

# Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

17 September 2019

## THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS HONOURS PROFESSOR HOMI K. BHABHA

*ICA presents Professor Homi K. Bhabha in conversation with the New York Times book critic Parul Sehgal and Professor Richard Sennett*

30 September, 3:00pm, ICA

*The Institute of Contemporary Arts Annual Dinner in honour of Homi K. Bhabha*

30 September, 7:00pm, ICA (by invitation only)

The Institute of Contemporary Arts will host a public discussion with one of the world's most eminent figures in post-colonial studies, the Indian-English scholar and critical theorist, Professor Homi K. Bhabha. Bhabha will be joined by the *New York Times* book critic Parul Sehgal and Professor Richard Sennett, who will draw on their sustained interest in intersecting ideas on sociology and the written word to approach Bhabha's work. Exploring Bhabha's diverse fields of enquiry, the conversation will reflect on key texts and lectures, examining their continued and evolving relevance in contemporary discourse. Bhabha will address 'The Language of Degradation' in contemporary politics, offering a dialogue on some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Following this public event, Bhabha will be honoured at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Annual Dinner. This is the third Annual Dinner, established in 2017 by ICA Director Stefan Kalmár, paying tribute to international public figures (Bryan Ferry in 2017, Chelsea Manning in 2018), aligning with the mission and work of the Institute.

Stefan Kalmár says:

'In a moment where we see a worldwide nationalistic backlash in response to the perceived threats of globalisation, Bhabha is a powerful reminder of the progressive possibilities that globalisation also holds. Bhabha's work has informed the thinking of generations of academics and artists. He developed a theory around the role of the 'Third Space', an in-between space in which new ideas can be formulated, something that the ICA, in its 73-year history, has always striven to be.'

Professor Homi K. Bhabha is one of the most important figures in contemporary studies of colonial, postcolonial and globalisation studies. His key ideas of hybridity, ambivalence and mimicry have been formative for postcolonial theory, while inspiring work in art, literature, art theory, architecture and human rights.

To request further information, images and interviews, please contact:

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## VISITOR INFORMATION

*ICA presents Homi K. Bhabha in conversation*

Date: 30 September, 3:00pm

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

Admission: £15

£13 Green Members and those aged under 18 or over 65, disabled people, job seekers and unwaged people, Westminster residents and education groups

£11 Blue Members

Free for Red Members

Priority booking is available for Red Members from 11:00am Tuesday 17 September. General tickets on sale from 11:00am Thursday 19 September.

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)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Homi K. Bhabha** is the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the English and Comparative Literature Departments at Harvard University. He was founding director of the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University from 2011–2019 and director of the Harvard Humanities Center from 2005–2011. From 2008–2019, he held the inaugural position of Senior Adviser on the Humanities to the President and Provost at Harvard University and from 2005–2008 served as Senior Adviser in the Humanities at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Bhabha is the author of numerous works exploring postcolonial theory, cultural change and power, contemporary art, and cosmopolitanism. His works include *Nation and Narration* and *The Location of Culture*, which was reprinted as a Routledge Classic in 2004. His next book will be published by the University of Chicago Press.

He is a member of the Academic Committee for the Shanghai Power Station of Art, advisor on the Contemporary and Modern Art Perspectives (CMAP) project at the Museum of Modern Art New York, and Curator in Residence of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Bhabha holds honorary degrees from Université Paris 8, University College London, and the Free University Berlin. In 2012, he was awarded the Government of India's Padma Bhushan Presidential Award in the field of literature and education and received the Humboldt Research Prize in 2015. In 2018, Bhabha received an honorary doctorate at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa.

**Parul Sehgal** is a book critic at *The New York Times*. She was previously a columnist and senior editor at *The New York Times Book Review*. Her work has appeared in the *Atlantic*, *Slate*, *Bookforum*, *The New Yorker*, *Tin House*, and *The Literary Review*, among other publications, and she was awarded the Nona Balakian Award from the National Book Critics Circle for her criticism. She has been a featured speaker at TED and teaches at New York University and the Center for the Humanities at CUNY.

Professor **Richard Sennett** is an urban theorist and sociologist. He is advisor to the United Nations, bringing together its programmes on cities and climate change and visiting lecturer at MIT. Sennett chairs Theatrum Mundi, a network of young artists and urbanists, with offices in London and Paris. He is the author of numerous titles including *Building and Dwelling: Ethics for the City*, which was published by Penguin in 2018.

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)



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