

Daria Martin: *Tonight the World***The Curve, Barbican Centre****31 January – 7 April 2019****Media View: Wednesday 30 January, 10am – 1pm****Free Admission**

#DariaMartin

Supported by Wellcome, Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso para el Arte, Christie Digital and using public funding by Arts Council England.

Barbican Art Gallery presents London-based artist, filmmaker and 2018 Jarman Award-winner **Daria Martin**'s first solo commission for a major London public gallery, in The Curve. The exhibition is part of the Barbican's 2019 season, *Life Rewired*, which explores what it means to be human when technology is changing everything.

Using both film and computer gaming technology, Martin explores the vivid writings of her grandmother, artist Susi Stiasni who, aged 16, fled with her family from the former Czechoslovakia under the imminent threat of the Nazi occupation in 1938. Martin draws on an extensive archive of her grandmother's dream diaries amounting to over 20,000 pages. These forensically recorded accounts were created over a 35 year period, initially for the purposes of psychoanalysis and were left to Martin's family after Stiasni's death in 2005. The dreams frequently return to the traumatic history of her childhood home, a Czech modernist villa, seized by the Nazis after the family left and still standing today in the city of Brno. Although Stiasni never returned to Brno after fleeing to the United States, she often revisited the family home while dreaming.

Entering the exhibition, visitors encounter a film created in collaboration with game designers in Brno. The videogame 'play through' journeys through a virtual rendering of Stiasni's childhood home, engaging with glimpses of the diary archive and objects connected to the dreams. Martin has augmented the gallery's architecture with a bulging wall designed as an extension of the house and punctuated with a selection of diary pages, as well as objects which unite the virtual and the physical. The exhibition ends with the 16mm anamorphic film *Tonight the World* (2019), shot on location inside the villa itself. Martin has reimaged the narrative of five dreams which reflect on recurring themes of anxiety and intrusion. Four actresses play Stiasni interchangeably in situations that overlap the time of the dream with the time of the dreamer. Martin envisages that the installation will become simultaneously a portrait of her ancestor, a self-portrait and an exploration of intergenerational trauma, loss, and resilience.

Daria Martin said: *"I was intrigued to discover that The Curve was originally designed as a liminal space: a sound buffer to wrap around the back of the Concert Hall. My exhibition explores another sort of 'back room' – a lost dream diary archive. The installation plays with the dramatic sweep of the grand, semi-circular curved wall – and in particular the way that it enables a cinematic journey of successive 'reveals' – but also with the space's more eccentric insides."*

Daria Martin is an internationally exhibited artist living in London, and Professor of Art at The Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford. Martin's films aim to create continuity between disparate media such as painting and performance, between people and objects, and between internal and social worlds.

Martin was born in 1973 in San Francisco. After studying humanities at Yale, she received her Master in Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2000. Solo exhibitions include Maureen Paley, London, UK (2016); One of the Things That Makes Me Doubt, ACCA: Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia (2013); Sensorium Tests, Milton Keynes Gallery, Milton Keynes, UK (2012); Minotaur, Touring Exhibition, MCA Chicago, Chicago, USA, New Museum, New York, USA and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA (2009-10). Recent group exhibitions include The New Human, Moderna Museet Malmö, Sweden, touring to Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2016); 14th Istanbul Biennial SALTWATER: A Theory of Thought Forms, Istanbul, Turkey (2015); 10th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China

(2014); In the Holocene, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA (2012); Dancing Through Life, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2011). Martin was recently awarded the 2018 Film London Jarman Award. Martin is represented by Maureen Paley, London.

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Notes to Editors

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Press images available online from the Barbican Newsroom

A link to the image sheets can be found in the 'Downloads' box on the top right-hand side of the page from: www.barbican.org.uk/DariaMartinNews

Barbican Newsroom

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Public Information

The Curve, Barbican, London

Public information: 0845 120 7550 / www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery

Free admission

The Curve opening times:

Saturday – Wednesday 11am–8pm

Thursday & Friday 11am–9pm

Bank Holidays 12pm–8pm

Exhibition

The exhibition has been commissioned by Barbican, London and co-commissioned by The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, where it will be shown June 27, 2019 – February 19, 2020.

Supported by Wellcome, Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso para el Arte, Christie Digital and using public funding by Arts Council England. Additional support provided by Maureen Paley, London, Valeria Napoleone, the South Moravian Film Endowment Fund (Czech Republic), Masaryk University, Faculty of Informatics (Brno), the Erasmus Programme, St John's College, Oxford, University of Oxford.

Events

Social Dreaming Matrix

Wed 6 Feb, 6 Mar & 20 Mar, 8pm, The Curve

Free, ticketed

Led by experienced psychotherapists Laurie Slade and Catherine Cox, the social dreaming matrix is an interactive after-hours session, in which participants share dreams and make associations, as a way of tapping into the 'collective unconscious'.

Family Storytelling: Dreams, Memory & Home

Sun 10 & 17 Feb, 12.30pm, The Curve

Free, drop in

Storyteller Vanessa Woolf (London Dreamtime) leads a series of family storytelling sessions about dreaming, memories & sense of home.

[In Conversation: Daria Martin and Laura Mulvey](#)

Thu 7 March, 7pm, Frobisher Auditorium 2

Tickets £10

Daria Martin and feminist film theorist Laura Mulvey in conversation, exploring themes of psychoanalysis, female legacies of creativity and experimental filmmaking.

Film-work as Dream-work

Thu 28 Mar, 6.30pm, Cinema 3

Tickets £10.50

Writer and art critic Dr Maria Walsh curates a programme of artists' film and speaks to artist and filmmaker Daria Martin about translating dreams into film.

To find out more about specific events as they are confirmed, check the website for full listings:

www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery

Book

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully-illustrated publication, including a newly commissioned essay by Dr Maria Walsh and an interview with the artist by exhibition curator Florence Ostende. The book is the ninth in a publication series by Barbican Art Gallery that focuses on The Curve exhibition programme.

£12.00, available from 28 February 2019 via the Barbican Shop.

[Life Rewired](#)

Life Rewired is the Barbican's year-long arts and learning season exploring what it means to be human when technology is changing everything. Running throughout 2019, the season investigates the impact of the pace and extent of technological change on our culture and society, looking at how we can grasp and respond to the seismic shifts these advances will bring about.

Life Rewired demonstrates how artists are finding imaginative ways to communicate the human impact of unprecedented technological shifts and scientific advances, as well as finding creative new uses for Artificial Intelligence, big data, algorithms and virtual reality.

The Curve

The Curve is the Barbican's free exhibition space that wraps around the back of the Concert Hall. Launched in May 2006, Curve Art is a series of new commissions in which contemporary artists respond to the distinctive architecture of the space. Artists who have previously made new commissions for The Curve are Tomas Saraceno (Argentina); Richard Wilson (Britain); Jeppe Hein (Denmark); Marjetica Potrč (Slovenia); Shirana Shahbazi (Switzerland/Iran); Hans Schabus (Austria); Huang Yong Ping (France/China); Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Canada/Mexico); Peter Coffin (USA); Clemens von Wedemeyer (Germany); Robert Kuśmirowski (Poland); Céleste Boursier-Mougenot (France); John Bock (Germany); Damián Ortega (Mexico); Cory Arcangel (USA); Junya Ishigami (Japan); Song Dong (China); Random International (Britain); Geoffrey Farmer (Canada); Ayşe Erkmen (Germany/Turkey); United Visual Artists (Britain); Walead Beshty (USA/Britain); Roman Signer (Switzerland); Eddie Peake (Britain); Imran Qureshi (Pakistan); Bedwyr Williams (Wales); Richard Mosse (Ireland); John Akomfrah (Britain); Yto Barrada (Morocco); and most recently Francis Upritchard (New Zealand).

Barbican Art Gallery and The Curve

Our visual arts programme embraces art, architecture, design, fashion, photography and film. Many of our exhibitions explore the interconnections between disciplines, periods and cultures, and aim to imagine the world in new ways. Designers, artists and architects are our collaborators in this process.

We invest in the artists of today and tomorrow; The Curve is one of the few galleries in London devoted to the commissioning of new work. Through our activities we aim to inspire more people to discover and love the arts. Entrance to The Curve is free. Through Young Barbican we offer £5 tickets to 14-25 year olds for our paid exhibitions and free admittance for under 14s.

Our exhibitions are complemented by comprehensively researched catalogues and a full range of public events. We develop engaging online content for audiences and offer special tours for schools. In partnership with renowned museums and art galleries, many of our exhibitions travel to reach both national and international audiences.

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over a million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, public spaces, a library, the Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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