

ANDRIUS ARUTIUNIAN ANNOUNCED AS FIRST BALTIC|STATES ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



Andrius Arutiunian, BALTIC Artists' Studio, 2019. Image courtesy the artist, photo: Marianna Maruyama

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and the Lithuanian Culture Institute are pleased to announce composer and sound artist Andrius Arutiunian as the first BALTIC|States artist-in-residence.

BALTIC is developing a new three-year residency programme working with emerging artists from the Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and the wider Baltic region. The **BALTIC|States** residency programme will enable artists' research and professional development through a series of supported residencies at BALTIC, Gateshead.

The participants will be invited to respond to the current shifting geopolitical landscape in Europe and develop work which explores ideas around identity, citizenship and belonging. Participants will be encouraged to find points of connection between the Baltic region and the North East of England, building networks with the artistic communities and creating dialogue which transcends borders and geographies at a time of rapid social and political change.

The residencies will provide opportunities for participating artists to meet curators and arts professionals based in the North East and visit arts spaces in the region. During their residency, participants are invited to share their research and experiences with the wider public through hosting an open studio event, screening, artist's talk, performance or workshop.

For the first residency, BALTIC is working in partnership with the **Lithuanian Culture Institute** to support an emerging Lithuanian artist to spend a month in residence at BALTIC in February 2019. Composer and sound artist **Andrius Arutiunian** has been selected following an open call and will be supported with an artist's fee, a travel bursary, accommodation and a studio space during his time in Gateshead.

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Notes to Editors

About the Artist

Andrius Arutiunian (born 1991, Vilnius, Lithuania) is an Armenian-Lithuanian composer and sound artist based in The Hague and Vilnius. His work explores the socio-cultural aspects of specific histories through their sonic artefacts, often dealing with identity, sonic appropriation and thresholds of noise and sound. He composes electro-acoustic pieces for various ensembles, and makes installations and multimedia works, as well as solo electronic and audio-visual sets. During his BALTIC|States residency, Arutiunian will develop a new performative work and installation using biometric tracking software. The work will explore how identities are regulated based on physical appearances and through state controlled mechanisms. Arutiunian studied a BA (2010-14) and MA (2014-16) in composition at The Royal Conservatory of The Hague. He has recently presented work at Centraal Museum Utrecht (2018), Documenta 14 – The Parliament of Bodies (2017) and at Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius (2017).

About the Partner Institutions

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art is a major international gallery situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since 2002. BALTIC presents outstanding, experimental and inspiring world-class contemporary art across 2600 square metres, making it the Europe's largest dedicated contemporary art institution.

BALTIC's distinctive and ambitious programme of free entry, changing exhibitions has included the work of over 450 artists from 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions including Michael Dean, Lubaina Himid, Heather Phillipson and Rasheed Araeen. BALTIC is a registered charity and its mission is to create greater understanding of the world through outstanding, experimental and inspiring contemporary art which has power, relevance and meaning for individuals and communities.

Lithuanian Culture Institute works towards a continuous representation of Lithuanian culture abroad. It is achieved by organising cultural exchanges and incoming mobility for arts experts. In addition, Lithuanian Culture Institute produces cultural seasons and many arts events, such as the Lithuanian arts festival in Rome, Lithuanian presentation at the London Book Fair and the eponymous yearly Vilnius Book Fair. Together with the Lithuanian Culture Attaché in the United Kingdom, the Lithuanian Culture Institute supports contemporary artists' mobility and development in the UK.



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