

Press release

Date: Thursday 25 March 2021, 11am

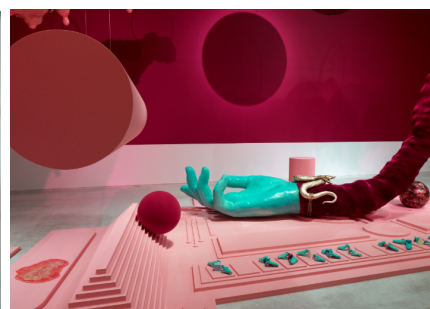
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HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING ANNOUNCES CURATORIAL CONCEPT AND LIST OF ARTISTS FOR BRITISH ART SHOW 9 IN ABERDEEN



HAYWARD
GALLERY
TOURING



(L-R: A berta Whittle, *Celestial Meditations*, 2018. © the artist. Courtesy of A berta Whittle and Copperfield, London;
Marianna Simnett, *Blood in My Milk*, 2018, video still. © the artist. Courtesy the artist and Matt's Gallery;
Tai Shani, *DC Semiramis*, 2019, installation view, Turner Prize 2019, Margate Contemporary.
Photo: Stephen White. © the artist. Courtesy the artist and the photographer.)

Hayward Gallery Touring's landmark exhibition, ***British Art Show 9 (BAS9)***, will open in **Scotland at Aberdeen Art Gallery in July 2021**. This display will mark the launch of the national tour for this ambitious exhibition of contemporary art, which takes place across the UK every five years. Widely acknowledged as the most important recurrent exhibition of contemporary art produced in this country, the show **will then tour to several venues in the cities of Wolverhampton, Manchester and Plymouth**.

BAS9 is curated by Irene Aristizábal and Hammad Nasar who have made their artist selection for each city after travelling to more than 23 locations across the UK and meeting with over 230 practising artists.

***British Art Show 9* was developed at a precarious moment in Britain's history**, which has brought politics of identity and nation, concerns of social, racial and environmental justice, and questions of agency to the centre of public consciousness. The artists presented in the exhibition respond in critical ways to this complex context. Through their works, they imagine new futures, propose alternative economies, explore new modes of resistance and find ways of living together. They do so through film, photography, painting, sculpture, and performance, as well as through multimedia projects that don't sit easily in any one category.

The exhibition is structured around three main themes:

- **Healing, Care and Reparative History**
- **Tactics for Togetherness**

- **Imagining New Futures**

These themes were agreed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the global recognition of racial injustice sparked by the Black Lives Matter protests of summer 2020. However, all three have become even more relevant in the present moment.

BAS9 has been conceived as a cumulative experience. **The exhibition is designed to change and adapt to each of its four host cities**, presenting different combinations of artists and artworks that respond to their distinctive local contexts. The exhibition includes a film programme in each of the four host cities and online, expanding the selection of works on view.

In Aberdeen, the exhibition focuses on the effort to develop alternative systems for ethical cohabitation in the world. The presentation centres on exploring different forms of knowledge – including spirituality – to heal the earth, to resist the injustices of extractivism, and to develop non-exploitative ways of living with the non-human.

Aberdeen, known as the Granite City, is undergoing major transformation within its offshore energy sector, as the city works towards realising its Net Zero vision. This iteration of *BAS9* urges humanity to put care at the very heart of our relationship with nature, and all beings, moving away from the hierarchical interaction that puts humans first. The Aberdeen iteration of *British Art Show 9* will display over 15 new artworks never-before seen in the UK, it will include 6 new commissions and 2 site-specific works.

Highlights of *BAS9* Aberdeen include:

- **Maeve Brennan** will be presenting a new iteration of *The Goods* (2018-ongoing); a series of films, photographs and billboards which take an in-depth look at the international traffic in looted cultural objects.
- A new presentation of **Cooking Sections'** ongoing research project, *CLIMAVORE: On Tidal Zones* (2015–ongoing) which encourages a flexible diet as its central premise. For this ongoing project, the artist duo collaborates with local people from two Scottish islands: Skye and Raasay to develop programmes to counteract the devastating effects of the salmon farming industry.
- A newly commissioned film by **Patrick Goddard** *Animal Antics* (2021) featuring a woman and her talking dog. In this absurdist commentary on the Anthropocene, the two species wander around a zoo encountering the forlorn caged inhabitants while reflecting on man's relationship with the natural world. This video piece was commissioned in partnership with Film and Video Umbrella, Film London Artists' Moving Image Network (FLAMIN) and Galerie für Gegenwartskunst, EWERK Freiburg. Shown with the film, *Humans-Animals-Monsters* (2020) is a sculptural installation which consists of 24 lead casts of the severed heads of animals, presented across the floor of the gallery.
- **Joey Holder's** new multimedia immersive installation *The Abyssal Seeker* (2021) portrays the journey to a deepwater lake that remains undiscovered by science. This work will map out ways in which we can become 'less human' to confound datafication – the transformation of social action into online quantified data.
- A new participatory project by **Grace Ndiritu** entitled *Plant Theatre For Plant People* (2021), made possible by Arts Council England's Project Grant for National Activities. This project aims to create a community of people who will learn from plants through

bonding exercises, meditation classes and workshops, connecting with plant spirits, and exploring ecological activism. The project will culminate in and build up to a final processional performance piece the *Plant Protest Performance* which will see participants parade through the streets of Aberdeen.

- A new work, *CRUDE CARE*, by **Florence Peake**, commissioned with Art Fund, a sculptural work, an accompanying performance and film informed by Aberdeen's landscape and the mining of its natural resources, as well as by the treatment of precarious workers in the care sector.
- Recent Turner Prize co-recipient, **Tai Shani** presents a new instalment of her latest project, *Neon Hieroglyph* (2021). In this installation, fantastic objects – including a pair of floating glass eyes, a huge melting candle and Dracula's disembodied hand – are accompanied by an otherworldly soundscape, composed by Maxwell Sterling.

List of artists presented in Aberdeen:

Michael Armitage
Simeon Barclay
Zach Blas
Kathrin Böhm
Maeve Brennan
James Bridle
Helen Cammock
Cooking Sections
Jamie Crewe
Patrick Goddard
Anne Hardy

Celia Hempton
Joey Holder
Marguerite Humeau
Lawrence Lek
Ghislaine Leung
Paul Maheke
Elaine Mitchener
Grace Ndiritu
Uriel Orlow
Hardeep Pandhal
Florence Peake

Heather Phillipson
Joanna Piotrowska
Abigail Reynolds
Margaret Salmon
Hrair Sarkissian
Katie Schwab
Tai Shani
Marianna Simnett
Hanna Tuulikki
Alberta Whittle
Rehana Zaman

Four of the new works in the *British Art Show 9* tour are made possible with the generous support of the Art Fund and these will be acquired by museum partners in each city for their own collections, as a marker of the lasting legacy of this ambitious touring show. *BAS9* will also benefit from the support of Arts Council England's Project Grant for National Activities which is allowing partners to produce ambitious and wide ranging programmes of creative learning, civic engagement and participation that will further extend the reach of *BAS9* across the four partner cities.

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication published by Hayward Gallery Publishing which includes two wide-ranging curatorial essays, over 200 colour illustrations and original texts on all 47 artists.

ENDS

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:

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Notes to Editors

Tour details:

10 July – 10 October 2021, Aberdeen: Aberdeen Art Gallery

22 January – 10 April 2022, Wolverhampton: Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Wolverhampton School of Art

13 May – 4 September 2022, Manchester: Castlefield Gallery; HOME; Manchester Art Gallery; and the Whitworth, The University of Manchester

8 October – 23 December 2022, Plymouth: KARST; The Levinsky Gallery, University of Plymouth; The Box, Plymouth; and The Gallery, Plymouth College of Art

British Art Show 9 Catalogue:

RRP £20 Paperback (special exhibition price £16.99)

192 pages

170 x 240 mm

ISBN: 9781853323713

Design by Johanne Lian Olsen

Published by Hayward Gallery Publishing

The publication is available for pre-order from the [Southbank Centre shop](#).

About Hayward Gallery Touring

Hayward Gallery Touring organises contemporary art exhibitions that tour to galleries, museums and other publicly funded venues throughout Britain. In collaboration with artists, independent curators, writers and partner institutions, Hayward Gallery Touring develops imaginative exhibitions that are seen by up to half a million people in over 45 cities and towns each year.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

About Irene Aristizábal

Irene Aristizábal is the Head of Curatorial and Public Practice at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, where she has curated Judy Chicago's first major survey in the UK and Abel Rodríguez first solo exhibition. Before BALTIC, Irene worked as Head of Exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary (2013–9), where she curated exhibitions and commissioned projects by Lis Rhodes, Pia Camil, Steffani Jemison, Otobong Nkanga, Simon Starling, Michael Beutler, Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, Sun Ra, Rana Hamadeh, Danai Anesiadou, Danh Võ, Carol Rama and Asco. Recent group exhibitions include *Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender Resistance* (2018–9) and *States of America: Photography from the Civil Rights Movement to the Reagan Era* (2017). She was curator at the FRAC Nord Pas de Calais, Dunkirk in 2010–1, and was the recipient of the H+F Curatorial Grant (2010). Prior to that she co-directed the not-for-profit space Bétonsalon in Paris (2005–6). She has also curated exhibitions at the Fundació Miró, Barcelona; Maison Rouge, Paris; Form Content, London and the Museum of Health Sciences, Bogota. Irene is a member of the Advisory Board of La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre in Noisy-le-Sec, France.

About Hammad Nasar

Hammad Nasar is Senior Research Fellow at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and Principal Research Fellow at the University of the Arts, London. He was the inaugural Executive Director of the Stuart Hall Foundation, London (2018-19); Head of Research & Programmes at Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong (2012-16); and, co-founded (with Anita Dawood) the non-profit London art space, Green Cardamom (2004-12). Known for collaborative, research-driven and exhibition-led inquiry, his recent exhibition projects include: *Speech Acts: Reflection-Imagination-Repetition* (2018-19 – with Kate Jesson); *Structures of Meaning | Architectures of Perception* (2018-19 – with Sophie Persson); *Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play* – the UAE's national pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017); *Excessive Enthusiasm: Ha Bik Chuen and the Archive as Practice* (2015 – with Michelle Wong, Ingrid Chu and Vivian Poon); and *Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space* (2005-2013 – with Iftikhar Dadi, Ellen Avril, Nada Raza, Sophie Persson and Justine Blau). Nasar is a member of the board of Mophradat (Belgium), of the editorial board of Tate's magazine, *Tate Etc*, and serves on the expert panel for Art and Design, History, Practice and Theory as part of the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021). He is an advisor to numerous organisations including the Lahore Biennale Foundation (Pakistan); Alserkal Avenue (UAE); and Delfina Foundation, Manchester Art Gallery and Whitechapel Gallery (UK).

About Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund has made £2 million in adapted funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 159,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. In a unique edition of the prize for 2020, Art Fund responded to the unprecedented challenges that all museums are facing by selecting five winners and increasing the prize money to £200,000. The winners are Aberdeen Art Gallery; Gairloch Museum; Science Museum; South London Gallery; and Towner Eastbourne
www.artfund.org

Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from the Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.
www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's unprecedented £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Funds. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19

About Aberdeen Art Gallery

Aberdeen Art Gallery is an exceptional centre for art and music in the heart of the city. Our Recognised Collection of National Significance connects Aberdeen's unique past, present and future, inspiring and empowering our communities to love their own culture and sharing that pride with the wider world. Even in its Victorian beginning, the Gallery's founders looked to their contemporaries when choosing works to collect. Our interest in collecting recent work has remained true to the intentions of its original benefactors. Between 2015 and 2019 Aberdeen Art Gallery underwent a landmark transformation, supported by Aberdeen City Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This accessible and inspiring cultural hub is triggering collaborative cultural activity across the city.
www.aagm.co.uk