

Whitechapel Gallery Season Guide

SUMMER 2016

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EXHIBITIONS

Mary Heilmann: Looking at Pictures

8 June – 21 August 2016

Galleries 1, 8 & 9

The surreal beach life of Los Angeles, the 1960s counter culture, pop songs and friendships with New York artists, poets and musicians are the well springs of Mary Heilmann's dazzling abstractions. 'Every piece of abstract art that I make has a backstory'. Heilmann (b. 1940) takes colour, line and shape on unexpected journeys. Polka dots waft across eye-popping hues corralled within irregular rectangles. The poetry of her works lies in the tension between the rigours of geometry and the contingencies of the human and the organic.

Looking at Pictures begins with paintings based on the square, the grid and architectural details, such as *The First Vent* (1972). They are juxtaposed with glazed ceramics, hovering between painting and sculpture. A slide show, *Her Life* (2006), features Heilmann's paintings and personal photographs set to an eclectic mix of music.

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Choreographed across the long upper gallery dynamic canvases represent 'autobiographical markers', painterly haikus of the artist's life. Their vibrancy is matched by their titles – *Bush of Ghosts* (1980) or *Good Vibrations Diptych, Remembering David* (2012). Heilmann invites the viewer to become immersed in her synaesthetic stories while sitting in her colourful chairs.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Edwina Ashton

26 April – 14 August 2016

Galleries 5 & 6

Drawing inspiration from 19th-century novels and natural history illustrations, British artist **Edwina Ashton** (b. 1965) presents darkly humorous films, drawings and sculptures. Renowned for her interest in animals, zoology and our perceptions of nature, the artist uses her invented creatures to explore human emotions, foibles and worldviews. Her characters emerge from sketches, overheard conversations and experiments with second-hand materials. Most of her creatures appear in films and occasionally they appear in public.

Ashton is fascinated by how animals think, how language shapes our world and how materials suggest the imaginary. While recognising that humans are animals, she explores the subtle relationships between them, interweaving scientific and poetic sensibilities. Alongside this commission Ashton worked with primary school children: looking at how they gather ideas, sounds and images.

EXHIBITION

Keith Sonnier: Light Works

10 June – 11 September 2016

Gallery 2

Making three-dimensional drawings with neon, American artist **Keith Sonnier** (b.1941) bathes spaces and bodies in the radiance of coloured light. Coming of age with a group of artists that included Lynda Benglis, Mary Heilmann, Bruce Nauman and Richard Serra, he uses a post-minimalist language that is physically immediate yet associative. American critic Donald Kuspit remarks, 'Sonnier's sculpture attracts our attention, like semaphore signals from a strange zone of feeling'.

Four major early neon works made between 1968 and 1970 transform the 19th-century architecture of the Gallery. 'Neon has always been a material in signage that one lays flat, and one in fact writes with. But I began to lift it from the board, and pull out into space, and use it in a much more three-dimensional form'. He combines neon with other industrial materials like glass, foam rubber and wiring. Geometric form contrasts with dashes of colour and a luminous glow to suggest the syntax of poetry and a nod to Sonnier's roots in the multi-lingual, Creole culture of Louisiana.

COLLECTION

Barjeel Art Foundation Collection:

Mapping the Contemporary 1

26 April – 14 August 2016

Gallery 7

The Barjeel Art Foundation holds an extensive collection of art from the Arab world. This display looks at the rise of media-based practices among a generation of artists who emerged in the 1990s. Dealing with issues of migration, the aftermath of war and media representations of history and culture, artists such as Lebanon-born **Walid Raad** (b. 1967) and **Akram Zaatari** (b. 1966) construct real and imagined archives out of Beirut and Cairo, while **Yto Barrada** (b. 1971) maps and photographs her hometown of Tangier tracking border crossings and those who hope for a better life across the Mediterranean.

The display features artists from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, United Arab Emirates and the United States and includes **Joana Hadjithomas** and **Khalil Joreige**, **Mona Hatoum**, **Khaled Hourani**, **Mohammed Kazem**, **Maha Maamoun**, **Basim Magdy**, **Michael Rakowitz** and **Abdul Hay Mosallam Zarara**.

ARCHIVE

Imprint 93

19 March – 25 September 2016

Gallery 4

A seminal generation of artists are brought together in the first complete presentation of curator **Matthew Higgs'** pioneering mail art project *Imprint 93*.

From 1993 to 1998, Higgs invited artists including **Billy Childish, Martin Creed, Jeremy Deller, Peter Doig, Ceal Floyer, Alan Kane, Chris Ofili, Elizabeth Peyton and Jessica Voorsanger** to create a work to be sent anonymously through the post to Londoners loosely affiliated to the art world.

From crumpled balls of paper to an exam for failed artists, *Imprint 93* reveals the conceptual poetics, satirical bite and bold entrepreneurship of a formative moment in British art.

EXHIBITION

Artists' Film International

7 June – 2 October 2016

Zilkha Auditorium

Karin Sander, Igor Jesus and Igor Bošnjak

7 June – 7 August

This selection of artists' film focuses on materiality. German-based Karin Sander (b. 1957) loops a 1930s reel, where the stains and scratches on the original celluloid bounce like the child's ball in the footage. *POV* (2015) by Portuguese Igor Jesus (b. 1989) captures a speaker plummeting from the sky as the landscape unravels around it. While *EUtopia* (2015–16) tracks the contours of an oil painting of Europe by Bosnian Igor Bošnjak (b. 1981), following its reliefs as if it were another, utopian planet.

Zeyno Pekünlü and The Institute for New Feeling

9 August – 2 October

The impact of technology in our mediated lives is explored through the work of US collective The Institute of New Feeling. *This is Presence* (2016), offers a sophisticated array of lifestyle choices available online by borrowing from the language of corporate branding, health and beauty, and new age healing. (continues on next page)

How to properly touch a girl so you don't creep her out?
(2015) by Turkish artist Zeyno Pekünlü (b.1980), collates material posted online by pick-up life coaches to reveal their deceitful methods.

PUBLICATIONS & EDITIONS

Whitechapel Gallery publishes an exciting range of art books and exhibition catalogues, as well as the acclaimed Documents of *Contemporary Art and ON&BY* series of critical anthologies. Collaborating with established and emerging international artists, the Gallery also produces highly collectible limited edition artworks across a range of media. Iconic American artist **Matthew Barney** (b.1967) has created a limited edition copper plate etching for the Whitechapel Gallery. It is a rebus of a buried bison, derived from his recent film-opera *River of Fundament* (2014) and is donated by the artist in support of the Gallery's exhibitions and education work.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION TOURS AND BSL EVENTS

Mary Heilmann: Audio Description Tour

Wednesday 15 June, 11.30am,

Saturday 16 July, 1.00pm,

Wednesday 3 August, 11.30am

Free, booking required

Explore the exhibition with this detailed audio description, including tactile images.

For blind and partially sighted visitors.

Chisato Minamimura on Mary Heilmann

Tour

Saturday 16 July, 11.30am

Free, booking required

Explore the exhibition with an introduction and personal response in British Sign Language.

For blind and partially sighted visitors.

FILM SEASON

Laura Mulvey & Peter Wollen

This season *Beyond the Scorched Earth of Counter-Cinema* provides a rare opportunity to explore the individual and collaborative films made by the groundbreaking film theorists Laura Mulvey (b. 1941) and Peter Wollen (b. 1938). After writing their early influential texts – Wollen’s *Signs and Meaning in the Cinema* and Mulvey’s ‘Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema’ – they made six films together between 1974 and 1983. Their varied output moves across the genres of documentary, narrative and avant-garde film. Curated by Oliver Fuke.

Mulvey, Wollen and Art

Film

Thursday 12 May, 7–9pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

Mulvey and Wollen’s films on artists. *Frida Kahlo and Tina Modotti* (Mulvey/Wollen) documents the Whitechapel Gallery exhibition of 1982; *Full Cycle: the Art of Komar and Melamid* (Wollen) focuses on the two Russian artists. Introduced by Mark Francis.

Beyond the Scorched Earth of Counter-Cinema

Film

Saturday 14 May, 11.30am–6pm

£15/£12.50 concs

A day-long exploration of Mulvey and Wollen's two most influential films, *Penthesilea: Queen of the Amazons* and *Riddles of the Sphinx*; includes a Q&A with Mulvey and a lecture by German academic Volker Pantenburg. Supported by the Goethe Institut, London.

AMY! and Crystal Gazing

Film

Sunday 15 May, 3–5.30pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

AMY! explores the image of the heroine and the 'narrative spheres allotted to female protagonists', whereas *Crystal Gazing*, set during Margaret Thatcher's first administration, is concerned with the lives of four 'cultural workers'.

Introduced by academic, Esther Leslie.

The Bad Sister

Film

Thursday 19 May, 7–9pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

Mulvey and Wollen's final collaborative feature, *The Bad Sister*, shot on videotape for Channel 4, is a complex adaptation of Emma Tennant's novel of the same name. Includes an in conversation with Mulvey and BAFTA award-winning cinematographer and director Diane Tammes.

Laura Mulvey's Recent Collaborations /

The Many Lives of Peter Wollen: Part 1

Film

Saturday 21 May, 11.30am–6pm

£15/£12.50 concs

The first part of the event presents Mulvey's collaborations with Mark Lewis, *Disgraced Monuments and 23rd August 2008* (also with Faysal Abdullah) including Mulvey and Lewis in conversation. The second part shows Wollen's *Friendship's Death*, on 16mm, featuring Tilda Swinton and Bill Paterson. Followed by an in conversation event with special guests.

The Many Lives of Peter Wollen: Part 2

Film

Sunday 22 May, 2–4pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

A screening of rarely seen works made by Wollen for both British and American television stations. With a special introduction.

The Many Lives of Peter Wollen: Part 3

Film

Sunday 22 May, 8–10.30pm

Offsite at Close Up Film Centre, E1

Tickets: closeupfilmcentre.com

Wollen and Mark Peploe wrote the screenplay for Michelangelo Antonioni's enigmatic 1975 masterpiece, *The Passenger*, starring Jack Nicholson. The film is given a very rare 35mm screening to close the season.

EVENTS

May

Whitechapel Walks

Tour

Sundays 1 May, 5 June, 3 July,

7 August, 3pm

Free

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

The Yes Men Fix the World

Film

Thursday 5 May, 7pm

Free with exhibition entry, booking required or

£9.50/£7.50 concs.

As part of *Electronic Superhighway*, this screening of the activist duo The Yes Men's second film reveals their satirical approach, working to expose corporations and government organisations through spoof websites and guerrilla public appearances.

Cory Arcangel

Talk

Saturday 7 May, 3pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

The artist discusses his engagement with art and technology, including his collaboration with the Andy Warhol Museum and the Carnegie Computer Club restoring Warhol's lost Amiga files; *Working On My Novel*, his debut novel; and Arcangel Surfware, a merchandising outfit.

Emily Butler on Electronic Superhighway

Tour

Thursday 12 May, 6.30pm

Free with exhibition entry, booking required

One of the exhibition's curators gives a tour introducing selected artists and exploring the key themes of the extensive show.

Collecting Contemporary Art Course

Thursday 19 May to Saturday 21 May

£599/£540 concs

This intensive course provides an essential introduction to collecting and includes key steps to building a collection and

clear guidance on how to navigate the art market with confidence. With opportunities to meet and discuss the art of collecting with artists, gallerists and leading collectors this course will help you to identify current trends in contemporary art.

Zineb Sedira

Talk

Friday 20 May, 3pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

The French-born, London-based artist is joined in conversation by Whitechapel Gallery Director Iwona Blazwick to discuss her work, and how personal experience might frame questions about the intersections of Eastern and Western culture and identity. In collaboration with Photo London.

Nayia Yiakoumaki on Imprint 93

Tour

Thursday 26 May, 6.30pm

Free, booking required

The Archive Gallery Curator leads a tour of the display, introducing the themes, context and motivation behind the artists' mail art project.

Sonia Khurana and Griselda Pollock

Talk

Thursday 26 May, 7pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs.

Working across film, photography, installation and performance, Indian artist Khurana discusses her practice with theorist Pollock, weaving personal histories and historical moments as a way to address representations of femininity and gender.

UNLIMITED ACTION: Limits of Performance

Symposium

Saturday 28 May, 1–6pm

£12.50/£10.50 concs

What limits are imposed on performance and by who? This event brings together artists to explore questions related to the limits of the body, performance, aesthetics, material conditions, institutional practices, pleasure, and desire. Speakers include artist Anne Bean, Nigel Rolfe and Ulay, who will also perform. In collaboration with Dominic Johnson (Queen Mary University of London), supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

JUNE

Mary Heilmann: In Conversation

Tour

Thursday 9 June, 10am

£9.50/£7.50 concs

With a foundation in the popculture and aesthetic of her West-Coast youth, the US artist's abstract work encompasses personal narratives while challenging dominant Minimalist rhetoric. She gives an exclusive tour of her first UK retrospective.

Keith Sonnier: In Conversation

Talk

Friday 10 June, 3pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

The American artist discusses his sculptures and his pioneering use of neon with Lydia Yee, chief curator. This defining element of his work allows him to draw with light and colour in space.

Open Screenings

Film

Thursday 16 June, 5–6.30pm

Free, booking required

Emerging and established artist film-makers present their short film work and discuss it Adjunct Film Curator Gareth Evans. To take part in future: film@whitechapelgallery.org

Melanie Manchot: Twelve

Film

Thursday 16 June, 7pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

Acclaimed artist Manchot launches her book and presents the London premiere of her cinematically informed exploration of the rituals, repetitions and ruptures of lives spent in addiction and recovery, alongside other short works. Includes an artist's Q&A. Commissioned by Portraits of Recovery with support from the Wellcome Trust and Arts Council England.

Painting: Study Day

Symposium

Saturday 18 June, 11.30am–6pm

£15/£12.50 concs

In the context of Mary Heilmann's exhibition, this day-long event explores the varied medium and its enduring relevance to artists working today. From influences and teaching, to ideas of making, materials and shifting technologies, speakers discuss contemporary painting.

Isabelle Huppert presents *Wanda*

Film

Saturday 18 June, 3.30–6pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

Written by, directed by and starring Barbara Loden, *Wanda* is one of the greatest American films of the 1970s. It is introduced here by the multi-award winning actor Isabelle Huppert, for whom the film is a profound influence.

The Immigrants of Spitalfields Festival

Film

Sunday 19 June, 1.30–6pm

£5/Free concs

Marking the UN's World Refugee Day (20 June) and as part of the area's multivenue festival of celebration of the lives and culture of all immigrant communities, the programme includes artists' films, shorts and documentaries exploring migrant experience globally.

Felix Melia

Performance

Thursday 23 June, 7pm

£5/£3.50 concs

Entwining performance and embedding narrative in his moving image work, Whitechapel Gallery Writer in Residence Melia explores the gaps between experience and representation.

Indefinite Visions

Symposium

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 June

11.30am–6pm

£25/£20 concs for both days; £15/£12.50 concs per day

Featuring major thinkers, writers and artists this symposium sheds light on the aesthetics, concepts and politics of indefinite moving images. Curated by film-maker Richard Misek and film theorist Allan Cameron. Contributors include Emmanuel Lefrant and Jacques Perconte (Light Cone, Paris); and academics D.N.Rodowick, Jacques Aumont, Sean Cubitt and Susan Collins. Supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Fraser Muggeridge: Thinking with Books

Talk

Thursday 30 June, 7pm

Free, booking required

The graphic designer chooses a title from the Gallery's library in order to explore self-publishing and the artist book. The first in a new series considering the book as medium, conceptual tool and object.

Norman McLaren: A Retrospective

Film

Thursday 30 June, 7pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

To celebrate a new live score and artist film commission inspired by his work, this retrospective of one of Britain's most important abstract film artists features film-makers, music artists and choreographers. Presented in collaboration with the East End Film Festival.

JULY

Four Corners: 40 Years of Film in the East End

Film

Saturday 2 July, 1.30–6pm

£12.50/£10.50 concs

For four decades *Four Corners* has supported production, education and exhibition of film and photography from its Roman Road, Bethnal Green base. This day of celebration showcases key works and film-makers, with special guests and discussion.

Selected #6

Film

Thursday 7 July, 7pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

Drawn from nominations by the artists shortlisted for the 2015 Film London Jarman Award, this screening brings together some of the most outstanding work from early career moving image artists in the UK. Followed by a Q&A. Produced by FLAMIN and videoclub.

Lydia Yee on Mary Heilmann

Talk

Thursday 14 July, 6.30pm

Free, booking required

The exhibition's curator leads a tour of the artist's vivid abstractions which range from paintings to furniture and ceramics.

Lail Arad

Performance

Thursday 21 July, 7pm

Free, booking required

Using the Mary Heilmann exhibition as a setting, the singer-songwriter performs a captivating live acoustic set of her folk-inspired songs.

Eyal Weizman: Big Ideas

Talk

Thursday 21 July, 7pm

£9.50/£7.50 concs

The architect discusses his ongoing research into the ‘forensics’ of buildings and

landscapes, and how this evidence can be used to reveal hidden truths. Supported by the Stanley Picker Trust.

Florence Peake

Performance

Thursday 28 July, 7pm

Free, booking required

(continues on next page)

The artist's performance finds connections between the architecture and exhibitions of the Gallery and her work with objects placed in relationship to the moving body.

AUGUST

Helen Carnac & Laïla Diallo: Edge and Shore

Performance

Thursday 4 August, 7pm

Free, booking required

Through dance and visual art, this durational work explores the point where two creative practices meet, considering movement, materiality and place. Commissioned by Siobhan Davies Dance.

Habda Rashid on Keith Sonnier

Tour

Thursday 11 August, 6.30pm

Free, booking required

The exhibition's assistant curator introduces the key ideas of the artist's neon installations.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

Youth Forum: Duchamp & Sons

Throughout May – July

Ages 15–21

The youth forum works with artists, curators and creative professionals to explore ideas about art and to organise events and displays. Check out the group's social media feeds with live updates on their projects. [duchamp-and-sons.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/duchamp-and-sons) or find them on Instagram and Twitter @duchampandsons

Stories Uncovered

Saturday 2 July, 2–4pm

Workshop

Ages 15–21

Free, booking required

From the pre-digital to a hypermediated world, explore how memories are kept and shared, and what 'archiving' means in the 21st century. Enjoy a workshop and discussion led by the youth forum, Duchamp & Sons. Part of Archives and Access, led by Tate and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. In collaboration with Black Cultural Archives, Tate Collective, South London Gallery, 198, Octavia Foundation and Whitechapel Gallery.

Youth Forum: Performance

Saturday 30 July, 3pm

Free

A new performance in the Gallery space developed with artist Ian Giles exploring ways of abstracting language and modes of conversation through repetition, reordering and rhythm.

Contemporary Art Boot Camp

1–5 August, 10am–4pm daily

Ages 15–21

Free, booking required

Get inspired by contemporary art this summer. Collaborate with artists and experiment with a range of techniques to make new work. To book email: duchampandsons@whitechapelgallery.org. Supported by NADFAS: London Area.

Community Workshops

Throughout June – August

Free, booking required

Join artist Rebecca Davies to explore the latest exhibitions and take part in friendly conversations and informal activities. These free two hour workshops introduce the Gallery to first time visitors and those with little or no experience of art. To book email: communityworkshops@whitechapelgallery.org

The Art Already Made: Skills Exchange Project

Until June

Working in collaboration with City Gateway Women's Project in Tower Hamlets, artist Rebecca Davies leads a series of workshops off site to celebrate local knowledge, creativity and the development of new skills. Supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

Teachers' Preview

Thursday 16 June, 5–7pm

Free, booking required

Join us for a special preview of Mary Heilmann: *Looking at Pictures*. Take part in an artist-led workshop, meet the education team, hear about the upcoming programme and share a drink with colleagues.

Teachers' Workshop

Wednesday 22 June, 4.30–6.30pm

Free, booking required

With a focus on painting, colour and technology, this session gives teachers space to share ideas and develop skills, taking the current exhibition as a point of departure for discussion.

School Workshops

Throughout May – July

4.30–6.30pm

Free, booking required

During these lively hands-on workshops students take part in practical activity, art making and discussion.

Masterclass

Throughout May to July

Free, booking required

Inspire your students to engage with creative careers through a series of masterclasses by leading professionals across disciplines. With studio and Gallery visits. Supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Gallery Visits

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Free, booking required

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

FAMILIES

Family Day

Saturday 9 July, 12–4pm

Free

From film animation to puppetry and performance, join a range of family activities developed with artist Edwina Ashton.

Crib Notes: Mary Heilmann

Wednesday 13 July, 10am–12pm

£5, includes refreshments

Join assistant curator Habda Rashid 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 3.

Saturday Drawing Workshops

Saturdays during term time

11am–1pm & 2–4pm

£200 per term

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

EXHIBITION COMING SOON

William Kentridge: Thick Time

21 September 2016 – 15 January 2017

South African artist **William Kentridge** creates spellbinding environments that combine the euphoria of dance and of making music with darker themes – the promise and failure of revolution, the absurdities of power and the cruelty of exile. Six dramatic installations created between 2003 and 2016 will immerse viewers in a multi-media world animated by drawings, performers, tapestries, sculptures and set design.

Find out more online:

whitechapelgallery.org/williamkentridge

Membership

Love the Whitechapel Gallery? Become a member and gain access to private views and receive discounts on art, books and talks. Money raised supports our exhibitions and education activities. whitechapelgallery.org/membership

Bookshop

Buy fully-illustrated art books, exhibition catalogues, anthologies, gifts, posters and cards in our Bookshop and online. whitechapelgallery.org/shop

bookshop@whitechapelgallery.org +44 (0)20 7522 7897

Café/Bar

Enjoy delicious freshly-made pastries, cakes, seasonal lunches or dinner and drinks. whitechapelgallery.org/cafebar

bar@whitechapelgallery.org +44 (0)20 7539 3303

Venue Hire

The Whitechapel Gallery offers a variety of event spaces that can host anything from intimate dinners to conferences, and canapé receptions for up to 350 guests.

whitechapelgallery.org/venue-hire

hire@whitechapelgallery.org +44 (0)20 7522 7877

ACCESS INFORMATION

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

T +44(0)20 7522 7888

info@whitechapelgallery.org

Whitechapel Gallery

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Aldgate East / Liverpool Street

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Open

Tuesday–Sunday: 11am–6pm

Thursday: 11am–9pm

Monday: Closed

Please return this booklet to Front of House.