



**WYSING FIRST ARTS ORGANISATION IN UK TO OFFER AN
ARTISTS AT RISK (AR) RESIDENCY
TITO VALERY ANNOUNCED AS AR-RESIDENT FOR 2018**

Wysing Arts Centre is hosting an *AR-Residency* as part of the ARTISTS at RISK (AR) network. These residencies are designed for visual artists who are a target of politically motivated threats or persecution in their country of origin.

Tito Valery will be the first *Artists at Risk (AR) Resident* in the UK, staying from May until July 2018 at Wysing Arts Centre. On joining the network institution last year, Wysing worked with Artists at Risk (AR) to enable a temporary relocation of Valery from Cameroon within the AR network. He is available for interview anytime until his departure on July 17. Valery will present work in Wysing's Open Studios programme on 14 July (12-5pm) and will take part in an in-conversation in London (details to be announced).

As an activist, photographer, public figure and media personality, Tito Valery (1982, Cameroon) has written, hosted and directed the socio-political radio talk show *W.A.K.A (where African Knowledge Applies)* and the television shows *Ya'Mo, (To enjoy Africa)*, *Goodmorning Cameroon, the Break* and *@W.a.k.a.* In December 2017, Valery co-wrote and co-hosted an apolitical wake-up/consciousness awakening radio show with French speaking Rapper & political activist Valsero.

Through his work and art, among a broad range of topics, Valery draws attention to social issues and the inequities and oppressive measures of the Cameroonian Government. In 2015, the exhibition *The Northern Survivors* drew attention to the situation of Cameroonian refugees in the northern part of the country who were fleeing the terrorist group Boko Haram.

During the opening of Documenta 14 in Athens 2017, Valery was one of the programmers for Cameroon on the Documenta radio-programme curated by Bonaventure Ndikung of Savvy Contemporary in Berlin. Valery has shown his works and contributed to major festivals and institutions such as Documenta 14, Athens 2017, Performa 17, New York as a co-writer and performer on the TRACEY ROSE SHOW. He has had numerous solo and group shows such as *The Northern Survivors*, 2016 and *Hands, Triangle Ouest* group photo exhibition, OFF Dakart Biennale, Villa Ovata Dakar, 2014. In 2014, he was among the ten artists selected for the Asiko curatorial residency hosted by CCA (Centre for Contemporary Art), Lagos.

ARTISTS at RISK (AR), led by Perpetuum Mobile (Helsinki-Berlin), is a human rights institution in the field of the arts. The first of its kind in the visual arts, launched in 2013, it has since included musicians, theatre and film-makers. Uniquely, it hosts artists at risk in close cooperation with artists-in-residencies and includes them directly in the curatorial process. Building so-called *AR-Residencies* across Europe, it is currently also working with new partners in Africa and the Middle-East. With close ties to organisations such as PEN (International, America, Finland, etc.), SafeMuse or FreeMuse, it stands at the intersection of the fields of the arts and human rights.

As a network-institution dedicated to persecuted art practitioners, the work of AR encompasses mapping, hosting and advocacy of art professionals "at risk", addressing their practical needs and advancing their artistic practice. To achieve this, selected key figures are granted short or long-term residencies at *AR-Residencies* - not as asylum seekers, but as invited and honoured visiting art

professionals. These artists not only greatly enrich their host countries, but are at the heart of rebuilding their often war-torn countries of origin.

“We are thrilled to have Tito Valery on site for a residency at Wysing. He is a well-known activist and outspoken artist in Cameroon who challenges the government through his work. Tito brings a wealth of experience with broadcast, spoken word, photography and music to the Wysing community. Whilst in the UK, Tito will be developing work that brings together voices from the African diaspora through spoken word, a podcast, photography and in-conversations. He is interested in capturing the reality of the post-colonial divide between the anglophone and francophone regions of Cameroon, from within the context of his time spent in a rural English setting.” – Chelsea Pettitt, Head of Partnerships, Wysing Arts Centre

ENDS

For press information contact Nicola Jeffs – nicolajeffspr@gmail.com / 07794694754

Further details on the programme and how to apply can be found at the website of Artists at Risk (AR): www.artistsatrisk.org

Through its innovative work, **Wysing Arts Centre** influences the development of the visual arts sector in the UK. As a respected and well-connected institution operating outside the usual gallery system and urban context, Wysing is uniquely positioned to develop programmes that provide opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and which reflect on the role of art, artists, and arts organisations in society; acting as a testing ground for new ideas.

Established in 1989, Wysing’s large site in rural Cambridgeshire has been significantly developed and encompasses artist studios, a large gallery, a music recording studio, educational and project spaces, onsite accommodation, ceramics facilities, outdoor space with sculpture, and a café.

Artists who have worked at Wysing in artist residencies over recent years, developing and making new work, include Larry Achiampong and David Blandy, Ed Atkins, Jesse Darling, Michael Dean, Cécile B Evans, Evan Ifekoya, Harold Offeh, Imran Perretta, Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodder, Laure Prouvost, James Richards, Florian Roithmayr and Cally Spooner.

During 2018 Wysing Arts Centre has offered their site and resources to artists working across a range of practices who wish to develop new work within an atmosphere of collaboration

Twitter @wysingartscentre | Facebook Wysing Arts Centre | Instagram @wysing_donna



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

ARTISTS AT RISK
a Perpetuum Mobilization