

HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release

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Kiss My Genders

12 June–8 September 2019

Hayward Gallery



(L-R: Catherine Opie, *Mike and Sky* (1993), Courtesy Regen Projects, Los Angeles and Thomas Dane Gallery, London, © Catherine Opie. Juliana Huxtable, *Untitled (Psychosocial Stuntin')* 2015, Courtesy of the Artist and JTT, New York © Juliana Huxtable, 2019. Luciano Castelli, *Goldene Schallplatte 3*, 1974, Courtesy of the artist, © Luciano Castelli)

This summer, Hayward Gallery presents *Kiss My Genders*, a group exhibition celebrating more than 30 international artists whose work explores and engages with gender identity.

Spanning the past 50 years, *Kiss My Genders* brings together over 100 artworks by different generations of artists from around the world. Employing a wide range of approaches, these artists share an interest in articulating and engaging with gender fluidity, as well as with non-binary, trans and intersex identities.

While the artists in *Kiss My Genders* work across a wide variety of media – including installation, video, painting, sculpture and wall drawings – the exhibition places a particular emphasis on works that revisit the tradition of photographic portraiture. A number of artists in the exhibition treat the body itself as sculpture, and in doing so open up new possibilities for gender, beauty and representations of the human form.

Participating artists include: **Ajamu, Travis Alabanza, Amrou Al-Kadhi & Holly Falconer, Sadie Benning, Nayland Blake, Pauline Boudry & Renate Lorenz, Flo Brooks, Luciano Castelli, Jimmy DeSana, Jes Fan, Chitra Ganesh, Martine Gutierrez, Lyle Ashton Harris, Nicholas Hlobo, Peter Hujar, Juliana Huxtable, Joan Jett Blakk, Tarek Lakhrissi, Zoe Leonard, Ad Minoliti, Pierre Molinier, Kent Monkman, Zanele Muholi, Catherine Opie, Planningtorock, Christina Quarles, Hannah Quinlan & Rosie Hastings, Hunter Reynolds, Athi-Patra Ruga, Tejal Shah, Victoria Sin, Jenkin van Zyl, Del LaGrace Volcano.**

Kiss My Genders plays host to a number of artists who explore gender expression through performance, drag and masquerade. These include **Ajamu**, a London-based visual activist whose work challenges conventional understanding of sexuality, desire, pleasure and cultural production within contemporary Britain; Brooklyn-based performance artist **Martine Gutierrez**, who characterises identity as something ‘alien or unfamiliar’ in her ambitious photographic series *Masking* and *Demons* (both 2018); and **Amrou Al-Kadhi**, a British-Iraqi writer, drag performer and filmmaker, who in collaboration with British photographer **Holly Falconer**, created a photographic portrait *Glamrou* (2016) using triple exposure to communicate the experience of being in drag as a person of Muslim heritage.

A number of the artworks in this exhibition address the broader social and political questions and contexts that intersect with gender identity. Concerned with the way that marginalised groups are ‘forced to be their own saints’, **Juliana Huxtable** portrays herself as a mythological character or superhero in a series of powerful self-portraits or ‘self-imaginings’. In *The Memorial Dress* (1993) – a black ball gown printed with the names of 25,000 individuals known to have died of AIDS-related illnesses – artist and AIDS activist **Hunter Reynolds** uses art as a tool to process trauma as well as transform it. London-based artist duo **Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings** explore the politics, histories and aesthetics of queer space in their video installation *Something for the Boys* (2018); and in an unsettling series of photographs entitled *Crime Scene* (2012), **Zanele Muholi** draws attention to the violence suffered by South Africa’s lesbian and transgender communities.

Kiss My Genders will feature a number of new works and site-specific commissions. In the upper galleries, **Jenkin van Zyl**, the youngest artist in the exhibition, will present a new, expanded video work, *Looners* (2019), while Brooklyn-based visual artist **Chitra Ganesh** – whose work deals with representations of femininity, sexuality and power – will create a site-specific wall drawing.

Taking place across the entire Hayward Gallery, *Kiss My Genders* also extends beyond the gallery walls, with two new commissions that will transform elements of the Southbank Centre site.

Ad Minoliti, an Argentinian artist who uses brightly coloured geometric designs to represent a trans-human utopia, will design Southbank Centre’s Riverside Stage, while a series of flags designed by Minoliti will also adorn the roof of Royal Festival Hall. Elsewhere on site, South African artist **Athi-Patra Ruga** will transform the windows of Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Hayward Gallery foyer into a striking display of ‘stained glass’ featuring avatars designed

by the artist, and a poem by Tarek Lakhrissi – ‘Glory’ – will greet visitors as they approach the stairs leading to Southbank Centre’s Mandela Walk.

Kiss My Genders is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue featuring original essays by Amrou Al-Kadhi, Paul Clinton, Charlie Fox, Jack Halberstam, Manuel Segade and Susan Stryker, as well as an excerpt from Renate Lorenz’s influential *Queer Art: A Freak Theory*, and poetry by Travis Alabanza, Jay Bernard, Nat Raha and Tarek Lakhrissi. Also featured in the exhibition catalogue is a roundtable discussion between a number of the artists and exhibition curator Vincent Honoré.

The exhibition’s title is taken from the song ‘Transome’ by Bolton-born, Berlin-based singer-songwriter, Planningtonrock, who will also perform as part of the exhibition’s public programme.

Vincent Honoré, Guest Curator said: *"Kiss My Genders brings together a leading group of international artists who explore and engage with gender identities. Conveyed through a wide range of mediums, this exhibition intends to be a wonderful celebration welcoming the brilliant differences and the rich spectra of genders within our society."*

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Image sheet selection [HERE](#); Installation images [HERE](#)

For further press information and high res images please contact:

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Listings information:

Kiss My Genders

12 June–8 September 2019

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX

Prices: £15.50 / £12.50

Members go free

Please note: this exhibition includes nudity and some sexual content

Link to *Kiss My Genders* web page [HERE](#)

Talks, courses and events:

Nicholas Hlobo in Conversation

Wednesday 19 June, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm, £12

Join the artist for a conversation about the themes of the exhibition in relation to his artistic practice, set against the political and social context of post-apartheid South Africa.

National Poetry Library Lates: June

Wednesday 26 June, Dan Graham Waterloo Sunset Pavilion, Hayward Gallery, 8pm, £10

Our new series of regular late night poetry salons is back with its summer edition, featuring poets Mary Jean Chan and Keith Jarrett.

Poetry Workshop with Dean Atta

Saturday 13 July, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, 1pm, £25

Join celebrated poet Dean Atta in an afternoon poetry writing workshop in response to Kiss My Genders, drawing on themes of identity, gender, beauty and beyond.

Troubling Gender, Photography and Society

Thursday 18 July, Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, £12

Artists from Kiss My Genders discuss the ways in which queer artists from the 1980s onward have used photography to redefine gender and sexual identity, engage in political activism, and open up or disrupt the role of the photographic image. Chaired by writer and lecturer Paul Clinton.

Gigs & Performances:

Kiss My Genders – Live

Friday 12 July, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm, £15

Join artists from Kiss My Genders – including Tarek Lakhri, Hannah Quinlan & Rosie Hastings, Victoria Sin and Jenkin van Zyl – for an evening of performances, poetry and screenings.

Planningtorock – Powerhouse

Wednesday 17 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 8pm, £10

A lush and intimate dance concert featuring songs from Planningtorock's recent album Powerhouse as well as new songs written especially for the event.

Concrete Lates: Special Guest

Thursday 25 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 10.30pm, Early bird tickets: £12.50

Stay up late with a special guest DJ chosen to mark Kiss My Genders. In partnership with Boiler Room.

Francois Chaignaud: Dumy Moyi

Thursday 22 August, Royal Festival Hall, 6pm and 8pm, £10. For ages 16+

An intimate and genre-defying performance from choreographer, dancer and singer Francois Chaignaud.

There's Only One Peach with the Hole in the Middle

Wednesday 28 August, Royal Festival Hall, 8pm, £25–35

Feminist pop-icon and pioneering artist and musician Peaches presents a variety-style futuristic stage happening in this UK premier.

Hayward Gallery opening times:

11am – 7pm every day except Tuesdays when the gallery is closed.

Late night opening on Thursdays until 9pm

Tickets and further information: Tickets on sale (Southbank Centre Members free)

www.southbankcentre.co.uk / 020 3879 9555

Twitter: [@haywardgallery](https://twitter.com/haywardgallery)

Instagram: [@Hayward_Gallery](https://www.instagram.com/Hayward_Gallery)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

NOTES TO EDITORS

Hayward Gallery

Hayward Gallery, part of Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and

dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Martin Creed, Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, Jeremy Deller, Anish Kapoor, René Magritte, Francis Bacon and David Shrigley, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show*, *Psycho Buildings* and most recently *Space Shifters*. Opened by Her Majesty, The Queen in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk.

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