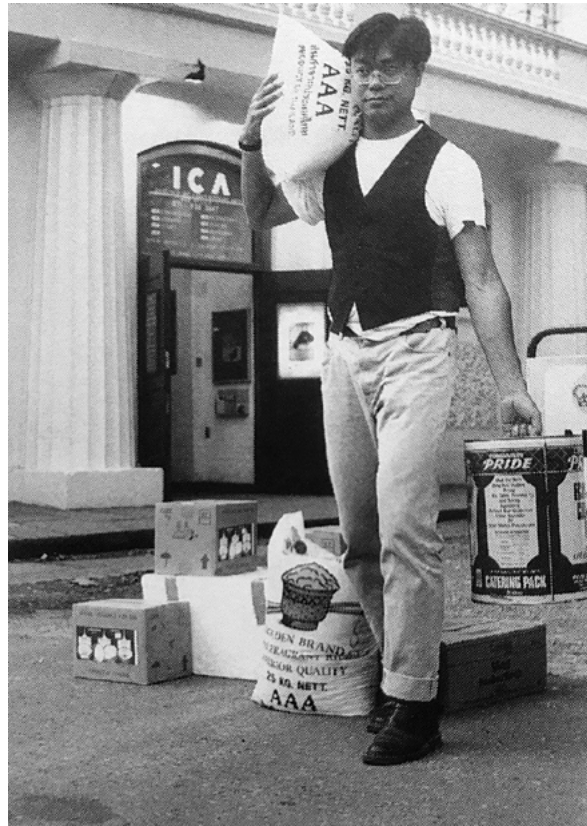


# Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE: Thursday 6 June 2019

The Institute of Contemporary Arts announces  
*untitled 2019 (the form of the flower is unknown to the seed)*:  
a new, permanently sited work by Rirkrit Tiravanija

Press view: 6 June 2019, 4–5pm  
Launch: 6 June 2019, 5pm  
Open to the public from 7 June 2019



Rirkrit Tiravanija at the ICA on the occasion  
of the exhibition *Real Time* in 1993.

The Institute of Contemporary Arts is proud to announce the unveiling of a newly commissioned permanently sited work by Rirkrit Tiravanija, *untitled 2019 (the form of the flower is unknown to the seed)* on 6 June 2019.

The work will occupy the alcove in the common area of the ICA, between the Lower Gallery and the Theatre, transforming it into a new social space comprising a sake bar, seating and tables crafted in Tiravanija's studio in Chiang Mai, set within a painted sunrise and sunset. This new work marks Tiravanija's return to the ICA, following his participation in the landmark exhibition *Real Time* in 1993.

Rirkrit Tiravanija's *untitled 2019 (the form of the flower is unknown to the seed)* (2019) is presented in collaboration with TBA21, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, with special thanks to Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza.

Rirkrit Tiravanija, born in Thailand and living between New York, Berlin and Chiang Mai, is known for a practice that traverses sculpture, film, installation, public and private performances, teaching, and forms of public service and social action. Recognised as one of the most influential artists of his generation, he routinely overturns traditional exhibition formats in favour of social interactions through the sharing of everyday activities such as cooking, eating and reading. Creating environments that reject the primacy of the art object and instead focusing on bringing people together through simple acts of communal care, Tiravanija's work challenges expectations around labour and virtuosity. As platforms for these encounters, he designs architectural structures and interventions, presented in both institutions and public contexts.

*untitled 2019 (the form of the flower is unknown to the seed)* will be the first permanently sited work by Tiravanija in London. It will be available to visit on an ongoing basis from 7 June 2019.

Stefan Kalmár says: 'Quoting one of the ICA's founders Herbert Read in its title, this new work is a celebration of both the ICA's legacy and its current role in contemporary society. It is not by chance that at the heart of the ICA – both physically and metaphorically – is always the shared aspiration to create common social space and consider how we interact with each other, from 1947 until today.'

A special programme celebrating the opening of *untitled 2019 (the form of the flower is unknown to the seed)* will take place on 6 June, open to ICA Friends and Red Members. The evening comprised a screening of Tiravanija's film *Karl's Perfect Day* (2017) in the ICA Cinema at 5pm followed by a drinks reception in the sake bar and a reading by artist and poet Karl Holmqvist. *Karl's Perfect Day* is Tiravanija's feature-length study of Holmqvist, blending fact and fiction through a collage of encounters with people, places, sounds, images and text. Unfolding as if occurring within Holmqvist's mind, the film culminates in an explosive performance in collaboration with musician Arto Lindsay. The evening continues at 8pm with drinks and food provided by Rochelle Canteen.

Additional support is gratefully acknowledged from Pilar Corrias.

**For further information, images and to request interviews please contact:**

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**For enquiries related to private hire please contact our Venue Hire team:**

[events@ica.art](mailto:events@ica.art) or on 020 7766 1432

## Notes to Editors

Founded in 1946 by a collective of artists, poets and their supporters, the **Institute of Contemporary Arts** is an independent organisation and registered charity which supports the most pressing debates in contemporary culture. The ICA stages groundbreaking exhibitions, performances and keynote lectures by many of the world's leading thinkers. Previously home to the Independent Group, the ICA played a pivotal role in the development of Pop art and charted the course of punk, performance art and independent cinema. The ICA staged the first institutional exhibitions by Francis Bacon, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Tacita Dean, Damien Hirst, Mike Kelley, Mary Kelly, Barbara Kruger, Gerhard Richter, Dieter Roth, Cindy Sherman, Nancy Spero, and Cosey Fanni Tutti and early exhibitions by Bernadette Corporation, Robert Mapplethorpe, Steve McQueen and Tino Sehgal; many now historic performances including those by Laurie Anderson, Einstürzende Neubauten and Yoko Ono; legendary concerts by The Clash, Throbbing Gristle, The Smiths, David Bowie and The Beastie Boys; and critical discussions by the likes of Kathy Acker, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Stuart Hall and Homi K. Bhabha. The ICA Cinema and its dedicated artist's film programme continue to showcase independent film and support pioneering filmmakers including Chantal Akerman, Kenneth Anger, Matthew Barney, Derek Jarman, Ken Loach and Laura Poitras. From its home on The Mall – the geographic heart of the UK establishment – the ICA is an organisation in which different modes of cultural production thrive on the mutual engagement with one another, and a programme that speaks to the challenges of the 21st century. [www.ica.art](http://www.ica.art)

**TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary** is a leading international art foundation, founded in Vienna in 2002 by the philanthropist and collector Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza representing the fourth generation of the Thyssen-Bornemisza family's commitment to the arts. Above all, TBA21 is distinct from other art foundations in its promotion of art as a powerful agent for change. It encourages artistic practices that are informed by social and environmental concerns – practices that change the terms of engagement between art and society. It seeks to forge new, productive relationships between artistic research and the creative work of the sciences and the humanities, and aims to investigate the pressing issues of contemporary life. Since 2002, it has acquired a formidable collection of more than 700 artworks by some 200 artists from around the globe. These are frequently shared with museums, public institutions and major exhibitions internationally. In the spring of 2019, TBA21 signed a four-year agreement with the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid to present a series of exhibitions from the TBA21 collection at the museum. The exhibitions will be accompanied by a public programme aimed at drawing new audiences.

Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza is a Trustee of the ICA. Her relationship with the organisation began when she studied History of Modern Art at the ICA in the 1980s.

## Visitor Information

Opening times: *untitled 2019 (the form of the flower is unknown to the seed)* can be visited during regular ICA opening hours Tuesday – Sunday 12–9pm. Rochelle Canteen will be running special bar events in the new social space on 7–9, 14, 21, 28 June

Admission: Free

Location: Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London, SW1Y 5AH

For information about tickets and membership, please contact:  
[sales@ica.art](mailto:sales@ica.art) / +44 (0) 20 7930 3647 / [www.ica.art](http://www.ica.art)



Presented in collaboration with TBA21,  
Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary

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**B** Bornemisza  
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