

Barbican Visual Arts Exhibition Programme 2023

The Barbican is pleased to announce new exhibitions as part of the 2023 programme.

Alice Neel: *Hot Off The Griddle* (16 February – 21 May 2023) is the largest exhibition to date in the UK of American artist **Alice Neel** (1900–1984). The exhibition showcases her vibrant, expressionistic portraits created across her 60-year career.

Architectural practice **RESOLVE Collective** transforms The Curve with new commission ***them's the breaks*** (30 March – 16 July 2023). Combining architecture, engineering, technology, and art, Resolve Collective collaborates to address social challenges and to realise equitable change in the built environment.

In the summer, a major survey of American artist **Carrie Mae Weems** – her first in a UK institution – presents her multidisciplinary work across photography, film and installation (22 June – 3 September 2023). Widely considered to be one of the most influential American artists working today, Weems is celebrated for her exploration of identity, power, desire, and social justice through work that challenges representations of race, gender, and class.

Poet, visual artist and filmmaker **Julianknxx** takes over The Curve in the autumn, creating a site-specific installation, ***Chorus in Rememory of Flight*** (14 September 2023– 11 February 2024). Collaborating with singers from across the world, Julianknxx considers diasporic culture, memory and loss.

Also in the autumn, major group exhibition **RE/SISTERS** surveys the relationship between women and ecology to identify the systemic links between the oppression of women and the degradation of the planet (5 October 2023 – 14 January 2024). This ground-breaking exhibition brings together film and photography by over 50 international women or gender non-conforming artists.

Alice Neel: *Hot Off The Griddle*

Barbican Art Gallery

16 February – 21 May 2023

Media View: Wednesday 15 February 2023, 10am – 1pm

www.barbican.org.uk/AliceNeel | #AliceNeel @barbicancentre



L: *Alice Neel at the age of twenty-nine*, 1929, Photographer unknown. R: *Self Portrait*, 1980
© The Estate of Alice Neel. Courtesy The Estate of Alice Neel and David Zwirner

'One of the reasons I painted was to catch life as it goes by, right hot off the griddle... the vitality is taken out of real living.'

Alice Neel: Hot Off The Griddle is the largest exhibition to date in the UK of the work of American artist Alice Neel (1900–1984). Based predominantly in New York, Neel painted figuratively during a period in which it was deeply unfashionable to do so. She persisted with her distinctive, expressionistic style, even though it meant that for most of her life she lacked material comfort, let alone critical recognition. Crowned the 'court painter of the underground,' Neel chose to portray individuals who were not typically the subjects of painting – pregnant women, labour leaders, Black and Puerto Rican children, Greenwich Village eccentrics, civil rights activists, queer performers – retaliating against exclusionary histories. Each of her paintings radiates with her sense of the humanity and dignity of each subject.

Drawing on international public and private collections, **Alice Neel: Hot Off The Griddle** brings together works spanning her 60-year career. Neel's vibrant portraits are shown alongside archival material from the time, including photography, letters and film. The exhibition sets her work amid her shifting cultural context, from the formative year she spent in Havana in 1925 with her husband, the Cuban artist Carlos Enríquez, to Spanish Harlem, where she made her home for much of the 1940s and 50s. Largely unrecognised for her work in the last century, Neel has since come to be championed for the candour with which she looked at the world. This exhibition highlights Neel's understanding of the politics of seeing and what it means to feel seen; organised in collaboration with the Centre Pompidou Paris, it opens at **Barbican Art Gallery** on **16 February 2023**. *This exhibition was made possible with Art Fund support.*

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RESOLVE Collective: *them's the breaks*

The Curve, Barbican Centre, London, UK

30 March – 16 July 2023

Media View: Wednesday 29 March 2023, 3.30-5.30pm

www.barbican.org.uk/ResolveCollective | #ResolveCollective @barbicancentre



RESOLVE Collective. (L-R) Seth Scafe-Smith, Melissa Haniff, Akil Scafe-Smith. Photography: Jana Dardouk

In Spring 2023, interdisciplinary design collective **RESOLVE Collective** will take over The Curve with the site-specific installation ***them's the breaks***, exploring visions of restoration, regeneration and renewal in our built environment and institutions.

Starting from a process of “listening” to the Barbican’s built fabric using ‘Non-Destructive Testing’ (the process of evaluating the properties of a material or component without causing damage to the original part), *them’s the breaks* presents an installation of collaboratively produced structures, alongside a public programme of events exploring alternative ideas and strategies for how we identify, consider, and manage the structural decline of our systems, institutions, and buildings.

Resolve Collective is an interdisciplinary design collective that combines architecture, engineering, technology, and art to address social challenges. Through numerous projects in the UK and across Europe, the collective has sought to explore just and equitable visions of change through providing a platform for the production of new knowledge and ideas.

For Resolve, the value of ‘design’ is not only aesthetic, but as a mechanism for political and socio-economic change. This encompasses both physical and systemic interventions, exploring ways of using a project’s site as a resource and working with different communities as stakeholders in the short and long-term management of projects.

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Carrie Mae Weems

Barbican Art Gallery

22 June – 3 September 2023

Media View: Tuesday 20 June 2023, 10am – 1pm

www.barbican.org.uk/CarrieMaeWeems | #CarrieMaeWeems @barbicancentre



L: *Carrie Mae Weems*, portrait by Jerry Klineberg & R: *Carrie Mae Weems, If I Ruled the World*, 2004. © Carrie Mae Weems. Courtesy of the artist, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York / Galerie Barbara Thumm, Berlin

Opening 22 June 2023, Barbican Art Gallery is proud to present the first solo exhibition of **Carrie Mae Weems** in a UK institution. Widely considered to be one of the most influential American artists working today, Weems (b.1953) is celebrated for her exploration of identity, power, desire and social justice through work that challenges representations of race, gender, and class.

Highlighting her remarkably diverse and radical practice, this first major UK survey brings together an outstanding selection of photographs, films, objects and installations spanning over three decades, most of which have never been seen before in the UK. This exhibition presents the full breadth of the artist’s career, from her early iconic *Kitchen Table Series*

(1990) exploring gender politics, to her epic film installation *The Shape of Things* (2021) focusing on the history of violence in the United States. These works challenge dominant ideologies and historical narratives created by and disseminated within science, architecture, photography, and mass media.

Weems came to prominence in the early 1980s through photographic work that questioned how the representation of the Black subject, particularly within America, has historically reproduced systemic racism and inequality. The exhibition surveys the development of her unique poetic gaze and formal language from the early 1990s to the present day, including seminal works such as *From Here I Saw What Happened* and *I Cried* (1995-6), showing how Weems has used photography as a tool for political change, alongside more recent works such as *Constructing History* (2008), and *Lincoln, Lonnie and Me* (2013).

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Julianknxx: *Chorus in Rememory of Flight*

The Curve, Barbican Centre

14 September 2023 – 11 February 2024

www.barbican.org.uk/Julianknxx #Julianknxx @barbicancentre

Media View: Wednesday 13 September 2023, 10am – 1pm



Julianknxx. Photo by Harry Deadman

Poet, visual artist, and filmmaker **Julianknxx** will transform The Curve into a multi-screen audio-visual environment, ***Chorus in Rememory of Flight***. Choirs and musicians from cities across Europe give voice to a single refrain: “We are what’s left of us”. Repeated as a form of reflection, the words ricochet across the space, materialising personal histories and inheritance, loss and survival, then and now. Intertwined with Julianknxx’s poetry, oral testimonies and performance, the piece forms a living archive of diasporic experiences. Informed by Lorna McDaniel’s *Praisesongs in Rememory of Flight* and Paule Marshall’s novel *Praisesong for the Widow*, Julianknxx weaves broad connections between communities that transcend national boundaries. Offering song and music as forms of resistance, the piece invokes new social understandings of what it means to be caught between, and to be of multiple places.

Julianknxx’s interdisciplinary practice is underpinned by his poetry. Taking an expansive approach to poetry, his writing forms the basis of incisive films and live performances that confront visceral histories and personal experiences. Within these films, Julianknxx melds music, dance and critical essays to create a stirring aesthetic that offers new possibilities for understanding the ‘Black interior’. In casting his own practice as a ‘living archive’ or a ‘history

from below', Julianknxx draws on West African traditions of oral history to reframe how we construct both local and global perspectives. He does this through a body of work that challenges fixed ideas of identity and unravels linear Western historical and socio-political narratives, attempting to reconcile how it feels to exist primarily in liminal spaces.

Julianknxx (b. 1987 Freetown, Sierra Leone) graduated in 2012 from Coventry University. Selected exhibitions include *Lux*, 180 The Strand, London (2021); *The View from There*, Sadie Coles HQ (2021); *ContraLa Raza* [Against Race]; Matadero, Madrid (2021); *Roots & Roads*, Franklin Street Works, Stamford CT, USA (2020); and Now Gallery, London (2019). Performances include Fact Magazine (Online Residency) (2021); OT301 Amsterdam (2020); ICA London, Southbank Centre (2019); Jazz Cafe, BBC Radio 5; and London Literature Festival at Southbank Centre (2018).

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RE/SISTERS

Barbican Art Gallery

5 October 2023 – 14 January 2024

Media View: Wednesday 4 October 2023, 10am – 1pm

www.barbican.org.uk/ReSisters | #ReSisters @barbicancentre



Pamela Singh, *Chipko Tree Huggers of the Himalayas #4*, 1994. © Pamela Singh Courtesy sepiaEYE

Opening in October 2023, **RE/SISTERS** will survey the relationship between women and ecology to identify the systemic links between the oppression of women and the degradation of the planet. This major group exhibition will explore the connections between environmental and gender justice as indivisible parts of a global struggle to address existing power structures that threaten our precarious ecosystem. Bringing together film and photography by around 50 international women or gender non-conforming artists, the works will reveal how a woman-centred vision of nature has been replaced by a mechanistic, patriarchal order organised around the exploitation of natural resources alongside work of an activist nature that underscores how women are often at the forefront of advocating and caring for the planet.

Artists include: Laura Aguilar (US); Helène Aylon (US); melanie bonajo (NL); Minerva Cuevas (Mexico); Agnes Denes (US); La Toya Ruby Frazier (US); Anne Duk Hee Jordan (Korean/Germany); Dionne Lee (US); Monica de Miranda (Angola/Portugal); The Neo-Naturists (Christine Binnie/Jennifer Binnie/Wilma Johnson) (UK); Fern Schaffer (US); Susan Schuppli (UK); Pamela Singh (India); Diana Thater (US).

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Press Information

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Press Tickets

To ensure entry to the Art Gallery, we recommend press tickets are booked 48 hours in advance by contacting a member of the Barbican's Communications team. You will be unable to enter without a ticket and so please do get in touch prior to your visit. We look forward to welcoming you to the Barbican. For free exhibitions in The Curve no timed ticket is currently required. Please visit the website or contact a member of the team for the latest information.

Public Information

Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre

Silk Street, London, EC2Y 8DS

Barbican.org.uk

Opening Hours

Sunday - Tuesday 10am - 6pm (last entry 5pm)

Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 8pm (last entry 7pm)

Bank holidays: 12 - 6pm (last entry 5pm)

0845 120 7550

Tickets for the Art Gallery shows will go on sale soon. Entry to The Curve is free.

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.

The Barbican believes in creating space for people and ideas to connect through its international arts programme, community events and learning activity. To keep its programme accessible to everyone, and to keep investing in the artists it works with, the Barbican needs to raise more than 60% of its income through ticket sales, commercial activities and fundraising every year. Donations can be made here: www.barbican.org.uk/join-support/support-us/for-individuals/make-a-donation

For more information on Barbican membership please visit

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

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 Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, 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](#). 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. Find us on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#)