

Press Release

Artists announced for Syllabus V – an alternative collaboratively produced learning programme.



Yuxin Jiang, *A kitchen of a clear identity and a bag of rice of unclear identity*, 2017
Archival pigment print, 110 x 137.5 cm

Nine artists have been selected for Syllabus V, a national, collaboratively-produced alternative learning programme, delivered by Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge; Eastside Projects, Birmingham; Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), London; S1 Artspace, Sheffield; and Spike Island, Bristol. For Syllabus V, The NewBridge Project, Newcastle, have joined as a guest partner.

The selected artists for Syllabus V are: Sophie Blagden, Juliet Davis-Dufayard, Yuxin Jiang, Hwa Young Jung, Sarai Kirshner, Jack Lewdjaw, Sarah Maple, Duncan Poulton and Aliaskar Torkaliaskari.

Now in its fifth year, Syllabus V provides a learning programme for artists over a ten month period and is supported using public funding from Arts Council England. Syllabus is developed collaboratively with the participating artists, the partner institutions and the artistic advisors, who this year are Barby Asante and Louise Shelley.

The Syllabus V artists work across a range of practices, from sound, filmmaking, drawing and installation to curating and participatory projects. Their work researches diverse topics such as migration, race and representation, the climate crisis, and the post-digital. The nine selected artists live and work across the UK, including Liverpool, Croydon, Sheffield, Bristol and Crawley.

At the first retreat at Wysing in September 2019, Syllabus V artists will come together to share their work and co-produce the year's syllabus alongside the partners and artistic advisors. Beginning by presenting work and discussing shared concerns and problems, from the theoretical to the very practical, the group identify a list of aims for the year and a way of working that accommodates everyone. Meeting throughout the year, the cohort will invite guest artists, curators, writers and other

practitioners to deliver intensive sessions hosted by each of the partners. Previous contributors have included Larry Achiampong, Marvin Gaye Chetwynd, Celine Condorelli, Anthea Hamilton, Andy Holden, Evan Ifekoya, Shama Khanna, Pil and Galia Kollektiv, Mark Leckey, Richard Long, Sofia Niazi, Katrina Palmer, Holly Pester, Rory Pilgrim, Morgan Quaintance, Tai Shani, Rosalie Schweiker, Cally Spooner, Keith Wilson, DM Withers, Rehana Zaman and Andrea Luka Zimmermann.

The full list of alumni and sessions from previous years of The Syllabus are available at <http://www.wysingartscentre.org/archive/retreats>

The Syllabus programme has to date resulted in many collaborations and opportunities, including: Group exhibitions at Yinka Shonibare's Guest Projects space in London; contributions to group exhibitions *All His Ghosts Must Do My Bidding* and *more of an avalanche* at Wysing Arts Centre; a residency at Iniva and the Stuart Hall Foundation; and solo exhibitions at Eastside Projects and Spike Island.

Three artists from the cohort have been selected for a bursary to support their participation in the programme. The consortium of Syllabus partners would like to thank Crystallised and Magic of Persia for their support in providing two of these artist bursaries.

Yuxin Jiang, one of the artists selected for this year's programme, commented:

"I'm really glad to be able to take part Syllabus at the right time for my practice as I'm seeking to break the media boundaries and consolidate the very disparate projects I've done in the past few years. I look forward to working with the other artists in the programme to build a journey together that is as much about undoing as it is about learning."

Daniel Russell, Artist Development Coordinator at NewBridge Project said:

"Here at the NewBridge Project we've been following the different cohorts of the Syllabus with interest over the years and we were delighted to be asked to be a part of Syllabus V. We're very much looking forward to working with the artists selected for this iteration, the other partner organisations and the lead artists to concoct a fun, useful and intellectually stimulating weekend in the North East".

Louise Shelley, Artistic Advisor said:

"I am very excited to be a part of Syllabus V, to work with the wonderful artist Barby Asante and five incredibly dynamic arts organisations to collectively devise a series of workshops that will address the urgencies of what it means to be a practising artist in the UK right now."

Laura Rothwell, Founder and Managing Director, Crystallised

"We're super happy that we've been able to work with Wysing Arts to provide a bursary that fully funds a female artist through the Syllabus V programme. It's essential that we are making space for, and opportunities accessible to women in to make work, develop their practice and take creative risks. I'm looking forward to seeing the work that comes from the programme."

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Notes to editors

Participating Artist Biographies

Sophie Blagden is an artist and facilitator, often working with sound, print, sculpture and costume. Her work focuses around how human experiences and marketing agendas can inform the way we see the creatures and landscapes around us.

Sophie was born in Hillingdon and lives and works in Croydon, where she is a studio member and Head of Learning at Turf Projects. Works often reference places on the edge of a city, tucked in by green belts and infrastructure that is pushed outwards: ring roads, waste facilities, nature reserves.

Sophie graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art BFA in 2013 and received the Sue Jamieson Scholarship. Recent and upcoming projects include; Jerwood Bursary supported residency & showcase at Back Lane West, Redruth, 2019; *Serf n' Turf* at Serf, Leeds, 2019; *Fig. 1 Limelight* at Switchboard Studios, Walthamstow, 2018; *Moonlighting*, Muddy Yard, Brixton, 2017; *Stones of Croydon* Drawing Tour, Turf Projects, Croydon, 2016.

Juliet Davis-Dufayard is a French artist, performer, curator and housing co-op organiser based in Manchester. Using collaborative principles, her practice explores the lived experience of the everyday, using collective listening and doing to create sites for communality. Current projects include "Let's Keep Growing" a community-led gardening project in Longsight, facilitated with fellow co-op tenants and neighbours, and FUNGUS UNITED, a newly formed band born out of Outsiderxchanges, residency with learning-disabled and non-learning disabled artists (Venture Arts, 2016).

Juliet has co-funded or collaborated in the running of several DIY nomadic projects and art spaces including Lionel Dobie Project, TOAST, and LEGROOM, a multidisciplinary platform exploring the potential of movement co-directed with Amy Lawrence. She also performs for other artists including Taus Makhacheva, Christian Falsnaes, Scout Stuart and Tania Bruguera in visual art, live art and film contexts. Juliet studied a BA and MFA Performed Sculpture in Rennes (Fr) and BA Interactive Arts in Manchester (Erasmus).

Born in Shanghai and currently based in London, **Yuxin Jiang** is an artist and co-founder of pic.london, a platform for supporting early stage artists working in photography and media arts. She has a strong interest in working horizontally in the field, seeing making visual work, running an enterprise, or doing theoretical research jobs as all integral and interwoven parts of her practice. Her visual work is concerned with the politics in everyday life, linguistic and visual forms of ideologies, and the role of art in society. Her ongoing project deals with the tension between the individual and the national collective identity in a transnational context.

She is selected for the 3rd cycle of *Parallel*, a European wide development programme for contemporary photography (2019), the winner of Lianzhou Foto Festival Jury Prize (2018), a finalist of Jimei x Arles Discovery Award (2017).

Hwa Young Jung is a multidisciplinary artist working in the arts, cultural and sciences, facilitating collaborative projects and workshops. She works with people to co-create projects, often using games and play to explore social issues. Based in the Northwest she has been involved in producing work with a range of people (Young People in libraries, social care workers, freshwater biologists, criminologists) in the North and internationally for almost ten years. She has worked with Universities (Lancaster, LJMU, MMU), cultural institutions (FACT Liverpool, International Slavery Museum, National Trust), and festivals (FutureEverything, AND, Heritage Open Days) to create a mixing ground for diverse disciplines and divergent communities to come together and make something new.

Sarai Kirshner is an artist working in drawing, videos and their extensions to installation. She lives and works in London and Tel Aviv.

Her work examines ways in which emotions and ethics are embraced and circulated through individuals and communities. The main protagonists within her practice are the bodies that inhabit the mythical, geographical and political landscape of the Holy Land. Her work and research draws from personal experience, history and counter-history.

Jack Lewdjaw is an artist and educator who lives and works in Bristol. He is also Co-Director of East Bristol Contemporary, an artist-led gallery.

Recent exhibitions include: *open/closed*, SERF, Leeds (2018); *it's ok*, Spike Island Testspace, Bristol (2017); *East Midlands Today*, Two Queens, Leicester (2017); *eeeeeeeee*, CBS Gallery, Liverpool (2017); *EBC Bomb Factory Takeover*, The Bomb Factory, London (2016); *Future Late*, Tate Modern, London (2016); *Platform*, Modern Art Oxford (2013).

Sarah Maple is known for her bold, witty, and occasionally controversial practice. She works in a wide variety of media (including painting, photography, sculpture, collage, and video) that challenge notions of identity, religion, feminism, violence, freedom of expression and the status quo. Much of Sarah's inspiration originates from her mixed religious and cultural upbringing and she often employs self-portraiture, alongside her guerrilla-style performances, as a vehicle for her narrative.

Her recent practice has focused on the disturbing parallels between the political climate in the US and the UK looking at themes of fear, division, toxic masculinity, and xenophobia.

She graduated with a BA in Fine Art from Kingston University, London, in 2007. Recent solo exhibitions were held at: The Untitled Space, New York (2019); New Art Exchange, Nottingham (2017); The Cob Gallery, London (2015). She has been awarded the New Sensation Art Prize in 2007 and was recently commissioned new work by The Baltic, Imago Mundi and Sky Arts.

Duncan Poulton is a London-based artist working in an expanded form of collage, spanning digital video and image assemblage. Itinerant in nature, his work is currently preoccupied with themes of simulation, copying and circulation, acting out an ongoing remediation of our increasingly virtual world. Working exclusively with found content, his digital works evoke a new visual culture of constant juxtaposition,

ambivalence towards images and the collapsing down of history and meaning engendered by the internet. With productive misinterpretation, intuition and automatic technique as strategies of choice, he aims to produce a body of discrete works that make sense of our hyperconnected and oversaturated reality, one bit at a time. Upcoming exhibitions and projects include Coventry Biennial 2019, RUNG Magazine and Art Licks Weekend, London. Recent screenings and exhibitions include MIT Museum, Massachusetts; The Wallace Collection, London; Eastside Projects, Birmingham; Czong Institute for Contemporary Art, South Korea; QUAD, Derby; Transmediale, Berlin; Flatpack Festival, Birmingham and Athens Digital Art Festival. Poulton holds a BA in Fine Art Critical Practice from the University of Brighton and was a participant of the LUX Critical Forum, London, in 2018.

Aliaskar Torkaliaskari was born and raised in Iran and currently lives in London.

Artistic Advisor Biographies

Barby Asante is a London based artist, curator, researcher and occasional DJ. Her work is concerned with the politics of place and the histories and legacies of colonialism making work that is collaborative, performative and dialogic. Her artistic practice explores the archival, makes propositions, collects and maps stories and contributions of people of colour using storytelling, collective actions, and ritual, to excavate, unearth and interrogate given narratives. She resists the idea that the stories of "Other-ness" are alternatives to dominant given narratives, but are interruptions, utterances, presences that exist within, that are invisible, unheard, missing or ignored. By making these narratives visible, asking questions and making proposals she is interested in what these possibilities offer as we examine our present and envision our futures. Her current artistic research *As Always a Painful Declaration of Independence : For Ama. For Aba. For Charlotte and Adjoa*, is being realised in a series of project episodes. The project explores the social, cultural and political agency of women of colour, as they navigate historic legacies of colonialism, independence, migration and the contemporary global socio political climate, to think about propositions for their futures existence in a just world.

Barby's recent exhibitions include, *Intimacy and Distance*, Diaspora Pavilion, Venice (2017), *The Queen and The Black Eyed Squint*, Starless Midnight (2017/18) and *Declaration of Independence* (2019), BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts. She is currently a Doctoral Candidate in CREAM (Centre for Research in Education, Arts and Media) at Westminster University. Barby has also taught on fine art programmes in London, Berlin, Gothenburg and Rotterdam and is currently Visiting Lecturer on Contemporary Practice at the RCA and teaches a programme on decolonial arts practice called *How We Get Free* on the BA Fine Art Critical Practice at Goldsmiths. She is a PhD co founder of agency for agency a collaborative agency concerned with ethics, intersectionality and education in the contemporary arts who are mentors to the sorryoufeeluncomfortable collective. Asante is also on the board of the Women's Art Library and 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning.

Louise Shelley is the Cubitt Curatorial Fellow for 2018/19 where she is running a 15-month public programme working from the structure of Cubitt as an artist-run co-operative and how a gallery in this context can develop politicised and collective ways for working, pedagogy and presentation. Previous to Cubitt she was the Collaborative Projects Curator at The Showroom, London, where she ran the Communal Knowledge programme. Communal Knowledge was a series of collaborative projects to propose and activate approaches to critical engagement with The Showroom's social and cultural

surroundings. Louise is also a member of the Cinenova Working Group, a non-profit, volunteer-run feminist film distributor.

Partner Biographies

Eastside Projects is an artist run multiverse, commissioning, producing and presenting experimental art practices and demonstrating ways in which art may be useful as part of society. Eastside Projects provides vital infrastructure, supports best practice and works to expand the role of the artist run space. <https://eastsideprojects.org/about/>

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) is an evolving, radical visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects on the social and political impact of globalisation. <http://www.iniva.org>

S1 Artspace is a gallery and studio organisation based in Sheffield that actively supports the production and presentation of new work and ideas. <http://www.s1artspace.org/>

Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design. A vibrant hub for production, presentation and debate, it invites audiences to engage directly with creative practices through participation and discussion. <http://www.spikeisland.org.uk/>

Wysing Arts Centre is a thriving cultural campus of ten buildings across an 11acre rural site in south Cambridgeshire which hosts experimental residencies for UK and international artists, and delivers a critically acclaimed public programme of gallery exhibitions and events including conferences, symposia, workshops and music events. <http://www.wysingartscentre.org>

The NewBridge Project is an active and vibrant artist-led community supporting the development of artists and curators through the provision of space for creative practice, curatorial opportunities and an ambitious artist-led programme of exhibitions, commissions, artist development and events.

<https://thenewbridgeproject.com/>

