PRESS RELEASE

ICA announces its 2027 highlights and launches Emerging London

18 November 2026



Charlie Osborne. Photo by Yyannis Konstantinos.

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) announces plans for 2027, celebrating its 80th anniversary with the launch of "Emerging London" a new flagship season tuned to London's artistic communities.

Bringing together all strands of the ICA's programme – across visual art, film, live music and talks – **Emerging London** is a new annual season mapping emerging practices within London's artistic communities. In a city shaped by migration, economic pressure and cultural reinvention, the programme asks what is emerging, where it happens and what it needs to thrive. The inaugural edition will take place from January to March 2027, featuring the group exhibition ***CURRENTS*** (**Ana Viktoria Dzinic, Existers, Louis Morlae, Ruoru Mou** and **Claudia Williams**), a takeover by **Young Recordings**, a year-long critical forum for emerging film writers, programmers and filmmakers, a new collaboration with **Granta** and more.

Coinciding with the 80th anniversary, **Mirrors**, a new restaurant and wine bar will launch at the ICA in January 2027. A collaboration between Jimmy Stephenson (owner of East London wine bar Hector's), Emily Masters (formerly Hill & Szrok and The Eagle) and Cavan Power O'Keeffe (formerly senior sous chef at Planque

and Brawn) Mirrors will bring their distinctive approach to food and wine to one of London's most iconic cultural institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

As part of Emerging London, *CURRENTS* (**15 January–28 March 2027**) brings together a focused selection of London-based artists who have developed distinctive approaches to contemporary artmaking.

Across Lower and Upper Galleries, **Ana Viktoria Dzinic**, **Louis Morlæ**, **Ruoru Mou** and **Claudia Williams** present individual bodies of work that reflect each artist's recent concerns, while the artist-organiser duo **Existers** takes over the Back Gallery with a changing programme of three group shows featuring additional London-based artists (**15 January–14 February; 16 February–31 March; 23–28 March**). The selection of artists highlights the talent and breadth of artistic practice in London across sculpture, drawing, video, site-responsive installation, conceptual practice and curating.

Through new and recent work, the exhibition provides a platform for artists at a formative stage in their careers to present and develop their practices and reach wider audiences. A related event programme organised with each of the artists will take place throughout the season, exploring other aspects of their practices beyond what is on view within the galleries. A curator's tour and a members' tour also accompany the exhibition.

Later in 2027

In Spring, **Exhibitions** presents a new commission by **Hannah Quinlan** and **Rosie Hastings** that will comprise of new sculptural sound work, and a monumental site-specific fresco which considers the crowds that have historically occupied the area around the ICA – a site of power where monarchy, church, military and government converge with a history of protest, gay pride, and cruising. Prior to the exhibition, the Lower Gallery will host a presentation of artists' film and moving image by London-based artists. A new exhibition by **Akeem Smith** in summer will be followed by an autumn project exploring the work of **Alan Vega**, and *Look, Here! Queer Photography in Britain*, guest curated by **Gemma Rolls-Bentley** and **Russell Tovey** will close out the calendar year.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/exhibitions

FILM

As part of Emerging London, the ICA launches **Forum des Cinéastes**, a year-long critical forum for emerging film writers, programmers and filmmakers.

The wider film programme opens with *Parts I and II of My Undesirable Friends* (**2–14 January**) and *Matter of Fact: Films by Pascale Bodet* (**3–23 January**), an *In Focus* programme dedicated to exploring the work of a filmmaker who moves between documentary portraiture and wayward comedy. Bodet's latest film *A Lot Talk* receives its UK premiere with a Q&A on **15 January**, launching its *Off-Circuit* run. The *Off-Circuit* programme continues with the UK Premiere of **Hong Sangsoo's** latest film *Nowhere to Lay My Eyes* in February and **Mariaño Llínas'** epic *Life of Jorge Luis Borges* in March. The London Short Film Festival returns for its 24th edition (**22–31 January**), followed by the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme (**5–14 February**).

Long Takes presents the first ever UK retrospective of **João César Monteiro** (**18 February–4 April**), and *In Focus* continues with *Shadows of the Spring: The Normalisation Era in Czechoslovakia* (**26 February–3 April**). Two recurring programmes launch in February. *Light Reading,* a monthly series named after a work by Lis Rhodes, presents work by established figures in experimental cinema and artists developing new approaches to the moving image. *The Liberated Film Club* curated by **Stanley Schtinter** launches on **20 February**.

The January to March season also includes *Three Films by Otar Iosseliani* and screenings of work by **Iván Zulueta** and **Walerian Borowczyk**. *Narrow Margin* presents a double bill of **Kiyoshi Kurosawa's** *Spider's Eyes* and **Richard Fleischer's** *Follow Me Quietly* on **21 January** to coincide with the release of their latest issue, while *Surrender the Day*, a new programme dedicated to long-form cinema, screens *Les Vampires* (**16 January**) and *The Satin Slipper* (**20 March**).

Later in 2027

Film presents new seasons of *Long Takes* and *In Focus*, as well as fifteen *Off-Circuit* releases across the year showcasing international, independent, and avant-garde films that have not secured UK theatrical distribution. In April, *Cinema According to...Marta Mateus* is a special programme curated by the Portuguese filmmaker tracing her journey with cinema.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/films

LIVE

Emerging London opens its live music programme with South London singer-songwriter **JGrrey** (**15 January**), following the release of her second album, *you, me & jen*. In February, the season continues as part of *In the Round,* where artists work with the ICA's spatial sound system. **Studio Njoku** brings together **Tony Njoku** and others for *Conjuring* (**3 February**), an evening of improvised music. The season also includes **Charlie Osborne** (**11 February**), a Scenic Route night with **Curbside Lambsear, Gyeongsu & June** and **Vanessa Bedoret** (**17 February**), a **Young Recordings** takeover (**24–26 February**) and a standalone performance by Tony Njoku.

Elsewhere in the January to March season, Toronto-based musician and producer **MorMor** performs on **28 January**. The February edition of *In the Round* also includes **Trá Pháidín** (**6 February**), whose music draws on Irish traditional and experimental practices, **Vanishing Twin** (**16 February**).

Later in 2027

Live brings its *In the Round* seasons back in June and October, with collaborations across the year with **CTM**, **Unsound** and **Pitchfork Music Festival London**.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/live

TALKS & EVENTS

As part of *Emerging London*, *PULSE* follows the development of **Zein Majali's** work from a performance in the Theatre to a presentation in the Studio (**18 – 22 February**). A new collaboration with **Granta** explores the relationship between image, sound and text. It opens with *RAVE* (**10 February**), which looks at the history of rave through artists' practices, and continues with *STRUCTURES* (**3 March**), which asks how people make their mark on cities.

The season also includes a **Visible Justice** event focused on London-based practice, a sharing of work developed by **ICA Creatives** with **RESOLVE Collective** and a special screening by ICA Creatives alumni **Trespass Collective**.

Across the wider quarter, Visible Justice brings together **Sim Chi Yi, Tareq Baconi** and **Avery Gordon** (**12 January**) and concludes with a Theatre takeover (**13 March**). The publishing programme includes a Verso event with **Natasha Lennard** and **Asa Seresin** (**20 January**), the launch of **Théo Casciani's** *Rat Section* with Hela Press, an event with **Tariq Goddard** and the launch of the fourth issue of *Pina Magazine*, featuring **Steffani Jemison**. ICA Creatives continues its collaboration with RESOLVE Collective throughout the quarter.

Later in 2027

Talks & Events hosts a residency with writer and curator **Gem Fletcher** exploring the future of the image, ICA Creatives takes over spaces across the building in July with **RESOLVE Collective**, and *GLUE*, the ICA's annual independent publishing fair, returns later in the year.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/talks

Bengi Ünsal, Director of the ICA said: "The ICA was founded on the belief that culture moves forward when artists have the freedom to challenge conventions, take risks and imagine alternatives. Eighty years later, that belief feels more relevant than ever.

Our 2027 programme is about strengthening the conditions that make artistic experimentation possible. We want the ICA to remain the place where artists test ideas before they are fully formed, where different disciplines and communities meet, and where new voices can find the support and visibility they need. Our role is to bolster the ever increasingly fragile ecology that artists work within.

The ICA exists to champion artists at those early and often uncertain stages of development, because today's emerging ideas have the power to shape tomorrow's culture."

Supporters

Emerging London is supported by Cockayne Grants for the Arts, a Donor Advised Fund, held at The Prism Charitable Trust.

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ENDS

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To download press images, visit ICA's Dropbox

Vistor Information

ICA opening hours:
Tuesday to Sunday, 12 – 11pm
Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London, SW1Y 5AH

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 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 www.ica.art/media/01795.pdf

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.