

Into the Night: Cabarets and Clubs in Modern Art

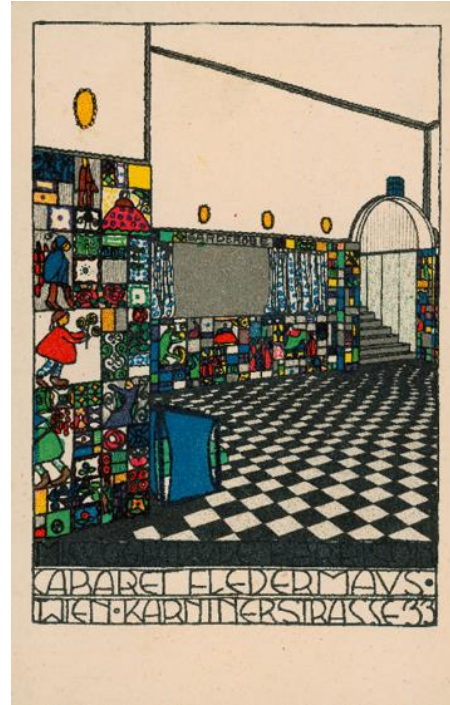
Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK

4 October 2019 – 19 January 2020

Media View: Thursday 3 October 2019, 10am – 1pm

#IntoTheNight @barbicancentre

The exhibition is sponsored by Mount Street. With additional support from the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany London, the Austrian Cultural Forum London, the Embassy of Mexico to the United Kingdom & AMEXCID, and a Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Research Grant from the Art Fund.



Aaron Douglas, *Dance*, c. 1930 © Heirs of Aaron Douglas/VAGA at ARS, NY and DACS, London 2019; Josef Hoffmann, *Wiener Werkstätte Postkarte No. 74 (Interior view of the bar at the Cabaret Fledermaus)*, 1907, Collection of Leonard A. Lauder

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. *Into the Night* offers an alternative history of modern art that highlights the spirit of experimentation and collaboration between artists, performers, designers, musicians and writers such as **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec**, **Loïe Fuller**, **Josef Hoffmann**, **Giacomo Balla**, **Theo van Doesburg** and **Sophie Taeuber-Arp**, as well as **Josephine Baker**, **Jeanne Mammen**, **Aaron Douglas**, **Jacob Lawrence**, **Ramón Alva de la Canal** and **Ibrahim El-Salahi**.

Focusing on global locations from New York to Tehran, London, Paris, Mexico City, Berlin, Vienna and Ibadan, *Into the Night* brings together over 300 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). The exhibition will feature a soundscape created by hrm199, the studio of acclaimed artist Haroon Mirza, specifically commissioned for the show.

Jane Alison, Head of Visual Arts, Barbican, said: “*Into the Night casts a spotlight on some of the most electrifying cabarets and clubs of the modern era. Whether a creative haven, intoxicating stage or liberal hangout, all were magnets for artists, designers and performers to come together, collaborate and express themselves freely. Capturing the essence of these global incubators of experimentation and cross-disciplinarity, immersive 1:1 scale interiors will take the visitor on a captivating journey of discovery.*”

Into the Night begins in Paris, on the eve of the 20th century, with two thrilling and iconic locations of the avant-garde. The theatrical shadow plays of the *Chat Noir* in the 1880s are brought to life through original silhouettes and works that decorated the interior of the cabaret, which acted as a forum for satire and debate for figures such as founder **Rodolphe Salis**, artist **Henri Rivière** and composer **Erik Satie**. The captivating serpentine dances of **Loïe Fuller** staged at the *Folies Bergère* in the 1890s were trail-blazing experiments in costume, light and movement. **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec** captured her performances in his extraordinary series of delicately hand-coloured lithographs, brought together for the exhibition. Visitors will encounter the immersive “Gesamtkunstwerk” (total work of art) design of the *Cabaret Fledermaus* (1907) in Vienna by the **Wiener Werkstätte**, where experimental cabaret productions were staged. The exhibition includes original documentation of **Oskar Kokoschka**’s exuberant puppet theatre and **Gertrude Barrison**’s expressionist dance.

The *Cave of the Golden Calf* (1912), an underground haunt in Soho epitomising decadence and hedonism, is evoked through designs for the interior by British artists **Spencer Gore** and **Eric Gill**, as well as **Wyndham Lewis**’s highly stylised programmes for the eclectic performance evenings – advertised at the time as encompassing “the picturesque dances of the South, its fervid melodies, Parisian wit, English humour”. In Zurich, the radical atmosphere of the *Cabaret Voltaire* (1916) is manifested through absurdist sound poetry and fantastical masks that deconstruct body and language, evoking the anarchic performances by **Hugo Ball**, **Emmy Hennings** and **Marcel Janco**. This is the birthplace of Dada, where humour, chaos and ridicule reign. Two significant clubs in Rome provide insights into the electrifying dynamism of Futurism in Italy in the 1920s. **Giacomo Balla**’s mesmerizing *Bal Tic Tac* (1921) is summoned by colour-saturated designs for the club’s interior, capturing the swirling movement of dancers. Also on show are drawings and furnishings for **Fortunato Depero**’s spectacular inferno-inspired *Cabaret del Diavolo* (1922) which occupied three floors representing heaven, purgatory and hell. Depero’s flamboyant tapestry writhes with dancing demons, expressing the club’s motto “Tutti all’inferno!!! (Everyone to hell!!!)”.

A few years later, a group of artists and writers from the radical movement Estridentismo, including **Ramón Alva de la Canal**, **Manuel Maples Arce** and **Germán Cueto**, began to meet at the *Café de Nadie* (Nobody’s Café) in Mexico City, responding to volatile Post-Revolutionary change and the urban metropolis. The **¡30-30!** group expressed its values by holding a major print exhibition (partially reassembled here) in a travelling circus tent open to all. Meanwhile in Strasbourg, **Theo van Doesburg**, **Hans Arp** and **Sophie Taeuber-Arp** worked together to create the *L’Aubette* (1926–28), conceived as the ultimate “deconstruction of architecture”, with bold geometric abstraction as its guiding principle. The vast building housed a cinema-ballroom, bar, tearoom, billiards room, restaurant and more, each designed as immersive environments.

After a period of restraint in Germany during the First World War, the 1920s heralded an era of liberation and the relaxation of censorship laws. Numerous clubs and bars in metropolitan cities, such as Berlin, playing host to heady cabaret revues and daring striptease; the notorious synchronised Tiller Girls are captured in **Karl Hofer**’s iconic portrait. Major works by often overlooked female artists such as **Jeanne Mammen** and **Elfriede Lohse-Wächtler**, as well as **George Grosz**, **Otto Dix** and **Max Beckmann**, capture the pulsating energy of these nightclubs and the alternative lifestyles that flourished within them during the 1920s and 1930s. During the same time in New York, the literary and jazz scenes thrived and co-mingled in the predominantly African American neighbourhood of Harlem, where black identity was re-forged and debated. Paintings and prints by **Aaron Douglas** and **Jacob Lawrence** convey the vibrant atmosphere and complex

racial and sexual politics of the time, while poetry by **Langston Hughes** and early cinema featuring **Duke Ellington** shed light on the rich range of creative expression thriving within the city.

Into the Night also celebrates the lesser known but highly influential *Mbari Artists and Writers Club*, founded in the early 1960s in Nigeria. Focusing on two of the club's key locations, in Ibadan and Osogbo, the exhibition explores how they were founded as laboratories for postcolonial artistic practices, providing a platform for a dazzling range of activities – including open-air dance and theatre performances, featuring ground breaking Yoruba operas by **Duro Ladipo** and **Fela Kuti's** Afro-jazz; poetry and literature readings; experimental art workshops; and pioneering exhibitions by African and international artists such as **Colette Omogbai**, **Ibrahim El-Salahi** and **Uche Okeke**. Meanwhile in Tehran, *Rasht 29* emerged in 1966 as a creative space for avant-garde painters, poets, musicians and filmmakers to freely discuss their practice. Spontaneous performances were celebrated and works by artists like **Parviz Tanavoli** and **Faramarz Pilaram** hung in the lounge while a soundtrack including Led Zeppelin and the Beatles played constantly.

The exhibition is curated and organised by Barbican Centre, London, in collaboration with the Belvedere, Vienna.

Cabarets, Cafés, Clubs and Artists included in the exhibition:

The Chat Noir, Paris, 1880s–90s

George Auriol, Aristide Bruant, Georges Fragerolle, Fernand Lunel, Louis Morin, Maurice Neumont, Georges Redon, Henri Rivière, Erik Satie, Théophile Alexandre Steinlen, Adolphe Willette.

Loïe Fuller at the Folies Bergère, Paris, 1890s

Jules Chéret, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Thomas Edison, Loïe Fuller, Auguste Lumière, Louis Lumière.

Cabaret Fledermaus, Vienna, 1907–13

Gertrude Barrison, Le Corbusier, Josef Divéky, Egon Friedell, Josef Hoffmann, Moriz Jung, Oskar Kokoschka, Fritz Lang, Bertold Löffler, Miss Macara, Nagel Sisters, Carl Otto Czeschka, Eduard Josef Wimmer-Wisgrill.

Cave of the Golden Calf, London, 1912–14

Eric Gill, Charles Ginner, Spencer Gore, Wyndham Lewis.

Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich, 1916

Hans Arp, Hugo Ball, Emmy Hennings, Richard Huelsenbeck, Marcel Janco, Max Oppenheimer, Karl Schlegel, Marcel Slodki, Tristan Tzara.

Bal Tic Tac, Rome, 1921, and Cabaret del Diavolo, Rome, 1921 and 1922

Giacomo Balla, Fortunato Depero.

Café de Nadie and the Carpa Amaro, Mexico City, 1920s

Ramón Alva de la Canal, Fernando Bolaños Cacho, Rosario Cabrera, Jean Charlot, Germán Cueto, Francisco Díaz de León, Gabriel Fernández Ledesma, Justino Fernández, Gerónimo Flores, Fernando Leal, Germán List Arzubide, Manuel Maples Arce, Leopoldo Méndez, Gerardo Murillo, Fermín Revueltas, Kyn Taniya (Luis Quintanilla), Víctor Tesorero, Enrique Ugarte, Arqueles Vela, Isabel Villaseñor.

L'Aubette, Strasbourg, 1928

George Antheil, Hans Arp, Arthur Gibbs, Hans Richter, Erik Satie, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Theo Van Doesburg.

Berlin, Weimar Clubs and Cabarets, 1920s–30s

Josephine Baker, Max Beckmann, Anita Berber, Otto Dix, Valeska Gert, George Grosz, Hannah Höch, Karl Hofer, Elfriede Lohse-Wächtler, Jeanne Mammen, Curt Moreck, Rudolf Schlichter, Erna Schmidt-Carroll, The Tiller Girls.

Harlem, New York, Nightclubs, Jazz Clubs and Cabarets 1920s–40s

Edward Burra, Joyce Carrington, Aaron Douglas, Duke Ellington, William H. Johnson, Langston Hughes, Jacob Lawrence, Alain Locke, Claude McKay, James Weldon Johnson.

The Mbari Clubs, Ibaden and Osogbo, 1961-66

Jacob Afolabi, Kofi Awoonor, Ulli Beier, Georgina Beier, Dennis Brutus, Leon Damas, Ibrahim El-Salahi, Bakare Gbadamosi, Okogbule Glory Nwanodi, Vincent Kofi, Fela Kuti, Alex La Guma, Duro Ladipo, Valente Malangatana Ngwenya, Demas Nwoko, Rufus Ogundele, Uche Okeke, Christopher Okigbo, Colette Omogbai, Muraina Oyelami, Muraina Oyelami, John Pepper Clark, Lenrie Peters, Fela Sowande. Wole Soyinka, Prince Twins Seven Seven, Susanne Wenger, Denis Williams.

Rasht 29, Tehran, 1966-69

Kamran Diba, Monir Farmanfarmaian, Leyly Matine-Daftary, Faramarz Pileham, Sadegh Tabrizi, Parviz Tanavoli.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Full press pack available online from the Barbican Newsroom:

Links to all documents can be found in the 'Downloads' box on the top right-hand side of the page from www.barbican.org.uk/IntoTheNightnews

Public Information

Barbican Art Gallery and Gallery Shop, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2Y 8DS
0845 120 7550 www.barbican.org.uk/IntoTheNight

Follow updates on the exhibition via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
#IntoTheNight and @barbicancentre

Opening Hours:

Monday to Tuesday, 12noon – 6pm; Wednesday to Friday 12noon – 9pm; Saturday 10am – 9pm;
Sunday 10am – 6pm
Bank Holiday Mondays and New Year's Day, 12noon – 6pm

Ticket Prices

Standard: Monday – Friday, £15
Standard: Saturday & Sunday, £17 (including Bank Holidays)
Members Free; Members Plus Free + guest;
Young Barbican £5; Concessions £11–15
Under 14s Free

For more information on Barbican membership please visit:

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/membership>

Important Notes

Young children need to be closely supervised at all times
Large bags and luggage are not permitted in the gallery. All bags are subject to search. Food and drink are not permitted.

Exhibition

Into the Night: Cabarets and Clubs in Modern Art is curated and organised by Barbican Centre, London, in collaboration with the **Belvedere, Vienna**. It opens at Barbican Art Gallery on 4 October 2019 and runs until 19 January 2020. The exhibition then tours to the Belvedere, Vienna (14 February to 1 June 2020). *Into the Night* is sponsored by Mount Street. With additional support from the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany London, the Austrian Cultural Forum London, the Embassy of Mexico to the United Kingdom & AMEXCID, and a Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Research Grant from the Art Fund. The exhibition is designed by **Caruso St John** with graphic design by **John Morgan**.

Catalogue

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue designed by **John Morgan** and published by **Prestel**. Organised by city, it features a series of enlightening essays that explore how each space fostered and stimulated new forms of artistic expression.

Price: £39.99 ISBN: 978-3-7913-5888-8

Events

A rich programme of talks and events accompanies the exhibition. Please check the webpage nearer the time for more information. www.barbican.org.uk/IntoTheNight

Associated Performance Commission

Heavy handed, we crush the moment

A performance commission by **Last Yearz Interesting Negro**

Thursday 28 November – Sunday 1 December 2019, The Pit

This November Barbican Art Gallery presents *Heavy handed, we crush the moment*, a new commission by Last Yearz Interesting Negro, the performance project of London-based artist and dancer Jamila Johnson-Small. Working from the potential of dance as a radical social practice, this commission is a contemporary response to the Barbican exhibition *Into the Night: Cabarets and Clubs in Modern Art*. Dance, darkness and bass frequencies – this is an immersive experience, somewhere between a dreamscape, a meditation, a nightmare and a nightclub. Last Yearz Interesting Negro presents a series of genre-blurring happenings, staging a new choreographic work that acts as an environment to host performances by guest artists.

Tickets on sale from September 2019.

For information and images please visit: www.barbican.org.uk/HeavyHandedNews

Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning Schools Offer

A downloadable teacher's resource, highlighting key themes and questions raised by the exhibition, is available to support school visits. A special school group rate alongside free exhibition tours, suitable for secondary school groups is £3 per student (Secondary and sixth form, up to age 19) and applies to all school groups of 10 or more. Children under 14 are free. To ensure a free exhibition tour as part of the visit, bookings must be made at least two weeks in advance.

Please contact the school groups booking line: Tel: 020 7382 7211 (Mon–Fri 10am–5pm)

Email: groups@barbican.org.uk

Young Barbican

In addition to our regular discounted access for Young Barbican members, Barbican will host special views for Young Barbican members, offering young people the opportunity to visit the exhibition and see the works interpreted by their peers. The Young Barbican Guides programme invites young people aged 14-25 to respond creatively to our exhibitions and give creative tours to other young people and the wider public. The Young Barbican membership is free and gives young people aged 14-25 discounted access to unmissable art and entertainment as well as exclusive events and creative opportunities. www.barbican.org.uk/join-support/young-barbican

Barbican Art Box

The Barbican's flagship schools programme Barbican Box takes *Into the Night* as its inspiration for the 2019/20 academic year. The cross-art form Box explores key themes of collaboration and how

the club and café cultures included in the exhibition gave birth to new genres of art, music and performance. This exploration of collaborative art will be extended further through artist-led workshops and activities guided by the practice of live art collaborators Hunt & Darton. Students and teachers will work with Hunt & Darton and other artist mentors to develop creative work which will be showcased at the Barbican in spring 2020.

For more information visit: <https://www.barbican.org.uk/take-part/schools-colleges/barbican-box>

Family Activity Sheet

An activity sheet is available for families visiting the exhibition.

Barbican Art Gallery Shop

In addition to the official exhibition catalogue the Gallery Shop will also feature a wide selection of books and other related titles plus prints, stationery, postcards, gifts and more. The best of the Barbican Shop ranges can be found online at www.barbican.org.uk/shop

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, children under 14 attend for free.

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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