

Press Release | For immediate release

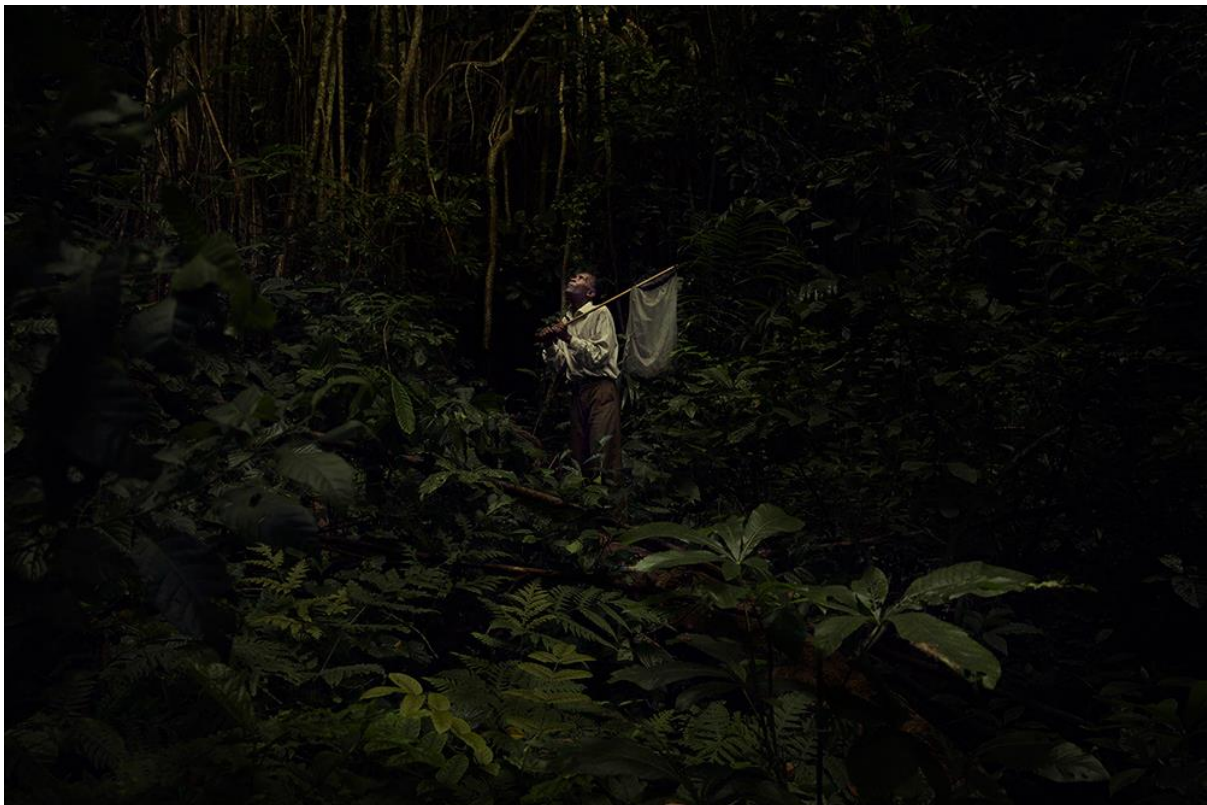
### **Traces of the Future: archaeology of modern science in Africa**

New work from Evgenia Arbugaeva and Mariele Neudecker, with original objects and materials collected during historical-anthropological research at Amani Hill Research Station, Tanzania.

Private view Thursday 26 January, 6-9pm

Exhibition 27 January – 26 March 2017

“I want the audience to feel like the explorer”\* | Art meets anthropology in an exhibition that delves into the past, present and future of science in Africa



Photo, courtesy Evgenia Arbugaeva. Caption: John Mganga, 67, is a former assistant at Tanzania’s Amani Hill Research Station. From 1970 to 1977 he worked with British entomologist John Raybould, using insect nets to snare specimens.

*Traces of the Future* will take audiences deep into the Tanzanian rainforest through an innovative exhibition of new artwork and original archival objects from Amani – meaning peace in *Kiswahili* – Hill Research Station. This will be the first UK exhibition of Russian photographer Evgenia Arbugaeva’s 12 celebrated photographs – as featured in [December 2016’s National Geographic](#) – together with 11 new photo works and three new films from renowned multi-media artist Mariele Neudecker, all made on the Amani residency. Objects on display will include original specimens collected in the surrounding jungle, as well as a plethora of experimental and exploring equipment, staged to create a “wunderkammer” experience for visitors.

One of the biggest of its kind in Africa, the research station was built in the late nineteenth-century and has hosted researchers from all over the world across its originally colonial history. Held in an intriguing state of both use and preservation, some of the site exists exactly as it was in the 1970s; the objects of which reveal the stories and aspirations behind the people and the science that was

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pioneered here. Focusing on the objects – these traces of the past – Arbugaeva’s and Neudecker’s work mediates on their potent and expressive poignancy, that draws lines into our own past, our understanding of the present world and its future.

The exhibition follows the anthropological and historical research project ‘Memorials and remains of medical science in Africa’, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), that through artist residencies and re-enactment explored new and exciting cross-overs between anthropology and art. *Traces of the Future*, with accompanying events and scientific institutional partners, will bring this innovative investigation to the late-nineteenth century Nunnery Gallery – an East End space that also brings traces of its social past into its present and future. Enabling a reflection on universal ‘past futures’, the traces of what could have been, the exhibition will also ignite significant discussion around an important aspect of global science and a past that remains vital to the future of science in Africa.

Curated by Greer Crawley with support from Buckinghamshire New University and with thanks to Prof. Wenzel Paul Geissler (University of Oslo), National Institute for Medical Research, Amani Medical Research Centre and the Booth Museum of Natural History.

\* “I want the audience to feel like the explorer”, Sophie Hill, Nunnery Gallery Co-Director

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#### Notes to editors

Exhibition: *Traces of the Future: archaeology of modern science in Africa*

Dates: 27 January – 26 March 2017

Address: Nunnery Gallery, Bow Arts, 181 Bow Road, London E3 2SJ

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8980 7774

Opening Hours: Tues – Sun, 10am – 5pm

Admission: Free

Travel: Bow Road Tube Station, Bow Church DLR

#### About Bow Arts

Bow Arts Trust was established as an educational arts charity in 1995 and supports a community of over 400 artists with affordable, secure and creative workspaces. Bow Arts also runs the Nunnery Gallery, a contemporary art gallery which supports a diverse range of local, national and international exhibitions and events.

[www.bowarts.org](http://www.bowarts.org)