

ICA Announces July – September 2025 Programme



Albert Serra, *Afternoons of Solitude*, 2024, production still.

The ICA is pleased to share its July – September 2025 programme with highlights that include ***Connecting Thin Black Lines 1985 – 2025***, an exhibition revisiting and expanding the legacy of *The Thin Black Line* (1985), as well as announcing details on **Tanoa Sasraku's** new solo exhibition; premieres by filmmakers including **Albert Serra** and **Courtney Stephens**; a live programme featuring collaborations with **CTM** and **Atonal Festivals**, **Amber Mark** and **Baby Dee**; and the launch of **GLUE**, the ICA's new artist book fair, which brings together over 50 publishers for a weekend of exhibitions, talks and workshops.

The season reflects the ICA's commitment to cross-disciplinarity and artistic experimentation, with a focus on intergenerational exchange, cultural memory and emerging creative practice. This new season brings together a programme of exhibitions, film, live performance and talks, presenting new commissions, premieres, experimental music and discursive events across its spaces.

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EXHIBITIONS

Connecting Thin Black Lines 1985 – 2025 (24 June – 7 September 2025)

Spanning the ICA Lower Gallery and Concourse, *Connecting Thin Black Lines 1985 – 2025* brings together new commissions, and recent and historical works from **Brenda Agard, Sutapa Biswas, Sonia Boyce, Chila Kumari Burman, Jennifer Comrie, Lubaina Himid, Claudette Johnson, Ingrid Pollard, Veronica Ryan, Marlene Smith and Maud Sulter**. The exhibition seeks to expand contemporary interpretations and conversations around Himid's groundbreaking 1985 exhibition *The Thin Black Line*, reflecting on shared methodologies and infrastructures of resistance across four decades.

Himid has curated *Connecting Thin Black Lines 1985 – 2025* as a multi-vocal, multi-disciplinary project, bringing together artists across a range of practices beyond the exhibition, with an expansive public programme across film, performance, readings and live events. Highlights include a variety of screenings and Q&As throughout the three-month programme with **Pratibha Parmar, Helen Cammock, Sutapa Biswas and Amber Akaunu**; a performance evening with the Bermuda poetry collective **Vex'd Bermoothes on 15 July**; and a panel discussion on **27 August** exploring the continued resonance of the original exhibition's strategies. Additional performances in the summer months include *Music and Silence* by **Magda Stawarska and Zeynep Özsuca**, *Signals* with **Trevor Mathison, Gary Stewart and Tansy Spinks**, *Tracing The Thin Black Line* by **Rommi Smith with Christella Litras**, *Che si può fare* by **Helen Cammock** and a poetic response in the gallery by **Andra Simons**. The exhibition also extends online with an ICA Instagram takeover by **Tao Lashley-Burnley**. The full schedule of the programme can be found below.

Connecting Thin Black Lines 1985 – 2025 is supported by The Christian Levett Collection and Musée FAMM Mougins, The Ampersand Foundation, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, and Lubaina Himid.

Tanoa Sasraku: *Morale Patch* (7 October 2025 – 11 January 2026)

A new solo exhibition by **Tanoa Sasraku** opens in the Lower Galleries this autumn. Through process-driven works on paper, found objects, and sculpture, Sasraku examines the seductive and destructive power of oil – its ties to war and national identity – through the mediation of emblems and mementos. A public programme will be announced at a later date.

For more information about the exhibition programme, visit ica.art/exhibitions

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FILM

The ICA's cinema programme continues to platform bold, international and essayistic filmmaking across its core strands.

Off-Circuit, the programme that offers audiences a chance to encounter this generation's landmark films on screen for the very first time, presents the premieres of **Sammy Baloji's** *The Tree of Authenticity*, **Hong Sangsoo's** *What Does That Nature Say to You?*, **Sofia Bohdanowicz's** *Measures for a Funeral* (concluding her Audrey Benac cycle), **Albert Serra's** *Afternoons of Solitude*, a portrait of Peruvian-born bullfighter **Andrés Roca Rey**, and **Courtney Stephens and Callie Hernandez's** *Invention*.

The Celluloid Sunday Festival (11 – 20 July) marks the conclusion of the ICA's beloved series, celebrating analogue cinema with rare 35mm and 16mm screenings by **Edward Yang**, **Jim Jarmusch**, **David Cronenberg** and more. The programme 'Youths' (24 July – 17 August) gathers films that explore youth, solidarity, and identity through the formation of communities. Other highlights include **The Machine That Kills Bad People** (22 July), returning with a double bill by **Maya Deren** and **Kira Muratova**; **In Focus: Serge Daney** (29 August–4 September), a ten-film programme exploring the legacy of the influential critic in collaboration with **Sabzian**.

The ICA also welcomes the return of the **Hong Kong Film Festival** (13 – 28 September).

Our film programme encompasses over 50 weekly screenings, updated every Monday to include new releases and extended runs. For our full schedule, visit ica.art/films

LIVE

This season's Live programme spans electrifying performance, experimental music and movement workshops. **Amber Mark** opens the summer programme on 3 July, followed by our third collaboration with **CTM Festival** (4 – 6 September) supported by Goethe-Institut London. Spanning three nights, the festival features **emptyset**, **KAVARI**, **Lyra Pramuk**, **aya & MFO**, **Tarta Relena** and **VMO**.

Further events include performances from **Baby Dee** (2 September), **Atonal's** *Humanities* by **Laxlan Petras** (23 August), and upcoming appearances from **Ghosted**, a collaboration between Oren Ambarchi, Johan Berthling and Andreas Werliin (16 September), **Gazelle Twin**, **WOOM** and **The Grubby Mitts**.

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The ICA also presents **Resonance**, a three-part workshop series in collaboration with the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland (18 – 20 July), exploring collective movement and performance with artists **Teo Ala-Ruona, Miša Skalkis and Marika Peura**.

The full programme of Live events is available at ica.art/live

TALKS AND ENGAGEMENT

The ICA's Talks & Engagement programme continues to nurture dialogue across disciplines.

Key summer events include new iterations of the **Speaking Futures** programme in partnership with *AnOther* Magazine. Speaking Futures is a new flagship talks, performance and workshop programme exploring the intersection between art and life and celebrating artists as catalysts for imagining and shaping the future. **Sounding Futures** is the first collaborative performance between Diasporas Now co-founders (RIEKO, Lulu Wang, Paola Estrella) developed as part of the platform's yearlong residency and presented on 9 July, and **WIP: Sharing Space** will travel to 198 CAL in Brixton with a work in progress performance led by RIEKO and ICA Creatives on 22 July. This year's **ICA Creatives x Pesolife** programme culminates in a cross-disciplinary takeover of the theatre space (2 July), a new platform for interdisciplinary practice **PULSE** launches with Biogal on 17 July, and book launches include **Rosanna McLaughlin's** *Against Morality* (22 July) and **Hot Pencil Press'** *Letter to My Little Trans Self* on 30 July.

GLUE, the ICA's new annual artist publishing fair, launches 13 – 14 September with over 50 participating publishers including **Verso, Montez Press, Matts Gallery, Antenne and Four Corners**. The weekend includes talks, workshops with **Toe Press**, an open studio with **Different Gravy**, and exhibitions from **Hot Potato and Sana Badri**.

In addition, the Talks programme will host the **ICA Youth Forum** over the summer and will respond to *Connecting Thin Black Lines* with a collaborative sound work and listening party, exploring sound as a tool for dialogue and exchange.

For our full programme of Talks and Engagement click [here](#)

Members get free, discounted and priority-access tickets across our programme. Learn more at ica.art/become-a-member

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BOOKSHOP & MERCHANDISE

On the occasion of *Connecting Thin Black Lines*, the ICA republishes the original 1985 exhibition guide accompanied by a companion publication featuring new contributions by the participating artists.

The ICA also releases a range of merchandise in collaboration with Lubaina Himid, including a *Connecting Thin Black Line* tote bag featuring Himid's original design, and a postcard set featuring works by the exhibiting artists.

Two new poster designs are launched as part of the ICA's exclusive collection of archive posters from celebrated exhibitions, gigs, and talks.

Visit shop.ica.art

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2025 PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Stay connected with the ICA for additions to the programme via the newsletter sign-up [here](#) or follow the ICA on Instagram [here](#)

Exhibitions

Connecting Thin Black Lines 1985 – 2025 (24 June – 7 September): Revisiting Lubaina Himid's 1985 ICA exhibition, this multi-disciplinary show explores the practices of the exhibition's original artists Brenda Agard, Sutapa Biswas, Sonia Boyce, Chila Kumari Burman, Jennifer Comrie, Himid, Claudette Johnson, Ingrid Pollard, Veronica Ryan, Marlene Smith and Maud Sulter.

2 July, 7pm, Cinema

Pratibha Parmar: *Memory Pictures, Flesh & Paper, Khush* + Q&A

9 July, 7pm, Cinema

Sutapa Biswas: *Kali & Lumen* + Q&A

15 July, 7pm, Stage

Vex'd Bermoothes: An Evening with Four Bermuda Poets + Q&A

16 July, 7pm, Cinema

Helen Cammock: *There's a Hole in the Sky Parts I & II* + Performance

24 July, 7pm, Stage

Music and Silence (Live Performance): Magda Stawarska with Zeynep Özsuca

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27 July, 1pm, Stage

Signals: Trevor Mathison, Gary Stewart & Tansy Spinks

6 August, 7pm, Cinema

Pratibha Parmar: *Alice Walker – Beauty in Truth* + Q&A

10 August, 4pm, Gallery

If you look very closely the poem will paint itself – Andra Simons responds

13 August, 7pm, Cinema

Helen Cammock: *Changing Room, They Call It Idlewild* + Q&A

19 August, 7pm, Stage

Tracing The Thin Black Line: Rommi Smith with Christella Litras

20 August, 7pm, Cinema

Amber Akaunu: *Dear Othermother* + Q&A

27 August, 7pm, Cinema

Connecting Thin Black Lines: 1985, 2025 and Beyond Panel Discussion

28 August, 7pm, Stage

Gossip Keepers: Turtlemen + Q&A with Andra Simons

30 August, 1pm, Stage

Helen Cammock: *Che si può fare*

3 September, 7pm, Cinema

Pratibha Parmar: *Emergence, Sari Red, A Place of Rage* + Panel Discussion

Tanoa Sasraku: *Morale Patch* (7 October 2025 – 11 January 2026).

Film

11 – 20 July

Celluloid Sunday Festival: A celebration of analogue cinema with rare archival gems

10 July – 26 September

Off-Circuit: Premieres from Sammy Baloji, Hong Sangsoo, Sofia Bohdanowicz, Albert Serra and Courtney Stephens

24 July – 17 August

Youths: A season exploring youth and solidarity through cinema

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22 July

The Machine that Kills Bad People

29 August – 4 September

In Focus: Serge Daney

13 – 28 September

The Hong Kong Film Festival

Live

3 July, 7:30pm

Amber Mark

18 July, 6pm

Resonance, Teo Ala-Ruona: *Physical Magic*

19 July, 6pm

Resonance, Miša Skalskis: *Now That's What I Call Mash-Up*

20 July, 2pm

Resonance, Marika Peura: *Intimate Motions*

20 July, 8pm

Resonance Sharing Event

23 August, multiple time slots

Humanities, Laxlan Petras

2 September, 7:30pm

Baby Dee

4 September, 7:30pm

CTM x ICA, emptyset and KAVARI

5 September, 7:30pm

CTM x ICA, Lyra Pramuk and Tarta Relena

6 September, 7:30pm

CTM x ICA, aya & MFO and Violent Magic Orchestra

16 September, 7:30pm

Ghosted, Oren Ambarchi, Johan Berthling and Andreas Werliin

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25 September, 7:30pm
Gazelle Twin

26 September, 7:30pm
WOOM

27 September, 7:30pm
The Grubby Mitts

Talks & Engagement

2 July, 6pm
ICA Creatives × Pesolife Takeover

9 July, 7pm
Speaking Futures: Sounding Futures, Diasporas Now

17 July, 7pm
PULSE: Biogal

22 July, 7pm
WIP: Sharing Space

23 July, 7pm
Book Launch: Against Morality

30 July, 7pm
Book Launch: Letter to my Little Trans Self

13 & 14 September, 12 – 7pm
GLUE: Book Fair and Creative Programme

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About the Institute of Contemporary Arts

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is London's leading space for contemporary culture. We commission, produce and present new work in film, music, performance and the visual arts by today's most progressive artists. In our landmark home on The Mall in central London, we invite artists and audiences to interrogate what it means to live in our world today, with a genre-fluid programme that challenges the past, questions the present and confronts the future.

The ICA platforms the daring and the curious, supporting artists and ideas that challenge perceptions, inspire social change, and connect with diverse audiences locally and globally. As a space for bold, boundary-pushing creativity, we cultivate connections across disciplines, communities, and cultures. Our cross-disciplinary programming invites audiences to explore beyond the boundaries of individual art forms, fostering experimentation and the discovery of new perspectives. Open to all voices and ideas, we embrace interplay and interaction across club nights, film festivals, gigs, exhibitions, talks, and digital art. With inclusivity and collaboration at the heart of our work, we remain fearless in shaping contemporary creativity, connecting diverse voices, and making unexpected connections that define the future of arts and culture.

Our history of presenting and promoting visionary new art is unrivalled in London: from Kenneth Anger to Kathy Acker, Kano to Klein, Jackson Pollock to Jean-Michel Basquiat, Gay Sweatshop to Forensic Architecture, David Bowie to Stormzy, Pop Art to queer techno. Today, as ever, our inclusive programme reflects and represents who we are as a disparate and diverse collection of cultures and identities.

Exactly 78 years after a group of artists and poets founded the ICA as an alternative to the mainstream, we are committed more than ever to pave the way for the next generation and to platform creative voices. The ICA continues to celebrate risk and champion innovation, and experimentation across the arts – a playground and a home for today's most vital artists.

Central to the ICA's vision and mission is a commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion at all levels of the organisation. We want to create and maintain an ICA that is a positive environment where similarities and differences of people are valued – a space where everyone belongs and feels welcome. We hold ourselves accountable through our regularly reviewed Anti-Racism Strategic Plan; Equality and Diversity Policy and Action Plan; and Safety Policy.

Since its inception, the ICA has been the home of future-thinking ideas and urgent cultural discourse. We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment that encourages dialogue and debate, recognising that differing viewpoints are essential to the advancement of contemporary arts and culture.

The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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Access

If you have an access requirement that we can assist you with, please contact us in advance of your visit for more information at access@ica.art and we will make our best endeavours to help you. Full venue accessibility information can be found here, and you can download an accessibility map of the venue at ica.art/media/01795.pdf

Press Enquiries

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