



## WYSING ARTS CENTRE ANNOUNCES 2017 PROGRAMME – WYSING POLYPHONIC

- **Over-arching theme for 2017 announced as 'Wysing Polyphonic'; an exploration of 'many voices'.**
- **New recording studio to be created at Wysing Arts Centre in 2017 to make and broadcast new works, with first record to be released early in the new year.**
- **Exhibition of work from 2016 artist residencies announced for February 2017.**
- **Annual music and art festival to return in September 2017, this year curated by a range of international collectives and contributors.**
- **Artists in residence announced so far: Maryam Monalisa Gharavi; Pallavi Paul and Tai Shani. Open call for further artists announced, deadline Jan 2016.**

During 2017, Wysing Arts Centre will explore the theme of 'many voices' in the programme with the over-arching programme title **Wysing Polyphonic**.

Through residencies, exhibitions, events, a music festival, study weeks and days, Wysing will work with artists to explore a diversity of contexts and positions to help better understand the role of art, artists, and arts organisations such as Wysing, at this moment of global political change.

2017 will be a year where the programme will be a platform for many voices, in particular those that have the potential to be over-looked in the current political rhetoric, alongside a range of ways that those voices can be heard. Building on a number of events during 2016 that explored alternative sites for community and activism, Wysing now plans to work with artists whose work, or whose networks, empower and support diverse communities of interest.

To set the context, three artists will be in residence – US based Iranian artist Maryam Monalisa Gharavi; Mumbai based artist Pallavi Paul; and London based artist Tai Shani. A further six artists will be invited to be in-residence through an Open call for applications. Full details can be found at [www.wysingartscentre.org](http://www.wysingartscentre.org). Wysing are particularly looking for artists that can bring alternative cultural, social, racial and gender perspectives to the programme, and who will enjoy participating in events as part of the public programme

Launching the programme will be an exhibition – *All Channels Open* – which will bring together the artists who were in-residence during 2016, their work connected by a synchronised arrangement of projectors, monitors, objects and surround sound in Wysing's gallery. Artists include: 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. The exhibition takes place from 12 February–26 March 2017 (preview: 11 February, 6–8pm).

Wysing are also delighted to announce that funding from the Foyle Foundation will enable the building of a recording studio at Wysing in the summer of 2017. The studio will allow Wysing to commission new works for recording and broadcasting, as well as being a resource for artists and musicians. Along with the studio, Wysing will launch a record label, also titled Wysing Polyphonic. In 2017, the first vinyl record will be by the band Ectopia (artists Jack Brennan, Adam Christensen and Vicki Stieri).

Further expanding on the theme of many voices, Wysing's annual music festival, which returns to early September 2017, will be programmed for the first time by a range of invited international collectives and contributors. A programme announcement will be made in Spring 2016.

"I'm really excited about our 2017 programme which builds on a number of threads that we have been working on over the past few years, including collective ways of working and support, and experimental music. It feels that, at this moment, coming together to share and explore a diversity of art and ideas has never been so important." Donna Lynas, Director, Wysing Arts Centre

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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 17<sup>th</sup> 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. [www.wysingartscentre.org](http://www.wysingartscentre.org)

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.

DONNA LYNAS has been Director of Wysing Arts Centre since 2005 and has developed Wysing's identity as a research centre for the visual arts; introducing experimental artists' residencies and retreats and commissioning and curating ambitious projects including the annual festival of art and music.

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