

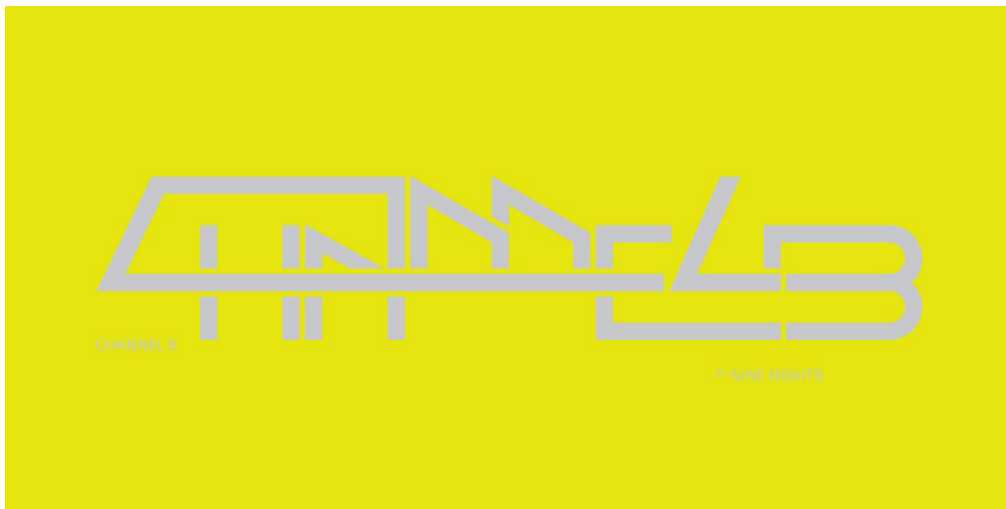
Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

THE ICA PRESENTS *CHANNEL B*, A NEW EXHIBITION BY BLACK-OWNED ART, MUSIC AND CREATIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVE NINE NIGHTS, FROM 11 OCTOBER 2021 – 30 JANUARY 2022

Channel B is an audio-visual exploration of Black futurism, featuring new work by Gaika, GLOR1A and Shannen SP

It includes five interactive installations that act as stages for live performance and broadcast



The ICA this autumn presents *Channel B*, an exhibition by the black-owned art, music and creative education initiative Nine Nights. *Channel B* is an audio-visual exploration of Black futurism, featuring five interactive sound and video installations that each act as a stage for live performance and broadcast. Traversing music, performance and art, the installations are created by multidisciplinary artists Gaika, GLOR1A and Shannen SP, whose work is rooted in the electronically mutated rhythms of the diaspora that pulse through every city on every night.

Nine Nights says:

‘We are building an ecosystem that educates, platforms and promotes alternative Black art and supports black-focused charities at home and overseas. The global music industry is worth over \$50 billion, with 50% of that made from live music. The global pandemic has caused a crisis for all live artists and teams, wiping out a majority of income overnight. For 2019, total revenues for the global recorded-music business grew by 8.2% to \$20.2 billion. As Black artists, we provide much of the foundation for modern music with our labour. Currently, we are not seeing our share of this money.

‘Nine Nights is a new music concept featuring thoughtfully curated black artists across the world, spanning music, performance, poetry and spoken word. The name “Nine Nights” is rooted in Jamaican tradition that celebrates the life and safe passing for those deceased over nine nights. This “dead yard” series is for those who have lost their lives at the hands of racism, police brutality and COVID, to celebrate their existence and push for change. We want a new system, one that helps develop Black lives in music, art and community.’

Drawing on a lineage of pirate broadcasters, subterranean dancefloors and the ‘happenings’ of the 1960s, *Channel B* is nostalgic for an unknown past but committed to the imaginaries of the future. *Ca\$h Fractals* (Gaika), *War Island* (Gaika), *Dark Matter Inc* (GLOR1A) and *Swarm* (GLOR1A) each address sci-fi, speculative fiction, horror, political satire and experimental sound, and consider the contemporary role of surveillance, digital autonomy, non-human intelligence and digitised human ritual. Committed to experimental methods of exhibition-making, Nine Nights invites artists and audiences to interact with and use the ICA’s galleries as a participatory space.

‘As night falls on 11th October a rogue frequency is transmitted from London’s Mall. This frequency sits below popular channels, infecting smart devices with bursts of encrypted data with no beginning and no end. Offering an alternative to algorithmic censorship and cultural extraction. Beyond notions of history, place and time.’

– Nine Nights

– ENDS –

High-res images [here](#)

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VISITOR INFORMATION

11 October 2021 – 30 January 2022
Press View: 11 October 2021, 12pm

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

TICKET PRICES

The exhibition is open to the public from 12 – 9pm, Tuesday – Sunday.

Tuesday: Free for all visitors

Wednesday – Sunday: £5 (+ £1 booking fee for non-Members), free for all ICA Members

Free exhibition entry with every ticket to the cinema or theatre.

Nine Nights

The inherent contradictions and systematic inequality at the heart of the global music industry frequently results in Black artists sustaining its ecosystem yet consistently being undermined by it. Combined with the persistent undervaluing of Black people, the growing protest movement and the global pandemic's impact on nightlife and live work, Nine Nights emerged in May 2020 as an attempt at exploring new modes of artistic empowerment that supports life and community directly with labour. Founded by the *Channel B* exhibiting artists and Zara Truss-Giles, Nine Nights has one purpose – to support Black culture.

Gaika Tavares

Gaika Tavares, better known simply as Gaika, is a critically acclaimed auteur from South London whose debut album *Basic Volume* was released in July 2018 by Warp Records. The Guardian praised the album as 'a terrifically impressive and populist debut', with additional praise from *The Financial Times*, *The Independent*, *Noisey* and *Music OMH*. Gaika has worked on numerous scores for film and TV, including the BBC's *Noughts and Crosses* in 2020; produced a score for contemporary dancers Aisha and Abhaya in 2020; and produced the lead track for the Sundance Film Festival's nominated films *Share and Sprinter* in 2019. He has participated in group exhibitions in Pace Gallery and Strange Edition Gallery, both in New York. He writes fiction and is a frequent writer for *Dazed*.

GLOR1A

GLOR1A is a boundary-defying artist exploring Black futurism and sci-fi through emotive music, technological art and live performances. The self-proclaimed 'alien' is non-conformist in approach, taking inspiration from ancestral myth and sci-fi, challenging the under-representation of Black femmes in cultural spaces. In 2021 she released her second EP *METAL*, introducing GLOR1A's alter ego, GLOR1A 2.0 – the creation of a Black gynoid using a data-mining company to autonomously collect facial recognition data worldwide. GLOR1A's work seamlessly operates in a multitude of spaces and she recently developed *SWARM*, a first-of-its-kind live performance game steeped in West African Nok culture. She has recently exhibited at The Rele Gallery, Lagos and Somerset House X Mutek, London; and in 2022 will exhibit at FACT, Liverpool.

Shannen SP

Shannen SP is a London based DJ, artist and curator. She made a name for herself through her work with UK label Hyperdub and her co-curation of the audio-visual arts and electronic music monthly event Ø. She has played sets at WWW Tokyo, Nyege Nyege Uganda, Nowadays NYC and Boiler Room, as well as provided compilations for Discwoman and *DJMag* alongside her NTS Radio residency. Shannen SP has gone on to provide A&R for NTS's in house label – curating the widely celebrated *Amapiano Now* compilation. As a vocalist, she has featured on Nazar's album and EP releases with Hyperdub.

The Institute of Contemporary Arts

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is an independent organisation that supports the most pressing debates in contemporary culture. From its home on The Mall, the geographic heart of the UK establishment, the ICA presents a programme that speaks to the challenges of the 21st century: ground-breaking exhibitions, performances, independent film and keynote lectures by many of the world's leading thinkers. Founded in 1946 by a collective of artists, poets and their supporters, the ICA played a pivotal role in the development of pop art and charted the course of punk, performance art and independent cinema. It has previously staged the first institutional exhibitions by artists including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Damien Hirst, Cindy Sherman and Cosey Fanni Tutti; historic performances and legendary concerts by artists such as Laurie Anderson, David Bowie, Einstürzende Neubauten and Yoko Ono; and critical discussions featuring the likes of Kathy Acker, Homi K. Bhabha, Stuart Hall and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and supported by the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund.



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