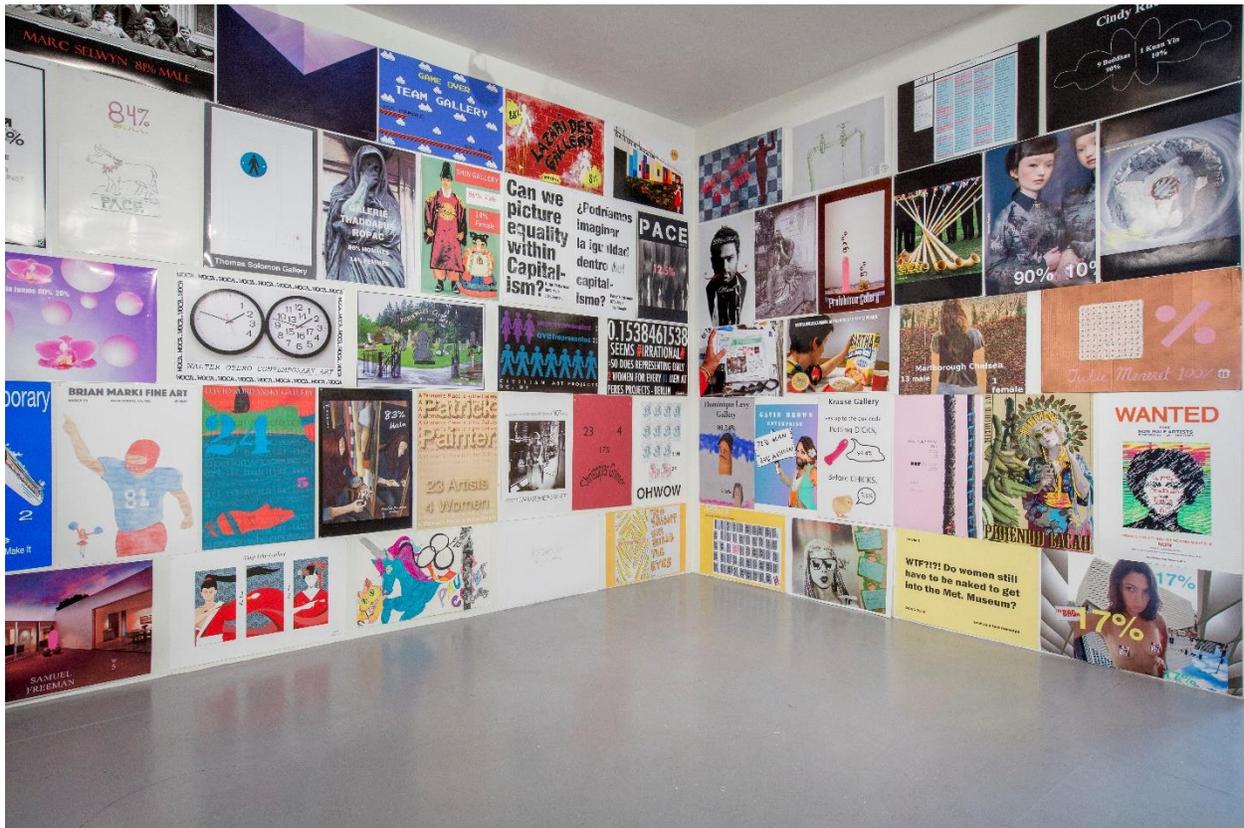


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EXHIBITION 20 October - 21 January 2018

# BALTIC

## BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art Autumn Exhibition Programme Opening 20 October 2017



Micol Hebron, Gallery Tally, 2015. Organised by Micol Hebron, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions,  
Photo: Alex Aristei - part of Starless Midnight

**BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** announce an ambitious programme of three major exhibitions taking place this autumn in the UK's largest contemporary art museum. They will be led by Turner Prize-winning artist **Susan Philipsz** with a new sound installation exploring the relationship between sound and architecture; and a provocative and urgent group exhibition curated by US contemporary artist **Edgar Arceneaux**, *Starless Midnight*.

*Starless Midnight* takes its point of departure from an impromptu speech made by Dr. Martin Luther King in Newcastle, 1967. He spoke of the three most urgent challenges faced in the world: 'the problem of racism, the problem of poverty and the problem of war.' Despite the advancements of civil rights since this speech, his words still ring true today and are set against a backdrop of political populism, post-truth and so-called 'fake news'. Arceneaux's programme sees a group of leading international artists whose works respectively address enduring inequalities relating to race, class and gender, offering a pertinent examination of our contemporary climate.

The three key elements of BALTIC's autumn programme are as follows:

## **SUSAN PHILIPSZ**

### ***A Single Voice***

20 October 2017 - 4 March 2018

**Over the course of two decades, Turner Prize-winning artist Susan Philipsz has experimented with the relationship between sound and architecture. Often choosing the human voice as her primary medium, Philipsz is especially interested in the emotive and psychological properties of sound and how it can alter individual consciousness.**

For BALTIC's Level 4 gallery Philipsz will stage the presentation of new work, *A Single Voice* 2017. An adaptation of Karl-Birger Blomdahl's opera *Aniara* 1959, the narrative follows a group of colonists who leave a doomed planet Earth behind to set up a new life on Mars. An accident occurs during their journey and the passengers of the craft are left to float eternally in space. In Philipsz' installation, a large film projection combined with the sculptural arrangement of 12 speakers act as an intimate meditation on themes of distance, separation and isolation.

The exhibition also includes *Ziggy Stardust* 2001, a haunting a cappella rendition of David Bowie's extraordinary 1972 studio album.

## **STARLESS MIDNIGHT**

20 October 2017 – 21 January 2018

**In the impromptu acceptance speech Dr Martin Luther King gave for his honorary degree from Newcastle University he spoke of three urgent problems throughout the world: 'the problem of racism, the problem of poverty and the problem of war.' Despite the advancements of civil rights since this speech, his words still ring true today and are set against a backdrop of political populism, post-truth and so-called 'fake news'.**

This major group exhibition, presented within BALTIC's Level 3 gallery, will bring together leading international artists whose work, in very different ways, each sheds light upon this contemporary condition within a framework of the important legacies of Dr. King. Some new work will also be commissioned especially for the exhibition.

Co-curated by leading artist Edgar Arceneaux, whose installation *Until, Until Until...2015* will simultaneously be presented on Level 2, the exhibition will include painting, drawing, video, sculpture and installation. Participating artists include **Barby Asante, Louis Cameron, Season Butler, Karon Davis, Charles Gaines, Micol Hebron, Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Ashley Holmes and Cauleen Smith.**

Part of Freedom City 2017 | Freedom City 2017 is a city-wide programme celebrating the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King being awarded an honorary degree by Newcastle University. Dr Martin Luther King was one of the world's greatest civil rights leaders, using the power of words and acts of non-violent protest to achieve seemingly impossible goals. His campaigns against racial inequality, poverty and war are renowned and his accomplishments studied worldwide.

## EDGAR ARCENEUX

### *Until, Until, Until...*

20 October 2017 - 21 January 2018

***Until, Until, Until...* is a look back at Broadway legend Ben Vereen's controversial performance at Ronald Reagan's inaugural celebration in 1981. At this event, Vereen staged a musical number in homage to the trailblazing vaudeville performer Bert Williams who, because of racist laws dictating who could appear on stage, always performed in 'blackface' makeup.**

For his performance, Vereen also donned 'blackface' to access the vulnerability and reality of Williams' legacy. Unfortunately, the television audience never saw the second half of Vereen's performance, where the actor attended to the issue of race and blackface in Williams' own words. The incomplete broadcast triggered a devastating backlash amongst Vereen's audience and followers and completely derailed his career.

*Until Until Until...* re-stages Vereen's original performance in its entirety. Both a celebration of Vereen's performance and a powerful re-visitation of an important historical event, the work reflects on the power of the media, its ability to manipulate reality, and the devastating consequences for the public.

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#### Spokespeople Available Include:

##### Curators

- Laurence Sillars (Starless Midnight)
- Alessandro Vincentelli (Susan Philipsz show)

##### Artists

- Susan Philipsz

##### Starless Midnight group exhibition artists

- Edgar Arceneaux (co-curator + his solo show)
- Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle
- Micol Hebron
- Karon Davis
- Ashley Holmes

**BALTIC** is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art. Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 396 artists from 54 countries in 197 exhibitions to date.

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