



## PRESS RELEASE

18 May 2021

### South London Gallery to reopen tomorrow, 19 May 2021, with Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2020 followed by Christina Quarles and Alvaro Barrington

- The postponed **Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2020** runs 19 May – 6 June
- **Christina Quarles** exhibition opens 18 June
- Solo presentation by **Alvaro Barrington** opens 1 October

The South London Gallery is delighted to announce that it will reopen to the public tomorrow, Wednesday 19 May, across both its Peckham Road sites, the Main Building and Fire Station.

All of the SLG's galleries, the bookshop, Crane's Kitchen café and outdoor spaces are open for visitors to explore.

#### **OPENING PROGRAMME**

The **Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2020 (19 May – 6 June)** exhibition returns to the South London Gallery for the third consecutive edition. With over fifteen hundred applications from emerging artists each year, the show offers a preview of some of the most exciting practices of the next generation selected by Alexandre da Cunha, Anthea Hamilton and Linder. On display across both sites.

In the Fire Station, **Art Assassins: An archive by other means (19 May – 30 June)**, a temporary exhibition curated by the Art Assassins, the South London Gallery's youth forum, invites us to consider how archives that document fraught histories can be understood in present-day contexts.

In the Archive room, **Independence to Now (19 May – 19 September)** explores the history of the South London Gallery since the 2003 exhibition *Independence* through digitised photographs, press releases, exhibition leaflets and more. *Independence* reflected on the gallery's separation from Southwark Council, which it had been part of for nearly a century.

#### **SUMMER PROGRAMME**

In June, the SLG will open the highly anticipated exhibition of Los Angeles-based artist **Christina Quarles: In Likeness (18 June – 29 August)**, who creates surreal and deliberately ambiguous images of bodies that seem barely contained by the frame of the canvas. This exhibition in the Main Gallery brings together eight of Quarles's vibrant and textured paintings, as well as works on paper.

On show in the Fire Station will be a new film work by **Ufuoma Essi**, the SLG's 10th Postgraduate Artist in Residence. **From Where We Land (18 June – 5 September)** examines second-generation Black British women and their relationship with identity, feelings of cultural displacement, and their relationship to Britain.

#### **AUTUMN PROGRAMME**

The SLG is also delighted to confirm details of its autumn programme, featuring a solo exhibition of new work by London-based artist **Alvaro Barrington** (b.1983) in the SLG's historic

Main Gallery from 1 October 2021. This will be followed by **Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2021**, which will return for a fourth consecutive year in December.

### **SAFETY MEASURES**

To ensure the health and safety of visitors and staff, the SLG continues to follow government-led advice and has a number of measures in place. A full list of what visitors can expect during a visit, can be found here: [www.southlondongallery.org/your-visit/health-and-safety/](http://www.southlondongallery.org/your-visit/health-and-safety/)

### **SLG ONLINE**

Talks, film screenings, practical workshops, resources for schools and exhibition related content will continue to be made available for free on the SLG website.

*Convergence*, the South London Gallery's platform for critical conversations, screenings and written commissions, which launched in spring 2020, will also continue with newly commissioned texts published regularly on the SLG's Journal.

The SLG turns 130 in 2021, and to mark this anniversary an interactive map charting the cultural and social history of Peckham and Camberwell from the 1860s to the present day is available to browse via the SLG website. [Click here to see the map](#)

**- ENDS -**

### **PRESS CONTACT**

For further information, interviews and high-resolution images please contact:  
Anna Jones, Head of Communications [anna.jones@southlondongallery.org](mailto:anna.jones@southlondongallery.org)

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **New Contemporaries**

New Contemporaries is the leading organisation supporting emergent art practice from the UK's established and alternative art programmes. 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.

#### **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Bloomberg Philanthropies is a leading supporter of the arts. Through unique arts and culture initiatives, Bloomberg Philanthropies supports organisations in evolving the way they engage their audiences, helping transform cultural experiences across the globe and expand access to arts. The foundation also focuses on the environment, public health, education and government innovation, investing in 810 cities and 170 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. For more information, please visit [bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), and [TikTok](#).

## Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 ACE wants England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, ACE will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk). Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council has developed a £160 million emergency response package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19)

## Christina Quarles

Christina Quarles (b. 1985 Chicago, USA) currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She received an MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2016, and holds a BA from Hampshire College. 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: *Christina Quarles*, MCA Chicago (2021); *Dance by the Light of the Moon*, X Museum, Beijing (2021); *I Won't Fear Tumbling or Falling/If We'll be Joined in Another World*, Pilar Corrias, London (2020); *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) among others.

*The exhibition is presented with thanks to Hepworth Wakefield. Supported by Pilar Corrias, London and Hauser & Wirth.*

## Ufuoma Essi

Ufuoma Essi (b. 1995, London) is a video artist, filmmaker and film programmer from Lewisham, south east London. Essi studied at University College London, 2014–2018 and the University of Pennsylvania, 2016–2017. Previous exhibitions and screenings include Barbican Centre, London; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Croydon Art Store, London; Black Star Film Festival, Philadelphia; South London Gallery; and Chisenhale Studios, London. Essi has been selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2020, and Syllabus VI (2020–21) a collaboratively produced alternative learning programme that supports ten artists across ten months. Recent presentations include the Black Cultural Archives, curated by Languid Hands (Rabz Lansiquot and Imani Robinson); Gasworks, London; and Lisson Gallery, London.

## Alvaro Barrington

Alvaro Barrington (b. 1983 Caracas, Venezuela). Born to Grenadian and Haitian parents and raised between the Caribbean and New York, Barrington's practice explores interconnected histories of cultural production. Considering himself primarily a painter, Barrington's multimedia approach to image-making employs burlap, textiles, postcards and clothing, exploring how materials themselves can function as visual tools while referencing their personal, political and commercial histories.

This confluence of materials and subjects also engage histories of music and painting associated with the Caribbean, the socio-political context of his childhood in 1980s New York,

and that of London where he is currently based. Recent solo exhibitions include Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, Paris (2021); Corvi-Mora, London (2020); Sadie Coles, London (2019); Emalin, London (2019); Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, London (2018); Emalin, London (2018); and MoMA PS1, New York (2017).

### **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 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**

Please note our opening hours have temporarily changed.

The SLG is open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am – 6pm. Free entry, all welcome.  
Crane's Kitchen will be open from 8.30am – 5pm with food served from 8.30am – 4pm.

### **Contact Details**

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

Fire Station, 82 Peckham Road, SE15 5LQ

T: [+44\(0\)20 7703 6120](tel:+44(0)2077036120)

E: [mail@southlondongallery.org](mailto:mail@southlondongallery.org)

### **Social Media**

Follow us on:

Facebook / [@southlondongallery](https://www.facebook.com/southlondongallery)

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

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