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Barbican Art Gallery is pleased to announce new exhibitions for spring / summer 2024:

Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art

(13 February – 26 May 2024)

Soufiane Ababri

(13 March – 30 June 2024)

Francis Aljys

(27 June – 1 September 2024)

Please see full details below

[***Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art***](#)

Barbican Art Gallery

13 February – 26 May 2024

#unravel @barbicancentre

Textiles weave through our everyday lives yet remain one of the most underexamined mediums in art history. Opening in February 2024, ***Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art*** will shine a light on contemporary artists who — drawn to the tactile processes of stitching, weaving, braiding, and knotting — have explored the transformative and subversive potential of textiles to challenge power structures, transgress boundaries, and reimagine the world around them.



Teresa Margolles, *american Juju for the Tapestry of Truth*, 2015 ©
Courtesy the artist and Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich/ Paris

Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art brings together over 100 artworks by a diverse range of international practitioners to examine the ways in which artists have embraced textiles to communicate multi-layered stories about lived experience, addressing gender, sexuality, colonialism, the movement and displacement of people, ancient forms of knowledge, and more. Spanning intimate hand-crafted works to large-scale sculptural installations, the exhibition presents works that are radical in their form and politics, revealing

how textiles have been forces of resistance and repair.

Participating artists include: **Magdalena Abakanowicz, Igshaan Adams, Mounira Al Sohl, Mercedes Azpilicueta, Louise Bourgeois, Jagoda Buić, Feliciano Centurión, Cian Dayrit, Tracey Emin, Quiltmakers of the Gees Bend (Loretta Pettway), Jeffrey Gibson, Antonio Jose Guzman and Iva Jankovic, Sheila Hicks, Tau Lewis, Teresa Margolles, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Faith Ringgold, Angela Su, Lenore Tawney, Cecilia Vicuña, Billie Zangewa**, and more.

This exhibition is co-curated by the **Barbican, London** and **Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam** where the exhibition will be on show from September 2024.

[Soufiane Ababri](#)

The Curve

13 March – 30 June 2024

#soufianeabrabi @barbicancentre

In March 2024, Moroccan-born artist **Soufiane Ababri** will transform The Curve for his first solo exhibition at a major UK institution. Living and working between Paris, France, and Tangier, Morocco, Ababri's drawings and performances are inspired by real and fictitious encounters, drawing on the artist's own hybrid identity as a gay Arab man as well as his diverse knowledge of film, music, and history. With references to the canon of Western gay



Soufiane Ababri © Noel Quintela

subculture, and the worlds of art and literature, Ababri's unique perspective draws on both Western and non-Western experiences to shine a light on the gaze of minority groups and address the imbalances in the way history and art history have been written.

Soufiane Ababri (b. 1985 Rabat, Morocco) holds a Post-Diploma from the École Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Lyon, France, as well as an MA from the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, and a BA from the École Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Montpellier, France. He has exhibited in various institutions in Europe and worldwide with solo and group shows across Paris, Berlin, London and Los Angeles. His work is included in the collections of the MAC/VAL and the FRAC Poitou-Charentes in France as well as the Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) in Marrakesh, Morocco, and X Museum in Beijing, China.

[Francis Alÿs](#)

Barbican Art Gallery

27 June – 1 September 2024

#francisalys @barbicancentre

The Barbican is delighted to present a major exhibition by renowned Mexico-based artist **Francis Alÿs**. From 26 June to 1 September 2024, this is the artist's first and largest institutional monographic exhibition in the UK for over a decade.



L: Francis Alÿs, 2022 © Louise Stigsgaard R: Francis Alÿs, *Children's Game #14, Piedra, papel o tijera*, 2013, Mexico City, Mexico, in collaboration with Julien Devaux and Félix Blume, courtesy of the artist.

Celebrating the breadth and importance of the artist's work, the exhibition will stage the UK premiere of his critically acclaimed series *Children's Games* (1999-present), newly expanded following the Belgian Pavilion at the 2022 Venice Biennale. Conceived especially for the Barbican, the exhibition will also feature a site-specific project in the gallery for the surrounding community and beyond, offering new perspectives on his prolific career.

With a career spanning over three decades, ranging from painting and drawing to video and photography, Alÿs has forged a unique and radical practice characterised by the interplay between art and geopolitical power dynamics. Born in Antwerp, Belgium in 1959, Alÿs was trained as an architect and urbanist in Tournai, Belgium and Venice, Italy, then moved to Mexico in 1986. Working in collaboration with local communities around the world, his engagement with cross-cultural contexts from Latin America to North Africa and the Middle East operates beyond dominant, Western-centric narratives.

Major solo exhibitions include: The Belgian Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2022), Fragmentos, Bogota (2020), Tai Kwun, Hong Kong (2020), Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai (2018); Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2017); Art Museum, Arizona (2017); Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (2015); Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (2015); Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (2013); Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art (2013); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2011); Tate Modern, London (2010) and Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (2003).

He has been awarded the Wolfgang Hahn Prize (2023); Whitechapel Gallery Art Icon (2020); EYE Art & Film Prize, EYE Filmmuseum, Amsterdam (2018); BACA-laureate Prize (2010); Vincent Award (2008) and the Blue Orange Prize (2004).

The Barbican's visual arts programme is overseen by Head of Visual Arts **Shanay Jhaveri** who, since taking up the position in October 2022, has focused on bringing his unique vision which embraces cross-collaborative approaches between creative disciplines spanning contemporary art, design, fashion, and architecture, as well as across the Barbican's broader art forms which include **Music, Cinema, Theatre & Dance**.

Shanay Jhaveri, Head of Visual Arts at the Barbican, said: *"The Barbican Art Gallery's Spring/Summer 2024 programme offers a compelling group of shows that we hope will inspire and challenge audiences. Looking across borders, each of these exhibitions in their own way explores the power of invention and a sense of resilience; expressed through the creativity of children at play in Francis Alÿs's work, or in the poetic and poignant works by a group of intergenerational artists that seek to release textiles from a host of traditional and stereotypical associations. Equally transgressive is Soufiane Ababri's practice, which through a scenographic installation in The Curve becomes a space for reflection and even catharsis."*

Will Gompertz, Artistic Director at the Barbican, said *"This truly international and wonderful visual arts programme sits within the Barbican's bold mix of fresh and established talent presented every day of the year across our multiple artforms. From Visual Arts to Music, from Cinema to Theatre & Dance, as well as our community engagement programme, our rich offering represents the dynamism and ambition of the Barbican. With performances ranging from the likes of the Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra, Balimaya Project, our ECHO Rising Star Sean Shibe, and our new Milton Court residency with Anthony McGill, to the beautifully-curated Cinema seasons Eat The Screen and Barbican's Outdoor Cinema summer series, alongside Pulitzer Prize winning A Strange Loop taking place this summer and the highly-anticipated return of the RSC's Olivier Award-winning My Neighbour Totoro later in the year, this coming season will be no exception."*

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Notes to Editors

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Press images available online

Further information and images can be found [here](#). Please [contact the press team](#) for any requests.

Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our [website](#).

Public Information

Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre
Silk Street, London, EC2Y 8DS
www.barbican.org.uk

Opening Hours

Saturday - Wednesday 10am - 6pm (last entry 5pm)
Thursday - Friday 10am - 8pm (last entry 7pm)
The Curve is open 11am - 7pm

Refer to the website for Bank Holiday hours.

Please look out for latest information on tickets via our website. Entry to The Curve is free.

Introducing Pay What You Can

Every Friday from 5 – 8pm, entry to *Carrie Mae Weems: Reflections for Now* (Thurs 22 Jun — Sun 3 Sep 2023) will be priced Pay What You Can.

Simply pick the price you can pay and enjoy the exhibition. If you're able to pay £16, you'll be helping to support our Visual Arts programme at the Barbican.

Find out more information [here](#).

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 700 [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](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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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. 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