

# HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING

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## Press Release

**Date:** Wednesday 17 July 2019

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**Images:** downloadable [here](#)

## Hayward Gallery Touring presents *Slow Painting*



L-R: Lubaina Himid, *Garfoni*, 1995. Acrylic on canvas. 153 x 122. Courtesy the artist and Hollybush Gardens; Benjamin Senior, *Portals*, 2016. © Benjamin Senior, 2019. Courtesy of Carl Freedman Gallery, Photography by Andy Keate; Michael Armitage, *Balcony*, 2013. © the artist, 2019. Photo © White Cube (Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd).

Southbank Centre's **Hayward Gallery Touring** presents *Slow Painting*, an exhibition of paintings that take their time, and invite us to do the same. Curated by the writer and critic **Martin Herbert**, the exhibition features 19 artists, primarily British or UK based, whose work spans a myriad of styles and applications, from figuration to abstraction. Opening at Leeds Art Gallery (24 Oct 2019 – 12 Jan 2020), *Slow Painting* then travels to The Levinsky Gallery in Plymouth (25 Jan – 29 Mar 2020).

Art has reacted, like everything else, to digital technology, both on the level of making and reception. The speed at which art is consumed has been transformed by shorter attention spans and the desire to make images that 'pop' on smartphone and computer screens. Yet painting has historically been both created and received patiently, offering a space of pause, contemplation and gradual unfurling. *Slow Painting* offers a counterbalance to an increasingly accelerating world, comprising works that illustrate the role of painting as a rewarding repository of time.

Figurative paintings may offer an immediately legible image, but conceptually abstract narratives soon reveal themselves. The paintings of **Allison Katz** are built from individual

components we recognise, but the overall work deliberately holds back from full coherence, suggesting painting as a sophisticated unfolding game. **Benjamin Senior** draws from multiple pictorial traditions at once - the unearthly compositions of Stanley Spencer, the poise of Balthus, the languor of impressionism - to allow initially familiar scenes to transform in surprising ways through a kaleidoscopic range of aesthetics.

Canvases may be lushly information-rich, as in the landscape-based work of **Tim Stoner**, who paints recognisable subjects - cafes, the landscape - in a knotty manner that suggests ghostly, strange narratives at the edge of the familiar. Similarly **Simon Ling** applies subtle distortions to mundane everyday, suggesting an ungraspable life banked down beneath the surface. Conversely, the paintings of Russian-born, Nottingham-based artist **Yelena Popova**, take time to even see: her evaporating paintings make use of the light and movement of the viewer to present themselves.

A number of the works, such as those by **Lubaina Himid** and **Michael Armitage**, speak to time and memory themselves. Himid's vividly coloured works uncover buried histories of colonialism, particularly as it relates to British nautical history and the transatlantic slave trade. They contain a deep sense of historical time. Armitage, a young painter working between London and Nairobi, instils dreamlike, lyrical images on a traditional Ugandan bark cloth that explore the instability of memory. It seems appropriate, then, that Armitage builds up his moody tertiary tones in layers, and that the paintings slip between figuration and passages of abstraction.

**Martin Herbert, curator of the exhibition** says:

"*Slow Painting* aims to explore multiple aspects of what slowness might mean in relation to recent painting. The exhibition includes works that have taken long periods to gestate, and others that engage with spans of time, from the continuum of art history to wider cultural and political histories. All of them, though, reward sustained contemplation".

**Brian Cass, Senior Curator of Hayward Gallery Touring** commented:

"There is something elemental in the act of painting that distinguishes it from the excess of images produced and consumed in contemporary life. Painting is an old, slow art, and this major exhibition explores its enduring vitality and presence, surveying a range of contemporary paintings that take their time and invite us, as viewers, to do the same. We are delighted to be presenting this exhibition with a range of wonderful exhibition partners around the UK".

Full list of artists: **Darren Almond; Athanasios Argianas; Michael Armitage; Gareth Cadwallader; Varda Caivano; Lubaina Himid; Paul Housley; Merlin James; Allison Katz; Simon Ling; Lucy McKenzie; Mairead O'hEocha; Yelena Popova; Carol Rhodes; Sherman Sam; Benjamin Senior; Michael Simpson; Tim Stoner; Caragh Thuring.**

# ENDS #

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### **Tour details**

24 Oct 2019 – 12 Jan 2020 - Leeds Art Gallery

25 Jan – 29 Mar 2020 - The Levinsky Gallery, The Arts Institute, University of Plymouth

10 Apr – 6 Jun 2020 - Andrew Brownsword Gallery at The Edge, University of Bath and Locksbrook Campus, Bath School of Art and Design

Jul – Oct 2020 - Inverness Museum and Art Gallery and Thurso Art Gallery

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **About Hayward Gallery Touring**

Hayward Gallery Touring is the UK's largest and longest-standing not for profit organisation producing exhibitions of modern and contemporary art that tour to galleries, museums and other publicly funded venues throughout Britain. Funded by Arts Council England and based at Southbank Centre, London, Hayward Gallery Touring collaborates with independent curators, artists, writers and galleries to create ambitious exhibitions that are beyond the scope of a single institution. Ranging in scale from the British Art Show – the largest exhibition of contemporary art produced in the UK – to smaller monographic shows, our imaginative exhibitions are seen by up to half a million people in over 40 cities and towns each year.

#### **About Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a 17 acre site 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. 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**

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