Into the Night: Cabarets & Clubs in Modern Art

The Barbican Art Gallery’s new exhibition Into the Night: Cabarets and Clubs in Modern Art explores the social and artistic role of cabarets, cafés and clubs around the world. Spanning the 1880s to the 1960s, the exhibition presents a dynamic and multi-faceted history of artistic production. The first major show staged on this theme, it features both famed and little-known sites of the avant-garde – these creative spaces were incubators of radical thinking, where artists could exchange provocative ideas and create new forms of artistic expression.

Focusing on global locations from New York to Tehran, London, Paris, Mexico City, Berlin, Vienna and Baghdad, Into the Night brings together over 350 works rarely seen in the UK, including paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, films and archival material. Liberated from the confines of social and political norms, many of the sites provided immersive, often visceral experiences, manifesting the ideals of the artists and audiences who founded and frequented them. The exhibition features full-scale recreations of specific spaces, such as the multi-coloured ceramic tiled bar of the Cabaret Fledermaus in Vienna (1907), designed by Josef Hoffmann for the Wiener Werkstätte, and the striking abstract composition of the Ciné-Dancing designed by Theo van Doesburg for L’Aubette in Strasbourg (1926–28).

INVITATION: Barbican Residents Gallery Private View

Tue 12 Nov, 6.30–8.30pm

Join us for an special Residents Private View of Into the Night on Tuesday 12 November, 6.30–8.30pm. RSVP in advance is essential and to register for tickets, please visit the website barbican.org.uk/residents or call 020 7638 8891.

The Barbican at 50: What began, What is, What if

Back in June the Barbican hosted a collaborative event with the Barbican Association to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Barbican Estate. The Barbican at 50: What began, What is, What if featured a range of architecture historians, authors and cultural actors in discussions around the original vision and prospective future of the Estate. Many thanks for those that joined us for what proved to be a lively afternoon of discussion, and if you missed it (or want to revisit) you will soon be able to view the event online at www.barbican.org.uk/residents.
INVITATION: Barbican Archive Mixtape Residents screening
Sun 24 Nov, 12noon

In celebration of the Barbican Estate’s 50th anniversary, The Barbican Archive Mixtape is a cut-and-paste journey through the TV, film and artists moving image that has captured the Estate on screen. The Barbican Archive Mixtape charts the life of the Estate as it was featured in television specials, as the stark modernist backdrop for drama, as advertised to the public and interpreted by numerous filmmakers.

Featured in full are two rare TV documentaries presenting both sides to the history of the estate: the first, a World in Action special from 1967 entitled The Militants follows the Barbican construction workers as they organise against their employers in a historic strike that became known as ‘The Battle of the Barbican’. This is paired with South of Watford. Filmed over twenty years later, this is a roaming and playful portrait of the Barbican in 1988, interviewing residents, staff and performers at the Centre.

The Barbican Archive Residency
Sat 19–Sun 20 Oct

The Barbican Archive team are excited to present a weekend of free archive talks, films, pop-up installations and workshops, showcasing material from the Barbican’s collection alongside several guest London archives, exploring material relating to protest, experimental music, community video and more.

The Barbican Archive Residency is taking place in the Level G Studio at the Barbican, on 19–20 October 2019. The weekend is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Find out more at barbican.org.uk or contact archives@barbican.org.uk

Read about the Barbican Young Curators’ views on archives at sites.barbican.org.uk/forgetmenot

Sat 19 Oct
- see items from the Barbican collection and to talk to us about donating Barbican related material to the archive
- The Golden Lane Estate Community Archive on community archiving and the history of the estate
- Christine Wall and Linda Clarke (University of Westminster) on the Battle of the Barbican – the 18 month period of strike action that took place during the Barbican’s construction, followed by a conversation with key figures who participated in the strikes.

Sun 20 Oct
- The London Community Video Archive share a specially curated selection of films from the Community Video movement of the 1970s and 1980s,
- The Bishopsgate Institute’s Special Collections and Archives on radical collecting practices
- The Unlocking Our Sound Heritage team from London Metropolitan Archives on Creating Music in Class, an educational box set produced by the Radiophonic Workshop’s John Baker – expect psychedelic graphic scores, mind-bending sounds and live music

Across the weekend
- The Barbican’s Young Curators’ group lead interactive workshops for families, aimed at creating a playful introduction to archiving.
- The Barbican Archive Jukebox, sharing stories from the Barbican’s history through oral history and animation,
- The Barbican Archive Mixtape, a cut-and-paste journey through the Barbican’s history in moving image.

The Residency weekend marks the end of a year-long heritage project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are in the process of assembling our Archive in preparation for the 40th anniversary of the Barbican Centre in 2022.

Join us for a special FREE screening for Barbican Residents on Sunday 24 November at 12noon in Cinema 1 (with tea/coffee available from 11.30 in the Level Minus 2 foyer).

Places are limited and RSVP is essential so to book your ticket (maximum of 2 per household) please register online at www.barbican.org.uk/residents or call 020 7638 8891.

The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre