



Artists announced for collaborative residency and exhibition at CGP London

CGP London, Bethlem Gallery and Outside In have today announced the three artists who will be taking part in *Realm*, an innovative residency and public exhibition to be piloted this spring at CGP London (Southwark Park).

The two pioneering galleries and award-winning arts charity have each selected an artist to work together on the new collaborative project, to create new multi-disciplinary installation artworks.

Outside In held a call out for its artist, pitched at those based in Greater London. After a long and tough shortlisting process, the charity's director and founder Marc Steene along with CGP London's director Judith Carlton, selected the artist they felt would thrive best in this collaborative way of working. Marc said: "The quality, breadth and originality was breath-taking and making a decision from such a quality field extremely challenging. I am very much looking forward to seeing what the three artists realise in their creative collaboration!"

The result means Outside In artist **Richard Downes**, who describes himself as an 'emerging socially engaged activist poet who also uses photography', will join **Hazel Brill**, a visual artist based in Southwark, chosen by CGP London; and **Mr X**, who is known for his temporary structures - many of which he can drive around - selected by Bethlem Gallery (profiles on each below).

CGP London's director Judith explained: "*Realm* is a new way of working for all of us; our fantastic three artists, but also for us as organisations - all of which have partnered previously over the years. Together we will explore the beautiful surroundings of our gallery situated in the heart of Southwark Park; investigating the contemplative and restorative environment of a busy public park in the centre of the capital city; and in effect celebrate the crucial role our parks and open spaces play in all our lives. Our three artists will explore these themes together and collectively, via the residency on site, create an ambitious and immersive mixed media installation in the gallery."

Realm, referring to a kingdom and also that of a field of interest, was chosen to encapsulate the exhibition's study of the public park, its role in society and the ongoing study of green space's positive effects on our health and wellbeing. As a collective theme for the exhibition, it is something of shared interest between all three artists and can therefore be developed further in the collaborative new artwork, responding directly to the gallery's usual park setting.

"'Realm' is a very promising residency/partnership which will assist the artists to enrich their own practice and, through a public exhibition of their work, help us all to learn more about 'park life'," said Lucy Owen, programme coordinator at Bethlem Gallery. "We welcome, and are looking forward to, this opportunity to work in a collaborative way with artists who we might not otherwise have had the chance to meet and exchange experiences with," she added.

The results of the residency, produced over 13 days, will then be showcased in the public exhibition *Realm* at CGP London (The Gallery).

About the artists:

Richard Downes, selected by Outside In:

“I’d like the project to be as exciting as the excitement I feel to have been asked to participate.”

Those are the words of Outside In artist Richard Downes when he was asked about his hopes for the Realm residency and exhibition. The artist and author explains that his work focuses on his personal experience of disability along with ‘ideas of forming and working with communities’.

Regarding Realm, he added: “I am hoping for fun, a learning opportunity, an introduction to another world that becomes less strange the more I interact with it and somewhere I can continue to emerge from as an artist, a poet, a community worker, a more complete person.”

To see Richard’s online Outside In gallery of artwork, click: [HERE](#)

MR X, selected by Bethlem Gallery:

Mr X is an incredibly industrious artist who makes structures and vehicles from his room and a temporary workshop within the Bethlem Royal Hospital.

Known for creating temporary structures, such as the ‘Truck’ which he drives himself, Mr X’s practice also has a strong element of performance which is described as ‘a sophisticated engagement tactic where he can generously share the joy of his inventions’.

Capitalising on the ubiquity of cardboard and various found objects from the hospital to make his work, Mr X constantly recalibrates around obstacles and restrictions encountered within the psychiatric institution and finds ways to continue his practice and keep building.

Mr X said: “I am rather curious how these two artists will see my work and where this ‘Realm’ project will take us. I wonder what we can build together.”

For more work by Mr X, click on the Bethlem Gallery link: [HERE](#)

Hazel Brill, selected by CGP London:

Hazel Brill works across film, sound, animation, text, sculpture and installation. Her theatrically staged videos are described as ‘creating ‘shows’ that feature multiple protagonists, both human and non-human, who enact a plurality of narratives’. The fractured stories parallel authoritative architectures and structures from seemingly hostile contexts, such as free market financial systems and the formation of her epileptic fits. Utilising fictionalised autobiography, Brill creates intimate worlds that cannibalise in on themselves and dissolve a notion of the private internal and public external.

Hazel Brill graduated in 2017 with a MFA Fine Art Media from Slade School of Art, London and recent exhibitions include: Survey, Jerwood, London (2018); Shonisaurus Popularis, Turf Projects (2018); Woke Up In Spring, Zabłudowicz (2018); Artagon III, Paris (2017); Ident, East Bristol Contemporary (2017); Workplace, Workplace Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne (2017); In Succession, Museum Of London (2016); Sails Pitch, Platform 1, Bloomsbury Theatre, London (2016); In Bardo; Act Two, part of Baltic 39 Fig2, Baltic 39, Newcastle upon Tyne (2014).

For more information on Hazel’s work click: [HERE](#).

About Outside In:

Outside In was founded in 2006 by Marc Steene at Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, West Sussex. Its aim then, as it is now, was to provide a platform for artists who face a significant barrier to the art world due to health, disability, social circumstances or isolation.

In 2016, Outside In became an independent charity in its own right and in 2017 it joined the Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

Since its inception, Outside In has engaged with more than 5,000 artists traditionally excluded from the mainstream art world, reached a quarter of a million audience members and gained more than 80 partner organisations nationally. It has held more than 50 exhibitions to date and now provides opportunities and support for more than 2,600 artists. In the next three years the charity will work to create a national platform to support the delivery of its programmes through working in partnership with key strategic arts organisations across the UK to act as hubs of activity and support.

Outside In is supported by:

www.outsidein.org.uk



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About Bethlem Gallery:

The Bethlem Gallery, established 1997, is situated on the grounds of The Bethlem Royal Hospital. Managed by a small, artist-led team, the gallery provides a professional space for high-quality artwork and fosters a supportive artist-focused environment.

Bethlem Gallery has worked with artists, communities and cultural venues to deliver a range of exhibitions and collaborations both on-site within the grounds of the Royal Bethlem Hospital and off-site with partner organisations. The exhibition programme focuses on developing solo exhibitions, group exhibitions, collaborative opportunities and residencies for artists who are current or former patients of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. It campaigns for access to the arts in healthcare environments and engage audiences in learning and debate on the subject of mental health and artistic practice.

Bethlem Gallery is supported by:

www.bethlemgallery.com



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About CGP London:

CGP London is an artist-led gallery of contemporary visual art and registered charity set across two unique venues in the heart of Southwark Park, Bermondsey: The Gallery and Dilston Grove. This year, 2019, sees it celebrate its 35th Anniversary.

Founded and managed by The Bermondsey Artists' Group in 1984, its mission is to foster creative empowerment and career development for all. It provides excellent opportunities for artists, curators and local communities alike to develop their creative ideas, confidence and practice through the supportive and professional presentation of their work. The programme is developed and delivered on site across its beautiful buildings set within a stunning park setting, embedded within its meaningful community engagement activities, supported by its free Learning programme. CGP London's programme of high quality and ambitious exhibitions, installations, performances, events and learning experiences, hosted within a welcoming and accessible environment, seeks to continuously encourage and enable our diverse local and national audiences to engage with visual art at its very best.

CGP London is supported by:

www.cgplondon.org



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Project & Exhibition Press Information:

Exhibition Preview: Sunday 17 March from 3-6pm, all welcome, no invitation required

Exhibition Dates: Wednesday 20 March - Sunday 28 April

Exhibition Opening Hours: Wednesdays to Sundays, 11-5pm, free admission

Venue Address: CGP London, The Gallery, Southwark Park, London SE16 2UA

Venue website: www.cgplondon.org

Telephone: 0207 237 1230

Transport: Overground: Surrey Quays, Canada Water. Jubilee Line: Canada Water, Bermondsey

More information on the exhibition can be found here: www.cgplondon.org/Realm or by contacting CGP London via admin@cgplondon.org

*The exhibition was formerly, for the purpose of the Outside In Open Call in 2018, referred to as Park Life, as a working title.

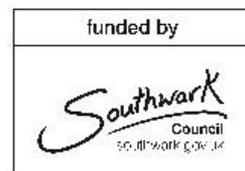
***Realm* is generously supported by Arts Council England, Southwark Council, RIVA and Investec.**



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