

How to work together

Three of London's leading non-profit contemporary art galleries announce three major new commissions by international artists in a unique collaboration.

Chisenhale Gallery, The Showroom and Studio Voltaire will open three artist commissions in April 2015 to launch the second year of How to work together, a joint commissioning and research programme responding to the question: how to work together?

This year's commissioned artists are **Sanya Kantarovsky** at Studio Voltaire (17 April–7 June), **Ahmet Ögüt** at Chisenhale Gallery (23 April–31 May) and **Wendelien van Oldenborgh** at The Showroom (29 April–20 June). These will be the first solo exhibitions in UK public spaces for all three artists.

Sanya Kantarovsky (b. 1982, Moscow, Russia) will bring together his own work with that of Lithuanian artist Ieva Misevičiūtė whose performances combine action theatre, dance and stand-up comedy. Kantarovsky's work will stem from Michael Bulgakov's seminal novel *Master and Margarita*, working with Misevičiūtė to choreograph a set of movements in response to the characters in the novel – gestures of which will form the basis of Kantarovsky's paintings.

Kantarovsky's expansive paintings will be on the scale of a theatrical set, referencing the sumptuous backdrops of the Ballets Russes. Misevičiūtė will interact with these props during two live performances at Studio Voltaire.

Ahmet Ögüt (b. 1981, Diyarbakir, Turkey) will bring together 10 people from around the world and from diverse professional fields (an auctioneer, a fire fighter, a lip reader...), with whom he has collaborated on previous projects over the past decade. The collaborators will participate in a public discussion at Chisenhale Gallery, collectively taking on the role of the artist to devise a new art work on his behalf. Ögüt is thus questioning not only the format of the exhibition but the role of the artist and the nature of collaboration itself.

Chisenhale Gallery will be transformed into a TV studio for the duration of the exhibition with a specially constructed set, used to stage the public discussion. This new work, comprising the live event and the film also functions as a form of retrospective exhibition, collectively formed through the memories and experiences of the collaborators.

Wendelien van Oldenborgh's (b. 1962, Rotterdam, Netherlands) commission is an experimental film production, embedded in The Showroom's neighbourhood, in which a number of seemingly unconnected players, places, events and knowledges meet. Bringing together such elements including the nearby Paddington Green Police station where UK terror suspects are detained and questioned, a local hip hop artist, and the 2011 London riots, the 'script' is generated through the act of filming, with the full involvement of the characters.

Looking at what transpires from these encounters, the film explores socio-racial dynamics and behaviours, the governing systems and architectures which provoke and reinforce them, and the voice and language of the individual amidst it all. Material gathered in this process will be brought together in cinematic and spatial language within an installation specially conceived for The Showroom.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

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Ahmet Ögüt's commission at Chisenhale Gallery: Katie Guggenheim

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Wendelien van Oldenborgh's commission at The Showroom: Charlotte Nourse

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NOTES TO EDITORS

How to work together Commission Dates:

Sanya Kantarovsky, "Apricot Juice" in collaboration with Ieva Misevičiūtė at Studio Voltaire

17 April – 7 June

Preview: 16 April, 6.30–8.30pm | Performances: 16 April & 18 April, 7.30pm

Ahmet Ögüt, "Happy Together: Collaborators Collaborating" at Chisenhale Gallery

29 April – 31 May

Opening performance: 23 April, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm) | Public discussion: 25 April, 3pm

Wendelien van Oldenborgh, "From Left to Night" at The Showroom

29 April – 20 June

Preview: 28 April, 6.30–8.30pm

This second round of exhibitions builds on the success of last year's commissions by Gerry Bibby (The Showroom), Céline Condorelli (Chisenhale Gallery) and Ella Kruglyanskaya (Studio Voltaire). Alongside nine exhibitions over three years, **How to work together** also features the **Think Tank**, an online archive of newly-commissioned research from artists, researchers and thinkers in many fields.

How to work together is made possible with a £210,000 grant by the National Lottery through Arts Council England's Catalyst scheme. Catalyst is a £100 million capacity building and match funding scheme aimed at helping cultural organisations diversify their income streams and access more funding from private sources. Together, the three galleries are able to expand their artistic programmes, commission and show more groundbreaking new work, reach new audiences, and develop new ways of raising money to drive the organisations forward. The aim is to pool resources and knowledge to create a new model of collaboration for the visual arts.

The 2015 commissions programme receives additional support from Bloomberg and the How to work together Artist Commissions Production Fund. The How to work together **Think Tank** is supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sanya Kantarovsky produces video installations and sculptures which often have thinly applied, wiped or scraped layers of paint and feature narrative scenes populated by isolated, sinewy figures. His work frequently includes indirect socio-political commentary and a critical look at the idea of the suffering artistic genius.

Kantarovsky lives and works in New York. He received his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2004 and MFA from UCLA in 2011. Recent solo and two person exhibitions include: "Allergies", Casey Kaplan, New York, 2014; "Little Vera" with Ella Kruglyanskaya, KIM?, Riga, 2014; "You

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Are not an Evening", GAK, Bremen, 2013. Recent special projects include Research and Reporting at KW, Berlin 2014 and LAX façade, Los Angeles, 2013.

This commission has received additional support from Yana and Stephen Peel.

Ahmet Ögüt explores ideas rooted in everyday life, creating situations that weave connections between collective memory, local histories and cultural identities. A Kurdish artist based in Istanbul, Amsterdam and Berlin, Ögüt recently presented work at the 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale and the 19th Biennale of Sydney (both 2014) and was awarded The Visible Award in 2013 for The Silent University.

A programme of events accompanying the commission includes Ögüt in conversation with Annie Fletcher, co-curator of his concurrent retrospective exhibition at Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven. The public discussion will be chaired by Andrea Phillips, Reader in Fine Art and Director of PhD programmes in the Art Department at Goldsmiths. It will be filmed and edited in collaboration with UK educational charity WORLDwrite, which encourages young people to use film and new media. The project opens with a performance of *Reverb*, a concert by Ögüt in collaboration with Fino Blendax, to welcome the collaborators to Chisenhale.

This commission has received additional support from Saha Foundation, the Mondriaan Fund, Maya Rasamny and Yana and Stephen Peel.

Wendelien van Oldenborgh is based in Rotterdam, Netherlands. She has recently been awarded the prestigious Dr A.H. Heineken Prize for Art. Wendelien has participated in: "Confessions of the Imperfect, 1848 – 1989 – Today", Van Abbemuseum, 2014; 54th Venice Biennial, 2011; 4th Moscow Biennial, 2011; 29th São Paulo Biennial, 2010; 11th Istanbul Biennial, 2009; and Berlinale Forum Expanded, 2011 and 2013. She has exhibited widely, including at the Generali Foundation, Vienna; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Museum Sztuki, Lodz; Tranzitdisplay, Prague; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Casco, Utrecht; M HKA, Antwerp.

This commission has received additional support from the Mondriaan Fund.

A monograph of the artist's work will be co-published by The Showroom, Sternberg Press and If I Can't Dance in autumn 2015.

GALLERIES

Chisenhale Gallery supports artists to develop major new artworks at formative points in their career – often in their first UK solo show. For 32 years our award-winning exhibitions and offsite programmes have brought inspiring and challenging contemporary art to audiences in east London, the UK and internationally. www.chisenhale.org.uk

The Showroom is a space for contemporary art that operates on the intersections between art, research and participation. For 30 years, we have supported artists to stage their first solo shows in London and been a pivotal force in the development of contemporary practice. A key aspect of our work is a commitment to the Church Street area through Communal Knowledge, an ongoing programme of artists' projects produced in collaboration with local groups. www.theshowroom.org

Studio Voltaire is a leading independent contemporary arts organization in South London, whose main activities are an internationally renowned programme of exhibitions, performances and commissions, a pioneering education programme and the provision of affordable studios. We place the artist at the centre of everything we do: providing opportunities to produce work in an open and discursive environment and allowing a closer relationship between the artist, production and audience. www.studiovoltaire.org