

For immediate release: Thursday 14 May 2020

Barbican announces new digital content to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week and Human Rights Watch Film Festival

Inspired by the Barbican's international arts programme, a curated mix of podcasts, playlists, films, videos, talks and articles enables audiences to continue to enjoy the Centre's rich and varied programme.

Highlights of new digital content announced today include:

- As part of this year's digital edition of the **Human Rights Watch Film Festival**, the Barbican's Head of Cinema, **Gali Gold**, will chair two Q&A webinar discussions with filmmakers and human rights experts (24 & 29 May)
- To coincide with **Mental Health Awareness Week** (18 – 24 May), the Barbican hosts the third edition of the **Nothing Concrete** podcast series **The Art of Change with Stephen Fry** on music, art, isolation, mental health and the healing power of art; and makes available a new Spotify playlist: **Music for healing and head space** inviting listeners to find a moment of calm
- Composer **Erland Cooper** and filmmaker and photographer **Alex Kozobolis** will take over the [Barbican's Instagram](#) channel for a week
- **The Poetry Exchange** releases **Then Or Now** – the score to **William Tuckett's** new work choreographed for **Ballet Black** – as a [special edition podcast](#), confronting some of the big questions of our time
- On Tue 19 May, the Barbican releases an audio recording of **Ninth Street Women** on [Mixcloud](#). Part of the public programme for 2019 exhibition **Lee Krasner: Living Colour**, author Mary Gabriel celebrates Lee Krasner and her fellow Abstract Expressionist pioneers

All digital content is available for everyone to read, watch and listen to for free at barbican.org.uk/readwatchlisten and via the Barbican's social channels. In addition, podcasts can also be accessed by subscribing to the **Nothing Concrete** podcast via [Acast](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

New Digital Content – full details below

Music

Erland Cooper Instagram takeover

Following the postponement of his *An Orkney Triptych* concert which was due to take place at the Barbican on 13 June 2020, composer **Erland Cooper** has been projecting films onto the concrete walls around the Barbican estate. Made on the Orkney Islands by filmmaker and photographer **Alex Kozobolis**, the films are accompanied by music from Erland's three albums. From Mon 18 May this content will take over the [Barbican's Instagram](#) channel for a week.

A new Spotify playlist to find calm

A new Spotify playlist of '**Music for healing and head space**' to help listeners find a moment of calm, curated by the Barbican's music team, will go live on Mon 18 May to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week. Available via the [Read, Watch & Listen](#) page.

The Art of Change with Stephen Fry series continues on the Nothing Concrete podcast

Episode two of the **Nothing Concrete** podcast series with writer, actor, comedian and campaigner **Stephen Fry** saw Stephen talk movingly and honestly about his struggles with bipolar disorder and his own suicide attempts and is available via the [Read, Watch & Listen](#) page or wherever you listen to your podcasts. Episode three (available on Wed 20 May) continues the discussion as journalist **Chris Guinness** and Stephen Fry talk about his work for gay rights, as well as prostate cancer and mental health advocacy. This four-episode series is part of *The Art of Change* in which the *Nothing Concrete* podcast meets artists and performers who are passionate about changing the world.

Cinema

Human Rights Watch Film Festival

Barbican Cinema celebrates its important and long-standing partnership with the **Human Rights Watch Film Festival** as it returns with a digital edition from 22 May to 5 June, having closed in March due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Co-presented by the Barbican, Curzon and Regent Street Cinema, a collection of nine international titles which were due to be screened at the Barbican, will be available to stream on Curzon Home Cinema. Each film will also include a live Q&A webinar discussion with filmmakers and human rights experts, two of which will be hosted by the Barbican's Head of Cinema, **Gali Gold**.

On 24 May at 8.30pm, **Leftover Women** documentary filmmakers, **Hilla Medalia** and **Shosh Shlam**, will join Gali Gold and **Yaqiu Wang**, Human Rights Watch China Researcher to discuss the issue of "sheng nu" or "leftover" women in China, which leaves single females over 27 under immense social pressures to marry or be rejected from society.

On 29 May at 8.30pm, **Born In Evin** documentary filmmaker **Maryam Zaree** will join Gali Gold and **Tara Sepehri Far**, Human Rights Watch Middle East and North Africa researcher, to talk about the impact of the decades of silence surrounding the circumstances of hers and many others' births inside Evin, Iran's most notorious political prison.

For details for these and the full digital festival programme see [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#).

Please note that subscription fees apply for selected streaming platforms.

Theatre and Dance

The Poetry Exchange podcast

The Poetry Exchange release a special edition podcast, *Then Or Now* - the score to **William Tuckett's** new work choreographed for **Ballet Black** - which would have had its premiere at the Barbican on 26 March 2020. It features poems by American poet **Adrienne Rich** and the music of Austrian composer **Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber** (1644-1704), played by violinist **Daniel Pioro**. With Poetry Direction by **Fiona Bennett**, the words are voiced by **Natasha Gordon, Michael Shaeffer** and **Hafsah Annela Bashir**.

Opening with the words 'What kind of times are these?' Rich's poetry confronts the big questions of our time with astonishing power and intimacy. *Then Or Now* offers a powerful listening experience where words, music and the imagined movement of Ballet Black's dynamic dancers conjure images of beauty and truth in a troubled world. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Visual Arts

From the archive

On Tue 19 May, the Barbican releases an audio recording of *Ninth Street Women* on [Mixcloud](#). Part of the public programme for 2019 exhibition *Lee Krasner: Living Colour*, author Mary Gabriel celebrates **Lee Krasner** and her fellow Abstract Expressionist pioneers: **Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell** and **Helen Frankenthaler**. Gabriel explores the rich story of these five women whose lives and art work drove a revolution in modern art.

Previously announced digital highlights include:

- Meet our Community Collaborator **Headway East London** in this [longread](#) article
- Episodes [one](#) and [two](#) of the four-part *Nothing Concrete* podcast series *The Art of Change with Stephen Fry* – the third episode of which will be available on Wednesday 20 May
- **Complicité's** award-winning production of *The Encounter* (2015), filmed at the Barbican, accompanied by a live discussion event and public Q&A with **Simon McBurney**
- [Two short films](#) commissioned for the cancelled *The Lark Ascending: People, Music, Landscape* concert
- A **Tony Allen** playlist, curated by **Strut Records** in tribute to the legendary Afrobeat drummer, who last appeared at the Barbican in 2019. [Barbican Profile: Tony Allen](#) is available on the Barbican's Spotify channel.
- [A live discussion](#) between filmmaker **Kitty Green** and Birds Eye View director **Mia Bays**, with an intro from Barbican curator **Sonia Zadurian** about *The Assistant*
- A specially recommissioned and recorded [conversation](#) between **Karen Knorr** and **Anna Fox**, two of the artists featured in *Masculinities: Liberation through Photography* (2020) in the Art Gallery as well as a

Q&A with Barbican Visual Arts Curator **Alona Pardo** about this exhibition, still available on the [Barbican's Twitter](#).

- **Richard Mosse** [in conversation](#) with **Anthony Downey** about *Incoming*
- [Family favourites](#) chosen by Barbican Cinema curator **Susie Evans** to keep the over 5s entertained during lockdown

BARBICAN TEMPORARY CLOSURE INFORMATION

The Barbican is temporarily closed until further notice due to UK Government advice on Coronavirus/Covid-19. All events taking place until Tuesday 30 June 2020 have now been cancelled or postponed. Everyone who has booked a ticket for a Barbican event during this period is eligible for a full refund. Information on how to claim this is published [here](#). Anyone who has tickets up until the end of June has been contacted by the Box Office.

The Barbican is encouraging audiences to [make a donation](#) so it can keep investing in the artists and organisations with whom it works. Audiences are also being asked to consider donating to the Centre's Resident and Associate companies to support them through these difficult times.

ENDS

Press information

For further information and images please contact the Barbican's Communications office:

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Public information

www.barbican.org.uk

Barbican newsroom

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/news/home

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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