

## Whitechapel Gallery partners with 20 organisations to launch a global season of artists' film online

Vivid films from Marfa to Mumbai brought to your screen every week

### Artists' Film International

<https://www.whitechapelgallery.org/blog-category/artists-film-international/#ArtistsFilmInternational>

Whitechapel Gallery is bringing film, video and animation from around the world to audiences at home as part of its Artists' Film International (AFI) programme. During our precarious times, every Tuesday a film selected by one of 20 global partners launches on Whitechapel Gallery's [website](#).

Local sounds, rituals and political realities prominently feature in our online season; from the rhythms and images of a Bahamian Junkanoo to an exploration of ancestral lands on the desert border between Mexico and the US. Language is the common theme of AFI's 2020 programme, and every film uses language to intensify place.

AFI is a consortium of organisations from cities around the world, from Bergamo to Buenos Aires, Kabul to Marfa, Mumbai to Istanbul. Since 2007, AFI has been screened in Whitechapel Gallery's auditorium and at partner venues but while our galleries are closed due to coronavirus, many of these films are now available online for the first time for a limited period.

This week's film-screening is selected by the **Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland**. Created by **Dominika Olszowy** (b.1988, Poland), *Wanda Wanton* (2016) features a mysterious lead figure called Wanda. By day Wanda works as a Polish language teacher, and by night may be possessed by the spirits of ancient Germanic tribes known as Vandals. Interviewed in a mockumentary format, the possible alter ego of the artist illustrates her life philosophy that creation can come out of destruction.

Whitechapel Gallery's forthcoming online screenings selected by a different global partner each week:

**GAMEC Bergamo, Italy** selects **Francesco Pedraglio's** (b. 1981, Italy), *Scripting anticlockwise (6 constellations)* (2017), inspired by a live theatrical performance.

**Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden** selects **Lisa Tan's** (b. 1973, USA), *My Pictures of You* (2017-19) in which photographs taken on Mars are interwoven with filmed sequences from Earth.

**MMAG Foundation, Amman, Jordan** selects **Mohamed A. Gawad's** (b. 1983, Egypt), *betalpha (Balbalah)* (2018), which plays with words and their meaning, juxtaposing them with extracts from films by Stan Brakhage and Buster Keaton.

### Press Release

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**Project 88, Mumbai, India** selects **Raqs Media Collective's** (founded 1992, India) *Passwords for Time Travel* (2017) which combine the enigma of a spell with the precision of a dictionary entry.

**Para Site, Hong Kong** selects **Yao Qingmei's** (b.1982, China), *Sanzu Ding and Its Patterns: 1. A Major archaeological discovery* (2013-present) featuring 'Professor Yao', played by the artist, and the mysterious symbolism of an ancient pottery vessel.

Films launched online since the lockdown, and still available to watch for a limited period include:

**Rhea Storr's** (b. 1991, UK) *Junkanoo Talk* (2017), selected by **Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom**. Storr's imagery unfolds like a language without words, where vivid shots of Junkanoo carnival costumes are accompanied by sounds made on the body to the beats of Bahamian Rake 'n' Scrape.

**Lerato Shadi's** (b. 1979, South Africa) *Mabogo Dinku* (2019), selected by **Friends of Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa**. Expressive hand movements accompany a folk song in a South African language in Shadi's take on the history of those marginalised during the apartheid regime.

**Ailbhe Ní Bhriain's** (b.1978, Ireland) *Inscriptions (One Here Now)* (2018), selected by **Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, Ireland**. A camera delves deep into a quarry in Ní Bhriain's film, tracing the scars left by machinery on the rock surfaces and industrial notations which mark the disappearance of the landscape.

**Miguel Fernández de Castro's** (b. 1986, Mexico) *Grammar of Gates* (2019), selected by **Ballroom Marfa, Texas, USA**. Fernández de Castro invites viewers into the overlapping territories, languages and conflicts that mark the border between Mexico and the United States within the ancestral lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Iwona Blazwick, Director, Whitechapel Gallery, said: 'In this unprecedented moment when our galleries and borders are closed, we wanted to share a season of films from artists working across the world. Together with our partners our selection touches on ever more important issues, from our impact on the environment to architectures of power.'

## Notes to Editors

### About Artists' Film International

Artists' Film International is a collaborative project featuring film, video and animation from around the world. Established by the Whitechapel Gallery in 2007, the programme includes 20 global partner organisations. The programme brings together recent moving image works which are usually presented over the course of a year in each venue. At the Whitechapel Gallery, a selection of works were screened each season in the Zilkha Auditorium as part of the exhibitions programme.

Partners are: Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, Texas, USA; Belgrade Cultural Centre, Belgrade, Serbia; Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden; CAC, Vilnius, Lithuania; Centre for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan (CCAA), Kabul, Afghanistan; Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, Ireland; Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Galleria D'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, Italy; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA; Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey; Friends of Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa; KWM artcentre, Beijing, China; Mohammad and Mahera Abu Ghazaleh Foundation, Amman, Jordan; Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia; Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland; Video-Forum of Neuer Berliner Kunstverein

(n.b.k.), Berlin, Germany; Para Site, Hong Kong; Project 88, Mumbai, India; Tromsø Kunstforening, Tromsø, Norway; Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK.

### **About Whitechapel Gallery**

For over a century the Whitechapel Gallery has premiered world-class artists from modern masters such as Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Frida Kahlo and Hannah Höch to contemporaries such as Zarina Bhimji, Sophie Calle, William Kentridge, Eduardo Paolozzi and Michael Rakowitz. Its historic campus houses exhibitions, artist commissions, collection displays, historic archives, education resources, inspiring art courses, talks and film screenings, the Townsend dining room and the Koenig Bookshop. It is a touchstone for contemporary art internationally, plays a central role in London's cultural landscape and is pivotal to the continued growth of the world's most vibrant contemporary art quarter.

### **Visitor Information**

In response to growing concerns relating to the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), and in order to protect the health and wellbeing of our staff and community of visitors, Whitechapel Gallery is temporarily closed until further notice. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.

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