

HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release

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Hayward Gallery announces new series of free exhibitions in partnership with RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.) kickstarting with multidisciplinary artist Naomi Rincón Gallardo



IMAGE CREDIT IN NOTES TO EDITORS

The **Hayward Gallery**, in partnership with the **RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.)**, will present a series of three captivating exhibitions in its **HENI Project Space**, spotlighting work by some of the most exciting emerging international artists working today. The partnership aligns with the Southbank Centre's key strategic aims to platform emerging artists and bring new cultural experiences to new audiences. This series of exhibitions is free of charge and is an important part of the Southbank Centre's commitment to maintaining a high level of free to access programming.

The first artist included in the **RC Foundation Project Space Exhibition Series** is **Naomi Rincón Gallardo** from Mexico, who will present *Sonnet of Vermin* (2022) from **18 June to 1 September 2024**. Rincón Gallardo takes inspiration from subjects such as decolonial feminism, queer colour theory and Mexican science fiction from the 1960s and 1970s. This exhibition

showcases the artist's dreamlike 'counter-worlds' that address how the impact of colonialism continues to endure.

Sonnet of Vermin follows a group of "unwanted" animals related to Mesoamerican myths - a bat, a snake, a choir of frogs and a scorpion - as they traverse dystopian landscapes in Oaxaca, Mexico. Communicating through radio signals, these creatures of the underworld attempt to synchronise with one another and the dead, and through their singing they call for solidarity and community amid social, political and ecological devastation. The damaged, dystopian world Rincón Gallardo creates acts as a space to fight for a free, collective and joyful future.

Rincón Gallardo specialises in film-making and collaborates with a wide network of creatives including musicians, performers, seamstresses, sound artists, cinematographers, craftsmen and other artists. The artist's work aims to create a space that explores the multiplicity, ambiguity and unpredictability of life by promoting themes of care and togetherness, with powerful Mesoamerican deities often playing central roles in her films.

The Hayward Gallery's HENI Project Space has presented free exhibitions from a wide-ranging group of innovative international artists since 2007. Previous artists who have exhibited in the space include Hicham Berrada, Kate Cooper, Dineo Seshee Bopape and Victor Mann.

The next two exhibitions in the RC Foundation Project Space Exhibition Series, presented with support from the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.), will be announced later this year.

Rachel Thomas, Chief Curator of the Hayward Gallery, says: *"We are thrilled to partner with the RC Foundation, Taiwan, to continue our vital work presenting free exhibitions for London audiences, spotlighting some of the most exciting emerging artists working today. We're equally as delighted to present Naomi Rincón Gallardo's inaugural solo exhibition in London, whose innovative, multifaceted practice inspires care and a sense of unity across social and geographical borders. In line with the Southbank Centre's strategic aims, the Hayward Gallery is committed to opening up opportunities for audiences to encounter art that pushes boundaries and creates new narratives for change."*

Rong Chuan Chen, Chairman of RC Foundation, says: *"It is an honour to support the Hayward Gallery with this series of exhibitions thanks to the efforts of Senior Curator, Yung Ma. We hope this partnership will act as a catalyst for further artistic exchanges between Taiwan and the UK. To start out, we are also delighted to have Naomi Rincón Gallardo as the first artist in the series and we look forward to seeing how her original and inspiring works will be received by audiences in London."*

Naomi Rincón Gallardo says: *"Sonnet of Vermin aspires to offer a perspective from the cracks: one that turns the gaze to the importance of creating bonds with others, our interdependency with the land, the need to take care of the living and the dead and the queer desire to persist in the face of devastation, precariousness, toxicity and violence. I am delighted to be premiering this work in London at the Hayward Gallery."*

This exhibition is curated by Assistant Curator Suzanna Petot.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Image Credits

- Naomi Rincón Gallardo, *Sonnet of Vermin*, 2022 © Naomi Rincón Gallardo. Photo: Gesner Melchor.

About Naomi Rincón Gallardo

Naomi Rincón Gallardo lives and works between Mexico City and Oaxaca. She works across video, performance, drawing and sculpture. Recent exhibitions include Momenta Biennale de l'Image, Montreal, 2023; the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, 2022; the 34th Bienal de São Paulo, 2021; the 11 Berlin Biennale, 2020; and Museo Experimental El Eco, Mexico City, 2019. *Sonnet of Vermin* is her first solo exhibition in London.

About the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Founded in 1995 by Rong Chuan Chen, RC Foundation has been a visionary force in promoting Taiwanese contemporary art on the global stage. An active champion in fostering cultural and artistic exchanges, RC Foundation has been supporting artists, curators and independent art spaces from Taiwan through grants and partnerships, both locally and internationally. These long-term relationships have nurtured and enriched numerous artistic projects from different perspectives, generating invaluable connections between Taiwan's contemporary art practitioners and their global counterparts.

About the HENI Project Space

Since opening in 2007, the HENI Project Space at the Hayward Gallery has presented free exhibitions from a wide-ranging group of innovative international artists, including many UK premieres. Over the past 15 years, the HENI Project Space has served as a crucial portal of cross-cultural connection, featuring artists from five continents and over 40 different countries.

About the Hayward Gallery

The Hayward Gallery, part of the 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, Bruce Nauman, Anish Kapoor, Lee Bul, Andreas Gursky, Tracey Emin, Jeremy Deller, Kader Attia and Matthew Barney, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show*, *Psycho Buildings* and *Space Shifters*. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II 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 the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London

Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).
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