

## Nocturnal Creatures

17 July 2021, 6pm – 11pm

Whitechapel Gallery and local locations, Free Entry

#NocturnalCreatures

Enjoy culture safely this summer with 16 artists across 12 East London sites for a free, one-night-only contemporary arts festival

- **6 artist commissions** are presented by Whitechapel Gallery featuring Nicole Bachmann, Julianknxx, Inês Neto dos Santos, Paula Morison, Candida Powell-Williams and Abbas Zahedi.
- **4 venues** within a 10-minute walk include Whitechapel Gallery, Toynbee Hall, Aldgate Square and the old Brick Lane Police Station.
- **Free tickets** will be available from 1 July 2021 and a festival map will be available on the Bloomberg Connects App and Whitechapel Gallery website.
- **Associate partner Sculpture in the City** presents 6 artists' projects and guided walking tours of the outdoor exhibition's 10<sup>th</sup> edition.
- **Associate partner Artsadmin** offers 3 new projects just around the corner at their home Toynbee Studios in collaboration with Shubbak festival.
- An affiliate programme presented by neighbouring East End galleries coincides with the July 2021 edition of First Thursdays.
- Enhance your experience by dining outdoors at one of the recommended restaurants in the Brick Lane and Middlesex Street area.

24 June 2021 – For one night only, Whitechapel Gallery and nearby historic, outdoor and unusual spaces in East London are transformed by new installations, films, live performances, music and food experiences for the third edition of **Nocturnal Creatures**.

To offer maximum flexibility and peace of mind to visitors, both pre-bookable and walk-in tickets are available via Eventbrite from 1 July, alongside detailed festival information on the Gallery's website, social media and the Bloomberg Connects app.

Awaken the senses through the hypnotic twisting and knotting movements of dancers in **Candida Powell-Williams'** (b. 1984, UK) performance, set in the open spaces of **Aldgate Square**. Movement and sound by performers on screen and in real-life feature in **Nicole Bachmann's** (b. 1973, Switzerland) work, which explores connectedness and alternative forms of communication in **Toynbee Hall's** historic Lecture Hall.

Through video, live music and spoken word at **Whitechapel Gallery, Julianknxx** (b. 1987, Sierra Leone) examines how the act of breathing is politically and socially charged in 2021, calling for new structures and realities for black people to breathe, freely. Reflecting on the housing crisis and precarious working conditions, **Paula Morison** (b. 1985, UK) sews a 1:1 scale map of a flat for the

## Press Release

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length of time it would take to buy a space of that size whilst earning London Living Wage.

**Inês Neto dos Santos** (b. 1992, Portugal) explores how we can live in greater connection with our surroundings and others through a bean-growing network, a food offer with the Gallery's Townsend Restaurant and a bean-themed bar with views over East London. Meanwhile, **Abbas Zahedi** (b. 1984, UK) proposes a social space for the local community where audiences will be invited to reflect on the potential future use of the old Brick Lane Police Station and the surrounding area.

These six emerging, London-based artists' commissions also form part of *The London Open 2022*, a triennial, open submission exhibition scheduled for summer 2022.

Whitechapel Gallery's programme for Nocturnal Creatures is accompanied by a host of additional projects presented in association with **Artsadmin** and **Sculpture in the City**. Artsadmin presents *The Apocalypse Reading Room* curated by artist **Ama Josephine Budge**, an installation of books that imagine alternative futures, to be accompanied by a sound and video installation by **Umama Hamido** reflecting on the 2019 October Revolution in Lebanon, and *Niqabi Ninja* by **Sara Shaarawi**, an outdoor audio walk about a Cairene vigilante's reaction to seemingly inescapable male violence, both as part of Shubbak festival of contemporary Arab culture.

Sculpture in the City presents **Oliver Bragg's** *From Seed to Sculpture*, **Laura Arminda Kingsley's** *Murmurs of the Deep* and **Almuth Tebbenhoff's** *A collective Meditation*, plus performances by **Isabella Martin** and **Rosanne Robertson**. The programme further includes a Q&A with **Jake Elwes**, along with a number of tours around the 10th Edition of Sculpture in the City, including Art and Architecture tours led by **David Rosenberg**.

Coinciding with Whitechapel Gallery's 120-year anniversary celebrations, Nocturnal Creatures 2021 offers unprecedented access to some of East London's most unique spaces and heritage sites, whilst providing a crucial platform for artists to exhibit in the public realm and reach new audiences.

#### Notes to Editors:

- Nocturnal Creatures 2021 is supported by the City of London, Tower Hamlets Council, Aldgate Connect BID and A Genesis Kickstart Fund Project, supported by the Genesis Foundation.
- A free festival map can be acquired at Whitechapel Gallery, made available to print at home via the Gallery's website and on the Gallery's digital guide on the Bloomberg Connects app.

#### 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.

#### About Artsadmin

Artsadmin is a company of creative people working with artists to develop and make performance projects for local, national and international audiences in a variety of places and contexts. They offer a range of support for artists and rehearsal studios, workspaces and a programme of public events at Toynbee Studios, their home in London's East End. Artsadmin also collaborates on national partnership projects engaging with disability-led arts and climate justice.

#### About Sculpture in the City

Sculpture in the City is an annual exhibition of contemporary art placed amidst the iconic architecture of the City of London, accompanied by a free programme of events and educational activities. A unique collaboration between the City of London Corporation (the elected body which looks after the Square Mile global business district), local businesses, and the art world, Sculpture in the City provides an opportunity for new audiences to engage with established and emerging contemporary artists. The initiative is delivered through a partnership between the City of London Corporation in collaboration with Aviva, Beaumont, Bloomberg, Brookfield Properties, CC Land, Hiscox, London & Oriental, Nuveen Real Estate, Tenacity, Tower 42 and 22 Bishopsgate.

#### **Visitor Information**

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm; First Thursdays, 11am – 9pm  
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#### **Press Information**

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