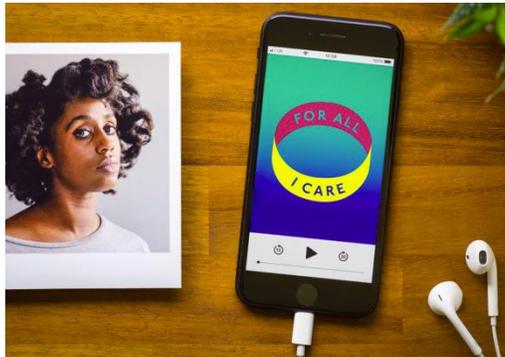


## BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art Announces its 2021 Programme



Left to Right: Ad Minoliti, *Amigxs* (2018), courtesy of the artist and Galerie Crèvecoeur; *For All I Care* podcast; Mounira Al Solh, *Sama/Mas'as*, 2014 (installation view), courtesy of the artist and Sfeir-Semler Gallery Beirut/Hamburg

In the wake of one of the most challenging and formative years for the world at large, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art is pleased to look to the future with its exhibition and events programme, launching from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with joint exhibitions of work by Lithuanian artist duo **Pakui Hardware**, and the **BALTIC Open Submission** showcasing over 150 works created by both professional and amateur artists from across the North East during the lockdown of spring 2020.

BALTIC will also launch the podcast mini-series *For All I Care* in November 2020, created in partnership with Wellcome Collection. The podcast, hosted by artist Nwando Ebizie, explores the urgency and beauty of care and healing over 5 monthly-episodes featuring contributions from the worlds of contemporary art, science and healthcare.

In 2021, BALTIC will present highlight-exhibitions including a major survey of one of the founders of the Black Arts Movement in the UK, **Sutapa Biswas**; an exploration of gender politics by **Ad Minoliti**, a solo exhibition by Lebanese artist **Mounira Al Solh**; an interactive exploration of play by **Albert Potrony**; a documentary series on the lesbian community in San Francisco in the '90s by photographer **Phyllis Christopher**; and the **2021 BALTIC Artist's Award**. The BALTIC Live programme will also see the performance of **Zinzi Minnot's *Black on Black 24R*** which was delayed from 2020 – a new durational performance that creates a physical archive of Black bodies in dance.

BALTIC's programme is conceived and developed around the central idea of Participative Democracy – empowering audiences to develop critical thinking and engagement through art. Over the next year, BALTIC's exhibitions, public programme, learning and civic programmes will explore themes that are relevant and urgent to the complexities of life around us right now.

## **Programme:**

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### **Wellcome x BALTIC Podcast series: *For All I Care***

5 episodes, launching 25 November 2020

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in collaboration with Wellcome Collection, presents a new podcast series, *For All I Care*, exploring the urgency and beauty of care and healing. Launching on 25 November 2020, the five-part series will be presented by artist Nwando Ebizie, and will explore ideas for how to care and connect through conversations, artistic works and healing experiences with a range of different contributors. Each of the five episodes will focus on a distinct theme as an entry point to explore what care means for our bodies, communities, the planet and our futures. Guests include artist Johanna Hedva, activist Ted Kerr, curator Bárbara Rodríguez Muñoz and psychologist Michael Banissy, among many others.

**Listen to the trailer here:** <https://baltic.libsyn.com/for-all-i-care-trailer>

## **2021**

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### **Pakui Hardware**

6 January 2021 – 18 April 2021

For their first solo exhibition in the UK, Pakui Hardware (artists Neringa Cerniauskaite and Ugnius Gelguda) will present a newly devised commission created specially for BALTIC's level 2 gallery space, exploring the subject of robotic and virtual care at a particularly significant moment when we find ourselves more concerned than ever with the quality and accessibility of healthcare.

Pakui Hardware's work considers the movement of capital through bodies, technology and materials and how it shapes our realities. Reminiscent of futuristic or biological settings, their hybrid sculptures and installations use materials such as glass, artificial fur, textiles, leather, chia seeds, soil, silicone, metal and plastics. In recent years, their work has explored questions around contemporary medicine, imagining possible futures where material limitations are transcended by fragmenting, multiplying and recreating human and non-human bodies.

For their new installation at BALTIC, the space will be transformed into an environment that resembles a clinical surgery room where human presence – with the exception of the visitor themselves – is replaced by technology. Glass objects affixed to a hanging surgical lamp sculpture will create a sense of warmth and care, in contrast to the alienated coolness of its steel arms that make anthropomorphic reference to surgeon's hands. Suspended between physical and virtual, bodily and digital, transparent thermoformed or resin 'bodies' will be abstracted into sculptural biomorphic shapes that are both present and erased at the same time. Partially inspired by paintings by Lithuanian artist Teresė Rožanskaitė from the 1970s and 80s, these 'bodies' are traces, shells of 'flesh', dominated by technology.

### **BALTIC Open Submission**

6 January 2021 – 6 June 2021

*BALTIC Open Submission* is a major open-call exhibition assembled during the Covid 19 lockdown involving over 150 artists and makers based in the North East of England.

We received over 540 submissions through an open-call application process. All entries were selected by a panel of three artists based in the North East: Richard Bliss, Lady Kitt and Padma Rao, and Katie Hickman, Curator (Performance and Public Programme) at BALTIC.

*BALTIC Open Submission 2020* celebrates creativity in the North East; the vast number of entries and the works included in the exhibition highlight the variety and high quality of arts practice across the North East. The exhibition presents works by artists who have been making throughout their lifetime to those just beginning; from people who work collectively, to those who create alone; those who have studied fine art, to self-taught creatives who have only ever made work in their private homes.

### **Ad Minoliti**

1 April 2021 – 13 March 2022

Ad Minoliti's exhibition at BALTIC will be their first institutional presentation in the UK and their largest exhibition to date in Europe. Minoliti uses feminist and queer theory to generate alternative interpretations of painting, design, architecture, art history and visual language. Minoliti's work has been influenced by the work of the Argentinian constructivist avant-garde groups Arte Madi – founded in 1944 to express the reality of modern life through non-figurative concrete art and a playful approach to painting – and the Asociación Arte Concreto-Invención, also initiated in 1944, they embraced purist modernist aesthetics whilst creating paintings on irregular shaped canvases.

Presented in BALTIC's Level 4 Gallery, the exhibition has been conceived as an 'alien lounge' – a space away from terrestrial existence, where non-binary gender and a non-human centred approach to art and living is reality. Minoliti will re-imagine the space through the idea of landscape, thinking about it as a scenery that goes beyond nature.

The *Feminist School of Painting* will be an important part of the exhibition, with its classroom envisaged as a living installation. The school uses feminist and queer theory and experimentation as a foundation for learning and critical thinking. Reimagining the structure of an art school, Minoliti will collaborate with a multidisciplinary group of artists, academics, writers, and activists to lead bi-weekly workshops open to artists and non-artists alike. Each workshop will be centred around traditional painting genres to reimagine historical narratives from a feminist, intersectional and queer perspective. By incorporating their collaborators' diverse backgrounds in biology, geography, science fiction, gender studies, technology, and more, the workshops aim to promote accessibility, creativity and curiosity over any art-specific expertise.

### **Sutapa Biswas: *Lumen***

8 May – 31 October 2021

This major solo exhibition by Sutapa Biswas will span the artist's extensive career. Biswas was a vital contributor to the Black Arts Movement in Britain and to the shifting understanding of post-war British art. Biswas's works visually disrupt, challenge and reimagine our present time. Visual theorist Griselda Pollock said that it was Biswas who 'forced us all to acknowledge the Eurocentric limits of the discourses within which we practise'.

Since the 1990s, Biswas's work explores themes of time and space, particularly in relationship to gender, identity and desire. The exhibition will demonstrate the artist's acute commitment to addressing questions of identity and ideas of dislocation and belonging, through the display of drawing, photography and video. Several works included in the exhibition address recurring themes of motherhood and colonial histories.

The exhibition will include a new film that maps a semi-fictional narrative of migration, co-commissioned by BALTIC, Kettle's Yard, Film and Video Umbrella, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery,

and supported by Art Fund through the Moving Image Fund for Museums (a programme made possible thanks to Thomas Dane Gallery and a group of private galleries and individuals).

The exhibition is a collaboration with Kettle's Yard, Cambridge and is accompanied by a new publication designed by Kajsa Ståhl of Abåke and co-published with Kettle's Yard.

### **Phyllis Christopher: *Contacts***

8 May – 31 October 2021

*Contacts* is an intimate glimpse at the lesbian community in San Francisco in the '90s through the archive of photographer Phyllis Christopher. Belonging to a politicised tradition of documentary photography, Christopher's handprinted and tinted images reflect how the camera participated in the performance of queer identities and feminist politics in the club and in the streets.

Amid the connected crises of HIV/AIDS and gentrification, Christopher and her collaborators answered the historic absence of representations of lesbian life with an abundance of images showing acts of sexual intimacy and public protest – a community defiantly taking up space and taking care of their own. An ethic of consent frames Christopher's images as photographer and subject negotiate what it means to be shown and seen as lesbian, both then and now.

The exhibition coincides with the publication of Christopher's first monograph *Dark Room: San Francisco Sex and Protest, 1988-2003* by Bookworks.

### **Albert Potrony: *EQUAL PLAY***

26 June 2021 – 5 June 2022

Exploring the principles of non-hierarchical play environments, *EQUAL PLAY* is a new commission by artist and educator Albert Potrony. The project explores themes of non-gendered and non-prescriptive play, and will take inspiration from Dutch architect, Aldo van Eyck, to specifically consider the role of men and childcare in relation to feminism.

Between 1947 and 1978 Van Eyck designed hundreds of playgrounds, consciously designed the equipment in a decidedly minimalist way to stimulate the imagination of its users (in this case, children), leading to the appropriation of space through its openness and multitudinous creative interpretations. Though largely removed, defunct or forgotten today, these playgrounds represent architectural intervention at a pivotal time: the shift from top-down organisation of space by modern functionalist architects, towards a bottom-up architecture that literally aimed to give space for imagination.

Potrony's *EQUAL PLAY* will actively explore these beliefs at BALTIC; designing a number of fixed structural/sculptural elements derived from a small selection of Aldo van Eyck's sculptural "alphabet", to articulate, transform and activate the gallery through play.

### **BALTIC Artists' Award 2021**

**20 November 2021 – 24 April 2022**

BALTIC Artists' Award is a biennial award established to recognise artists deserving of an international platform and offers a step-change moment in their career, each receiving an exhibition at BALTIC, £25,000 to realise new work and a £5,000 artist fee. Three established international artists are invited to nominate an artist in their early stages of their career. For the 2021 award, **Otobong Nkanga** nominated **Ima-Abasi Okon**, **Mika Rottenberg** nominated **Laleh Khorramian** and **Hito Steyerl** nominated **Fernando García-Dory**.

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- Selected by Otobong Nkanga, artist **Ima-Abasi Okon** works with sculpture, sound and video to produce installations that explore the historical and political charge of materials.
- Selected by Mika Rottenberg, artist **Laleh Khorramian**'s practice combines the cosmological thinking of ancient cultures, their complex mythologies, and spiritual vocabularies within her own imagined worlds — synthesizing them into histories that are both futuristic and ancient.
- Selected by Hito Steyerl, artist **Fernando García-Dory**'s work engages with the relationship between culture and nature, as manifested in multiple contexts, from landscape and the rural, to desires and expectations in relation to identity, utopia and the potential for social change.

### **Mounira Al Solh**

20 November 2021 – 24 April 2022

Mounira Al Solh's paintings, works on paper, embroideries and films explore migration, memory, trauma and loss. Drawing from the artist's personal conversations and encounters with those who have been affected by conflict in Syria, Lebanon and the Middle East region, Al Solh's works tell stories of displacement and uncertainty, often reflecting on the struggles of women in the Arab world. Moving, intimate, and sometimes humorous, they consider the continued impact of war and oppression on people living in the Middle East and the importance of oral history as a record of lived experience. The artist's solo exhibition at BALTIC will include a selection of new and recent work.

Al Solh lives between Lebanon and the Netherlands. She has had solo exhibitions at Musée national Pablo Picasso, Vallauris, France (2020); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2020); Art Institute Chicago (2018); KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2014). Recent group exhibitions include: *Risquons-Tout*, WIELS, Brussels (2020); *Our world is burning*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020); *Positions #5*, Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven (2019); *Gohyang: Home*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul (2019); *Strange Days: Memories of the Future*, The Store X, London (2018). Al Solh participated in Documenta 14, Athens & Kassel (2017) and *All the World's Futures*, 56th Venice Biennale (2015).

## **BALTIC LIVE**

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### **Julie Cleves & Robbie Synge: *To Earth*** **Presented with the CONTINUOUS Network**

Spring 2020

Series of performances and workshops

*To Earth* considers physical acts of co-operation and a close companionship. Julie and Robbie devise novel solutions to share otherwise inaccessible time and space together. Their actions are quiet and personal, bold and adventurous. Performing their shared history through movement, talking, and film this work creates a space to explore, reflect and exchange.

### **Gateshead International Festival of Theatre (GIFT) 2021**

May 2021

Taking place over 3 days every year across multiple site in Gateshead, GIFT places artistic experimentation and collaboration at its core and offers a supportive platform for artists to come together, to push the boundaries of their practice. International in scope, and interconnected in approach, GIFT is a carefully curated conversation, providing a meeting point for meaningful exchange between artists and audiences based in North East England, and the wider world.

**Janine Harrington: *satelliser: a dance for the gallery***

**Presented with the CONTINUOUS Network**

May 2021

Durational performance

'Satelliser' is a French transitive verb that means to put into orbit. *Satelliser: a dance for the gallery* is an ongoing performance work realised by an intergenerational group of coworking dance artists. Coworkers cycle through layered labours of moving, speaking, listening and resting over the course of a day, as they hold buoyant space for conversation to emerge.

**Zinzi Minott: *Black on Black: 24R***

**CONTINUOUS Commission**

June 2021

Performance & Installation : trailer available at <https://youtu.be/Gz1drJJSZ20>

*Black on Black: 24R* is a new durational performance from Zinzi Minott that explores the artist's engagement with dance, queerness, blackness and the body as archive. The work interrogates dance as a form of labour and the limits of the body through the exhausting processes of repetition and duration.

Over the span of 24 hours, Minott repeats a solo created from movement phrases donated to her by an extended network of black dancers and artists: 'if you could imagine a physical archive of dance', asked Minott, 'what nugget or phrase would you donate?'

In *Black on Black: 24 R*, dance and blackness are archived physically, passed from body to body, to form a physical archive of Black and Queer lineage. What if movement, handed on and shared, is the embodied language of black lives across generations and geolocations? Perhaps the body itself, and a shared physical vocabulary, is the most tangible archive for remembering black life and histories. Dance's ephemerality is a tactic of resistance.

Minott will perform her solo amidst a 12-screen audio-visual installation consisting of archival footage and other accompanying material from Minott's personal image collection with a newly commissioned score composed by Gaika.

*This commission was set to take place across spring/summer 2020, but due to COVID-19, BLACK ON BLACK: 24R will now tour throughout 2021.*

**Curious Arts Festival**

July 2021

Curious Arts Festival is an annual celebration of LGBTQIA+ culture across the North East. Curious Arts is a North East based not-for-profit organisation developing LGBTQIA+ arts, artists and audiences across the region. Their work celebrates and explores Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Culture. The festival aims to explore and celebrate LGBTQIA+ culture through the arts, increasing visibility, dialogue and understanding of the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Freestylers**

## **CONTINUOUS x Unlimited Commission**

Autumn 2021

Performance

The CONTINUOUS Network has teamed-up with Unlimited to support the creation of a new disabled-led dance work as our next CONTINUOUS commission.

Freestylers will create a new dance work to perform at BALTIC, Bluecoat and Tramway in 2021/22. Freestylers are an ever-expanding team of artists, person-centred and disability-led. Their work is about listening and learning from each other.

Freestylers is made up of artists with and without disability, they are often interrogating the idea of support and care because they believe it goes both ways. They provide a space where people can be seen and become a part of a wider cultural conversation about race, class, identity, and gender which is shaping the future.

They use performance and film to look for new and inclusive ways to communicate, working in gallery spaces in the context of performance art. They call themselves 'Freestylers' because they love improvisation of all forms. They want their spaces to feel relaxed and intimate and audiences to be able to come and go, shout and make noise, and to join when they want to. Freestylers is a journey and they want people to join, because they believe that everyone benefits from an inclusive arts scene.

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Press Contacts**

To register your interest in any of the exhibitions for the 2020 / 21 Season above, please contact Fiona Russell at Sutton on [fiona@suttoncomms.com](mailto:fiona@suttoncomms.com)

#### **About BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art creates and produces exhibitions, events and learning opportunities which explore the role of artists from across the world. Located on Gateshead quayside, BALTIC has 2,600 square metres of exhibition space making it the UK's largest gallery dedicated to the art and artists of today and tomorrow. BALTIC welcomes visitors free of charge, all year round to experience art, talks, performance and activities in a fully accessible building. Over 8 million have walked through its doors so far. Beyond its bricks, BALTIC connects and exchange with communities, individuals and groups exploring creativity, social connections and wider understanding of the world.

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