

BALTIC

BALTIC ANNOUNCES IRENE ARISTIZÁBAL AS HEAD OF CURATORIAL AND PUBLIC PRACTICE

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art is delighted to announce the appointment of **Irene Aristizábal** in the new role of **Head of Curatorial and Public Practice**. She will take up the position in **March 2019** and will lead the curatorial team, working with **BALTIC's Director Sarah Munro** to deliver BALTIC's ambitious civic mission on both a local and global level.



Irene Aristizábal has worked as Head of Exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary since 2013, where she has curated exhibitions and commissioned projects by Pia Camil, Steffani Jemison, Otobong Nkanga, Simon Starling, Michael Beutler, Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, Sun Ra, Rana Hamadeh, Danai Anesiadou, Danh Võ, Carol Rama and Asco. Recent group exhibitions include *Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender Resistance* (2018 – co-curated with Rosie Cooper and Cédric Fauq) and *States of America: Photography from the Civil Rights Movement to the Reagan Era* (2017 – co-curated with Abi Spinks).

Irene will also co-curate British Art Show 9, alongside Hammad Nasar which opens in Manchester in 2020, and then tour to Wolverhampton, Aberdeen and Plymouth. Aristizábal was curator at the FRAC Nord Pas de Calais, Dunkirk in 2010–11, and was the recipient of the H+F Curatorial Grant (2010). Prior to that she co-directed the not-for-profit space Bétonsalon in Paris (2005-06). She has also curated exhibitions at the Fundació Miró, Barcelona; Maison Rouge, Paris; Form Content, London and the Museum of Health Sciences, Bogota.

Speaking today about the appointment **Sarah Munro, Director of BALTIC** said: *"I am thrilled that Irene Aristizábal is to become the Head of Curatorial and Public Practice at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art. Irene is a deeply respected and knowledgeable curator with significant experience of embedding complex public programmes within exhibition making practice. BALTIC is leading a new conversation and vision in response to urgent times and I'm so pleased to have Irene's vision, drive and expertise standing alongside me as we rise to the challenges ahead"*

Irene commented:

"I am delighted to be joining BALTIC as Head of Curatorial and Public Practice. I have long admired BALTIC's internationally recognised programme and its strong commitment to supporting the local artistic community. I am thrilled to be joining BALTIC at this exciting time and look forward to working with colleagues and partners to develop an exciting and ambitious programme."

END

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NOTES TO EDITORS

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead has exhibited the work of over 400 different international artists, received over 7 million visitors through the door since opening in 2002 and welcomed 262,000 participants in learning activities last year alone.

BALTIC runs a major commissioning programme of international exhibitions annually delivering up to 12 exhibitions at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, 5 at BALTIC 39; a performance programme; residency and associate artist programmes including CONTINUOUS, a new 4 year dance partnership initiative with Siobhan Davies Dance. In 2017 BALTIC launched the inaugural biennial *BALTIC Artists Award*, a new model for supporting emerging artists with over £120,000 being awarded for the production of new work. BALTIC has a significant new programme in local communities including B.Local - a new model for collaboration within the heart of some of North East England's most disadvantaged communities.

BALTIC's strategic partnership with Northumbria University, the BxNU Institute is led by BALTIC Professor and Director of the Institute Andrea Phillips, who joined the team in 2017.

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