

# Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

## FORWARD PROGRAMME WINTER/SPRING 2020

The Institute of Contemporary Arts continues to present an international programme that builds on the ICA's standing as one of London's most forward-thinking organisations: groundbreaking exhibitions, landmark lectures, independent film, artists' moving image, experimental live music, theatre, performance, poetry and dance featuring throughout early 2020.

### Exhibitions

In January, the ICA presents *3 & 4 Will. IV c. 73*, the first solo exhibition in the UK by artist Cameron Rowland, consisting of a newly commissioned body of work. Rowland was recently awarded the [MacArthur Fellowship](#) for their work.

- Cameron Rowland: *3 & 4 Will. IV c. 73*, 29 January – 12 April 2020  
(press view: 28 January, 10am – 12pm / opening: 28 January, 6 – 8pm)

### Live

On 31 January, **INFERNO**, a queer techno rave all-nighter takes over the ICA Theatre, featuring performances organised by artist and DJ Lewis G. Burton and producer and musician Venice Calypso (aka Sebastian Bartz). In April, cult London queer club night **PDA** (Mischa Mafia, CrackStevens and Ms Carrie Stacks) hosts a second takeover. This new initiative culminates in a large-scale queer festival and rave at the ICA.

On 5–9 February, the ICA presents **The Tender Interval: Studies in Sound and Motion**, a convening exploring the transformational qualities of sound and dance practices. The convening features artists, producers, composers, DJs, writers, practitioners and thinkers whose sound and dance practices explore temporality as material, including rkss, Graham Lambkin, Helm, Cucina Povera, Lia Mice, Chooc Ly. The programme explores the body as an instrument, resonances between mind and matter, and the frequencies between practising, playing, conducting and sounding. As time seems scarcer and scarcer in ever-accelerating conditions, The Tender Interval advocates for processing the political and spiritual violence of patriarchy and colonialism in order to build sustainable futures. The convening is co-curated by Sarah Shin (New Suns) and the ICA's Sara Sassanelli.

On 28 March, the ICA presents a new durational performance by artist **Martin O'Brien**, using physical endurance, hardship and pain-based practices to challenge common representations of chronic illness. An installation takes place the following day, which will incorporate remnants from the previous evening's performance.

The ICA's Live programme continues to present performance commissions, listening sessions, and the popular reading series **Queers Read This**, which next takes place on 2 April 2020.

- INFERNO, 31 January 2020, 10pm – 6am
- The Tender Interval: Studies in Sound and Motion, 5 – 9 February 2020
- Martin O'Brien performance and installation, 28 – 29 March 2020
- PDA, April 2020



Courtesy of INFERNO

## Films

The ICA Cinema is dedicated to foregrounding underrepresented voices in today's international narrative film, presenting regular premieres, Q&As, retrospectives and festivals.

ICA CINEMA, the ICA's in-house distribution agency (relaunched in 2016) has distributed over 20 releases, including RaMell Ross' Oscar-nominated *Hale County, This Morning, This Evening*, Claudia Priscilla and Kiko Goifman's *Tranny Fag*, and Mariano Llinás' 14-hour epic, *La Flor*.

On 24 January, ICA CINEMA releases *Present.Perfect.*, Shengze Zhu's exploration of the explosion of live-streaming platforms and the ensuing government crackdown in China.

On 17 April, the ICA's film festival, **FRAMES of REPRESENTATION**, returns for its fifth year, foregrounding transgressive, unruly 'cinema of the real' through this year's thematic focus on aspects of spectatorship. A programme of UK premieres, discussions and workshops will place the audience at the heart of the conversation, exploring the spaces for action and reflection generated through cinema.

From January to February, the ICA Cinema presents a focus celebrating the work of the iconic Chilean-French filmmaker **Alejandro Jodorowsky**, showcasing Jodorowsky's visionary approach through cult films including *El Topo*, *The Holy Mountain* and *Fando y Lis*. In March, the ICA presents a survey of the work of Portuguese director **Pedro Costa**, renowned for his painterly portraits of migrant's lives in Fontainhas on the outskirts of Lisbon. This retrospective coincides with the UK release of Costa's seventh feature *Vitalina Varela*.

- *Present.Perfect.*, dir. Shengze Zhu, UK & Ireland Release: 24 January 2020, [Press Release](#)
- Alejandro Jodorowsky focus, January – February 2020
- Pedro Costa focus, March 2020
- FRAMES of REPRESENTATION 2020, 17 – 25 April 2020



Shengze Zhu, *Present.Perfect.*, 2019

## Artists' Moving Image

The ICA is one of the only UK cultural institutions with a programme dedicated to artists' moving image. The recurring **Artists' Film Club** (since 2009) and the bi-monthly programme **The Machine That Kills Bad People** (since 2018, curated by Erika Balsom, Beatrice Gibson, Maria Palacios Cruz and Ben Rivers) presents regular screenings and discussions dedicated to artists working in film. Building on the success of the Artists' Film Biennial, the ICA's new annual convening, **Image Behaviour**, dedicated to experiments in artists' moving image, will return in November 2020.

New Creatives is a scheme developed by BBC Arts and Arts Council England for which the ICA is commissioning 100 new works by London-based artists under 30 for potential broadcast on BBC. Artists are selected through four open calls; the third is now open until 26 February 2020. **In Production**, conceived in parallel, is an ongoing ICA learning initiative and programme of workshops, talks and showcases. From 20–23 February, the ICA presents *Current Transmissions*, a four-day showcase and events programme exhibiting the finalised commissions from the open calls so far, including over 40 moving image, audio and interactive works. The programme aims to provide emerging artists with skills and greater confidence to produce audio, moving image and interactive work. In Production is presented in partnership with Chisenhale Gallery, Dazed Media, NTS, SPACE, the Visible Institute at Kingston School of Art, and Workflow.

- In Production: Open Call 3, 16 January – 26 February 2020, apply: [ica.art/In-Production](https://ica.art/In-Production)
- In Production: Showcase, 20 – 23 February 2020
- Image Behaviour: an annual artists' moving image convening, November 2020



Tamu Nkiwane, *Apocrypha*, 2019.  
produced by ICA for BBC New Creatives

## Talks & Learning

Convenings, talks and education-based projects – spanning culture, politics, activism and social justice – are at the core of the ICA's programme.

Following Q&As with technologist Chelsea Manning in 2018 and postcolonial theorist Professor Homi K. Bhabha in 2019, the ICA launches Critical Conversations, a regular series of landmark talks on the most pressing issues of our time with globally renowned cultural thinkers. On 21 February 2020, the ICA hosts **Paul B. Preciado**, one of the leading figures in the study of gender and sexual politics, who will be joined by queer theorist Jack Halberstam. Their conversation will address agency, gender and subjectivity, and also marks the publication of Preciado's latest book, *AN APARTMENT ON URANUS* (Fitzcarraldo Editions, 2019), which explores Preciado's perspectives on the migrant crisis, Julian Assange, sex work, the rise of neo-fascism, and Trump's America; asking how museums and institutions can contribute to a cultural revolution.

On 12 – 14 March 2020, the ICA presents a convening celebrating the life and work of **Toni Morrison** (1931-2019), a Nobel laureate in literature who spoke at the ICA in the 1980s. The convening features a screening of director Timothy Greenfield-Sanders' forthcoming

2020 documentary *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*; a keynote lecture by Farah Jasmine Griffin, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University; a newly commissioned visual remix of the video recording of Morrison's 1986 talk at the ICA by DJ scholar Lynnée Denise, a Visiting Artist at Stanford University's Institute of Diversity in the Arts; study groups exploring some of Morrison's seminal texts with writer and educator Lola Okolosie; and a panel discussion with academics, artists, writers and curators with deep personal, artistic and intellectual connections to Morrison's work.

In April, the ICA presents the launch of writer **Lola Olufemi**'s new book, *Feminism Interrupted: Disrupting Power* (Pluto Press, 2019), aiming to return feminism to its radical roots as a tool for combating structural violence and injustice.

- Critical Conversations: Paul B. Preciado with Jack Halberstam, 21 February 2020
- Toni Morrison convening, 12 – 14 March 2020
- Lola Olufemi, *Feminism Interrupted: Disrupting Power* launch, 1 April 2020



Paul B. Preciado

## Permanent Installation

**Rirkrit Tiravanija**'s permanently sited work remains on display throughout 2020, providing a unique social space comprising a sake bar, communal seating set within a painted sunrise and sunset, purpose built for the ICA by Tiravanija's Chiang Mai studio.

- Rirkrit Tiravanija, *untitled 2019 (the form of the flower is unknown to the seed)*, open during regular ICA opening hours, [Press Release](#) / [web page](#)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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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)



Supported using public funding by  
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