



PRESS RELEASE

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Wysing Arts Centre: 2016 Artist Residencies in Cambridge announced

Following an Open Call for applications, Wysing Arts Centre in Bourn has selected the artists who will be in residence at its Cambridgeshire site during 2016. The selected artists work across music, performance, performative writing, text, computer game technology, video and sound. Many of the artists also bring an international, political perspective to Wysing, having experience of artistic discourses in Latin America, the Middle East, Poland and China.

The artists are:

Larry Achiampong and David Blandy

Beatrice Dillon

Maryam Monalisa Gharavi

Evan Ifekoya

Wojciech Kosma

Lawrence Lek

Laura O'Neill

Florence Peake

Gary Zhexi Zhang

The new work that emerges from their residencies will be shown in public events across the year with all nine artists being brought together within a group exhibition in early 2017.

All artists who will undertake residencies share a commitment to working within the structure of Wysing's year-long programme for 2016, Wysing Poly; an alternative learning environment where diverse practices and theory come together to support the development of new work, with a focus on the practical application of ideas.

The artists will also run Study Days as part of Wysing Poly; giving audiences a unique insight into their work and the ideas and interests that drive their practices.

The first group of artists, Beatrice Dillon, Wojciech Kosma and Florence Peake, will

relocate their homes and studios to Wysing on 4 April 2016, for eight weeks. Three further groups will visit for eight week periods before the end of the year.

Wysing Arts Centre Director, Donna Lynas, said, "We are delighted to be hosting these nine exciting artists across the coming 12 months. Each brings their own unique practice to Wysing for their residency and we look forward to sharing their ideas in our Study Days and events, and to seeing what emerges from each artist's time with us here."

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.

More details on each resident artist for 2016 is as follows:

Larry Achiampong and **David Blandy** share an interest in popular culture and the post-colonial position; examining communal and personal heritage within their collaborative practice and using performance to investigate the self as a fiction. Achiampong and Blandy, as individual artists, have been exploring issues surrounding race and culture for many years, albeit from completely different cultural backgrounds. They have been collaborating as Biters and on the *Finding Fanon* series for over two years, resulting in a body of work including digital imagery, performance and video. Over the past three years, they have exhibited and performed internationally including at Fabrica, Brighton; Iniva, London; Modern Art Oxford; Spike Island, Bristol; ICI/Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, and have an upcoming exhibition at Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle. Their films are distributed by LUX and David Blandy is represented by Seventeen Gallery, London.

Beatrice Dillon is a producer, composer and musician. She has collaborated widely with a range of visual artists producing music and sound for film, performance and installation. Her recent releases 'Blues Dances', 'Face A/B' and 'Studies for Samplers and Percussion' (a collaborative LP with Rupert Clervaux) were selected for FACT, Juno Plus and Quietus' Best of 2015. Dillon has performed and DJ'd internationally across venues and galleries including Southbank, Barbican, Tate, ICA, Palais de Tokyo Paris, Lisson, Whitechapel, Center of Contemporary Art Geneva and MONA Tasmania amongst others. In 2014, Dillon was selected for Sound And Music's portfolio scheme. She's produced a host of acclaimed mixes for The Trilogy Tapes, Blowing Up The Workshop and Rinse FM etc and released a split cassette with Ben UFO on Wichelroede in February 2016. Beatrice presents a monthly show on London's NTS radio. She is currently working on a solo album plus various collaborations.

Maryam Monalisa Gharavi is an artist, writer, and theorist. She works with film, video, performance, photography, drawing, sound, text, and sculptural forms to explore the interplay between aesthetic and political valences in the public domain.

Exhibitions and publications include Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Art Dubai; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art; Pacific Film Archive; Triple Canopy; EMPAC, New York; Women and Performance, The New Inquiry, The White Review, among others. She has been artist-in-residence at Delfina Foundation, London; Darat al Funun, Amman; and Mansion, Beirut. Forthcoming books include *American Letters* (Zer0) and a translation of Waly Salomão's *Algaravias: Echo Chamber* (Ugly Duckling Presse). In 2014-15 she was a postdoctoral Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Professor at Birzeit University. She is currently a Lecturer at Harvard University.

Evan Ifekoya is an interdisciplinary artist and educator, exploring the politicisation of culture, society and aesthetics. Evan's current work investigates the possibility of an erotic and poetic occupation using film, performative writing and sound, focused on co-authored, intimate forms of knowledge production and the radical potential of spectacle. Recent exhibitions include *normcore*, IAb, Bielefeld, Germany; *All Of Us Have A Sense Of Rhythm*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London; *Embodied Spaces*, FramerFramed, De Tolhuistuin, Amsterdam - both curated by Christine Eyene, Studio Voltaire OPEN, London and *30 years of the Future*, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester (2014). Recent performances have taken place at David Roberts Art Foundation and Tate Modern, London as well as The Marlborough, Brighton and De Tolhuistuin, Amsterdam.

Wojciech Kosma explores multiple aspects of relationships and sociality, working within a performance framework and together with a number of close collaborators (performers, philosophers, choreographers, actors, scholars, sex workers and activists). The effects of this process are manifested both in the social realm and in artistic productions. Kosma's collaborations with Dylan Aiello, Dwayne Browne, Sjoerd Dijk, Brian Doose, Gordon Douglas, Ligia Lewis, Sofia Lomba, Ewa Majewska, Irene Moray, Timothy Murray, Paulita Pappel, Llewellyn Reichman, Yunuen Rhi, Ingrid Sattes, Jessica Lauren Elizabeth Taylor and Judith Vrancken were presented at Interstate Projects in New York; Chisenhale Gallery, London; Schinkel Pavillon in Berlin; Galerie Kamm, Berlin; Human Resources, Los Angeles; Transmission, Glasgow; Outpost, Norwich; LEAP, Berlin; and Muzeum Sztuki, Łódź among others. In 2015, Kosma was the recipient of Scholarship for Visual Arts awarded by the Berlin Senate and resident artist at Triangle in New York.

Lawrence Lek uses architectural fabrication and video game software to produce virtual worlds, video performances and immersive installations, often based on real places. His work deals with the uncanny experience of simulated presence, and how themes of desire, memory, power, and immortality drive our encounters within virtual realms. Lek's ongoing project *Bonus Levels* uses simulation as a site-specific medium to create utopian scenarios for cultural institutions. Lek is a graduate of the Cooper Union, New York, the Architectural Association, London and Trinity College, Cambridge. Recent projects include *Berlin Mirror*, KW Berlin; *Software, Hard Problem*, Cubitt Gallery; *The Uncanny Valley*, Wysing Arts Centre; *Unreal Estate*,

Royal Academy; *Performance as Process*, Delfina Foundation; *Sky Line* for Art Licks Weekend 2014 Digital Commission; *Continental Drift*, Channel Normal; *Bodyscape* at Parasol Unit. Lek is a resident artist at The White Building and winner of the 2015 Dazed Emerging Artist Award and ICA/Tenderflix Artist Video Award.

Laura O'Neill is "a maker and a shaker, to which I question the act of looking". Past projects include Focal Point Gallery's Big Screen, Southend-on-Sea, 2016; *Bikini Wax*, Mexico City, 2015; ICA, London, 2015; Camden Art Centre, London, 2015; Baltic 39, Newcastle, 2014; Liverpool Biennale, 2014; Spike Island, Bristol, 2013 and a recent film commission from Mexico City Metro. She currently lives and works in Mexico City.

Florence Peake's practice encompasses visual art, dance and performance. Peake works with drawing, painting and sculptural materials combined with found, appropriated and fabricated objects placed in relationship to the moving body. Site and the placement of performance and audience, live and recorded text, as well as a well-developed sense of wit and humour, are key to her work. She has shown nationally and internationally, presenting work at the National Portrait Gallery, London; BALTIC, Gateshead; Hayward Gallery as part of *Mirrorcity*, London; David Roberts Art Foundation, London; Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Modern Art Oxford; Chapter Arts, Cardiff; the Harris Museum, Preston; and the Herbert Museum, Coventry.

Gary Zhexi Zhang is an artist and writer whose work is concerned with private and political narratives of the virtual. Recent screenings and exhibitions include *Would You Like Help* at EMBASSY Gallery, Edinburgh and Tenderflix Film Festival at ICA, London. He is a regular contributor to Frieze and Elephant magazines, and is currently studying for a Masters of Philosophy in Criticism and Culture at Cambridge University.

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- Artists are available for interview.
- 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.

- Across 2016 Wysing Poly will offer artists' residencies, artist-led study weeks and study days, a Summercamp comprising of seminars and events devised in collaboration with artists and writers, alongside practical courses and workshops for young people developed by our Circuit group. Wysing Poly will take an open and pluralistic approach, and intrinsic to it will be the contribution of individuals from outside the arts through a public talks and events programme that will expand thinking and bring new tangents and ideas to the centre.
- The current exhibition at Wysing Arts Centre until April 10 is The Practice of Theories.
- 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.

TO VISIT US AT WYSING OR ONLINE:

Wysing Art Centre

Fox Road

Bourne

By Cambridge, just 1.5 hours from London

See www.wysingartscentre.org for opening hours

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