



PRESS RELEASE

SOUTH LONDON GALLERY ANNOUNCES SPRING 2022 PROGRAMME – ALICE THEOBALD, CÉLINE CONDORELLI, SHAMICA RUDDOCK AND THE ROBERTS INSITUTE OF ART

This spring will see the South London Gallery present *After Work* (4 March – 5 June) an exhibition by **Céline Condorelli**, with Ben Rivers and Jay Bernard, which will explore themes of labour, play and public space. Opening on the 9 March, *IL Y AURA (There will be)* is a new film installation by Franco-British artist **Alice Theobald** which is inspired by Eugene Ionesco's play *La Leçon* and brings together performance, film, installation, and music. From the 5 June the work of the Galley's eleventh Postgraduate Residency Artist, **Shamica Ruddock** will consider the ways in which Black diasporas are engaged and explored through sound, where sound becomes a form of narrativising. Finally, the **Roberts Institute of Art** (RIA) is collaborating with the South London Gallery on a new performance residency which will culminate in a live performance in June across a number of spaces at the South London Gallery.

Alice Theobald: *IL Y AURA (There will be)* 9 March – 5 June 2022

Main Gallery
Free

The South London Gallery presents *IL Y AURA (There will be)*, a new film installation by Franco-British artist Alice Theobald (b. 1985). A combination of multiple artistic forms characterises Theobald's work and this new commission brings together performance, film, installation and music.

IL Y AURA (There will be) is inspired by Eugene Ionesco's play *La Leçon*. In a Parisian apartment, a young woman arrives in an older man's home for an ambiguous ritualised lesson. She is invited to read her 'exercises' and begins to nervously recite a series of phrases describing various scenes that 'will be' in the future. As the phrases become more surreal, the professor's behaviour becomes more animated, erratic and sinister.

The film stars French actor Thibault de Montalembert (*Call my Agent*, 2015-present; *My Sex Life... or How I Got Into an Argument*, 1996) and the artist herself. This work has emerged from the artist's personal experience as a bilingual Franco-British person brought up in the UK. Conflating fiction, personal experience and memory with a refusal to offer clear narrative resolutions, this film draws on intimate elements of Theobald's French heritage and the experience of gradually losing her mother tongue.

Shot on Super 16mm and using handheld camera, the film has the aesthetic of a home movie, characteristic of Theobald's previous performance video recorded works. At its most delirious, *IL Y AURA (There will be)* comments on social customs, clichés, learnt modes of behaviour and the cyclical nature of producing fiction whilst

simultaneously being produced by it. The work incorporates key elements of Theobald's practice: manipulation and superimposition of images, an exploration of performance and language and use of absurdist and dead-pan humour. Here, performance is used as both starting point and subject matter to examine the boundaries between fiction and life and the slippage between the different social roles we inhabit.

IL Y AURA (There will be) is written, directed and edited by the artist and is her first French language film. The film's score is written with musician Tom Hirst (American Sound/ Design a Wave).

The exhibition is curated by Anne-Sophie Dinant with SLG Curator, Lily Tonge.

Céline Condorelli, with Ben Rivers and Jay Bernard

After Work

4 March – 5 June 2022

Fire Station Gallery 2 & 3

Free

Céline Condorelli's work addresses the boundaries between public and private, art and function, work and leisure, in order to reimagine what culture and society can be, and the role of artists within them.

Condorelli's exhibition at the South London Gallery will explore themes of labour, play and public space. In 2019 the South London Gallery commissioned Condorelli to create a playground for the nearby Elmington estate (one of three estates with which the South London Gallery has a long-standing relationship).

The process of making this playground, titled *Tools for Imagination*, is the starting point for a reflection on the relationship between work and free-time, highlighting the hidden labour of the production of culture both inside and outside the gallery. A new immersive installation includes a film by Condorelli made in collaboration with artist and filmmaker Ben Rivers, which includes a commissioned soundtrack by poet Jay Bernard. The installation also includes a sculpture which functions as seating from which to view the film, in keeping with Condorelli's interest in support structures and forms of display.

The exhibition will feature further work which relates to inspirations behind the project, specifically the work of Italian/Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi and Dutch architect Aldo van Eyck who, between 1947 and 1978, used play to transform public spaces in São Paulo and Amsterdam respectively. The exhibition overall will investigate the relationship between exhibition-making and public art, reflecting on the artist's interest in connecting the gallery space with the world outside.

The South London Gallery's Postgraduate Residency Artist: Shamica Ruddock

8 April – 5 June 2022

Fire Station Gallery 1

Free

The work of the SLG's eleventh Postgraduate Residency Artist, Shamica Ruddock, is research-driven and involves sound, text, and moving image. Their practice considers

the ways in which Black diasporas are engaged and explored through sound, where sound becomes a form of narrativising.

Through the residency, Ruddock will continue to develop Synthia, a sonic fiction, conceptual framework and research method that responds to maroon histories, sound culture, the theory and practice of Black Quantum Futurism and world building, as seen in the work of America science fiction author, Octavia Butler and the myth of Drexciya, the American electronic music duo - James Stinson and Gerald Donald.

The Roberts Institute of Art and South London Gallery Performance Residency

June

2022

Free

In Spring 2022, the Roberts Institute of Art (RIA) is collaborating with the South London Gallery on a new performance residency. The partnership will take the form of a five-week artist residency at the SLG, culminating in a live performance to take place in June 2022, across a number of spaces at the South London Gallery.

The artist selection process was rooted in a collaborative approach in which external, UK-wide nominators put forward a selection of artists for consideration by a panel composed of representatives from RIA, the South London Gallery as well as an external practitioner.

ENDS

For further press information, images and interviews please contact Rebecca Butler at Sutton: rebecca@suttoncomms.com | +44 (0)20 7183 3577

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 Tuesday – Sunday.

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)

About Alice Theobald

Alice Theobald was born in Leicester UK in 1985. She currently lives and works in Birmingham, UK. She works across a wide range of media including live performance, video, installation, sound, music, text and sculpture. Her work fluctuates between script and improvisation and highlights the unstable relationship between art, communication and representation. She composes the music and soundtracks for her works. In 2013

she also co-founded the music group and artist-collective Ravioli Me Away with Sian Dorrer and Rosie Ridgway – In 2019 they created the alt-opera The View from Behind the Futuristic Rose Trellis which toured nationally to Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, UK; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; The Box Plymouth and The Albany, Depford. Recent solo exhibitions include, We May Believe Or We May Never Know The White House, CREATE, Dagenham, 2018; Weddings And Babies, Pilar Corrias, 2017; The Next Step, Two Queens, Leicester, 2016; It's Not Who You Are, it's How You Are, collaboration with Atomik Architecture, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, 2015. Performance presentations include Ballad of Simple Women, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, AE; What Not To Wear Our My Soul, Art Night, Walthamstow, 2019; You've got my back and I'm on your side, FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, FR 2017 and Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, 2016; I've said yes now that's it, Chisenhale Gallery (Interim), London, UK, 2014; AFTER/HOURS/DROP/BOX, Spike Island, Bristol, UK, 2014.

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About Céline Condorelli

Céline Condorelli (IT, UK, FR) is a London-based artist, and was one of the founding directors of Eastside Projects, Birmingham, UK; she is the author and editor of *Support Structures* published by Sternberg Press (2009).

Condorelli combines a number of approaches from developing structures for 'supporting' (the work of others, forms of political imaginary, existing and fictional realities) to broader enquiries into forms of commonality and discursive sites.

Recent exhibitions include *Our Silver City, 2094*, Nottingham Contemporary (2021-2022), *Two Years' Vacation*, FRAC Lorraine, France and TEA, Spain (2020-2021), *Céline Condorelli*, Kunsthau Pasquart, Switzerland, *Equipment*, Significant Other, Austria, *Host/Vært*, Kunsthau Aarhus, Denmark, *Ausstellungsliege*, Albertinum, Germany (2019), *Zanzibar*, permanent installation for the Kings Cross Project, United Kingdom, and exhibition at Vera Cortes, Portugal (2018), *Proposals for a Qualitative Society (spinning)*, Stroom Den Haag, Netherlands, *Corps à Corps*, IMA Brisbane, Australia, including a sculpture garden which won Australian Institute of Architects Art and Architecture Prize (2017), Gwangju Biennial, Liverpool Biennial, Sydney Biennial, and *Concrete Distractions*, Kunsthalle Lissabon, Portugal (2016), *bau bau*, HangarBicocca, Italy (2015), *Céline Condorelli*, Chisenhale Gallery, United Kingdom, *Positions*, Van Abbemuseum, Netherlands, with Bookworks (2014). Her first monograph, *bau bau* was published by Mousse (2017).

Tools for Imagination is an artwork by Céline Condorelli produced by Ramdom (Italy) in collaboration with FRAC Lorraine, Metz (France); Tenerife Espacio de Las Artes, Tenerife (Spain); Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz (Poland); South London Gallery, London (UK) and MACRO (Italy). The project is supported by the Italian Council (8th edition 2020),

program to promote Italian contemporary art in the world by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture.

About Shamica Ruddock

Shamica Ruddock recently completed Open School East Associates Programme and has studied at Kings College, London and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Previous presentations include Margate NOW Festival, Margate, UK, New Contemporaries South London Gallery, London, UK and Treasure Hill Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan. Ruddock has received the Flamin Fellowship, Film London; the Eccles Centre Visiting Fellow, with The British Library; a Jerwood Creative Bursary, Jerwood Arts and the Francis Chagrin Award, Sound and Music.

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

About the Roberts Institute of Art

RIA is a non-profit contemporary arts organisation. RIA commissions pioneering performance art, collaborates with national partners on exhibition and works to research and share the David and Indrè Roberts Collection. For over a decade the organisation has championed diverse performance work through commissions and innovative programming.

Therobertsinstituteofart.com | [@therobertsinstituteofart](https://www.instagram.com/therobertsinstituteofart)

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. 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.