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PRESS RELEASE

DR. MARTENS AND THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT EMERGING ARTISTS WITH £60,000 IN GRANTS FOR NEW WORKS IN ARTISTS' MOVING IMAGE

- The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) & Dr. Martens, united by a shared commitment to emerging artists, are joining forces to award £60,000 in production grants for new commissions in artists' moving image and film.
- A total of seven grants will be awarded for the production of new works as part of Image Behaviour 2021, the ICA's annual convening dedicated to experiments in artists' moving image.
- With the support of Dr. Martens, the ICA is providing one production grant of £30,000 and six grants of £5,000, supplemented with production support and mentoring.
- UK-based artists can apply through an open call (17 February to 30 March). Artists awarded these grants will then present their new works as part of Image Behaviour 2021 later this year, as well as through Dr. Martens' digital platforms and on Cinema 3, the ICA's new online platform.

Dr. Martens, the iconic brand associated with subcultures through initiatives such as the recent *Dr. Martens Presents* series, and the ICA, home to progressive culture in London since 1946, are working together to offer substantial support for the production of new works by independent voices in artists' moving image.

The global pandemic has wreaked havoc across the cultural sector – closing organisations and venues, and drastically reducing opportunities for artists. The ICA & Dr. Martens have teamed up to counteract this challenging environment by presenting artists living and working in the UK with this meaningful support at a time when it is needed most.

The seven production grants – six grants of £5,000 and one major production grant of £30,000 – will support the production of new works to be premiered at Image Behaviour 2021. The ICA's annual convening dedicated to experiments in artists' moving image, Image Behaviour is central to the ICA's decades-long commitment to the development of artist film, from Derek Jarman, Steve McQueen and Matthew Barney to more recent works by the likes of James Richards, Metahaven and Martine Syms.

Artists are invited to submit their proposals through the Image Behaviour Open Call (17 February – 30 March 2021), after which an international jury will make their selections. The Image Behaviour Open Call is part of the ICA's long-standing support for platforming new voices – and especially for artists whose work falls outside traditional categories.

Stefan Kalmár, Executive Director of the ICA, said:

‘We are experiencing one of the biggest paradigm shifts in society since 1946, the year of the ICA's founding in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. For the ICA today, this means to discuss racial justice, social justice, the ecological crisis, the re-emergence of nationalism and the deep-rooted crisis of western democracies – and to discuss them in relation to each other, challenging the underlying conditions that produce them. The ICA was founded to present urgent new works that speak to our contemporary predicament, and I am grateful to Dr. Martens for joining us in our efforts to commission such work at a time when it is needed most.’

Darren Campbell, Chief Product & Marketing Officer at Dr. Martens, said:

‘Dr. Martens has had a long association with independent artists from under-represented communities, and we recognise the need to nurture that burning desire to create and be seen, with our financial support, mentorship and broader visibility. Now, more than ever, the world needs new ideas and fresh perspectives, so we can think of no better way to celebrate six decades than to partner with the ICA, from its renegade HQ on London's Mall, who have pioneered culture since 1946.’

Steven Cairns, Curator of Artists' Film and Moving Image at the ICA, said:

‘The new opportunities made possible by this exciting new partnership are timely and much-needed by artists who are trying to break through in these challenging times. Dr. Martens' serious commitment to the ICA's Image Behaviour means that we are able to conceive an even more impactful programme with substantially more new commissions.’

TIMELINE

- w/c Monday 15 February 2021: Media and public announcement of the ICA × Dr. Martens partnership, open call and programme
- Wednesday 17 February 2021, 12pm: Image Behaviour Open Call opens with public announcement
- March 2021: Applicant workshop(s) online open to all interested parties
- Tuesday 30 March 2021, 6pm: Image Behaviour Open Call closes
- April 2021: Applications reviewed and shortlisted
- May/June 2021 (date TBC): Announcement of artists awarded grant along with additional ICA commissioned Image Behaviour artists confirmed
- September 2021 (date TBC): Booking opens for Image Behaviour 2021
- October 2021 (date TBC): Image Behaviour 2021

NOTES TO EDITORS

Dr. Martens Presents

Dr. Martens Presents is a multidisciplinary platform for up-and-coming talent, championing the creativity and resilient spirit of grassroots artists. Offering support to independent artists to work on, and present, creative projects that might otherwise not be possible, the initiative continues Dr. Martens' long-standing commitment to building communities and fuelling music subcultures – the kind of youth movements that have shaped Dr. Martens into the brand it is today. Dr. Martens Presents has previously worked with female film collective Girls in Film and helped launch the debut EP of Dublin artist Gemma Dunleavy.

www.drmartens.com/uk/en_gb/dr-martens-presents

Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is an independent organisation that supports the most pressing debates in contemporary culture. From our home on The Mall, the geographic heart of the UK establishment, the ICA encourages and enables different modes of cultural production to thrive on mutual engagement with one another, presenting a programme that speaks to the challenges of the 21st century: ground-breaking exhibitions, performances, independent film and keynote lectures by many of the world's leading artists and thinkers.

Founded in 1946 by a collective of artists, poets and their supporters, the ICA played a pivotal role in the development of pop art and charted the course of punk, performance art and independent cinema. It has previously staged the first institutional exhibitions by artists including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Damien Hirst, Cindy Sherman and Cosey Fanni Tutti; historic performances and legendary concerts by artists such as Laurie Anderson, David Bowie, Einstürzende Neubauten and Yoko Ono; and critical discussions featuring the likes of Kathy Acker, Homi K. Bhabha, Stuart Hall and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.

The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and supported by the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund.

www.ica.art

Image Behaviour

Artists working with film and moving image have been central to the ICA's vision, inspiring our decades-long support of experiments and exhibitions in and of the medium from the likes of Ayo Akingbade, Loretta Fahrenholz, Keiken, Metahaven, Naeem Mohaiemen and James Richards. Image Behaviour, the ICA's annual convening dedicated to artists' moving image, considers the cross-disciplinary possibilities of the medium and extends this commitment with special commissions, dynamic events and new screening environments. The programme takes over the ICA's Theatre and Cinemas for a concentrated period each year, platforming the newest developments in artists' moving image internationally.

Image Behaviour builds on the output of the Artists' Film Biennial, which took place at the ICA in 2013, 2015 and 2017. Now presented annually, the programme continues the ICA's significant commitment to supporting artists whose work in moving image navigate the space between the cinema and the exhibition space. For over a decade, the ICA has pioneered these works through the Artists' Film Club, a recurring programme dedicated to the screening and discussion of moving image works.

www.ica.art/films/image-behaviour-2021

Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create – that by 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and the National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

In response to the Covid-19 crisis, Arts Council England developed a £160 million in Emergency Response Funds, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, an unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector.

www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19

IMAGES

You can review the press images available [here](#), and request access via contact details below.

CONTACT

To request further information, access to images and for quotes or interviews, please contact:

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