

## Press release

**Date:** Wednesday 19 January 2022

**Images:** Downloadable from [HERE](#)

### ***Found Cities, Lost Objects: Women in the City* curated by Turner Prize-winning artist Lubaina Himid CBE explores modern city life from a female perspective**



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

Arts Council Collection presents ***Found Cities, Lost Objects: Women in the City***, a national touring exhibition curated by Turner Prize-winning artist and cultural activist Lubaina Himid CBE. Exploring shared female experiences of urban life, this exhibition considers the privileges enjoyed and boundaries faced by women in the modern city. Launching at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in May 2022 (14 May - 3 September 2022), this large exhibition of over 60 works presents a wide array of modern and contemporary art, including painting, sculpture, photography and film.

**susan pui san lok's** film *Trailers (RoCH fans and Legends)* overlaps the everyday mundanity of the traditional British high street seen through Google Street View with film clips of martial arts film sequences, speaking to the poetics of diasporic communities where place-making can be both banal and dramatic.

Getting lost in a crowd to observe the hustle and bustle of city life has long inspired artists. French artist **Sophie Calle's** embroidered tie recalls a humorous story where she dresses a man from afar, sending him gifts in the post as she becomes the female flâneur roaming the city and assuming the role of observer. The important work of female documentary photographers such as **Margaret Murray** and **Markéta Luskačová**, in capturing the life of the city from a female gaze, provides a key perspective on society not always found in mainstream channels. Artists such as **Young In Hong** and **Magda Stawarska-Beavan** historicise key global events, speaking to our relationship with history, specifically where it is evident in cities and where it has been masked.

Maps are key to our understanding of space helping us to navigate from place to place. Inspired by artist and founder of the A-Z Geographer's Company, **Phyllis Pearsall**, this exhibition looks at the aesthetic qualities of maps as a perfect combination of useful and exquisite design. Using part of a heated meteorite found in Namibia in 1836 to burn an A-Z map, **Cornelia Parker** imagines a series of apocalyptic events which destabilise a familiar environment.

The exhibition also highlights works which reimagine and question what a city designed for and by women might look like. **Tai Shani's** performance work, *Dark Continent: Semiramis*, builds a metaphorical protected city for women, using examples of important contributions women have made to Western civilisation and arguments that prove their intellectual and moral equality with men. Expanding on these themes, *Found Cities, Lost Objects* encourages conversations between audiences and artists, exchanging observations, memories and imaginings to give us all a greater sense of ownership and belonging.

**Deborah Smith, Director, Arts Council Collection, says:** *"It's always exciting to see what fresh perspective artists will bring and what stories they will tell when we give artists an open brief to curate the Arts Council Collection. The Collection has enjoyed a long relationship with Lubaina, from acquiring her work in 1988 to her show Meticulous Observations at the Walker Gallery, Liverpool, where she mined the depths of the Collection. Found Cities, Lost Objects' impressive pedigree of female artists offers new perspectives on urban life and helps us understand how art is a powerful tool in shaping our cities and the world around us."*

**Lubaina Himid CBE, artist, says:** *"Found Cities, Lost Objects challenges the status quo by encouraging viewers to discover the city through the eyes of female artists. Women traditionally inhabit cities via retail and healthcare venues and, for those with the means, theatres, galleries and cafés. But how can women expand their presence beyond this for everyone's benefit as the landscape on the high street changes? The exhibition explores the contradictory experiences of women across the city, free to roam the streets and experience the exciting possibilities city life offers while always considering the boundaries within which that freedom is contained."*

*Found Cities, Lost Objects* features works by **Sophie Calle, Helen Cammock, Milena Dragicevic, Anthea Hamilton, Young In Hong, Markéta Luskáčová, Margaret Murray, Cornelia Parker, Susan Pui San Lok, Hannah Starkey** and **Magda Stawarska-Beavan**, among others.

Established in 1946 as a national collection for the UK, today the Arts Council Collection cares for over 8,000 works by close to 2,200 artists. The Collection is managed by the Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England, and is committed to supporting artists from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines, most often at an early stage of their career, in order to reflect the rich, diverse culture of the UK. It is a widely circulated national collection that can be seen in museums, galleries, schools, universities, hospitals and charitable associations across the UK and abroad.

For more information about *Found Cities, Lost Objects: Women and the City*, visit the Arts Council Collection's website [here](#).

**For press enquiries about the Arts Council Collection please contact:**

Hannah Carr, Press Manager (Visual Arts), Southbank Centre,

[hannah.carr@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:hannah.carr@southbankcentre.co.uk)

Rachel Willcocks, Press Officer, Southbank Centre, [rachel.willcocks@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:rachel.willcocks@southbankcentre.co.uk)

Alexandra Corneanu, Marketing & Communications Officer, Arts Council Collection

[alexandra.corneanu@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:alexandra.corneanu@southbankcentre.co.uk)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Tour dates:**

Birmingham City Art Gallery: 14 May - 4 September 2022

Southampton City Art Gallery: 3 February - 6 May 2023

Further tour venues to be announced

**Image Credits**

From left: Hannah Starkey, *Mirror - Untitled, September 2015*, 2015, framed c-type print mounted on aluminium, 124 x 154.2 x 4cm. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist; Young In Hong, *Burning Love*, 2014, viscose rayon thread, cotton, 290 x 370cm. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Young In Hong. All rights reserved, DACS/Artimage 2021; Anthea Hamilton, *Venice Kimono*, 2012, digital print on silk viscose satin, cotton, cotton rope, brushed steel, string, wood, 300 x 300 x 44cm. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist.

**Arts Council Collection**

Arts Council Collection is a national collection of modern and contemporary British art. We are committed to supporting artists from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, most often at an early stage of their careers. From multi-part installations to performance, painting and moving image, the works that enter the Collection are representative of the best and most ambitious art made in the UK. We bring art to every corner of the country through loans to museums, galleries, schools, hospitals and other public institutions and through our learning programmes and touring exhibitions.

Arts Council Collection was founded in 1946 and is managed by the Southbank Centre, London, on behalf of Arts Council England. [www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk](http://www.artscouncilcollection.org.uk)

**Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. 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. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from the government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Following the Covid-19 crisis, Arts Council England has developed a £160 million emergency response package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19)

**The Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre 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).



**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

---



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



***Arts Council Collection is managed by Southbank Centre on behalf of Arts Council England***