

We inhabit vast natural resources.

**We sense everything around,
under, and above you.**

**Our research and development
activities are based on a profound
understanding of the biological
processes in living organisms.**

**We develop solutions to accelerate
human health and evolution.**

— Οφηΐχ, 2016



WYSING ARTS CENTRE

Ophiux

Solo exhibition by Joey Holder

Press preview : Saturday 24 September, 2016, 6-8pm

Exhibition: 25 September - 20 November, 2016

Wysing Arts Centre presents a new installation and film by Joey Holder. Ophiux gives a glimpse into a near future that whilst fictional, is not far from reality and is founded on current scientific research. Holder's new work will imagine a time in which synthetic biology has been fully realised; applied to both advance human evolution and increase life expectancy and where human biology has been computer programmed. The exhibition will include a film work and a futuristic medical room.

To conceive the exhibition, the artist has worked in close collaboration with scientists she met during her residency at Wysing in 2015 - Dr Marco Galardini, a Computational Biologist at the European Bioinformatics Institute at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Cambridge, and Dr Katrin Linse, Senior Biodiversity Biologist at the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge.

Ophiux visualizes how current digital developments are being used to extract data from DNA. The exhibition proposes that in the future the human population, and millions of other organisms, will have been genetically sequenced in order to extract data, with the aim of furthering life. Holder's work reflects on the reality of today's healthcare, in which our bodies are increasingly mapped and digitized.

Joey Holder explains, "It seems as if everything has become a branch of computer science, even our own bodies probed, imaged, modeled and mapped: re-drawn as digital information. The installation will include larger than life-sized models of biological imaging machines as well as genetic sequencing equipment. It will

simulate not only the collection of data from our own bodies but also the sampling of data from other organisms by a speculative pharmaceutical company: 'Ophiux'. Since civilization began humans have sort cures in the plants, animals, and minerals around them. This exhibition proposes a time where a corporation is able to fluidly switch and combine genetic data from animals and plants to our own biology to accelerate life."

In conjunction with the exhibition, Holder will deliver a symposium that will take place on Saturday 29 October, 2-6pm at Murray Edwards College, New Hall, University of Cambridge, as part of the Cambridge Festival of Ideas. The symposium will include screenings of rare footage from Dr Linse's deep sea explorations alongside contributions from invited artists, scientists and writers who will discuss and question the constitution of the 'human' and 'animal' biology, exploring the technology around genetic data collection and manipulation.

Ophiux is located across two sites with the main exhibition platform at Wysing Arts Centre, and aspects of Joey Holder's research for the project shown at AND/OR Gallery, London from 14 October-12 November, 2016.

The film will tour to other arts and science venues across the UK launching at Deptford X festival in September 2016, who have co-commissioned the production of the film.

Deptford X 2016, the longest-running contemporary art festival in London, taking place from 23 September - 2 October 2016. Joey will be one of five Platform 2016 artists taking part in the festival, selected by a panel of art world experts and which make up the core of the festival. The ten-day festival will see these ambitious visual arts projects installed in a diverse range of sites and venues across Deptford, South East London. www.deptfordx.org

NOTES TO EDITORS:

For press information or images please contact
nicolajeffsPR@gmail.com / 07794 694 754

Joey Holder (b. 1981, London): Joey Holder received her BA from Kingston University (2002) and her MFA from Goldsmiths (2010). Recent solo/duo exhibitions include 'Lament of Ur', Karst, Plymouth (w/ Viktor Timofeev); 'TETRAGRAMMATON', LD50, London (w/ John Russell), 'BioStat.', Project Native Informant, London (2015) and 'HYDROZOAN', The Royal Standard, Liverpool (2014). Recent group exhibitions include 'The Uncanny Valley', Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge (2015); 'Sunscreen', online and at Venice Biennale (2015); 'A Plague of Diagrams', ICA, London (2015), 'WEC - Whole Earth Catalyst', The Composing Rooms, Berlin (2015); 'h y p e r s a l o n', Art Basel Miami, (2014); 'Vestige: The Future is Here', Design Museum, London (2013) and 'Multinatural Histories', Harvard Museum of Natural History, Massachusetts, USA (2013). Holder was a finalist for the Dazed Emerging Artist Award (2013) and is nominated for the Vordemberge-Gildewart Award (2016).

Dr Katrin Linse: <https://www.bas.ac.uk/profile/kl/>

Dr Marco Galardini:
<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/about/people/marco-galardini>

Wysing Arts Centre, Fox Road, Bourn, Cambridgeshire, CB23 2TX. T: 01954 718 881

Exhibition opening times: daily, 12 noon-5pm.

Transport to the preview is available from Cambridge. Please be in touch for more details.

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.



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

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