

## The Artist Run Multiverse Summit

9–10 November 2018

*We are the artists and the artists are many things.*

The Artist Run Multiverse Summit brings together artists and artist run spaces and projects from the UK and Europe to think, talk, eat and sleep together and consider what artist run space is today, what artist run space might have once been, but no longer is, and what it might be in the future.

Eastside Projects has invited five artist-run spaces, platforms or projects – Kunsthal Gent, Pallas Projects, Rabbits Road Press, Transmission Gallery and The White Pube - to frame this collective, public discussion. The two-day Summit is intended as a starting point for conversation, addressing the environments and ecologies we operate within, the function of artist run space and the role of artists in the making of culture, community, infrastructure and policy that is responsive to all our needs.

### NOTES

- When tweeting or instagramming please use #MultiverseSummit
- To expand the conversation beyond the room, and create a co-produced record of the summit, we have set up a Google Doc which you can contribute to across the two days, and afterwards. Go to <https://eastsideprojects.org/events/artist-led-multiverse-summit/> Scroll to the bottom of the page > Resources > 'Live Editing Document, 9–10 November.
- The Summit will be livestreamed by **This is Tomorrow** and photographed for use on our website. Please let us know a member of Eastside Projects' staff know if this creates any problems for you.
- Throughout the summit we are implementing the rule of two feet. If the discussion you are participating within isn't working for you, feel free to move to another. If at any time you need to take a break, or get some air, feel free to leave the building and take a wander round the block.

## **SCHEDULE: FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER**

10.30 Doors open, tea and coffee

### **11.00 Welcome**

#### **11.15 INTERRUPTION: A Distribution of Forces**

Through a series of loose associations connecting touch, the Cave Loach fish, hearing, cows, and blindness, amongst other things, artists **Kelly Large** and **Flora Parrott** will tell a story about adaptability, restructuring of the senses, visibility, and modes of navigation, transmission and reception.

#### **11.40 Questions to the Multiverse #1 & 2**

**Transmission Gallery:** How do we make care central to our institutional praxis as an artist led organisation? What are the difficulties of this?

**Pallas Projects:** Is it inevitable that a successful Artist-Run Space grows up to be an institution?

#### **12.30 Who's in the Room?**

**Jamboree**, Dartington: Vickie Fear

**One Thoresby Street**, Nottingham: Tristan Hessing

**CROXHAPOX**, NL: Ann De Keersmaecker

**Modern Clay**, Birmingham: Mark Essen

**Test Space**, Bristol: Helen Grant & Julian Claxton

#### **13.00 Lunch – Soup, bread and cake by Albert Smith**

#### **14.00 INTERRUPTION: Toddler Space Scientists**

Ex-mathematician **Aaron Sloman** will (probably) talk about empty space and its potentials for curved paths through which a wasp or a ball could move. Mathematicians have studied space for centuries, but it is also partially understood by many animals that see things in space, move through space, and manipulate things, e.g. nest-building birds, and pre-verbal human toddlers.

#### **14.25 Questions to the Multiverse #3, 4 & 5**

**The White Pub:** Does every artist-led scene have the same problems because criticism isn't good enough?

**Rabbits Road Press:** What is the role of small visual arts organisations within the wider arts ecology?

**Kunsthal Gent:** Can an artist-run model evolve into a (artist-run) city?

#### **15.35 Break**

**16.00 Questions to the Multiverse**

Simultaneous group discussions, in response to the questions from Transmission Gallery / Pallas Projects / The White Pube / Rabbits Road Press and Kunsthal Gent. Stay in one conversation, or dip in and out.

**17.00 Thoughts from the Multiverse**

Evolution as call and response as we reconvene for a group conversation catalysed by feedback from representatives of each discussion group.

**18.00 End of day one**

We invite you to continue the conversation over pizza and drinks at Digbrew. 5 minutes up the road at 43 River St, Birmingham B5 5SA.

You might also like to check out:

**Drift ft Kyoka/Grischa Lichtenberger/YTAC**

Supersonic presents heavy electronics, hypno-chaotic grooves and pristine frequency control within a unique audio-visual environment

Vivid Projects, 16 Minerva Works, B5 5RS. Tickets £10, doors open 7.30pm

**Splashgirl and Parachute for Gordo**

Drone jazz and post-rock music. Tickets £6, doors open 7.30pm

Centrala, Unit 4 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, B5 5RT

**Digbeth Dining Club**

Street Food and more, open until 11pm.

Lower Trinity Street Digbeth, B9 4AG

There's a guide to places to eat and accommodation on the event page of our website.

**SCHEDULE: SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER**

11.00 Doors open, tea and coffee

**11.30 Welcome back**

**11.40 INTERRUPTION: Attunement**

How can we think and act collectively, what does it mean to move or act en-mass, to think as a group, to be multiple? Dance Artist **Rebecca Randle** will explore these ideas through a seated physical experience.

**12.00 Who's in the Room?**

**12ø**, Stoke Newington: Eva Duerden

**The Newbridge Project**, Newcastle: Daniel Russell, Rebecca Huggan, Niomi Fairweather

**Campbell Works**, London: Harriet Murray

**a-n**: Lydia Ashman

**Coventry Biennial**: Ryan Hughes

**Outline**, NL: Tjobo Kho

**Hereford Market Art Collective**: Caroline Allen

**Artist Run Alliance**: Adi Levy

**Ontsteking** NL: Tine Deboelpaep

**East Leeds Project**: Kerry Harker

**The Art House**: Simon Boase

**Post X**, NL: Wouter Cox

**13.00 Lunch** – Vegetable tagine and couscous and cake by Albert Smith

**14.00 Questions from the Multiverse #1**

Introduction to discussion areas raised by members of the Multiverse who are present at the summit, listening online or following via social media.

**14.10 INTERRUPTION: A Psychic Empowerment Ritual for the New Art Economy**

In the lineage of 1970's activist Joanna Macy, artist **Grace Ndiritu** will offer a live Economic Activation Session in which participants activate a Pay What You Can Economy into their lives through a guided meditation session.

**14.25 Questions from the Multiverse #2**

Simultaneous group discussions. Stay in one conversation or dip in and out.

**15.25 Break**

**15.40 There is no neutral stance: Actions from the Multiverse.**

What can/should/will we individually, and or collectively take forward.

**16.40 Declarations**

What will you stand for?

**17.00 Close**

**CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES**

**Kunsthal Gent** will be a new exhibition and meeting place for visual artists in Ghent, initiated by NUCLEO and Smoke & Dust (019) the Provinciaal Cultuurcentrum Caermersklooster will be transformed into a new site for artistic and architectural interventions that will gradually change the monumental structure of the building, leading to the official (re)opening in January 2019. The Kunsthal programme will be informed by an ongoing investigation into reflexive display, installation, and archival methods, that question responsibilities in rethinking exhibition models and institutional formats the framework for the building can be seen as a continuous rehearsal.

**Pallas Projects/Studios** (founded 1996) is a not-for-profit artist-run organisation dedicated to the facilitation of artistic production and discourse, via the provision of affordable artists studios in Dublin's city centre, and curated projects. Pallas Projects is an umbrella label for a variety of spaces, exchanges, off-site projects, exhibitions, talks, resource programmes, research and publications conceived of and put into practice over a 20-year period. Their research project and publication 'Artist-Run Europe' (Onomatopée, Eindhoven, 2016), included contributions from AA Bronson, Transmission Gallery, Gavin Wade, Céline Kopp & Alun Williams, and featured essays, case studies, and an index of over 500 European artist-run spaces. [www.artist-run.eu](http://www.artist-run.eu)

**Rabbits Road Press** is a community Risograph print studio and publishing press run by OOMK. The small-scale publishing press provides printing and book binding services for artists and community groups in Newham and beyond. A responsive programme of workshops and events explore a contemporary model for community publishing, bringing together artists, designers, writers and local people. The project builds on Rabbits Road Institute's initiative to establish an accessible and diverse community art space to support the development of new skills, knowledge sharing and social exchange for people living in Newham.

**Transmission** (b.1983) is an artist-run organisation that supports and is supported by its membership and surrounding communities in Glasgow and beyond. Operating in multiple capacities, Transmission works with artists in the production of exhibitions, events, exchanges, residencies and publications. It also shares various resources with its membership in order to facilitate activities outside of its own programming. As the longest standing artist-run space in Glasgow, it houses an archive of materials connected to the activities of the gallery and its membership, whilst remaining active a present-day social hub.

**The White Pube** is the collaborative identity of Gabrielle de la Puente and Zarina Muhammad under which they write criticism and (sometimes) curate. They are based at [thewhitepube.com](http://thewhitepube.com) and also on Instagram and Twitter as @thewhitepube. The White Pube publish a new text every Sunday, mostly exhibition reviews but sometimes baby essays or podcasts. Their writing began as reaction to other texts that were often boring/overly academic/white nonsense/////and male. Each review is a personal reaction, and a record of an encounter with an aesthetic experience.

## **INTERRUPTERS**

**Kelly Large** (b.1973 St. Asaph, Wales. Lives and works in London) is a curator, artist and educator. Her multi-disciplinary practice engages with acts of public appearance and the potency of visibility and presence. She uses forms of social choreography to explore the relationship between individual and collective agency, often through long-term projects with organisations involved in culture making such as libraries, schools, art collections and universities. Her work has been presented at Tate Modern, David Roberts Art Foundation, 52nd Venice Biennale, Eastside Projects, Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, and MIMA.

**Flora Parrott** studied Printmaking at Glasgow School of Art and The Royal College. The work looks at notions of darkness, the subterranean and restructuring of the senses. Previous exhibitions include Tintype Gallery, the Earth Science Museum at the University São Paulo, Wysing Arts Centre, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery and the Royal Geographical Society.

**Aaron Sloman** is an ex-mathematician, philosopher, programmer, AI-researcher, theoretical biologist, cognitive scientist, still trying to understand how biological evolution can produce toddlers, squirrels and mathematicians, and wondering whether humans can design space-understanding robots with similar competences. Retired, but still tolerated in the School of Computer Science, University of Birmingham. [www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~axs](http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~axs)

**Grace Ndiritu** (b. 1976, Birmingham. Lives and works in London.) Recent solo exhibitions include *A Meal for My Ancestors: Healing The Museum*, Thalielab Art Foundation, Brussels (2018); *The Ark: Center for Interdisciplinary Experimentation*, Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers, Paris (2018); and *Dreaming The Museum Back To Life: The Inner Life Of Objects* (solo performance), Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona, MSK Ghent, Belgium and Frac Lorraine, France (2017). Recent group shows include *Home Bodies: Away Team (Part 2)*, UMOCA, Salt Lake City, (2018); *The Blue Hour*, Capture Photography Festival, Contemporary Art Gallery, (2018).

**Rebecca Randle** is a Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher, Facilitator and Creative Producer. Specialising in contemporary dance and physical theatre, she has performed in theatres, community centres, hospitals, schools, festival tents, in city centres and at the top of mountains. Rebecca believes in the power of dance to bring people together. She has delivered workshops for people aged 2 – 80. She is Artistic Director of Here We Are Dance and interACTION, creating sensory dance experiences for adults with complex communication needs. She is also Associate Director of Birmingham Dance Network, devising professional development opportunities for dance artists.