

Press Release – 24 March 2014

How to work together

Three of London's leading non-profit contemporary art galleries unite for major collaboration

Three of London's leading non-profit contemporary art galleries – Chisenhale Gallery, The Showroom and Studio Voltaire – will open three artist commissions in April/May 2014 that launch their major new collaborative project: *How to work together*.

The collaboration results from a pioneering joint application for match-funding granted by Arts Council England and is supported in its first year by Bloomberg, Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Outset Contemporary Art Fund. The initiative will present nine new artist commissions over the next three years across the three London galleries, all responding to the question: How to work together?

The artists who have been commissioned in the first year are **Èlla Kruglyanskaya** at Studio Voltaire (11 April – 8 June), **Gerry Bibby** at The Showroom (30 April – 21 June) and **Céline Condorelli** at Chisenhale Gallery (2 May – 22 June). These will be the first solo exhibitions in UK public spaces for all three artists.

Èlla Kruglyanskaya (lives and works in New York) is best known for her exuberant paintings of women. Depicted in a somewhat cartoon-like style in a range of scenarios, the artist's work parodies representations of female sexuality and social interaction. Kruglyanskaya's women are friends and 'frienemies', down at the beach, out-and-about, running from a menacing presence: enforced neighbours butting against each other in the tight space of the stretched canvas.

This new body of work is in direct response to the proposition 'how to work together' and will include a large mural made in situ at Studio Voltaire, works on paper and oil paintings focused on women engaged in work.

Gerry Bibby (lives and works in Berlin) will take up 'residence' at The Showroom in the lead up to and during his exhibition. Going behind the scenes, he will interrogate the organisation and commission itself by assuming a position that shifts the traditional artist/institution dynamic. From here Bibby will explore the possibilities and limitations of such a dynamic and probe the idiosyncrasies of the organisation's apparatuses. The project will focus, in particular, on The Showroom's heating system, the ebb and flow of which provides warmth and a generative tissue throughout the building and the community within it.

Bibby's interventions will explore social modes of production, shifts in function, and forms of intimacy, intrusion and estrangement. He will also be editing his manuscript, a major long-term publishing project, which will continually inform the development of the show.

Céline Condorelli (lives and works in London) will present a new project that considers friendship as a condition for working together. For her exhibition, she is constructing a series of furniture-like objects, which will act as support structures for conversations and interactions within the gallery.

Condorelli's work is concerned with how all human action takes place amidst countless support structures - emotional, legal or physical, for example - mostly taken for granted, and therefore often appearing invisible. Friendship is conceived by Condorelli as a political relationship of allegiance and responsibility and her exhibition will open with a preview on International Workers Day, 1 May 2014.

How to work together results from Chisenhale Gallery, The Showroom and Studio Voltaire being awarded a Catalyst grant of £210,000 from Arts Council England to create a joint commissioning and research programme over three years 2013–2016. The 2014 commissions programme receives additional support from Bloomberg and Outset Contemporary Art Fund. The *How to work together* **Think Tank** is supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

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outset.

Peter Heslip, Director Visual Arts, **Arts Council England**, said:

Catalyst Arts is about helping a wide range of arts organisations diversify their income streams and access more funding from private sources. It is one of the ways we are seeking to help smaller organisations thrive in this changing financial climate. I am delighted that we are supporting this innovative project by a consortium of three highly respected galleries. Each of these galleries has a reputation for artistic excellence and brings complementary strengths to the venture. The joint project is an example of how the sector can tackle common challenges through collaborative and artistic means.

Polly Staple, Director Chisenhale Gallery, Emily Pethick, Director The Showroom, and Joe Scotland, Director Studio Voltaire, added:

How to work together will reveal what our galleries – on the east, north and south fringes of central London – can do together that we could not do apart. Our organisations already share common ground and a track record for supporting emerging and under-represented artists to produce and present ambitious new work. Together we can expand our artistic programmes, commission and show more incredible new work, reach new audiences, and develop new ways of raising money to drive our organisations forward. Through pooling our resources and knowledge we can create a new model of collaboration for the visual arts.

The *How to work together Think Tank* explores the question of ‘how to work together’ in fields from business and technology to social policy and the arts. New research is being commissioned from a range of exciting artists, designers and researchers that will form an online library resource. The first five commissions are now live at www.howtoworktogether.org/think-tank and include research and new work by writer Anna Minton, design studio An Endless Supply, The Nervemeter magazine, and artists Bonnie Camplin and Céline Condorelli with sociologist Avery F. Gordon. A new commission by Dr Andrea Phillips on the ways in which art’s organisational structures shape its politics will be published online in May 2014.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

How to work together Commission Dates:

Ella Kruglyanskaya at Studio Voltaire
Friday 11 April – Sunday 8 June, Preview: Thursday 10 April
Gerry Bibby at The Showroom
Wednesday 30 April – Saturday 21 June, Preview: Tuesday 29 April
Céline Condorelli at Chisenhale
Friday 2 May – Sunday 22 June, Preview: Thursday 1 May

How to work together is supported by a grant of £210,000 over three years from Catalyst: a £100 million culture sector-wide private giving investment scheme aimed at helping cultural organisations diversify their income streams and access more funding from private sources. The scheme is made up of investment from Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Over the next three years we will match these funds through private donations and sponsorship.

Céline Condorelli lives and works in London. Recent exhibitions include *bau bau* GfZK, Leipzig, Germany; *Ten Thousand Wiles and a Hundred Thousand Tricks*, MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium (both 2014); *Additional*s, Project Art Centre, Dublin, Ireland; *The Parliament, Archive of Disobedience*, Castello di Rivoli, Italy; *Puppet Show*, Eastside Projects, Birmingham; *Things That Go Without Saying*, Grazer Kunstverein, Austria (all 2013); *Surrounded by the Uninhabitable*, SALT Istanbul (2012); *There is nothing left*, Alexandria Contemporary Arts Forum, Egypt and Manifesta 8, Murcia (2010-12), *Revision -Part 1*, Artists Space, New York (2009) and *Revision - Part 2*, Cell Project Space, London, (2010).

Céline Condorelli's commission is produced in partnership with the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven where it will be presented as part of the exhibition *Positions* (5 July-12 October 2014). A publication, *The Company She Keeps*, a collection of conversations exploring ideas of friendship between Céline Condorelli and the philosopher Johan Hartle, as well as her friend the sociologist Avery Gordon, previously presented as part of the *How To Work Together* Think Tank, edited by Nick Aikens and Polly Staple, will be published by Book Works, Chisenhale Gallery and Van Abbemuseum in June 2014.

Gerry Bibby (b. 1977, Australia) lives and works in Berlin. His recent projects and exhibitions include: *Bibby/Blightman*, KUB Arena, Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria (2014); *Frieze Projects*, Frieze London (2013); *La Biennale de Lyon* (2013); *Version Control*, Arnolfini, Bristol (2013); *Last Call*, Silberkuppe, Berlin (2012); and *(untitled) with Robert Filliou*, The Artist's Institute, New York (2010). Bibby studied Visual Art at the Sydney College of the Arts, Australia. He was the recipient of the Australia Council for the Arts, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien Residency, Berlin in 2012-13.

This new commission will feed into a major publishing project Bibby has developed through a series of commissions and residencies over the past year, orchestrated by Amsterdam-based performance platform *If I can't dance I don't want to be part of your revolution*, with partner institutions including Kunsthau Bregenz and CCA Glasgow. The publication produced by *If I Cant Dance* will be launched in November. With thanks to the Lyon Biennial and Frieze Art Fair. Bibby's project is additionally supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Èlla Kruglyanskaya (lives and works in New York) received her BFA at Cooper Union in 2001, and her MFA at Yale School of Art in 2006. She has had solo exhibitions at Kendall Koppe, Glasgow (2013), Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York (2012), Salon 94, New York (2011) and White Columns, NY (2010).

Coinciding with the commission, Studio Voltaire and Koenig Books are publishing the first ever monograph on Kruglyanskaya. Designed by Everything Studio, New York and featuring commissioned contributions by Alison Gingeras and Matthew Higgs, the publication will be available in June 2014.

Chisenhale Gallery supports emerging British and international artists to develop major new artworks at formative points in their career – often in their first UK solo show. For 30 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 organisation; our main activities are the provision of affordable studios, a renowned programme of exhibitions, performances and commissions, and a pioneering education programme – *Not Our Class*. 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

How to work together Think Tank Commissions to date include

Common Good(s): Redefining the public interest and the common good – Writer Anna Minton (UK) on the value and potential of the idea of the 'common good' and *How to work together* as a society.

How to refuse work altogether – A sound work by artist Bonnie Camplin (UK) involving a ritual lunch and a silent refusal of work.

A conversation about work and friendship between Céline Condorelli and Avery F. Gordon – Artist Condorelli (UK, Italy) and sociologist Gordon (US) explore friendships formed by making common cause amongst the excluded, marginalised and dispossessed.

Source Sans How to work together – Design studio An Endless Supply (Birmingham, UK) have developed the brand identity and website for *How to work together* and have created the composite typeface Source Sans How to work together, using the open-source font Source Sans combined with customised letters by invited font-designers.

The Nervemeter – *How to work together* hosted the Inaugural Meeting of The Nervemeter Council. The Nervemeter is an autonomous, non-profit magazine which is sold on the streets by the homeless. At the Council meeting, members of the publication's distribution network discussed the benefits, conflicts and instances of cooperation which had emerged through their involvement with the magazine.

FORTHCOMING

Dr Andrea Phillips – The first outcomes of Andrea Phillips' research project for *How to work together* – on the ways in which art's organisational structures shape its politics – will be published online in May 2014 in the form of a series of interviews with Polly Staple (Director, Chisenhale Gallery), Emily Pethick (Director, The Showroom) and Joe Scotland (Director, Studio Voltaire). Her project will culminate in a manifesto for small and medium scale arts organisations. Dr Andrea Phillips is Reader in Fine Art and Director of the Doctoral Research Programmes at Goldsmiths College, University of London, and was co-curator of Public Programme at the Istanbul Biennial 2013.