRESS RELEASE

### PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SLG'S NEW FIRE STATION BUILDING

The South London Gallery's new annexe in a former Fire Station will open to the public on **Saturday 22 September** with an exhibition titled *KNOCK KNOCK*. Curated by SLG Director Margot Heller in collaboration with artist Ryan Gander, the exhibition explores humour in contemporary art.

Across the road from the SLG's main building, the Fire Station has been renovated by 6a architects. It doubles the size of the SLG and includes the creation of new exhibition galleries, an archive, communal kitchen, education space and artist's studio.

To celebrate the opening of the SLG's new space, *KNOCK KNOCK* will be presented across the main site and the Fire Station. *KNOCK KNOCK* brings together works by more than thirty artists – from established figures such as Maurizio Cattelan, Sarah Lucas and Ugo Rondinone to younger practitioners such as Danielle Dean, Hardeep Pandhal and Simeon Barclay – in different mediums ranging from painting, drawing and sculpture to collage and film.

Newly commissioned work will be on view throughout the opening weekend, including three off-site artist projects as part of *Open Plan*, the SLG's ongoing public art and education programme that invites international and British artists to create artworks with and for the gallery's neighbours on local housing estates. A large-scale text piece by artist Jessie Brennan will be installed on the roof of Heron House on Pelican Estate from August 2018; Basim Magdy will collaborate with local children to transform Art Block, the SLG's free children's space on Sceaux Gardens Estate; and Gabriel Lester's colourful, bollard-like sculptures will populate the paved area below Crane House on Pelican Estate.

Heralding the SLG's new programming strand *Evidence of Us*, which supports local histories through the lens of contemporary art, is a series of films by artist Rory Pilgrim titled *The Resounding Bell*. Screened in the Studio on the top floor of the Fire Station, the films explore how we might retell otherwise unheard stories relating to care, community, migration, technology and war.

A celebratory weekend of free events across the SLG's indoor and outdoor spaces include creative activities for families and tours of heritage sites in the local area with further details to be announced online in due course.

Later in 2018, Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018 will be presented across both SLG sites.

## **DETAILS OF FULL PROGRAMME**

### **EXHIBITION**

#### **KNOCK KNOCK**

##### **Humour in Contemporary Art**

22 September – 18 November 2018

Main Gallery & Fire Station Galleries 1,2,3,4

**Media View:** Tuesday 18 September

In celebration of the opening of its second building, in the former Peckham Road Fire Station, the South London Gallery presents *KNOCK KNOCK*, a group exhibition exploring the enduring use of humour as a device in contemporary art. Featuring works by more than thirty artists, the show spans the SLG's main space and three floors of its new annexe, designed by 6a architects.

Curated by SLG Director, Margot Heller, with artist Ryan Gander, *KNOCK KNOCK* brings works by internationally established figures such as Maurizio Cattelan, Sarah Lucas and Ugo Rondinone into dialogue with newly-commissioned and existing works by younger practitioners such as Danielle Dean, Hardeep Pandhal and Simeon Barclay. From Judith Hopf's flock of concrete sheep through to Yonatan Vinitzky's scaled-up cartoon, the show provides a surprising encounter with a broad range of humorous strategies, from slapstick, parody and caricature through to the in-joke, one-liner and visual pun.

Reflecting the SLG's approach to exhibition programming over the past decade, the show includes works by a number of artists whose work has never been shown in a London public sector gallery, such as Jayson Musson, Jamie Isenstein and Joyce Pensato. In keeping with the launch of the SLG's archive, the display also includes several artists who have previously exhibited at the SLG such as Chila Burman, Heman Chong, Barbara Kruger and Tom Friedman, whose aluminium foil guitarist will return to the SLG for the first time since Friedman's solo show in 2004.

At a time of much upheaval and unease in the world, *KNOCK KNOCK* aims to raise a smile at a particularly joyous moment in the history of the SLG, but also to explore what makes us laugh in art and why.

### **COMMISSIONS**

#### **Rory Pilgrim: The Resounding Bell**

22 September – 21 October, Fire Station Studio

Since October 2017 artist Rory Pilgrim has been developing an ambitious new commission for the SLG in collaboration with a group of women aged 22 – 94, who live and work locally, and young women from the Harris Girls Academy, East Dulwich. Titled *The Resounding Bell*, the work takes the form of a series of films which centre around otherwise unheard stories of care, community, migration, technology and war that emerged over the course of the year-long commission.

The films will be screened in the Fire Station Studio and will culminate with a final episode which will be broadcast live between a location in the local neighbourhood and the SLG.

*The Resounding Bell* is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## **Open Plan Commissions**

*Open Plan* is a long term public art and education project which invites international and British artists to create artworks with and for the SLG's close neighbours on Elmington, Pelican and Sceaux Gardens housing estates.

### **Jessie Brennan: YOUR WORDS**

From 1 August 2018, Heron House, Pelican Estate

For the inaugural Open Plan residency and commission for Pelican Estate, artist Jessie Brennan has developed *YOUR WORDS*.

Brennan has been collaborating with people who live and work on the estate since spring 2017, inviting these residents to share stories of their daily lives with her before transforming some of these conversations into text installations. For her final presentation, Brennan has created *WE ARE HERE*, a large-scale text piece installed on the roof of Heron House from August 2018. The phrase is a quote contributed by resident Saloua, but its sentiment resonated through many of the discussions shared with the artist during her residency.

To accompany the installation Brennan has created a poster that has been distributed to all households on the estate. She has also reproduced some of the exchanges she had with residents over the past few months. *YOUR WORDS* attempts to amplify the voices of residents by generating a platform from which politically pertinent issues – relating to the value of council housing, among others – are explored and made public.

### **Basim Magdy: PINGPINPOOLPONG, or How I Learned to Laugh at Failure**

From 5 September 2018, Art Block, Sceaux Gardens Estate

Basim Magdy, winner of the 2016 Deutsche Bank Artist of the Year Award, has been commissioned to make a new work for Art Block, the SLG's free space on Sceaux Gardens Estate for local children to make and play.

Collaborating with children who use Art Block, Magdy has created a new team sport that combines elements of ping-pong, pinball and pool. The ping-pong table-based game features net pockets as well as interchangeable sculptural interventions which spin when struck with a ball, making it both difficult to play and subject to unpredictable results. A set of rules devised collectively with the children structure how and when the game is played.

The work aims to problematise the narrative around winning and find ways for participants to celebrate or negotiate failing and failing together. A series of tournaments with champion ping-pong players, pool trick specialists and local children will accompany the commission.

### **Gabriel Lester: Trek**

From Saturday 22 September, Crane House, Pelican Estate

Gabriel Lester's commission titled *Trek* incorporates a group of colourful, bollard-like sculptures installed on the paved area below Crane House on Pelican Estate.

Echoing shifting weather patterns and migrating birds, these sculptures will present a landscape of swirling markers when seen from above. From the ground they resemble a group of figures in motion. Inspired by the politics of migration, these alien-like forms appear as newcomers or foreign bodies passing through Pelican Estate.

The artist hopes that people living on and passing through the estate will activate the piece by playing with and jumping over the sculptures.

*Open Plan is supported by the Freelands Foundation with additional funds from Southwark Council's Youth & Play Grant Programme, the Big Lottery Fund and other donors.*

*Trek is supported by the Freelands Foundation, the Mondriaan Fund and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.*

### **ARCHIVE PROGRAMME**

From 22 September, Fire Station Archive

Material from the SLG's archive, in addition to information relating to the social, architectural and cultural history of the local area, will be available digitally and through changing displays in the Archive located on the ground floor of the Fire Station.

The first display draws on recently unearthed archive material to offer an insight into the origins and early history of the SLG and the former Peckham Road Fire Station.

### **Anna Merryfield and Shamica Ruddock: The Archive is Personal**

From 22 September 2018, Fire Station Archive

A new short film by artists and filmmakers Anna Merryfield and Shamica Ruddock developed with the Copleston Centre will be on display in the Archive from 22 September.

Since March, Merryfield and Ruddock have hosted a series of evening meals at the Copleston Centre, a church and community centre in East Dulwich, exploring personal archives through the act of sharing recipes, memories and meals. *The Archive is Personal* includes contributions from a variety of Copleston Centre service users, including members of the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, Creative Therapies, Peckham Rye Sings and the Copleston Church.

*The Archive is Personal is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.*

### **EVENTS**

#### **Big Family Press**

12-5pm, 22 September, Fire Station Attic, continues on the first Saturday of every month, Free

Children and their families are invited to learn how to riso print, share their stories and make DIY publications for the SLG Archive. New creative drop-in sessions for people of all ages will take place at the Fire Station on Saturday afternoons.

*Big Family Press is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.*

#### **Heritage Tours**

Every Sun, from 30 Sep, 12pm, Departing from the Archive, Fire Station, Free

Informal tours of the SLG, the Fire Station and other sites of interest in the local area.

## **UPCOMING EXHIBITION**

### **Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018**

5 December 2018 – 24 February 2019

Main Gallery and the Fire Station, Galleries 1, 2 and 3

New Contemporaries returns to the SLG for the first time since 1999 when it was last presented there. Guest selectors for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018 – Benedict Drew, Katy Moran (New Contemporaries alumnus 2006) and Keith Piper (New Contemporaries alumnus 1986) – have chosen 57 artists for the annual open submission exhibition, which showcases some of the most dynamic work being made today. Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018 will be presented across both SLG sites.

Selected artists for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018 are: Agil Abdullayev, Kobby Adi, Ayo Akingbade, Annie-Marie Akussah, Chris Alton, Louis Bennett, Jack Burton, Christian Noelle Charles, Kara Chin, Faye Claridge, Jack Fawdry Tatham, Emma Fineman, Rhona Foster, Deme Georghiou, William Glass, Carrie Grainger, Madelynn Mae Green, Habib Hajallie, Camilla Hanney, Rebecca Harper, Sam Henty, Mimi Hope, Richard Ayodeji Ikhide, FC Izaac, Osian Jenaer, Patrick H. Jones, Jessica Jordan-Wrench, Marianne Keating, Gareth Kemp, Yushi Li, Shao-Jie Lin, Heidi Maribut, Alexi Marshall, Jocelyn McGregor, Holly McLean, Paula Morison, Yuko Obe, Kamile Ofoeme, Panicattack Duo, Jack Pell, Ralph Pritchard, Anna Reading, Maïa Régis, Bella Riza, Francisco Rodriguez, Janet Sainsbury, Mohammed Sami, Antonia Showering, Shy Bairns, Wal Slzr, Tom Smith, Alcaeus Spyrou, George Stamenov, Viviana Troya, Rosa Johan Uddoh, Tom Waring and Yanghwa.

Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018 launched on 14 July 2018 and runs until 9 September 2018 as part of this year's Liverpool Biennial, of which New Contemporaries has been an integral part since 1998.

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

For further press information, images and interviews please contact:

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Address and Opening Hours**

South London Gallery, Main Building  
65–67 Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UH

South London Gallery, Fire Station  
82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5LQ

The gallery is open Tue – Fri 11am – 6pm, Sat and Sun 10am – 6pm, except Wed and the last Fri of the month until 9pm. Closed Mon.

[www.southlondongallery.org](http://www.southlondongallery.org)

### **Social Media**

Twitter: [@SLG\\_artupdates](https://twitter.com/SLG_artupdates)

Instagram: [@southlondongallery](https://www.instagram.com/southlondongallery)

Facebook: [South London Gallery](https://www.facebook.com/SouthLondonGallery)

#SLGFireStation

### **Fire Station Funders**

The £4million Fire Station project has been funded by major grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£1.65 million), Mayor of London (£600,000) and Arts Council England (£300,000). In addition, the project has been supported by a number of trusts, foundations, individuals and companies. This includes the Garfield Weston Foundation, The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, The Bridget Riley Art Foundation, The City of London Corporation's Charity, City Bridge Trust, Viridor Credits, The Foyle Foundation, Matthew Slotover and Emily King, The Wolfson Foundation, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts, The London Community Foundation, Christie's, Antony Gormley and Vicken Parsons, Tracey Emin, Sutton, Art Happens with Art Fund, The Steel Charitable Trust, Charles Hayward Foundation, Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and The Pilgrim Trust. The gallery is also indebted to the many individuals and commercial galleries supporting the Fire Station, everyone who gave through Art Happens with the Art Fund and those who wish to remain anonymous.

### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. HLF awarded £1.65million to the South London Gallery to restore the former Peckham Road Fire Station and provide a permanent and accessible home for its archive, as well as space for exhibitions and activities. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/HLF), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HLF) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HLF) and use #HLFsupported and #NationalLottery

### **About the London Enterprise Action Partnership (LEAP)**

The LEAP is the local enterprise partnership for London. LEAP brings entrepreneurs and business together with London's government to identify actions to support and lead economic growth and job creation in the capital. Chaired by the Mayor, LEAP is the body through which he works with London's boroughs, business and TfL to take a strategic view of the regeneration, employment and skills agendas for London.

### **About the former Peckham Road Fire Station**

The former Peckham Road Fire Station, dating from 1867, was awarded Grade II-status in 1991 with English Heritage recognising its importance as the earliest surviving purpose-built fire station in London, if not nationally. It operated for almost fifty years until 1925

when a new fire station was built on the site next door and Kennedy's Sausages subsequently purchased the building for use as a factory and office. The building fell into a state of disrepair having been vacant for many years.

The building is a striking example of Victorian domestic Gothic architecture. The ground floor originally housed the fire engines, while the four upper floors were used as accommodation by the firemen and their families.

In 2014 the building was placed on the English Heritage *At Risk Register*. The Fire Station is only 100 metres from the SLG, which is also Victorian, so the two buildings have been near neighbours for more than 120 years. For further information about the project visit [www.southlondongallery.org/your-visit/our-spaces/fire-station/](http://www.southlondongallery.org/your-visit/our-spaces/fire-station/)

### **About 6a architects**

6a architects was founded by Tom Emerson and Stephanie Macdonald in 2001. The practice is best known for its contemporary art galleries, educational buildings, artists' studios and residential projects, often in sensitive historic environments. 6a architects gained recognition with the completion of two critically acclaimed public art galleries, Raven Row (2009), which won an RIBA Award in 2011, and the expanded South London Gallery (2010). Recently completed projects include Black Stone Building (2017), a new apartment building in North London, arts and fashion centre Blue Mountain School (2018) and a warehouse conversion for storage and display of a private art collection. The 68-room hall of residence at Churchill College, Cambridge (2016) garnered an RIBA East Award (2017), and a new studio complex for photographer Juergen Teller (2016) was winner of several RIBA awards and was shortlisted for the Stirling Prize 2017. Due for completion in 2018 are the practice's expansions of MK Gallery, Milton Keynes, and the South London Gallery Fire Station. 6a architects has received multiple nominations for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies Van der Rohe Award (2011, 2013 & 2015) and in 2012 was awarded the Erich Schelling Medal for Architecture. Tom Emerson was recently awarded the Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Prize 2018 for his work with ETH in Zürich, only the second architect to receive the prize since its inaugural year of 1938. [6a.co.uk](http://6a.co.uk)

### **About the South London Gallery**

The South London Gallery (SLG) was founded in the 19th century by philanthropist William Rossiter to 'bring art to the people of south London'. Today the gallery comprises its original site at 65 Peckham Road; the Fire Station which opens to the public in September 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate and two permanent gardens.

The SLG has an international reputation for its contemporary art exhibitions by established, mid-career and younger artists and programme of film and performance events. It's highly regarded, free education programme includes a peer-led young people's forum; family workshops; artist-led projects and commissions on local housing estates; and a BBC Children in Need-funded programme for looked after children.

The South London Gallery is a registered charity which raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors and fundraising events.