

SLG

PRESS RELEASE

LIZ JOHNSON ARTUR IF YOU KNOW THE BEGINNING, THE END IS NO TROUBLE

14 JUN – 1 SEP, MAIN GALLERY, MAIN BUILDING, FREE

For her first solo show in the UK, Russian-Ghanaian artist Liz Johnson Artur presents a new body of work alongside photographs selected from her substantial archive of images documenting the lives of people from the African diaspora.

For more than three decades Artur has taken photographs across Europe, America, Africa and the Caribbean, in an ongoing project she calls the Black Balloon Archive. This solo show focuses on London, where she has lived since 1991, capturing the richness and complexity of Black British life.

Artur transforms the high-ceilinged Main Gallery with a series of four hanging and floor-based bamboo cane structures. Each hosts a body of images taken across the city, including in Peckham Rye, black-majority churches, non-binary club nights as well as a still life section Artur calls Library. These images are printed at various sizes, using both traditional photographic techniques onto paper as well as application to fabric, tracing paper and cardboard.

The structures act as a flexible backdrop for an integrated programme of events, in which Artur will invite artists working across music, poetry, dance and theatre to create intergenerational collaboration, performance and discussion.

Artur's exhibition at the South London Gallery follows her first museum show, opening in May 2019 at the Brooklyn Museum, New York.

Generously supported by Christiane Monarchi.

SUSAN CIANCIOLO GOD LIFE: MODERN HOUSE ON LAND OUTSIDE GAME TABLE

21 JUN – 1 SEP, GALLERIES 1, 2 & 3, FIRE STATION, FREE

*"While you live, shine
Life exists only for a short while
and time demands its due"*
—200BC Epitaph of Seikiles

For her solo show at the South London Gallery, American artist Susan Cianciolo presents an installation across two floors of the Fire Station, inviting visitors into her unique creative world.

Drawing together elements inspired by craft, fashion and daily domestic life, Cianciolo intuitively combines all sorts of materials, from fabric off-cuts, buttons and glue, through to cardboard boxes, diary pages and her young daughter's drawings, into works in which the seemingly casual and low-fi nature of their construction is at odds with the precision with which they are composed.

The works in the show are selected from several different groups – *Mannequins*, *Kits*, *Tapestries* and *Games* – but are clearly part of a single, overarching project. Cianciolo's very particular sensibility is both intimate and generous, inspired by her daily life as an artist and mother, but equally by her deep spirituality.

Thanks to Modern Art, London, and Bridget Donahue, New York.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Liz Johnson Artur (b. 1964, Bulgaria) lives and works in London. For over three decades, her work has documented the lives of black people from across the African Diaspora. She has exhibited internationally, including group exhibitions at Serpentine Galleries, London, UK; David Nolan Gallery, New York, USA; The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK; Kunstverein Leipzig, Germany; the 10th Berlin Biennale; and a forthcoming solo exhibition at Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA. Her monograph with Bierke Verlag was listed by The New York Times in 'Best Photo Books 2016'. In 2017 she was nominated for the Aimia | AGO Photography Prize. chipboard, hair, dust and insects. She arranges the salvaged blades in specific formations suggestive of a language or code, hinting at the existence of underlying narratives.

Susan Cianciolo (b. 1969, Rhode Island, US) lives and works in New York. In 1995, following her BFA at Parsons School of Design, Cianciolo debuted a clothing line at Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York. Presented as eleven 'RUNs' rather than seasons until 2001, Cianciolo's collections confused the boundaries and hierarchies that have often sought to segregate fashion from art, and vice versa. Alongside 'finished' garments, she also offered DIY kits inviting the user to participate in the production of an item of clothing, an act that extended logically from the knitting circles she assembled to execute her collections. Cianciolo's current practice spans film, performance, collage, sculpture, and drawing, encompassing the various strands that have characterised her career across multiple fields. Since 2013, she has acted as Assistant Professor in Fashion Design at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.

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 opened to the public in September 2018; Art Block, a space for local children and families on Sceaux Gardens Estate and an artist-designed garden. 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. Its 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 and raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors and fundraising events.

Opening Hours

The Gallery is open Tue – Sun 11am-6pm, except Wed and last Fri of the month until 9pm.

South London Gallery, 65-67 Peckham Rd, London, SE5 8UH

Fire Station, 82 Peckham Road, SE15 5LQ

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