



PRESS RELEASE

THE SOUTH LONDON GALLERY ANNOUNCES 2020 PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDING SOLO EXHIBITIONS BY ANN VERONICA JANSSENS, CHRISTINA QUARLES AND SOPHIE CUNDALE

SOPHIE CUNDALE: THE NEAR ROOM

6 MAR – 19 APR, MAIN GALLERY

This spring the South London Gallery presents the premiere of *The Near Room* (2020), a new film work by the artist Sophie Cundale (b.1987), whose video and performance works explore the extremity of psychological states. *The Near Room* is a supernatural melodrama about loss that follows the journey of a professional boxer after a near-fatal knockout. The boxer's disorientations become entangled with the story of a queen living with Cotard Delusion, a rare neurological condition inducing the belief in and sensation of death.

The film's title is taken from the boxer Muhammad Ali's description of a vivid, hallucinatory space he would enter when in the depths of a fight: "a door swung half open [into a room of] neon, orange and green lights blinking, bats blowing trumpets and alligators playing trombones, snakes screaming. Weird masks and actors' clothes hung on the wall, and if he stepped across the sill and reached for them, he knew that he was committing himself to his own destruction." George Plimpton, *Shadow Box* (1977).

The boxing scenes were filmed at long established south London boxing club, Lynn AC in Camberwell. The cast includes professional boxer John Harding Jnr., artist Penny Goring, and actor Chris New.

Sophie Cundale: The Near Room is commissioned and produced by Film and Video Umbrella with support from Arts Council England, South London Gallery, Bonington Gallery, Curator Space and The Gane Trust

ABBAS ZAHEDI: HOW TO MAKE A HOW FROM A WHY?

6 MAR – 26 APR, FIRE STATION, GALLERY ONE

Following six months at the SLG as the ninth Postgraduate Artist in Residence, Abbas Zahedi presents an exhibition on the ground floor of the Fire Station. A newly-commissioned installation includes a sound work collaboration with musicians Saint Abdullah, enacting Zahedi's interest in lamentation rites and other moments of literal and metaphysical exit. In his ongoing practice, Zahedi creates social projects with collaborators and audiences, often involving spiritual rituals. He has worked with migrant and marginalised communities in the UK to explore the concept of neo-diaspora, and the ways in which personal and collective histories interweave. Zahedi completed an MA in contemporary art and philosophy at Central Saint Martins, London.

The SLG Postgraduate Residency is supported by the Paul and Louise Cooke Endowment

CELINE CONDORELLI: ELMINGTON ESTATE PLAYGROUND

SPRING 2020

Artist Céline Condorelli has designed a new playground as part of the SLG's ongoing Open Plan programme of collaborations with neighbouring housing estates. Condorelli's original design for Elmington Estate was developed over several months with children and residents, and features carousels, climbing structures and coloured surfaces, offering an inspiring and visually energising space to play. Condorelli's innovative commission draws inspiration from the work of Italian/Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi and Dutch architect Aldo van Eyck, both of whom used play to transform public spaces in São Paulo and Amsterdam.

In partnership with Southwark Council's Cleaner Greener Safer programme. Supported by the Freelands Foundation, Fluxus Art Projects and the Swiss Cultural Fund UK

OPEN TALKS

SPRING & AUTUMN, CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ART

The SLG's Open Talks programme returns with keynote presentations by internationally celebrated artists, who share their personal reflections on their practices. Previous speakers include Marc Camille Chaimowicz (2014), Thomas Hirschhorn (2015), Laure Prouvost (2016) and Joyce Pensato (2018).

CHRISTINA QUARLES: IN LIKENESS

29 APR – 6 JUN, MAIN GALLERY

Los Angeles-based artist Christina Quarles presents an exhibition of her vibrantly coloured and textured paintings. Her works contain painted bodies that seem barely contained within the canvas and elude definition, reflecting her own experience of being misread or mis-represented, as a queer cis woman, born to a black father and white mother.

Christina Quarles: In Likeness is organised by The Hepworth, Wakefield

ANN VERONICA JANSSENS: HOT PINK TURQUOISE

SEP – NOV 2020, MAIN GALLERY & FIRE STATION

This solo exhibition will be the first ever opportunity in London to see a major presentation of works by Belgian artist Ann Veronica Janssens. A stunning *Glitter* installation will occupy the Main Space for the first half of the show, after which it will be cleared away for Janssens' reflective-wheeled *Bikes*, which visitors are invited to ride and so become part of the work. Across three floors of the Fire Station, sculptures, projections, light works and installations continue Janssens' exploration of perception and ephemerality.

Ann Veronica Janssens: Hot Pink Turquoise is presented in collaboration with Louisiana Museum, Copenhagen

BLOOMBERG NEW CONTEMPORARIES 2020

DEC 2020 – FEB 2021, MAIN GALLERY & FIRE STATION

The annual open submission exhibition returns to the South London Gallery for the third consecutive edition. With over a thousand applications each year from emerging artists, the show offers a preview of some of the most exciting practices of the next generation. A panel of guest selectors will be announced in January 2020.

In partnership with New Contemporaries.

PRESS CONTACT

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Céline Condorelli (b. 1974, Paris, France) is a London- and Lisbon-based artist and one of the founding directors of Eastside Projects, Birmingham. Recent exhibitions include *Zanzibar*, a permanent installation for the Kings Cross Project, London, and exhibition at Vera Cortes, Lisbon (2018); *Proposals for a Qualitative Society (spinning)* at Stroom Den Haag (2017); *Corps á Corps* at IMA Brisbane, Australia, Gwangju Biennial, Liverpool Biennial, and at the Sydney Biennial (2017); *Concrete Distractions* at Kunsthalle Lissabon (2016); *bau bau* at HangarBicocca, Milan (2015); *Céline Condorelli* at Chisenhale Gallery (2014); and *Positions* at Van Abbemuseum (2014). She produced the publication *The Company She Keeps* with Book Works in 2014, and her first monograph, *bau bau*, was published by Mousse in 2017.

Sophie Cundale (b. 1987) is an artist living and working in London. Previous work has been commissioned by Serpentine Galleries and the South London Gallery; screened at Temporary Gallery, Cologne, Spike Island, Bristol, Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Zealand, Catalyst Arts, AMINI festival, Belfast, VCD festival, Beijing and Innsbruck Biennale, Austria; and hosted on vdrome.org. The Near Room at the South London Gallery is her first major solo exhibition, and travels in December 2020 to Bonington Gallery, Nottingham.

Ann Veronica Janssens (b. 1956, Folkestone, UK) lives and works in Brussels, and has had solo exhibitions worldwide including recently at CCA Cincinnati, Ohio (2015); Wellcome Collection, London (2015); SMAK, Ghent (2015); Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas (2016); The Baltimore Museum of Art (2018); and Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki (2018). Her two-person show with Anne Theresa De Keersmaeker was presented at WIELS, Belgium (2015) and MoMA, New York (2017). She represented Belgium in the 1999 Venice Biennale and has participated in Manifesta (2010) and the Sydney (2012), Sao Paulo (1994), Seoul (2008), Istanbul (1997) and Sharjah (2019) Biennales. In 2020, in addition to her exhibitions at Louisiana, Copenhagen, and the South London Gallery, she will exhibit at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK.

Christina Quarles (b. 1985 Chicago, USA) lives and works in Los Angeles. Quarles was a 2016 participant at the Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture and was the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Pérez Art Museum Miami Prize. Recent exhibitions include: *But I Woke Jus' Tha Same*, Regen Projects, Los Angeles (2019); *Always Brightest Before Tha Dusk*, Pilar Corrias, London (2018); *Christina Quarles / MATRIX 271*, UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley (2018); *Made in L.A.*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018); *Trigger: Gender as a Tool and as a Weapon*, New Museum, New York (2017-18); *It's Gunna Be All Right, Cause Baby, There Ain't Nuthin' Left*, Skibum MacArthur, Los Angeles (2017); *No burden as heavy*, David Castillo Gallery, Miami (2017); *Fictions*, The Studio Museum, New York (2017); and *Reconstitution*, LAXART, Los Angeles (2017).

Abbas Zahedi (b. 1984, London) studied at Central Saint Martins and University College London. Recent exhibitions and performances include Whitechapel Gallery, London; Wolverhampton Art Gallery, UK; and 57th Venice Biennale, Italy. Recent workshops, lectures and residency projects include Raven Row, London; South London Gallery; Wysing Arts Centre, UK; Tate Britain and Tate Exchange, UK. Zahedi was awarded a School for Social Entrepreneurs (PwC) Fellowship in 2017 for his work with migrant communities in the UK.

New Contemporaries

New Contemporaries is the leading organisation supporting emergent art practice from the UK's established and alternative art programmes, serving as a barometer of intriguing new artwork. Since 1949 it has consistently supported contemporary visual artists to successfully transition from education into professional practice, remaining responsive to the radical movements of contemporary art. Receptive to diverse practices from a diverse demographic, New Contemporaries provides new artists at an important stage in their career both professional development support and a platform to show work. An annual, nationally touring exhibition is accompanied by a programme of educational activity and support such as peer mentoring and access to a national network of studio bursaries and residencies. In addition to receiving NPO funding from Arts Council England, Bloomberg Philanthropies has supported the New Contemporaries touring exhibition since 2000.

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 opened 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. 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 which raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors and fundraising events.

Opening Hours

The Gallery is open Tue – Fri 11am-6pm, Sat and Sun 10am-6pm.

Late opening: every Wed and last Fri of the month until 9pm.

Free entry, all welcome.

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

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