

For Immediate Release

## Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London announces its April – June 2026 Programme Highlights



*Fuck the Polis*, dir. Rita Azevedo Gomes, Portugal 2025 (UK premiere as part of Long Takes and Off-Circuit)

From April to June 2026, the ICA presents an interdisciplinary programme of exhibitions, film, live music, performance, talks and book launches. In the Lower Gallery, ***Genuine Fake Premium Economy*** brings together artists **Jenna Bliss**, **Buck Ellison** and **Jasmine Gregory** in an exhibition probing what effect the post-financial-crash era has had on societal myths of fairness and progress through works that satirise, stage or appropriate the real. In April, multidisciplinary artist and musician **Arca** presents a selection of paintings from the *Angels* series in the Upper Galleries, followed by a collaborative film and sound installation by **Valentin Noujaim** and **Space Afrika**, in June.

In the cinemas, filmmaker-focused strands and festivals sit alongside new releases and premieres, including **Long Takes: Nothing But Life: The Cinema of Rita Azevedo Gomes** and the return of **Open City Documentary Festival** and **Queer East Festival**. **Off-Circuit** continues to introduce underseen contemporary work through UK and London premieres.

On the ICA Stage, a series of live events brings experimental hip-hop, electronics, soundtrack work and immersive playback into the room, with highlights including

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**By Storm, Juana Molina** as part of NTS Radio's 15-year celebrations, and a performance of new soundtrack music by **Laurel Halo** for a film by **Julian Charrière**.

The Talks & Engagement programme develops a season of book launches, screening-led conversations and performative formats, alongside longer-running strands including **Youth Forum** (with iniva and JGPACA), a new collaborative residency with **Visible Justice**, and the launch of the ICA Artist Development Residency with **Maite De Orbe**.

Spanning exhibitions, film, live music, performance, talks and book launches, the ICA's programme invites artists and audiences to come together to think with culture as it is being made.

## EXHIBITIONS

### **Arca**

4 – 19 April 2026, Upper Gallery

This exhibition brings together works from **Arca's Angels** series, shown in London for the first time. A multidisciplinary artist and musician, Arca moves across sound, performance and visual form with a practice shaped by experimentation, intensity and flux. Made with paint, marker and other media, the paintings unfold through layered gestures and shifting surfaces that evoke movement, sensation and unstable presence.

### ***Genuine Fake Premium Economy*: Jenna Bliss, Buck Ellison & Jasmine Gregory**

1 May – 5 July 2026, Lower Gallery

This group exhibition takes the pulse of a generation living and working in a broken global economy. The acceleration of wealth inequity, art traded as investment, and today's commodity culture are all uncomfortable realities for a growing number of emerging artists. Through satirising, staging and appropriating the real, ***Genuine Fake Premium Economy*** brings together three artists whose work probes how the post-2008 landscape has shaped everyday narratives of value, fairness and progress. The exhibition is accompanied by a programme of events including an Artists in Conversation on 2 May and Curators Tour for Members on 21 May.

### **Valentin Noujaïm and Space Afrika**

6 – 14 June 2026, Upper Gallery

This exhibition presents *Opera Omnia*, a collaborative film by **Valentin Noujaïm** and **Space Afrika**, alongside a new sound installation for the ICA's Upper Galleries.

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Across film and sound, Noujaim and Space Afrika create works shaped by atmosphere, texture and the affective force of space. In *Opera Omnia*, moving image, voice and sound are drawn into a suspended, after-hours landscape, while the installation extends this sensibility through the gallery.

For the full programme and bookings visit [ica.art/exhibitions](https://ica.art/exhibitions)

## FILM

In the cinemas, the April – June programme moves between filmmaker-focused strands, returning festivals and new releases. **Long Takes** returns with **Nothing But Life: The Cinema of Rita Azevedo Gomes** (2 May – 5 June), the first major retrospective of the filmmaker's work in the UK. The programme traces the distinctive paths of a filmmaker whose work is rooted in literature, theatre, music and art history, unfolding with a rare attentiveness to language, performance and the spaces that open between them.

**Off-Circuit**, the ICA's ongoing platform for formally adventurous and underseen contemporary cinema, continues with a run of premieres and new releases across the season. From 10 April, **Radu Jude's** *Dracula* receives its London premiere, resurrecting the figure of Dracula to dissect contemporary Europe and its myths through a collision of AI mischief and pornographic absurdity. From 1 May, the strand presents the UK premiere of **Julian Radlmaier's** *Phantoms of July*, an enigmatic comedy that sets past and present in uneasy relation. From 22 May, **Charlotte Zhang's** debut feature *Tycoon* receives its UK premiere followed by an in-person Q&A. Zhang's film is a paranoid spiral into a city on the brink as Los Angeles is encircled by ICE raids, shortages and infestations on the eve of the 2028 Olympics. In June, the strand continues with the UK premiere of **Rita Azevedo Gomes's** *Fuck The Polis* (from 5 June), drifting through Greek islands in language and song in a refusal of despair, and **Alexander Koberidze's** *Dry Leaf* (from 18 June), an opaque journey through the Georgian countryside in which a father traverses villages and football fields in search of his missing daughter.

The season also welcomes the return of **Open City Documentary Festival** (15 – 19 April) for its 16th edition, again offering a space for non-fiction cinema in its broadest sense. Running across the quarter, **Jean-Luc Godard: Unmade and Abandoned** continues to bring to light **Jean-Luc Godard's** unrealised and unfinished projects, tracing their connections with completed works and films by other directors, and revealing a working practice shaped as much by conditions and constraints as by ambition.

A concentrated artist focus follows with **In Focus: Niki de Saint Phalle** (8 – 10 May), presenting a duology of Saint Phalle's films for the first time in the UK in

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new 4K restorations. In May, the ICA also hosts **Queer East Festival** (2 – 17 May), a cross-disciplinary festival showcasing LGBTQ+ cinema, live arts and moving image work from East and Southeast Asia and its diaspora communities.

The season also marks the final outing of **The Machine That Kills Bad People** on 2 June, as the bi-monthly programme curated by **Erika Balsom**, **Beatrice Gibson**, **Maria Palacios Cruz** and **Ben Rivers** comes to a close.

For the full programme and bookings visit [ica.art/films](https://ica.art/films)

## LIVE

On the ICA Stage, the programme brings together experimental hip-hop, electronic music, soundtrack work and immersive playback, with a run of concerts and listening events across April and May. The season opens with **By Storm** on 3 April, the American duo (formerly Injury Reserve) comprising **Nathaniel “RiTchie” Ritchie** and **Parker Corey**. On 4 April, **Laurel Halo** returns with a performance of original soundtrack music composed for *Midnight Zone*, a film by visual artist **Julian Charrière**. Further April performances include **Kulku + Kiran Leonard** on 7 April, and **Purelink** on 9 April, whose sets move through dubbed ambience, live instrumentation and ebbing rhythmic experimentation.

As part of NTS Radio’s 15-year celebrations, **Juana Molina** performs two nights at the ICA on 13 and 14 April, with support and DJs across the evenings. In May, the Canadian post-punk collective **Crack Cloud** performs two nights (1 – 2 May) following their forthcoming double album *Peace and Purpose*, before **LYR** – the trio of UK Poet Laureate **Simon Armitage**, producer and multi-instrumentalist **Patrick Pearson** and singer-songwriter **Richard Walters** – brings spoken word and song to the Stage on 5 May.

In June we launch our next **In the Round** series presenting immersive performances from boundary-pushing new artists. Each show is built specially for our d&b Soundscape system, wrapping the audience in 360° sound as artists perform live from the centre of the room. Genre-defying, Manchester three-piece **The Orielles** are the first act to be announced (June 19) as they perform tracks of their forthcoming new album, *Only You Left*.

For the full programme and bookings visit [ica.art/live](https://ica.art/live)

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## TALKS & ENGAGEMENT

The season opens on 1 April with *Visual Diaries*, a lecture-performance by **Fabio Cherstich** honouring 1980s New York artists who died during the early years of the AIDS epidemic. Blending private archives, storytelling, and never-before-seen home movies, it begins a spring programme of events that moves between live formats and screen-led conversations.

On 8 April, a book launch, screening and talk marks the publication of *Pictures from Home*, a new volume on **Larry Sultan**, pairing the occasion with screenings of *Take the 5:10 to Dreamland* by **Bruce Conner** and *Safe* by **Todd Haynes**. Further book launches follow across April, including **Alessandro Sbordon**'s *Beyond the Image* on 9 April and **Karen McCarthy Woolf**'s *Unsafe: a disenchanting walk through the afterlives of colonialism* on 12 April, alongside the next phase of **ICA Creatives**, led this term by **Lulu Wang**.

Across May, the programme continues with events that bring publishing, performance and nightlife into contact. **INBETWEEN: ICA x AVC Magazine** takes over the Upper Gallery on 7 May with an evening of talks, screenings, exhibition encounters and displays organised around the theme of the “inbetween”, conceived as a collective act of worldmaking. Book launches include **Amelia Abraham**'s *Sex, Club, Dissent* on 13 May, followed on 27 May by a screening and talk centred on *Cruising*. On 6 May, **Eyal Weizman** launches *Ungrounding: The Architecture of Genocide*, while 30 May brings **Mindy Seu**'s lecture performance *A Sexual History of the Internet*, a live work examining the entanglements of technological development and sexuality, and the tensions between innovation and autonomy, lust and extraction.

Longer-running strands extend the season beyond single-night events. **PULSE** returns on 29 – 30 April in the Upper Gallery with an installation and artist talk by London-based artist **Lynn Phillis Seeger**, bringing together a three-channel moving image work assembled from iPhone-based footage to consider what it means to live with the sense of imminent crisis. **Youth Forum** continues in partnership with iniva and JGPACA, supporting youth-led discussion and activity across the programme. From May, the ICA launches two longer-term initiatives: a collaborative residency with **Visible Justice** examining justice through the legal concept of habeas corpus and the body as a site of injury and resistance; and the new **ICA Artist Development Residency** with **Maite De Orbe**, providing space for research and experimentation as the artist develops new approaches across photography, performance and moving image.

For the full programme and bookings visit [ica.art/talks](https://ica.art/talks)

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## Press Enquiries

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To download press images, visit [ICA's Dropbox](#)

## Visitor Information

ICA opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday, 12 – 11pm

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

Exhibition tickets: from £6.00

Pay What You Can: Tue to Sun, 12 – 1pm

Members go free

Exhibition opening times:

Monday: Closed

Tue to Sun: 12 – 8pm

## 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](mailto: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](http://ica.art/media/01795.pdf)

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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 79 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.