

Programme announcement Exhibitions 2023

Martin Wong, *Tell My Troubles to the Eight Ball*, 1978.
Acrylic on canvas with hand painted frame, 91.44 x 91.44 cm
© Martin Wong Estate. Courtesy Martin Wong Estate and
P.P.O.W Gallery, New York.



January 2023 launches with a major exhibition of new and recent paintings by Mohammed Sami, touring to De La Warr Pavilion, alongside a new moving-image commission by Atiëna R. Kilfa, produced in collaboration with KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin. In June, we are presenting a major survey of the work of Chinese-American artist Martin Wong, the first institutional exhibition of his work in the UK. Initiated by KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, this exhibition is curated by Krist Gruijthuisen and Agustín Pérez-Rubio, and produced in collaboration with Museo Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (CA2M), and Stedelijk Museum. In autumn, Canadian artist Tamara Henderson will present a new body of work developed specifically for the galleries at Camden Art Centre and presented and produced in partnership with CCA Brighton. In December we are thrilled to welcome New Contemporaries back to Camden Art Centre for the first time in 20 years.

Mohammed Sami

The Point 0

27 January / 28 May

Private view: 26 January

Previewing at Camden Art Centre in January 2023, Mohammed Sami's (b.1984, Baghdad, Iraq) first institutional solo show in the UK will continue his long-standing exploration of memory in relation to time and conflict. Drawing on his own experiences living under Saddam Hussein's regime in Baghdad, and subsequently as a refugee in Sweden, his large-scale paintings exquisitely render abandoned interiors, barricaded windows and uncanny depictions of apparently everyday objects including clothing, mattresses, chairs and tables. There is a haunting absence of people in these depictions of space and place, whose power lies as much in what cannot be seen or hovers just beyond the frame.

Presented across Camden Art Centre's iconic Galleries 1 and 2, this landmark exhibition will include a series of major new paintings and will be accompanied by the first dedicated monograph on Sami, designed by Fraser Muggeridge Studio with essays by Darian Leader and Amy Sherlock.

The exhibition is organised by Camden Art Centre in collaboration with De La Warr Pavilion where it will open in summer 2023.

Atiena R. Kilfa

The Unhomely

27 January / 28 May

Private view: 26 January

The exhibition *The Unhomely* marks the first institutional solo presentation by Atiëna R. Kilfa (b.1990, FR) in the UK. Kilfa uses photography, sculpture, video and installation to explore personal and cultural memories that conflict and overlap. Her most recent work draws on her interest in the composition of models, dioramas, still lifes, and tableaux vivants, which she reinterprets as sites loaded with inherited narratives and social codes.

Located across Gallery 3 and the Reading Room, *The Unhomely* is comprised of a new video work integrated into an architectural structure. The work places the viewer within a movie scene, unfolding in an undisclosed staircase. This movement is perceived as a Huis Clos, a never-ending loop whereby the viewer encounters “architectural ghosts” that collapse the distinction between the real and the imagined, past and present.

Co-produced in partnership with KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin.

Martin Wong

Martin Wong: Malicious Mischief

16 June / 17 September

Private view: 15 June

Camden Art Centre is proud to present the European exhibition of the work of Chinese-American artist Martin Wong (born 1946 in Portland, Oregon, died 1999 in San Francisco).

Martin Wong is widely recognised for his extraordinary depictions of social, sexual and political scenographies from the 1970s, 80s, and 90s. Weaving together narratives of queer existence, marginal communities, and urban gentrification, Wong stands out as an important countercultural voice at odds with the art establishment’s reactionary discourse at the time.

Heavily influenced by his immediate surroundings, Wong’s practice merges the visual languages of Chinese iconography, urban poetry, graffiti, carceral aesthetics, and sign language as well as drawing heavily on the Latin American community he became so closely involved with. His work offers an important insight into a decisive period of recent American history, as told through its changing urban landscapes and unfolding hidden desires.

Martin Wong: Malicious Mischief presents a survey of over 100 of the artist’s works. It encompasses early paintings and sculptures made in the euphoric environments of San Francisco and Eureka, California, in the late 1960s and early 1970s; Wong’s iconic 1980s and 1990s paintings, made during his time in a dilapidated New York City; as well as his reminiscences on the imagery of the East and West Coast Chinatowns, made prior to his premature death from an AIDS/HIV-related illness.

Martin Wong: Malicious Mischief is initiated by KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, curated by Krist Gruijthuijsen and Agustín Pérez Rubio, and produced in collaboration with Museo Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (CA2M), Camden Art Centre, and Stedelijk Museum. This exhibition is made possible through support from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Tamara Henderson

28 September / 4 December

Private view: 27 September

Tamara Henderson (b. 1982, New Brunswick) will make a new body of work in response to the spaces of both Camden Art Centre and Brighton CCA, for a new two-part exhibition, presented simultaneously across the two institutions.

Working across sculpture, sound, painting and moving-image, Henderson’s new work is a poetic collaboration with composts and soils, worms and seeds, plants and celluloid. Four new characters or archetypes will feature across the work in various ways: The Gardener, The Director, Sound and Light. Appearing variously as costumed fertiliser bins, blown-glass vessels, paintings, installations and flower beds, Henderson will weave a narrative of decomposition and regeneration, fertilisation and biophony, numerology and germination.

Henderson is currently based in Canberra, Australia, and will produce much of the work in Brighton and London during an extended residency period in Summer 2023.

This exhibition is conceived in two parts shown simultaneously in London and Brighton. It is co-produced by Camden Art Centre and Brighton CCA.

New Contemporaries

15 December / April 2024

Private view: 14 December

New Contemporaries returns to Camden Art Centre in 2023 after more than 20 years. The widely anticipated annual exhibition of early career artists will take over all of our galleries, selected from an open submission process by a panel of internationally renowned artists, soon to be announced.

Established in 1949, New Contemporaries gives visibility and recognition to the incredible breadth and depth of emerging talent in the UK. It provides vital development opportunities, enabling practices to become sustainable long-term and launching the careers of many notable artists including Paula Rego, David Hockney, Chris Ofili, Damien Hirst, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye and Laure Prouvost.

Titles and dates are subject to change.

Notes to editors

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Camden Art Centre

Camden Art Centre is a place for world-class contemporary art exhibitions and education. Situated in Hampstead, North London (charity number 1065829) Camden Art Centre is a place for art and artists; a place for the curious, the novice and the expert alike. It's a place to see, to make, to learn and to talk about contemporary art, whether in our building, attending off-site projects or via our digital forums. Founded by artists in 1965, the Centre continues to be a space for the most vital and diverse mix of practices and ideas and is dedicated to supporting artists at every stage of their careers.

Biographies

Tamara Henderson (b. 1982, New Brunswick) lives and works in Canberra and Athens. Her solo exhibitions include Camden Art Centre, London (2022; forthcoming); *Of Seasons End*, Tate Modern, London (2020); *Womb Life*, Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2018); *Seasons End: More Than Suitcases*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2018); *Seasons End: Out of Body*, Oakville Galleries, Oakville (2017); *Seasons End: Panting Healer*, REDCAT, Los Angeles (2016); *Seasons End*, Glasgow International, Glasgow (2016); *Tapped Out And Spiralling In Stride*, Grazer Kunstverein, Graz (2014); *Bottles Under The Influence* (with Julia Feyrer), Walter Philips Gallery, Banff (2013); *Evergreen Minutes Of The Phantom Figure*, Kunstverein Nürnberg - Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nürnberg (2013). Group exhibitions include *Though it's dark, still I sing*, 34th Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo (2021); *The Botanical Mind: Art, Mysticism and The Cosmic Tree*, Camden Art Centre, London (2020); *Part of the Labyrinth*, GIBCA 2019 Biennial, Gothenburg (2019); *Biennial of Moving Images*, OGR, Turin (2019), Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Geneva (2018); *Virginia Woolf: An Exhibition Inspired by her Writings*, Tate St Ives, St Ives, Pallant House Chichester and The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (2018); *Tate Exchange*, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool (2016); *Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver (2016); *Insomnia*, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2016); *Life Itself*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2016); *Sobeys Prize Shortlist Exhibition*, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax (2013); *dOCUMENTA(13)*, Kassel (2012).

Atiéna R. Kilfa was born in Paris, France in 1990. She currently lives and works in Frankfurt am Main where she recently graduated from Staedelschule. In her practice, Kilfa uses photography, sculpture, video, and installations to explore how personal and cultural memories tend to conflict and overlap. *The Unhomely* at KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin marks her first institutional solo presentation. An iteration of the show will open at Camden Arts Centre in London in early 2023.

Mohammed Sami was born in Baghdad in 1984 and lives and works in London. Having completed studies at the Institute of Fine Arts, Baghdad, he worked at the Ministry of Culture before being granted asylum in Sweden in 2007. Sami graduated from Belfast School of Art in 2015, and earned an MFA at Goldsmith's College, London, in 2018. His paintings are held by the Arts Council Collection, London; The Boijmans van Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam; The Blenheim Art Foundation, Woodstock; The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; the Government Art Collection, London; the HE Museum, Foshan; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Imperial War Museum, London; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Tate, London; and the Permanent Collection of York Art Gallery, York.

Martin Wong (1946-1999) was born in Portland, Oregon and raised in the Chinatown district of San Francisco, California. He studied ceramics at Humboldt State University, graduating in 1968. Wong was active in the performance art groups The Cockettes and Angels of Light Free Theater before moving to New York in 1978. He exhibited for two decades at notable downtown galleries including EXIT ART, Semaphore, and P·P·O·W, among others before his passing in San Francisco from an AIDS related illness. His work is represented in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Bronx Museum of The Arts, New York, NY; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH; The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, among others. Human Instamatic, a comprehensive retrospective, opened at the Bronx Museum of The Arts in November 2015 before traveling to the Wexner Center for the Arts in 2016 and the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive in 2017.

New Contemporaries is the UK's leading organisation supporting emerging and early career artists from established and alternative art programmes. Since 1949, we have provided development opportunities for artists, helping them to successfully transition from education into more established pathways. Receptive to diverse practices from a diverse demographic, participants for our annual, open exhibition are selected by a panel comprising influential artists and art world figures, often including artists who have previously been a part of New Contemporaries. Remaining responsive to the radical movements of contemporary art, New Contemporaries also offers artists mentoring, residencies, bursaries, fellowships, commissioning and programming opportunities with our extensive network of partners. In addition to receiving NPO funding from Arts Council England over the period 2018-2022, Bloomberg Philanthropies has supported the New Contemporaries touring exhibition since 2000.

KW

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New Contemporaries