

For immediate release: **Wednesday 01 July 2020**

Barbican Art Gallery reopening programme

Barbican Art Gallery has announced that it will reopen its doors to the public on Monday 13 July 2020, in line with government guidelines and with new safety measures in place.

The Barbican's 2020 exhibition programme will begin again with the reopening of the acclaimed ***Masculinities: Liberation through Photography***. This thoughtful and timely group exhibition explores the ways in which masculinity is experienced, performed, coded and socially constructed through photography and film from the 1960s to the present day. Having previously opened for just four weeks before the Barbican temporarily closed in March, the show's run has been extended from 13 July until 23 August 2020.

The Art Gallery will be operating at reduced capacity, with timed entry slots to ensure a safe flow of visitors through the space, and tickets will need to be booked online at barbican.org.uk in advance of a visit.

This will be followed by ***A Countervailing Theory***, the first-ever UK commission from Nigerian-American artist **Toyin Ojih Odutola**, which will open for the first time in The Curve on Tuesday 11 August. An epic cycle of new work explores an imagined ancient myth conceived by the artist, unfurling across the 90-metre long gallery and featuring an immersive soundscape by sound artist **Peter Adjaye**. This free exhibition invites visitors to experience Ojih Odutola's compelling mode of storytelling.

The Barbican is also today announcing an updated schedule for its forthcoming visual arts programme.

On 7 October, an unprecedented exhibition exploring the work and artistic collaborations of the choreographer, dancer and long-term Barbican Artistic Associate **Michael Clark**, will open in Barbican Art Gallery.

Opening on 11 February 2021, the Art Gallery will present a major retrospective of French artist **Jean Dubuffet**, celebrating one of the most powerful and provocative voices in the postwar avant-garde.

Jane Alison, Head of Visual Arts, Barbican, said: *'It's so brilliant to have the opportunity to reopen our Masculinities: Liberation through Photography exhibition, which had met with such acclaim earlier in the year. Now is your chance! Opening in August, we also invite you to experience Toyin Ojih Odutola's epic cycle of works. This stunning project was almost ready to open just as lockdown happened - and again, I couldn't be more delighted that we are finally able to introduce Ojih Odutola's work to a London audience as part of our free programme of Curve artist commissions. In the autumn, we are massively excited to be staging the first ever exhibition on the work of the legendary, cult dancer and choreographer, Michael Clark.'*

The Barbican is taking a phased approach to welcoming visitors back, with the Art Gallery and the Barbican Conservatory reopening on 13 July, followed by The Curve in August. As we begin to reopen, the safety of our audiences and staff remains our top priority. You will find detailed information on our website designed to help you feel

confident about your visit. We know that not everyone will be able to attend in person and will continue to make thought-provoking digital content inspired by our programme freely available via our website. This includes forthcoming video tours of our Masculinities exhibition and Ojih Odutola's A Countervailing Theory. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Barbican to experience some truly incredible art'

Safety measures in place when the Barbican reopens will include social distancing, limited visitor capacity, one-way routes through the building, sanitisation points and regular cleaning. Access to all venues will be via the main entrance on Silk Street with lifts available for those who need them.

The Barbican's restaurants, bars, cafes, main shop and cloakroom facilities will remain closed during this phase but there will be takeaway refreshments and a pop-up Art Gallery shop on the Conservatory Terrace on Level 4, as well as toilet facilities available. Detailed visitor information will be available on the Barbican's [website](#).

To support the Barbican in reopening and offering the widest possible audience access to culture and creativity, donations can be made at <https://www.barbican.org.uk/join-support/support-us>.

Programme and practical information

Visitor information can be found on the Barbican's [website](#).

Masculinities: Liberation through Photography

13 Jul–23 Aug 2020, Barbican Art Gallery

Lead sponsor: CALVIN KLEIN

This exhibition is also made possible through support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and a Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Research Grant from Art Fund



Barbican Art Gallery reopens ***Masculinities: Liberation through Photography***, a major group exhibition that explores the ways in which masculinity is experienced, performed, coded and socially constructed as expressed and documented through photography and film from the 1960s to the present day. The exhibition brings together over 300 works by over 50 pioneering international artists, photographers and filmmakers such as

Laurie Anderson, Richard Avedon, Rineke Dijkstra, Rotimi Fani-Kayode, Peter Hujar, Isaac Julien, Annette Messenger, and Catherine Opie alongside a lesser-known and younger generation of artists including **Cassils, Sam Contis, George Dureau, Karen Knorr, Elle Pèrez, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Hank Willis Thomas, Karlheinz Weinberger** and **Marianne Wex** among others.

With ideas around masculinity and terms such as 'toxic' and 'fragile' masculinity filling endless column inches, the exhibition will chart the representation of masculinity in all its myriad forms, rife with contradiction and complexity. Touching on themes of patriarchy, power, queer identity, race, sexuality, class, female perceptions of men, heteronormative stereotypes, and fatherhood, the works in the exhibition present masculinity as a largely unfixed performative identity shaped by cultural, political and social forces, with photography and film central to the way in which masculinity is shaped and understood.

Tickets

Tickets will need to be booked online at barbican.org.uk in advance of your visit with timed entry slots to ensure a safe flow of visitors through the space. There will be a reduced capacity to allow for social distancing. Tickets will go on sale via the Barbican website to Barbican Members, Business Members and Patrons on Wednesday 1 July. Tickets will go on general sale on Thursday 2 July.

Shop

The Art Gallery shop has been moved to a new temporary site near the exhibition's exit on Level 4 of the Barbican.

Exhibition catalogue

The *Masculinities* catalogue is organised by six themed chapters with essays by writers and academics including Chris Haywood, Edwin Coomasaru, Tim Clark, Jonathan D. Katz, Alona Pardo and Ekow Eshun in the fields of art, history, culture, and queer studies. On sale at £39.99, the catalogue will be available for a reduced price of £34.99 if purchased in the shop. If purchased online at the same time as booking an exhibition ticket, it will be available for £27.99.

<https://shop.barbican.org.uk/products/masculinities-catalogue>

For information and images please visit:

www.barbican.org.uk/MasculinitiesNews

[Toyin Ojih Odutola: A Countervailing Theory](#)

11 Aug 2020 – 24 Jan 2021, The Curve

Free Admission



Barbican Art Gallery presents the first-ever UK commission by Nigerian-American artist **Toyin Ojih Odutola**, a site-specific installation for The Curve. An epic cycle of new work unfurls across the 90-metre long gallery, exploring an imagined ancient myth conceived by the artist. An immersive soundscape by renowned conceptual sound artist **Peter Adjaye** fills the space in response to Ojih Odutola's work.

Executed in pastel, charcoal and chalk, the installation features a series of 40 drawings, each work acting as an individual episode within an overarching narrative. Ojih Odutola encourages the viewer to piece together the fragments of the stories she presents. Set within a surreal landscape inspired by the rock formations of Plateau State in central Nigeria, the works depict a tale of a fictional prehistoric civilisation, dominated by female rulers and served by male labourers. Drawing on an eclectic range of sources, from ancient history to popular culture, Ojih Odutola investigates the power dynamics at play within this community.

Working exclusively with drawing materials, Ojih Odutola's works often take the form of monumental portraits, which retain a remarkable intimacy despite their scale. Her work is concerned with drawing as a process of storytelling. She weaves speculative tales, which question familiar histories and pose alternative realities. Approaching her practice as an investigation, she intensely engages with the process of mark-making to explore its potential to create new meaning.

Tickets

There will be no entry fee charged for this exhibition, though tickets will need to be booked in advance of visiting. Ticketing information will be announced nearer the time.

Exhibition catalogue

A Countervailing Theory is accompanied by an illustrated publication available to pre-order for dispatch from August 2020. Offering an insight into this remarkable body of work, the accompanying publication features a new text by writer **Zadie Smith**.

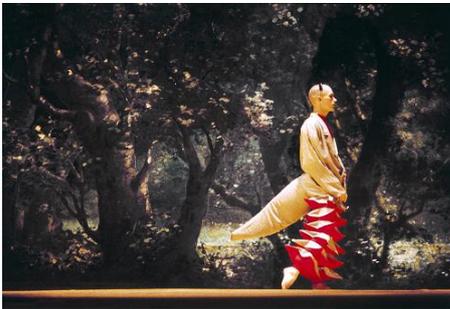
<https://shop.barbican.org.uk/products/toyin-ojih-odutola-catalogue>

For information and images please visit:

www.barbican.org.uk/ToyinOjihOdutolaNews

Michael Clark

7 Oct 2020 – 3 Jan 2021, Barbican Art Gallery



The Barbican will stage a major autumn exhibition in the Art Gallery exploring the work of choreographer and dancer **Michael Clark**. 2020 marks the 15th year of Michael Clark Company's ongoing collaboration with the Barbican as an Artistic Associate. This unprecedented presentation of Clark's work establishes his radical presence in British cultural history and explores his inimitable combination of classical and contemporary influences such as ballet and punk.

Looking back to his meteoric rise as a young choreographer in the 1980s, the exhibition presents a comprehensive vision of Clark's career to date and explores his unique multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates a wide range of subcultural influences. Film, photography and material from Clark's practice are presented together with his legendary collaborations across visual arts, music, fashion and film. New commissions include **Charles Atlas** revisiting the acclaimed *Hail the New Puritan* (1986) which featured **Leigh Bowery** and **The Fall**, along with work by **Duncan Campbell**, **Peter Doig**, **Cerith Wyn Evans**, **Sarah Lucas**, **Silke Otto-Knapp**, **Elizabeth Peyton**, **Wolfgang Tillmans**, **Trojan** and others.

For information and images please visit:

www.barbican.org.uk/MichaelClarkNews

Jean Dubuffet

11 Feb – May 2021, Barbican Art Gallery

Supported by Sotheby's



This major exhibition of the French artist **Jean Dubuffet** (1901-1985) spans more than four decades in the studio and is the first in the UK in over 50 years – celebrating one of the most powerful and provocative voices in the postwar avant-garde. Drawing from international collections and featuring rarely exhibited pieces, this show will highlight Dubuffet's radicalism as he experimented with materials and aimed to create what he described as 'an art that is directly plugged

into our current life, that immediately emanates from our real life and our real moods’.

Dubuffet was one of the first to be interested in ‘Art Brut’ – a phrase he coined, which literally translates as ‘raw art’. He was gifted a copy of Hans Prinzhorn’s influential *Artistry of the Mentally Ill* (1922) and began corresponding with untrained artists, but it was not until 1945 that he visited a number of psychiatric hospitals and after learning more, began to collect the work of patients. The exhibition will centre around a gallery dedicated to Dubuffet’s collection, demonstrating how its return in 1962 from a ten year period of loan to the US contributed to a major shift in his practice. Continuing with significant bodies of work including the ‘Hourloupe’ cycle and ‘Coucou Bazar’, the exhibition champions Dubuffet’s spirit, which has made him such an important influence for artists working since.

For information and images please visit:

www.barbican.org.uk/JeanDubuffetNews

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Notes to Editors

Press Information

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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Press tickets

To ensure the safe flow of visitors through the Barbican, all press tickets will need to be booked 48 hours in advance by contacting a member of the Barbican’s Communications team. You will be unable to enter without a pre-booked ticket and so please do get in touch prior to your visit. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Barbican.

Public Information

Barbican Art Gallery, London, 0845 120 7550, www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery

For more information on Barbican membership please visit;

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

Image Credits

In order of appearance;

1. Sunil Gupta, *Untitled 22* from the series *Christopher Street*, 1976, Courtesy the artist and Hales Gallery. © Sunil Gupta. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2019
2. Toyin Ojih Odutola, *Semblance of Certainty* from *A Countervailing Theory*, 2019.

© Toyin Ojih Odutola. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

3. Michael Clark, *Because We Must*, 1987. © Photography by Richard Haughton
4. *Jean Dubuffet, Paysage aux argus*, (Landscape with Argus), 1955, Collection Fondation Dubuffet.

© Fondation Dubuffet, Paris / DACS, London, 2019. Image courtesy of Fondation Dubuffet, Paris.

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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