



Artists' Moving  
Image Network

## Film London Jarman Award Whitechapel Weekend 2020 Saturday 14 November

### Schedule

- All day** Touring Programme Works live on Whitechapel Website
- 1pm** **Michelle Williams Gamaker** discusses *House of Women* with performers **Krishna Isha** and **Taranjit Mander**
- 2pm** Break
- 3:30pm** **Kate Adams** and **Tim Corrigan** of **Project Art Works** present a selection of film works and prerecorded conversations with Director of Autograph ABP **Mark Sealy** and artists and advocates from the collective, exploring the societal and practical barriers faced by neuro-minorities.
- 4:30pm** Break
- 5pm** Screening of *HUB TONES*, a music video directed by **Jenn Nkiru** for Saxophonist Kamasi Washington's explosive jazz-fusion cover of a Freddie Hubbard tune. Nkiru is in conversation with artist, musician and researcher **Hannah Catherine Jones** about this work and her wider filmmaking practice

### Biographies of Speakers and information on presentations

**Michelle Williams Gamaker** will be reunited with Tina Mander and Krishna Isha who both feature in *House of Women*. The film reimagines the audition for the role of Kanchi, the dancing girl in Powell and Pressburger's 1947 film *Black Narcissus*. Michelle, Tina and Krishna will read excerpts from the film's script, and will discuss the film's wider themes, specifically the subtle and overt violences of the casting process. Gamaker works with moving image, performance and installation. Her practice is often in dialogue with film history, particularly Hollywood and British studio films. By restaging scenes to reveal their politically problematic, imperialist roots; her work is a form of 'fictional activism' to recast characters originally played by white actors with people of colour. She combines scriptwriting, workshopping with actors, revisiting analogue VFX and producing props to create intricately staged films.

**Krishna Isha** is a London-based writer, comedian, and performance maker working both locally and internationally. Their practice is trans-disciplinary (theatre, comedy, opera, performance art) and often about taboo or underrepresented experiences of gender, race and sexual politics. Currently, they are an Arts Admin Bursary artist (2020-21) and a delegate on The Network (Edinburgh TV Festival '20).

**Taranjit Mander** is an actor and writer, currently writing her debut novel. Tina tends to write dark comedy, focusing on characters who are typically underrepresented and the underdogs of society. Tina has a background in stand-up comedy and has been part of The Young Writers Programme with the Royal Court Theatre.

**Project Art Works** present a selection of film works in conversation with **Mark Sealy**, Director of Autograph, **Kate Adams**, **Tim Corrigan** and artists and makers from the collective. The filmed ventures of the collective represent

the realisation of much background facilitation, logistics and negotiation of societal and practical barriers that may be explored in more depth here with and without language.

**Project Art Works'** collaborations, projects, events and studio actions challenge societal definitions of care, creative intent, value, communication and identity. Their programmes evolve through studio practice and radiate out to the cultural and care sectors. Work is made visible through projects, collaborations, exhibitions, co-commissions, films, publications and digital platforms, increasing neurodiverse representation in programming, and deepening understanding and visibility.

Personalised and holistic studio environments are recreated wherever a project takes place. The studio is a place of level hierarchy where events and happenings unfold revealing the lived experience and qualities of all those involved. Artists and makers work together in purposeful collaboration using total communication that utilises gesture, sound, signing and empathy and as such is an expansive rather reductive form of connection.

**Mark Sealy** is a British curator and cultural historian with a special interest in the relationship of photography to social change, identity politics and human rights. He is Director of Autograph the Association of Black Photographers.

**Jenn Nkiru** is an artist and filmmaker. Pushed through an Afro-surrealist lens, her practice is grounded in the history of Black music and the aesthetics of experimental film and international art cinema. Her work draws on the Black arts movement and the rich and variegated tradition of cinemas of the Black diaspora and their distinct experimentation with the politics of form. Her work blends elements of history, identity, politics, music, documentary and dance.

### **HUB TONES (2018) 9'07"**

Saxophonist Kamasi Washington's explosive jazz-fusion cover of a Freddie Hubbard tune is elicited by Director Jenn Nkiru's exploration of her heritage. Nkiru describes how Hub-Tones gave her an "immediate ecstatic connection," referring to an invoked sudden desire to delve into the culture of her ancestry: her parent's Ikwerre tribe.

Describing the background to her video's homage Nkiru tells of, "a traditional ceremony called Oboni in the Ikwerre tribe... The idea is through repetition, instrumentation and movement, to channel spirit, going deeper and deeper with the changing of each tone within the music till it becomes hypnotic and transcendent." The video for Hub-tones replicates this with three female dancers who appear trance like and who we fixate on for the length of the film.

The dancers are dressed head to toe with symbolism as Nkiru considers the solidarity of Pan-Africanism. 'I included the Pan African Flag For The Relic Travellers' Alliance by artist Larry Achiampong, make-up and crystal adornment in the style of Nina Simone and the lighting seen in the courthouse of the hearings of Anita Hill and of course — the call to Nation Time emblazoned on the sashes of each women. there are other hidden gems too but I'll allow the audience to uncover them."

**Hannah Catherine Jones** is a London-based artist, multi-instrumentalist, researcher, radio presenter, composer, conductor, and founder of Peckham Chamber Orchestra.



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