

VISIONS

in the nunnery

Celebrating 10 years of Visions
Special Exhibition Programme

Potent political works are highlights of *Visions* Programme 2, as artists grapple with representation in our post-digital world, as well as experimental film event with BEEF (Bristol Experimental and Expanded Film)

Programme 2 24th – 30th November, Free Entry

Programme 2 Launch Event: Thursday 24 November, 6-9pm

Live Event with BEEF (Bristol Experimental and Expanded Film) Saturday 26th November 2-7pm

Visions in the Nunnery: 5 October – 18 December 2016 [See full list of exhibition programmes](#)



Still from *Winterwende*, Miloushka Bokma, courtesy the artist

Presenting Miloushka Bokma, Rose Butler, DATAMOSH, Shona Davies, Dave Monaghan & Jon Klein (DMK), FONTE & POE, Rachel Garfield, Stacey Guthrie, Jan Hakon Erichsen, Paul R Jones, Ope Lori, Laura Malacart, Melanie Menard, C.O. Moed + Adrian Garcia Gomez, Alejandra Morote Peralta, Gary Setzer, Paul Shortt, Theo Tagholm, Grace Alexandra Williams.

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Visions Programme 2 explores the diverse methods and approaches artists use to address the paradoxes, contradictions and possibilities of image-making and representation in a 'post-digital world'. Often working with a nod to processes and contexts of the recent past, work tackles the politics of identity, place, nostalgia and negotiating alternative world-views.

With a focus on the personal and political, **Laura Malacart**, **Paul Shortt**, **Rachel Garfield** and **Paul R Jones** consider the representation of citizenship, identification with a country's flag, the effects of military outposts and the use of image-making by political groups.

Malacart uses the flickering of a PAL standard calibration screen to represent citizenship pledges from 14 countries in 5 continents after taking her own pledge opposite the Nunnery after reading here for 30 years. **Shortt** addresses the state of America's political landscape as he fails to fly a flag at full mast, asking why would the American flag be stuck at half-mast? Has it been placed here to memorialise someone or something? Are we a nation in chaos? Or mourning? **Theo Tagholm** uses complex digital collaging in *Simulacra* to question the notion of territory and place.



Still from *Claim*, FONTE & POE, courtesy the artist.

Using humour as a tool for highlighting our experience of popular culture and art, **Jan Hakon Erichsen**, **Gary Setzer** and **Grace Alexandra Williams** question our expectation, habits and desires. **Williams** (recently awarded a Jerwood/FVU commission) presents *V for Val*, exploring the expert delivery of fishing in the performance of "psychic to the stars" Sally Morgan; exposing the comical yet archetypal traits of female mediumship in a media

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saturated era. **Melanie Menard**, **Ope Lori** and **Stacey Guthrie**'s works focus on identity, sexuality, power, difference and the creation of alter-egos. In an attempt to negotiate gender roles, binary structures, inequality and performativity, the films use humour, theatricality and absurdity to draw attention to these moments of creation, destruction and equilibrium.

FONTE & POE and **Miloushka Bokma** make use of symbolism through imitation, nostalgia and customs. **FONTE & POE** enlist a group of people to imitate the sound of cicadas among the ruins of an abandoned Romanic church. In the classical symbology the cicadas represent the ambiguous balance between serenity and recklessness. **Bokma** references the pagan midwinter festival of lights to re-examine contemporary versions of ritual.

Shona Davies, **Dave Monaghan & Jon Klein (DMK)** will showcase installations of *Uninvited V* and *Never eat the cone*. These alternative immersive realities explore both the idealised world, visions of the coast as a desirable playground for holidaymakers and the sometimes unpleasant reality. Likewise, a view of life in a nursing care home through the eyes of patients with dementia offers a different perspective of experiencing the world.

Established in 1999, *Visions in the Nunnery* offers an informed overview of the provocative and quick-changing mediums of moving image and performance. The 2016 exhibition, celebrating the show's tenth edition, showcases over 100 artists' work through an innovative six-part programme, punctuated by 12 events featuring live performances in the gallery and its unique Victorian enclosed courtyard. The show was selected from over 1,500 international submissions by curators Cinzia Cremona and Tessa Garland.



Still from *Pull Up Your Ponch Dolly*, Stacey Guthrie, courtesy the artist.

EVENTS

Programme 2 Launch Event: Thursday 24 November, 6-9pm

The launch of Visions Programme 2 will feature live networked performances throughout, in an innovative demonstration of expanding technology's relationship with art.

Natalia Skobeeva's *Siri* explores the fact that code is a life form, a life form that is created by humankind. Skobeeva's performance enables artificial intelligence, as well as non-human and non-biological forms, a platform. **Annie Abrahams, Daniel Pinheiro & Lisa Parra's** *Distant Feeling(s)* is an online performance series in which Daniel Pinheiro in Porto, Annie Abrahams in Montpellier and Lisa Parra in New York experiment "distanced feeling" together in an interface normally used for videoconferencing. They experiment an online séance where the main goal is to experience the others' presence with their eyes closed and no talking allowed. Together they try to get a grip on what, why and how energy flows when bodies are absent in online performance situations.

In **Cinzia Cremona's**, *By Invitation Only* a meal is shared by sitting around the same table in person and on screen, experimenting with hybrid connections, conversations, flows, forms of intimacy and materiality, textures and relationships. Bodies are present with different intensities as the flavours and textures of the shared food alters the perception of materiality and proximity.

Live Event BEEF Saturday 26th November 2-7pm

Visions in the Nunnery's special evening of experimental film and performance will present works which seek to contextualise analogue and digital practices; and stage a cross section of the diverse mediums and approaches current moving image artists and performers use to respond to the forms of the past present and future.

BEEF (Bristol Experimental and Expanded Film) will present immersive photochemical sonic experimental performances, curated by [Louisa Fairclough](#), with works from **My Tape Archive**, **Laura Phillips & Saltings**, **Vicky Smith** and **Shirley Pegna**. There will be live performances by **Lee Campbell**, **Rory Flynn & Carali McCall** and **Giulia Mattera** plus a selection of works from the **Unnoticed Art Festival**. **Campbell, Flynn & McCall** will re-stage the performance *Shuffle* (1961) by Fluxus artist **Alison Knowles** in *Re-shuffle*. **Natalia Skobeeva** and **Annie Abrahams, Daniel Pinheiro & Lisa Parra** will also be showing live networked performances, using Siri and video conferencing as ways of exploring non-human platforms and systems of communication. **Skobeeva** relates the post-human condition with the language of codes and describes it as the only 'life form' created by humankind. **Abrahams, Pinheiro & Parra** use the structure of an online séance to try and grapple with the absence of the body in an online context. **My Tape Archive** is a performance with 16mm projectors and hand processed film loops. **Vicky Smith** and **Shirley Pegna** will show *Primal*, an abstract 16mm animation made directly onto the



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filmstrip through physical contact with film using the actions of rubbing and scraping. Similarly, the live soundtrack is made through tactile processes.

BEEF is a film and sound collective supporting experimental practice in Bristol, providing a platform for production, distribution and critical engagement. BEEF's members are artists, curators and researchers organising a regular programme of events, exhibitions, analogue film & sound workshops and screenings.

Remaining Programmes

[Visions Programme 3](#) 1-18 December

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Notes to editors

Exhibition: Visions in the Nunnery

Dates: 5 October – 18 December 2016

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 *Visions in the Nunnery*

Established in 1999, the open submission exhibition *Visions in the Nunnery* was pioneering in its championing of emerging and experimental moving image practice, exhibiting artists such as Oreet Ashery, Lucy Beech & Edward Thomasson, Heather Phillipson and Matt Stokes at the very early stages of their careers. With all work



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having to be made in the last two years, *Visions* has drawn submissions from over 15 countries and attracted leading artists to showcase their latest exploratory work. The last *Visions in the Nunnery* was in 2012; the 2016 show is the tenth edition.

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