

Press Release

## New Contemporaries opens at the ICA, London



15 January – 23 March 2025

**The New Contemporaries annual exhibition opens at the ICA in London, marking the beginning of the organisation's 75th anniversary year celebrations taking place throughout 2025.**

35 emerging and early career artists from across the UK have been selected to take part in the prestigious touring exhibition by artists Liz Johnson Artur, Perminder Kaur and Amalia Pica. As well as being included in the exhibition, the exhibiting artists have access to a range of opportunities including mentoring, talks, and workshops through New Contemporaries' Bridget Riley Artists' Development Programme. New Contemporaries and the ICA share a long-standing relationship and commitment to supporting early-career artists. The ICA hosted New Contemporaries from 1964 to 1986, its relaunch in 1989 and subsequent presentations into the 2010s.

The exhibition marks the beginning of a year of anniversary celebrations for New Contemporaries. 'A Vision with Artists' is a major programme taking place throughout 2025 which includes new commissions, public programmes, artist residencies and research designed to create new possibilities for artists and empower them to shape their own futures.

The 35 artists selected for the New Contemporaries exhibition are: Motunrayo Akinola, Libby Bove, Max Boyla, Molly Burrows, Fergus Carmichael, Mya Cavner and Edith Liben, Karen David, Roo Dhissou, Beverley Duckworth, Georgia Dymock, Tom Fairlamb, Farzaneh Ghadyanloo, Sara Graça, Dageong Han, Siomha Harrington, Anna Howard, Fi Isidore, Asmaa Jama and Gouled Ahmed, Laura Kazaroff, AC Larsen, Sophie Lloyd, Hazel O'Sullivan, Sun Oh, Sara Osman, Saul Pankhurst, Varshga Premarasa, Elliott Roy, Millie Shafiee, Sai Stephenson, Valentino Vannini, Joshua Whitaker, Danilo Zocatelli Cesco, and Yang Zou.

The exhibition offers an overview of urgent lived concerns, interests and social realities from this generation of artists. Themes include: the fluctuations and cycles in the natural world, sustainability and decay; boundaries, borders and fragmented memories; the commodification of mindfulness, self-care, pop culture and consumerism. Other works explore conviviality and social gatherings, juxtaposed with those that suggest anxieties or discontent in an increasingly alienating and digitally accelerated world.

Artist selector Amalia Pica said, "It was a true privilege to have such an overview of what artists in the UK are making today. We reviewed many applications and the conversation with the other two selectors was always engaging. I believe we ended up with a solid list and cannot wait to see all the works together in the exhibition and meet the artists."

Permindar Kaur said, "I really liked being part of the judging process and being given the opportunity to select work. The exceptional quality of the submissions received generated dynamic conversations about art, and I look forward to meeting the artists and seeing the exhibition when it opens."

Liz Johnson Artur said, "As one of the selectors, it was a real pleasure to see the works submitted and to consider what motivates the next generation of artists. I am very excited to see the final exhibitions in London and Plymouth come together and see how these artists progress with their practices."

Before travelling to the ICA, the exhibition launched at KARST, The Levinsky Gallery and MIRROR in Plymouth where it ran from 28 September to 7 December 2024.

A public programme takes place at the ICA for the duration of the exhibition. For more details visit [ica.art/new-contemporaries](https://ica.art/new-contemporaries)

For more information on the exhibition and New Contemporaries' anniversary year, visit [newcontemporaries.org.uk](https://newcontemporaries.org.uk)

**Images, left to right:** Georgia Dymock, *RoadKill*, 2024; Asmaa Jama and Gouled Ahmed, *Except this time nothing returns from the ashes*, 2023, film still.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

For further information, interviews and images please contact:  
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### **New Contemporaries Exhibition Dates**

KARST, MIRROR and The Levinsky Gallery, Plymouth: 28 September – 7 December 2024

ICA London: 15 January – 23 March 2025, Preview 14 January

Opening hours: Tuesday – Thursday 4 – 9pm, Friday – Sunday 12 – 9pm

Admission is free

## **New Contemporaries**

Founded in 1949 by artists and for artists, New Contemporaries is committed to fostering an environment where emerging and early-career artists are empowered to shape their own futures. By prioritising artist-led initiatives, we aim to disrupt traditional hierarchies and challenge the status quo. Our community-driven approach ensures that emerging voices are not only heard but are central to pioneering new ideas and support structures. Through collective action and shared resources, we build a foundation that champions diversity, collaboration, and long-term sustainability for the next generation of artists.

New Contemporaries supports emerging and early career artists through an annual artist development programme that culminates in a prestigious national touring exhibition, selected by internationally renowned artists. Our commitment to fostering the next generation of talent is amplified through our partnerships with major institutions such as the South London Gallery, MIMA Middlesbrough, the British Council, and Hospitalfield in Scotland.

New Contemporaries is an Arts Council of England National Portfolio Organisation. For more information visit [newcontemporaries.org.uk](http://newcontemporaries.org.uk) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter @NewContemps](#).

New Contemporaries is supported by Arts Council England, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Bridget Riley Art Foundation, Henry Moore Foundation, TFA London and Art Fund.

## **The Institute of Contemporary Arts**

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) is London's leading space for contemporary culture. We commission, produce and present new work in film, music, performance and the visual arts by today's most progressive artists. In our landmark home on The Mall in central London, we invite artists and audiences to interrogate what it means to live in our world today, with a genre-fluid programme that challenges the past, questions the present and confronts the future. The cross-disciplinary programme encourages these art forms and others to pollinate in new combinations and collaborations. We stage club nights and film festivals, gigs and exhibitions, talks and digital art—with interplay and interaction at the core of all we do. Our history of presenting and promoting visionary new art is unrivalled in London: from Kenneth Anger to Kathy Acker, Kano to Klein, Jackson Pollock to Jean-Michel Basquiat, Gay Sweatshop to Forensic Architecture, Pop Art to queer techno. Today, as ever, our inclusive programme reflects and represents who we are as a disparate and diverse collection of cultures and identities.

Over 75 years after a group of artists and poets founded the ICA as an alternative to the mainstream, we are committed more than ever to pave the way for the next generation and to platform creative voices. The ICA continues to celebrate risk and champion innovation, and experimentation across the arts – a playground and a home for today's most vital artists.

The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

## **The New Contemporaries exhibition is supported by:**

### **Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. It has set out its strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 it wants England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 Arts Council England will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

### **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Bloomberg Philanthropies is a leading supporter of the arts. Through unique arts and culture initiatives, Bloomberg Philanthropies supports organisations in evolving the way they engage their audiences, helping transform cultural experiences across the globe and expand access to arts. The foundation also focuses on the environment, public health, education and government innovation, investing in more than 941 cities and over 173 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people.

For more information, please visit [bloomberg.org](https://www.bloomberg.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### **Selectors**

**Amalia Pica** explores systems of communication and civic participation in works that span from sculpture and drawing to performance, video, and installation. Pica was born in Neuquén in 1978, moved to Buenos Aires to complete her BA (2001) at the Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes P.P. She was a resident artist at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam in 2004-05 and now lives and works in London. Her work poses questions about contemporary systems of communication, human connection, social participation, and state control. Pica examines the things and circumstances that bring people together by injecting collective celebration into subjects rife with conflict or tediousness. Using simple materials and found objects, she investigates human modes of interaction and the political potential of joy. Pica received the Zürich Art Prize (2020); Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award (2011); and participated in the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation's Grants and Commissions Program (2011).

**Permindar Kaur** is a sculpture/ installation artist, whose approach to art is playful, using childlike objects to explore the territory of cultural identity, home and belonging. Kaur has exhibited internationally in both major solo and group exhibitions. Recent solo shows include: The Room, Niru Ratnam Gallery (2023); Outgrown, ArtHouse (2022) HOME, 5 Howick Place, London (2020-21); Hiding Out, Djanogly Art Gallery, Nottingham (2014); Cold Comfort (1996) Ikon Gallery. Major group exhibitions include Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women since 1945, YSP & UK tour (2021-23); Ikon in the 90's, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2021) Animals & Us, Turner Contemporary, Margate (2018); British Art Show (1995).

**Liz Johnson Artur** (b. 1964, Bulgaria) lives and works in London. Her practice includes photography, film and installation, placing the photograph as a starting point to develop work. She has shown internationally, with solo exhibitions of life of love of sex of movement of hope at FOAM Amsterdam (2021), Dusha at the Brooklyn Museum in New York and If you know the beginning, the end is no trouble at the South London Gallery in London (both 2019). Group exhibitions included A Time For New Dreams at the Serpentine Galleries, London (2019); the 10th Berlin Biennale (2018); Masculinities at Barbican, London (2020). She will show a new solo exhibition at Camera Austria in Graz in fall 2024.



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