

Press Release – 24 January 2014

How to work together

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

HOW TO WORK TOGETHER: 2014 COMMISSIONS TO OPEN THIS SPRING

The directors of three of London's leading non-profit contemporary art galleries – Chisenhale Gallery, The Showroom and Studio Voltaire – today announced the first three artist commissions opening in April/May 2014 that will 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. 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 **Céline Condorelli** at Chisenhale Gallery (2 May – 22 June), **Gerry Bibby** at The Showroom (30 April – 21 June) and **Èlla Kruglyanskaya** at Studio Voltaire (11 April – 7 June). These will be the first solo exhibitions in UK public spaces for all three artists.

Céline Condorelli (lives and works UK) will present a new project based on the subject of work and friendship. Engaging with friendship as a condition for working together, Condorelli explores how objects and constructions articulate relationships in both useful and purposeless ways, for her exhibition opening with a preview on International Workers Day, 1 May 2014.

Gerry Bibby (b. 1977, Australia) will interrogate the very nature of his commission by spending time back of house at The Showroom. Testing the complicities between an artist and the organisation, this fieldwork will feed into a manuscript that reflects the artist's interest in the social aspects of production.

Èlla Kruglyanskaya (b. 1978, Latvia) 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. This presentation will include a large mural, works on paper and oil paintings focused on women engaged in work.

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.

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.

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outset.

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 and commissions research 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 by writer Anna Minton, design studio An Endless Supply, The Nervemeter magazine, as well as 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 February 2014.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

How to work together Commission Dates:

Céline Condorelli at Chisenhale Gallery
Thursday 1 May (preview) – Sunday 22 June
Gerry Bibby at The Showroom
Tuesday 29 April (preview) – Saturday 21 June
Ella Kruglyanskaya at Studio Voltaire
Wednesday 10 April (preview) – Saturday 7 June

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.

In the first year, the commissions programme receives support from Bloomberg and Outset Contemporary Art Fund; and the Think Tank is supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

Céline Condorelli lives and works in London. Recent exhibitions include *Additional*s, Project Art Centre, Dublin, Ireland (2013), *The Parliament*, Archive of Disobedience, Castello di Rivoli, Italy (2013), *Puppet Show*, Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2013), *Things That Go Without Saying*, Grazer Kunstverein, Austria (2013), *Surrounded by the Uninhabitable*, SALT Istanbul (2012), *There is nothing left*, Alexandria Contemporary Arts Forum, Egypt and *Manifesta 8*, Murcia (2010), *Revision, part 1* Artists Space, New York (2009) and *part 2*, and *Cell Projects*, London, (2010).

For *How to work together*, Condorelli will continue ongoing research into the subject of work and friendship. This coincides with her long-standing interest in support structures. Condorelli invites us to think of friendship as one of the ways in which we engage with the world at large and culture in particular. Engaging with friendship as a condition for working together, Condorelli explores how objects and constructions articulate relationships in both useful and purposeless ways.

Gerry Bibby (b. 1977, Australia) lives and works in Berlin. His recent projects and exhibitions include: 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, Künstlerhaus Bethanien Residency, Berlin in 2012–13.

For *How to work together*, Bibby will undertake a six-week residency at The Showroom: interrogating the specific idiosyncrasies of the organisational apparatus by spending time amongst them. This period of fieldwork will inform a manuscript. The project reflects Bibby's interest in notions of the social in production and ideas of shifts in function. Testing the possibilities that the complicities between an artist and organisation allow, he will assume a position from which to explore forms of intimacy and estrangement. The commission for *How to work together* will feed the manuscript, the completion of which relates to a wider publishing project by Bibby, orchestrated by Amsterdam-based performance platform *If I can't dance I don't want to be part of your revolution*. Bibby's project is additionally supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Èlla Kruglyanskaya (b. 1978, Latvia. 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).

Kruglyanskaya will make a new body of work in response to the proposition of '*How to work together*'. The presentation will include a large mural, works on paper and oil paintings depicting women engaged in labour and work. Kruglyanskaya's exuberant paintings are full of very colourful women. They 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. Predominately working in oil on canvas and egg tempera on wooden panels, there is strong graphic sensibility. Kruglyanskaya's women are somewhat cartoon-like, appearing flatly within the picture plane and parodying a particular representation of female sexuality and social interaction.

Coinciding with the commission, Studio Voltaire and Koenig Books will publish the first ever monograph on Kruglyanskaya, with contributions by Alison Gingeras and Matthew Higgs.

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 February 2014. 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 the Public Programme of the Istanbul Biennial 2013.

The next round of **How to work together commissions** for spring 2015 will be announced in May 2014, along with the second phase of the **Think Tank**, which will continue to explore the question of 'how to work together' in fields from business and technology to social policy and the arts.