



Press release

9 February 2017

Wysing Arts Centre 2017 Residency artists announced & further 2017 exhibition news

During 2017 Wysing Arts Centre is exploring 'many voices' across its programme, within the over-arching programme theme: Wysing Polyphonic.

Central to shaping activity across the year are residences; where artists re-locate their homes and studios to Wysing for 6-8 weeks to make new work and contribute to public events and study days.

Following an open call for applications the artists who have been selected to be in-residence are:

- 20 March – 14 May: **Pallavi Paul, Claire Potter, Raju Rage**
- 3 July – 20 August: **Harold Offeh, Tai Shani, Maxwell Sterling**
- 16 Oct – 10 Dec: **Maryam Monalisa Gharavi, Imran Perretta, Morgan Quaintance**

Bringing a range of contexts and positions, the artists' work encompasses a wide range of media including film, video, performance, photography, drawing, music, publishing, curating, social arts practice, education and activism.

"Following a lengthy and challenging selection process, due to the very large number of applications we received for this year's residencies, we are very excited to have selected such an interesting group of artists who we hope will get a lot out of being in residence at Wysing but equally are people we can learn a lot from. I'm really looking forward to hosting them and starting discussions on how we, as an institutions and as individuals, can be open to many voices." Donna Lynas, Director, Wysing Arts Centre

WYSING POLYPHONIC LAUNCHES THIS WEEKEND:

This Saturday (February 11) Wysing will also launch the year of Wysing Polyphonic with a group exhibition that brings together the 10 artists who were in-residence at Wysing during 2016. They are: **Larry Achiampong and David Blandy, Beatrice Dillon, Henna-Riikka Halonen, Evan Ifekoya, Wojciech Kosma, Lawrence Lek, Laura O'Neill, Florence Peake and Gary Zhexi Zhang.**

All Channels Open takes its cue from radio and DJ mixes and in the exhibition audio works are sequenced into a durational programme that will play in Wysing's gallery, which will itself be programmed to change in lighting and ambience as accompanying visual elements succeed one another. A preview takes place on Saturday from 6pm-8pm. The exhibition, curated by John Bloomfield is then open every day, 12-5pm until 26 March.

TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS FOR SPRING AND AUTUMN 2017:

Wysing Arts Centre announce two exhibitions that are in development *Mene Mene Tekel Parsin* (21 May-9 July) an exhibition exploring (il)legibility and text in art practice convened by the artist **Jesse Darling**, and *Andromedan Sad Girl* (8 October-19 November), a two-person exhibition by **Florence Peake and Tai Shani**. More details will be announced soon on these two exhibitions.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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Artist Biographies for 2017 Residencies:

Maryam Monalisa Gharavi is an artist and writer whose work explores the interplay between aesthetic and political valences in the public domain. Her work in film, video, performance, photography, drawing, sound, and text appears in a variety of international exhibitions and publications. She was previously an artist-in-resident at Delfina Foundation, London, Darat al Funun, Amman and Mansion, Beirut. In 2016 she published three books: a translation of Waly Salomão's *Algaravias: Echo Chamber* (Ugly Duckling Presse), the poetry volume *The Distancing Effect* (BlazeVOX), and the drawing/text artist publication *Apparent Horizon 2* (Bonington Gallery). Gharavi is currently based in the USA.

Harold Offeh was born in Accra, Ghana and grew up in London. He works in a range of media including performance, video, photography, learning and social arts practice. Offeh often employs humour as a means to confront the viewer with historical narratives and contemporary culture and is interested in the space created by the inhabiting or embodying of history. He has exhibited widely in the UK and internationally. In 2017 he will be exhibiting as part of *Untitled: art on the conditions of our time* at New Art Exchange in Nottingham, UK and *Tous, des sangs-mêlés* at MAC VAL, Museum of Contemporary Art in Val de Marne, France. He lives in Cambridge and works in Leeds and London, UK.

Pallavi Paul's work is engaged in the technologies of poetry and time travel. Working primarily with video and installation, and using the disruption between 'reality image' and 'documentary' as a starting point, she attempts to create a laboratory of possibilities which test the contours of fantasy, resistance, politics and history. Paul's works have been shown at BALTIC 39 as part of the AV Festival, Newcastle, the Edinburgh Festival, the Mumbai Film Festival, Tate Modern and in the exhibition *Hundred Years of Experimentation (1913- 2013)* a retrospective of Indian Cinema and Video, Experimenta Film Festival, Bangalore. She is included in the forthcoming Contour Biennale 8 in Mechelen. Paul currently lives and works in New Delhi.

Imran Perretta's work addresses biopower, marginality and the (de)construction of cultural histories. His multi-disciplinary practice encompasses the moving-image, sound, performance and poetry. Recent exhibitions include *brother to brother* for JVA Solo Presentations, Jerwood Space, London; *it wasn't a crash, in the usual sense*, Arcadia Missa, London; *Pale News* (in collaboration with Milo van der Maaden) commissioned by the Chisenhale Gallery and performed in Victoria Park, London; *5 percent* for Copenhagen Art Week, Denmark, and *Devotions* at MOT International Project Space, London. Perretta is based in south London.

Claire Potter works across performance, publication, installation and film. Influenced by linguistics and performance theory, Potter's work challenges received definitions of reading, writing, and speaking, to reconsider what it is to 'articulate'. Thematically their practice is centred on the temporalities of traumatic experience, and it is through this rubric that they approach

socially and politically orientated subjects such as adolescence and gender-based violence. Recent and forthcoming works include: *Penmon Point*, in 'No Title', CCA Derry-Londonderry; *Lads of Aran*, in 'The Body that Remains', Punctum Books, New York; *Cast Metal Nut* in 'Overlay', White Rainbow, London; *CHAVSCUMBOSS*, at Colour Out of Space, Brighton. Potter is from and is based in Mersyside.

Raju Rage is an interdisciplinary artist who is proactive about using art, education and activism to forge creative survival. They primarily use their non-conforming body as a vehicle of embodied knowledge; to bridge the gap between dis/connected bodies, theory and practice, text and the body and aesthetics and the political substance. They work in performance, sculpture, soundscapes and moving image, focusing on techniques of resistance and utilising everyday objects and everyday life experiences in communicating narratives around gender, race and culture. They investigate history, memory and trauma, with an emphasis on colonial legacy, its continuation and impact on the body. Raju Rage is based in London and has recently shown work visibility vs opacity at Dirty Politics Filthy Mouth, Framer Framed Amsterdam and Edinburgh's Artist Moving Image Festival, published in 'Decolonising Sexualities: Transnational Perspectives, Critical Interventions and presented at 'Sediments and Arrhythmias: race, sense and sensation' at UCL on the body and the un/archive.

Tai Shani's multidisciplinary practice, comprising performance, film and installation, revolves around experimental narrative texts. These alternate between familiar narrative tropes and structures and theoretical prose in order to explore the construction of subjectivity, excess and affect and the epic in relation to post-patriarchal realism. Shani's ongoing feminist project, *Dark Continent Productions*, is iterated through character-led installations, films, performances and experimental texts, is an expanded adaptation of Christine de Pizan's 1405 pioneering proto-feminist book, 'The Book of the City of Ladies'. Shani has presented her work in the UK and abroad, including Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm, Serpentine Galleries, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Southbank Centre, London, Arnolfini, Bristol, Matt's Gallery, London and FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais and Loop Festival, Barcelona. Shani is based in London.

Maxwell Sterling is a composer and musician whose work ranges from film soundtracks to live performance, studio albums to ballet scores. With a background in jazz improvisation and film music, his work is often focused on how music is used as a mode of communication and signifier of emotions. In 2016, he released his debut album, 'Hollywood Medieval' which explores the role of synthesis and digital sounds and their effect on us emotionally. Sterling collaborated with artist Linder and curator Kathy Noble on Art Night 2016, *Destination Moon*, *You must not look at her!* which featured a live tableaux of dancers, two choirs, a string ensemble and two drummers. Sterling currently works between Los Angeles and the UK.

Morgan Quaintance is a London-based writer, musician, broadcaster and curator. He is a regular contributor to *Art Monthly*, and a contributing editor for *E-Flux's* online publishing portal *art agenda*. He is also a founding member of the curatorial collective DAM PROJECTS and until recently held the Cubitt Curatorial Fellowship 2016-17. Quaintance is based in London.

WYSING ARTS CENTRE established in 1989, develops new ways to support artists and enables art and ideas to engage a wide range of people in unexpected ways. Wysing's large rural site near Cambridge comprises artists' studios, education and new media facilities, a gallery and project spaces, a 17th century farmhouse and outdoor sculptures and structures.

Wysing offers a unique environment for art to be developed and presented; with an ongoing and innovative artistic programme of events, exhibitions, retreats and residencies, and a unique

programme for young artists. Artists who have worked at Wysing in residencies over recent years, developing and making new work, include Ed Atkins, Anna Barham, Michael Dean, Cecile B Evans, Andy Holden, Gustav Metzger, Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodger, Laure Prouvost, James Richards and Cally Spooner.

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