

Whitechapel Gallery Season Guide

Spring 2015

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Exhibition

Christopher Williams: The Production Line of Happiness

29 April–21 June 2015

Galleries 1, 8 & 9 (Victor Petitgas Gallery)

A finger poised on a camera – its open back revealing the film roll and mechanism – sets the scene for this exhibition of photographs about photography. Somewhere between a film director, a picture editor and an art historian, American artist **Christopher Williams** (b.1956) investigates photography as the defining medium of modernism.

Williams' exquisite prints reveal the unexpected beauty and cultural resonance of commercial, industrial and instructional photography. Often working with set designers, models and technicians, Williams' technically precise pictures recall Cold War era imagery and 1960s advertising, as well as invoking histories of art, photography and cinema. His photographs are elements at play in a larger system including architecture, exhibition design, books, posters, videos, vitrines and signage that investigates the stage sets of the art world and the publicity structures on which they rely.

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From his renowned 1989 studies of botanical specimens, *Angola to Vietnam*, to the hyper-real, colour saturated studies of kitchenware made in 2014, this first survey of Williams' work in the UK immerses us in visually enthralling and politically resonant lines of enquiry.

Free entry. Guest curated by Mark Godfrey. Organised with MoMA and The Art Institute of Chicago. This exhibition has been generously supported by: The Artworkers Retirement Society, Gisela Capitain and David Zwirner. Funded by the Kunststiftung NRW.

Project

Max Mara Art Prize for Women in collaboration with the
Whitechapel Gallery: Corin Sworn

20 May–19 July 2015

Gallery 2

Corin Sworn's new work is inspired by the characters and tales of mistaken identity from the Italian *Commedia dell'Arte* theatre, performed from the 16th century by touring troupes. These plays and vagabond actors influenced Shakespeare and artists from Goya to Picasso. Sworn's installation uses performative and theatrical devices – props, lighting and costumes – to retell an infamous story of deception and imposture. Sworn (b. 1976) lives in Glasgow and is the latest winner of the Max Mara Art Prize for Women, which nurtures female artists based in the UK in making a new work of art following an Italian residency. The judges included Director Iwona Blazwick, artist Runa Islam, gallerist Pilar Corrias, collector Candida Gertler and curator Lisa Le Feuvre.

Free entry . Supported by Max Mara and Collezione Maramotti.

Collection

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye selects from the V-A-C collection:

Natures, Natural and Unnatural

17 March–14 June 2015

Gallery 7

Painter Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (b. 1977) chooses art inspired by nature for this spring display from the V-A-C collection, Moscow. Russian artist Aristarkh Lentulov links ‘the natural’ with the avant garde – his futurist masterpiece of naked *Bathers* (1910) pulsates with raw energy. Their dynamism is echoed by contemporary Russian artist Nikolay Bakharev who persuaded bathers at the seaside to pose for him under the trees. Dappled skin, swimwear and foliage combine to create elegiac black and white photographs. Nature goes pop with US artist Andy Warhol’s transformation of a cow from an ad for dairy products into a silkscreened icon; while UK artist David Hockney dazzles with his vases of hot-house sunflowers. British painter Peter Doig conjures from memory the eerie splendour of Ontario pine forests.

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Jan Toomik dances in front of his father's grave in his native Estonian woodland to the soundtrack of Jimi Hendrix' *Voodoo Child* evoking the lost wilds of youth in this multi-dimensional exploration of human and organic nature.

Free entry. The Whitechapel Gallery's programme of collection displays is supported by Hiscox.

Archive

A Utopian Stage: Festival of Arts Shiraz-Persepolis

21 April–4 October 2015

Pat Matthews Gallery (Gallery 4)

The ancient Persian ruins of Persepolis were a spectacular backdrop for 'one of the most adventurous and idiosyncratic festivals in the world' (Artforum). The Festival of Arts was held around Shiraz, Iran every summer from 1967–1977.

A melting pot of traditional and avant-garde music, theatre and performance, the festival featured artists from both East and West, including the Beatles' muse, sitar player Ravi Shankar and American composer John Cage, alongside Rwandan drummers and Balinese Gamelan musicians and dancers. *Orghast*, a play by poet Ted Hughes and Mahin Tajadod, co-directed by Peter Brook, was staged, while Merce Cunningham's dancers performed calisthenics among the ruins of Persepolis. The festival came to an end with the Iranian revolution, but is now brought to life through this display of archive film and photographs, original theatre programmes and posters seen for the first time in the UK.

Free entry. Curated by Vali Mahlouji in association with The Whitechapel Gallery. The Whitechapel Gallery archive exhibitions are generously supported by Catherine and Franck Petitgas. This exhibition has been generously supported by the *A Utopian Stage: The Shiraz-Persepolis Festival of the Arts* Exhibition Circle and those who wish to remain anonymous.

Project

Peter Liversidge: Notes on Protesting

17 March–14 June 2015

Outset Project Gallery (Gallery 5) & 176/ Zabłudowicz

Collection Project Gallery

(Gallery 6)

What if we could change the world? Inspired by ideas around demonstration and protest, British artist Peter Liversidge (b.1973) worked with sixty children on a performance staged at the Whitechapel Gallery on May Day 2014. Together they created songs, choreography, banners and placards which expressed their views on everything from ‘No more homework’ and ‘Our shoes are too tight’ to ‘I don’t like cooked tomatoes’ and ‘Less trucks and cars. More chocolate bars!’

This exhibition presents a film of the performance, alongside documentation of the workshops and rehearsals.

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Over four months Liversidge worked closely with children aged 8 to 9 years old from the Marion Richardson Primary School in east London to discuss community, commonly held ideas and the power of a collective voice. The performance is restaged on 1 May 2015, see Events.

Free entry. Supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Original performance commissioned by the Emdash Foundation and realised in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery.

Artists' Film International

Anatoly Shuravlev, Tran Luong, Vahap Avşar

29 April–14 July 2015

Zilkha Auditorium

This season of artists' film and video from around the world explores the theme of conflict. Russian-born, Berlin-based artist Anatoly Shuravlev's *Panic* (2011) sees the artist shooting at the walls of a white cube gallery. It represents his violent demonstration against the blank conformity of exhibition spaces.

Vietnamese artist Tran Luong's *Lâp Loè / Welts* (2012) is derived from a performance that began in 2007 in which the artist invites an audience to flick his body with a red scarf, an item of historical and political significance associated with Communism. Vahap Avşar's *Road to Arguvan* (2013) is filmed in the artist's native Malatya Province, Turkey. It follows a road destroyed by unknown forces, leaving a long jagged rift that renders the road, which was once a major route to the east of the country, seemingly useless.

Free entry. Films selected by n.b.k, Berlin, Germany; Hanoi DOCLAB, Hanoi, Vietnam; Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey.

Events

April.

Jem Cohen Compass and Magnet: Films 1989–2014

Brooklyn-based artist film-maker Jem Cohen (b. 1962) is one of cinema's pre-eminent essay and diary makers. Working with renowned independent musicians such as Patti Smith and Vic Chesnutt, Cohen has made more than seventy works over three decades. The Whitechapel Gallery presents six screenings in Cohen's first UK retrospective film season with Barbican and Hackney Picturehouse.

Jem Cohen: Museum Hours *Film*

Thurs 9 April, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

A rare chance to meet film director **Jem Cohen** and see his highly acclaimed 2012 feature, a lyrical and moving tribute to the power of art, a hymn to friendship, and a subtle portrait of the city of Vienna and its margins.

Jem Cohen: From Gravity Hill *Film*

Sat 11 April, 1.30–6pm

(£10.50/£8.50 conc.)

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Twelve short films capture the energy of 2011's Occupy Wall Street protest. With Jem Cohen in conversation about his work, and a special preview of his latest feature-length film.

Out of Time, Out of Place:Public Art (Now) *Talk*

Thurs 16 April, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Claire Doherty, Director of Situations, and Magdalena Malm, Director of Public Art Agency Sweden, are joined by Nato Thompson, Chief Curator of Creative Time, and artist Heather Morison to discuss the risks, delights and challenges of producing new progressive forms of public art.

In association with Situations, Public Art Agency Sweden, European Network of Public Art Producers and Art / Books.

This event launches *Out of Time, Out of Place: Public Art (Now)*, edited by Claire Doherty.

**Christopher Williams: The
Production Line of Happiness**

Audio Description Tour

Sat 18 April, 23 May and 6 June,

2–3.15pm (Free, booking required)

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Explore the exhibition with detailed audio description and tactile images. For blind and partially sighted visitors.

Whitechapel Walks *Tour*

Sun 19 April, 3 May and 7 July,

3pm (Free)

Join a walking tour exploring the rich history of the Gallery and neighbourhood.

Jem Cohen: *The Passage Clock Film*

Thurs 23 April, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

A rich and rewarding collection of seven short films, including the titular tribute to Walter Benjamin with Patti Smith, a portrait of Jean Vigo's daughter, Luce, and a compelling immersion in Catania, Sicily.

April–September 2015

Heather Phillipson: *Writer in Residence*

Encompassing video, audio, sculpture, drawing and text,

Heather Phillipson's work is rooted in the written and spoken word and in the colour and forms of her vibrant displays.

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She is the Whitechapel Gallery writer in residence from April– September 2015 with live events and digital activity.

Artist Pages, Policies and Criticism

Sat 25 Apr, 3pm (£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

What role did Studio International play in shaping editorial tactics in art magazines? Jo Melvin, curator of *Five Issues of Studio International*, at Raven Row, leads a panel discussion on art magazines, editorial policy and the role of criticism in the 1960s and 70s.

In collaboration with Raven Row.

Christopher Williams: Walls Words Pictures Lessons *Talk*

Thurs 30 April, 7pm and Fri 1 May,

11am–6pm (Thurs: £8.50/£6.50

conc. Fri: £15/£12.50 conc.)

Across two events, artist Christopher Williams and guests explore the themes of architecture, printed matter, photography and pedagogy. Led by Mark Godfrey speakers include Michael Newman, Alexis Teplin and Carey Young.

May

Notes on Protesting *Performance*

Fri 1 May, 12pm (Free)

Sixty children from Marion Richardson Primary School perform at the Gallery to celebrate the project and exhibition developed with artist **Peter Liversidge**.

Jem Cohen: the City and the Music *Film*

Thurs 7 May, 6.45pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Two programmes of shorter films, exploring the people and sites of New York City in luminous detail and inspired by Cohen's love of innovative music, in collaboration with Blonde Redhead, Xylouris White and others.

Diedrich Diederichsen:

Big Ideas *Talk*

Thurs 14 May, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

In the context of Christopher Williams' show, the German author, music journalist and cultural critic discusses the conceptual artist's performances.

Jem Cohen: Amber City & Buried in Light *Film*

Sat 16 May, 2.30pm–6pm

(£10.50/£8.50 conc.)

Amber City (1999) presents a strikingly impressionistic take on an un-named city in Italy, while *Buried in Light* (1994) offers a cinematic collage on profound change in Central and Eastern Europe. Plus a second programme of New York films. Introduced by poet and critic **Sophie Mayer**.

Hou Hanru: Exhibition Histories *Talk*

Thurs 21 May, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Curator Hou Hanru is in conversation with Afterall Journal's **Lucy Steeds** to discuss *Cities on the Move* (1997–2000), co-curated with Hans Ulrich Obrist, and some of his related curatorial projects.

In association with Afterall.

Chisato Minamimura on Christopher Williams *Tour*

Thurs 21 May, 7.30pm

(Free, booking required)

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The choreographer, dancer and teacher gives an introduction and personal response to the current exhibition in British Sign Language. For deaf visitors, with audio interpretation.

Open Screenings *Film*

Thurs 28 May, 5pm (Free)

Meet six emerging and established artist filmmakers as they present their short film works and discuss with peers and Adjunct Film Curator **Gareth Evans**. To take part in future: film@whitechapelgallery.org

Jem Cohen: Chain *Film*

Thurs 28 May, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

Cohen's prescient and insightful 2004 feature is a profound investigation of the new 'nonplaces'. A hypnotic, highly original work about what it's like to live in the global corporate landscape.

Retracing a Utopian Stage *Talk*

Thurs 28 May, 7pm

(£8.50/£6.50 conc.)

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Curator Vali Mahlouji leads a conversation discussing the key themes of performance, ritual, censorship and East-West politics that arise when considering the Shiraz-Persepolis Festival of Arts, its contemporary reception and documentation in archives.

Performance and Politics *Talk*

Sat 30 and Sun 31 May, 11.30–6pm

(£15/£12.50 conc. one day,
£25/£20 conc. two day)

A weekend exploring the history of performance art in London and the UK in the 1970s. Presentations by artists and scholars focusing on the social and political environments in which experimental performance art emerged. In collaboration with Dominic Johnson and Nicholas Ridout, Department of Drama, Queen Mary University of London.

June

Mark Godfrey on Christopher Williams *Tour*

Thurs 4 June, 7pm (Free)

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Art historian and guest-curator **Mark Godfey** leads a tour of the current exhibition, introducing the artist's work and the key themes of the show.

Cally Spooner *Talk*

Thurs 11 June, 7pm

(£10.50/£8.50 conc.)

Using her forthcoming film and *Christopher Williams* as reference points, the artist is joined by **Antonia Blocker**, Curator: Public Programmes, to discuss art that adopts the language of production and industry as its content.

Christopher Williams Selects *Film*

Sat 13 June, 1–6pm

(£10.50/£8.50 conc.)

Chosen by artist Christopher Williams, four remarkable films: Peter Kubelka's *Arnulf Rainer*, Jean Rouch & Edgar Morin's *Chronicle of a Summer*, Morgan Fisher's *Picture and Sound Rushes* and Noel Burch & Allan Sekula's *The Forgotten Space*. With an introduction.

Setting the Scene *Talk*

Thurs 18 June, 7pm

(£10.50/£8.50 conc.)

Looking at Corin Sworn's installation, Eisler Curator **Daniel F. Herrmann**, and **Simon Donger**, Course Leader of Scenography at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, discuss theatricality in contemporary art and stage design.

FLAMIN: the Artists Present... *Film*

Sat 27 June, 11.30am–6pm (£10)

Artist film-makers **Beatrice Gibson**, **Larissa Sansour** and **Sarah Turner** and present material that has inspired their FLAMIN commissioned works. In association with Film London Artists' Moving Image Network.

Families

Family Day: The Factory of Images *Workshop*

Sat 30 May, 12–4pm (free)

Get inspired by Christopher Williams' photography with your family. Join artist **Albert Potrony's** factory-like assembly line to discover and direct your own ways of making, re-making and transforming images. Explore the exhibition with a new activity trail by artist **Joanna Brinton**.

Children's Workshop: Storytelling Through Photographs

Workshop

Weds 27 & Thurs 28 May, 10am–4pm

(£58 for two days)

Work in a photographic studio with artist **Marysa Dowling**. Create images using a range of lighting and sets. Family and friends are invited to join a final exhibition by the children. For children aged 9-12 years.

Crib Notes: Christopher Williams *Tour*

Weds 10 June, 10am–12pm

(£5, includes refreshments)

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Join Daskalopoulos Head of Education and Public Programmes **Sofia Victorino** on a tour of the exhibition with your baby or toddler in tow. Enjoy refreshments and a chat afterwards. For parents and carers with infants under 5.

Saturday Drawing Workshops *Workshop*

Every Sat in May & June

& 4 July (£150 per term)

Join these popular artist-led weekend drawing sessions for young people aged 10–15. In association with The Royal Drawing School.

Youth & Community

Duchamp & Sons Takeover

Sat 4 July, 1–5pm. Open to all

What happens when young people are given a space to make art in and curate? See art made by the Gallery's youth forum alongside live performances selected by the group. Get an insight to their ideas and plans as they develop at whitechapelgallery.org/learn

Schools & Teachers

Teachers' Preview: Christopher Williams

Thurs 7 May, 5–7pm (Free)

Teachers are invited to a tour of the exhibition, to meet the education team and hear more about the new season and opportunities to take part.

Teachers' Workshop

Thurs 21 May, 4.30–6.30pm (Free)

With a focus on photography and conceptual art, this session gives teachers space to develop their ideas, skills and creativity through art making and discussion. Led by Ania Bas and Ellie Green from THAT Network.

School Workshops

Throughout May and June (Free)

During these lively hands-on workshops for primary schools, pupils take part in practical activity, art making and discussion using the photography of Christopher Williams as a starting point.

Gallery Visits

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Book a free self-led visit to explore the exhibitions, including an introduction to the Gallery and use of the Clore Creative Studio. School resources downloadable at whitechapelgallery.org/learn

Whitechapel Gallery Café/Bar

Enjoy breakfast, freshly-made pastries and cakes, seasonal lunches or delicious winter suppers and drinks.

whitechapelgallery.org/cafe-bar

Venue Hire

The Whitechapel Gallery offers unique and multifunctional spaces for events and can cater for all functions from intimate dinners to conferences for up to 350 guests. To find out more, email: hire@whitechapelgallery.org

Access

For details on parking, assistance dogs, adapted toilets, lifts, large print transcripts and free audio described tours or any other access facilities:

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info@whitechapelgallery.org

Please return this booklet to Front of House.