



PRESS RELEASE
SPRING 2020

SOPHIE CUNDALE: THE NEAR ROOM

Until 19 April 2020
Main Gallery, Main Building
Free

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?

Until 26 April 2020
Gallery 1, Fire Station
Free

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

PRESS CONTACTS

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South London Gallery

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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

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)

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.

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.

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 on 22 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.