

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London announces its January – March 2026 Programme Highlights



Haedong Lee, *Ceremony for the Last Humanity*, 2023.

From January to March 2026, the ICA will present a programme of exhibitions, film, live music and talks anchored by ***The Drawing Drawing***, Brazilian artist Laura Lima's first solo exhibition in London.

In the cinemas, **Long Takes** returns – presenting expansive retrospectives of filmmakers' full body of work; meanwhile the ICA's **In Focus** season will present the work of directors united by their commitment to socially and politically engaged cinema; and **Off-Circuit** will present UK and London premieres by innovative and overlooked contemporary filmmakers. On the ICA's Stage, an expanded **In the Round** series brings artists and audiences into a unique sonic space using 360° audio technology. The Talks & Engagement programme turns to the next phase of **ICA Creatives, PULSE** and **ICA Creatives x Diasporas Now**.

Spanning exhibitions, film, live music and talks, the ICA's interdisciplinary programme invites artists and audiences to come together to think with culture as it is being made.

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EXHIBITIONS

Laura Lima: The Drawing Drawing

27 January – 29 March 2026, Upper and Lower Galleries

The ICA presents *The Drawing Drawing*, the first solo exhibition in London by Brazilian artist **Laura Lima** whose subversive practice has explored the relationship between bodies and their environment since the 1990s. The show will bring together new and existing performative installations with live components across both Upper and Lower Galleries. Lima's new commission, also titled *The Drawing Drawing* (2026), is an interactive sculptural installation that unsettles the conventions of the life-drawing class, recasting the relations between body, image and spectator. The exhibition is accompanied by a season of public programming, including an in-conversation with Lima, a series of Brazilian film screenings selected by the artist, and life drawing sessions in the Lower Gallery led by artist **Tegen Williams**.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/exhibitions

FILM

Long Takes

Long Takes continues with *Anguish & Ecstasy: The Cinema of Werner Schroeter* (19 February – 12 April), the first major UK retrospective dedicated to one of the most distinctive voices in twentieth-century cinema. Spanning several decades of work, the series brings together films that move between opera, melodrama, experimental narrative and political allegory, tracing how Schroeter's cinema reshaped ideas of performance, queerness and image-making in post-war Europe.

In Focus

Across January and March, the ICA's **In Focus** strand turns to three major filmmakers whose work has shaped documentary and narrative cinema. A selection of films by **Frederick Wiseman** is presented from 2 – 22 January to coincide with the UK release of *Menus-Plaisirs – Les Troisgros*, offering an opportunity to reconsider his long engagement with institutions and public life. From 9 – 22 January, a programme devoted to Japanese filmmaker **Masao Adachi**, curated with **Ricardo Matos Cabo**, introduces key works by this radical figure in Japanese cinema. Later in the season, from 1 – 18 March, the ICA collaborates with **KINOTEKA** on a focused survey of films by Polish director **Andrzej Wajda**.

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In parallel, **Narrow Margin** presents a five-film survey of the pioneering French production company **Diagonale** (8 – 20 January) to mark the launch of the second issue of the international film magazine.

Off-Circuit

Off-Circuit, the ICA's ongoing platform for formally adventurous and underseen contemporary cinema, features a series of premieres throughout the winter. From 16 January, the ICA presents the UK premiere of **Masao Adachi**'s *Escape*, accompanied by an online Q&A with the filmmaker. From 5 February, the strand continues with the UK premiere of **Lana Daher**'s *Do You Love Me?* + Q&A, a personal journey through Lebanon's audiovisual memory that spans 70 years of film, television, home movies and photography. From 20 February, **Isiah Medina**'s *Gangsterism* receives its UK premiere with an in-person Q&A, extending the strand's engagement with his work beyond the **In Focus** screenings. In March, Racornelia's debut feature **MACDO** is presented as a UK premiere with Q&A from 6 March, while the London premiere of the Moroccan-American animation **Bouchra** with Q&A from 20 March widens **Off-Circuit**'s geographic scope.

Jean-Luc Godard: Unmade and Abandoned

From 11 January, the ICA continues **Jean-Luc Godard: Unmade and Abandoned**, a programme that brings to light the legendary filmmaker's unrealised and unfinished projects. Curated to sit alongside his completed works and films by other directors, the series considers these phantom projects as a way of understanding Godard's methods, interests and the conditions under which his films were made and sometimes left unresolved.

The season also features returning film festivals, including the 23rd edition of the **London Short Film Festival** (24 January – 1 February), and the **Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme** (6 – 15 February), the UK's largest showcase of Japanese cinema, **KINOTEKA Polish Film Festival** (5 – 26 March) and the third edition of **Screen Cuba** (15 – 28 March), which highlights the history and present of Cuba's influential film culture.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/films

LIVE

The programme on the ICA Stage opens with the live AV debut of **Carrier**'s *Rhythm Immortal* with visuals by **Riyo Nemeth** (29 January), in which **Guy Brewer**'s debut record is reworked as an audio-visual performance developed specifically for the

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ICA. The following evening, **Lex Records** (30 January) curate a label showcase, headlined by spirited new collaborative duo **GENA (Liv.e & Karriem Riggins)** that moves between experimental electronics, hip hop and leftfield pop. Other highlights include **orbit**, with a set that shifts between intimate acoustic textures, dreamily distorted vocals and atmospheric synths shaped by impressions of his hometown in rural Germany. The week concludes with **ERASERHEAD XIU XIU** (6 – 7 February), an intense live exploration of the sonic and visual world of David Lynch's *Eraserhead*, conceived as both concert and installation.

In the Round

In the Round returns to the ICA with a series of performances designed for the venue's intimate Stage. Philadelphia post-rock band **They Are Gutting A Body Of Water** perform over two nights (13 – 14 February), making use of the space to create an enveloping, high-volume listening experience. Further **In the Round** evenings across February and March include a **99CHANTS** showcase led by **David August** with **Haedong Lee** and **Yidan Kim**, which extends the label's interest in bridging experimental composition, electronic music and multidisciplinary art; a night with **Flur** and **GAL GO** that brings together harp, saxophone and percussion with a multi-instrumental project rooted in improvisation; and a double bill with **feeo** and **Whatever the Weather**, following the release of **feeo**'s debut album **Goodness** on **AD93**, with sets that stretch song form through warped electronics and live collaboration.

Later in the season, the ICA welcomes internationally celebrated artist **Tanya Tagaq** (6 March), whose improvisational vocal practice and avant-garde compositions draw on Inuit throat-singing traditions to create powerful, visceral performances. On 12 March, **Annihilated: An Evening with Real Lies** reimagines the group's latest album **WE WILL ANNIHILATE OUR ENEMIES** as a new dancefloor work, with guests invited to "read fortunes, break hearts and speak to the dead". The season concludes with a jazz-electronic special presented by **Goodness** (14 March), featuring **Jan Jelinek**, **Hector Plimmer**, **Ben Bertrand** and more, underscoring the ICA Stage as a place for live music and performance that tests the possibilities of sound, space and form.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/live

TALKS & ENGAGEMENT

The season's programme opens on 7 January in Cinema 1 with **Erotic Review: The Body: Digital/Real/Imagined**, a multimedia event that uses readings, video and discussion to think through what it means to inhabit a body across digital, real and imagined spaces. On 31 January, the ICA, WePresent and **The Messy Truth** co-

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present ***Between Two Worlds: Photography's Unfixed Future***, a one-day salon examining the dual image worlds we navigate today. Hosted by **Gem Fletcher**, the day brings together artists and photographers including **Rene Matić, Elle Pérez, Jack Davison, Hanna Moon and Ronan McKenzie** to reflect on current conditions in photography and what might come next.

Further events trace the intersections of art, theory and publishing with highlights including **And Then It Fades (Away)** for a conversation on contemporary Lithuanian photography; the launch of **HYPERPOLITICS**, featuring **Anton Jäger, Vincent Bevins** and **Nihal El Assar** discussing the contradictions of our fragmented, hyper-political moment; and **Speaking Futures x Diasporas Now** culminating in a takeover on 7 March, marking the end of the **Diasporas Now** year-long residency at the ICA with an afternoon of talks, screenings, performances and roundtable discussions.

Literature and film are brought into dialogue in **New Canons: Readings from Independent Publishers** on 11 March, which celebrates new writing from independent presses and authors working at the edges of contemporary literature, and in **The Bed Trick**, a combined talks and film programme running from 18 to 29 March that examines the enduring motif of disguise, desire and deception from ancient myth to modern cinema.

PULSE

PULSE, the ICA's strand for experimental performance and new practice that responds to urgent social and cultural questions, returns this season with a new collaboration between photographers **Myles Bailey** and **Hayleigh Longman** (date to be announced). The project extends PULSE's interest in cross-disciplinary forms and live work that tests how performance can think with images, bodies and space.

ICA Creatives x Diasporas Now

Young people and emerging practice remain central to the ICA's work. **ICA Creatives: Young Artist Collective – Reimagining the Archive: Moving Image as Print Culture** runs from February to July, offering paid opportunities for five 16–30 year-olds in collaboration with **iniva**, with a focus on how moving image might translate into print culture. Alongside this, **ICA Creatives: Term 2 – Translating Ideas into Artistic Practice** (10 January – 21 March), led by artists **Paola Estrella** and **Joshua Woolford** and developed with **Diasporas Now**, invites participants to carry personal and collective stories across different artistic mediums.

For the full programme and bookings visit ica.art/talks

Members get free, discounted and priority-access tickets across our programme.
Learn more at ica.art/become-a-member

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To download press images, visit [ICA's Dropbox](#)

Visitor Information

ICA opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday, 12–11pm

Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London, SW1Y 5AH

Tickets: from £7.50

Pay What You Can: Tue to Sun: 12–1pm

Members go free

Exhibition opening times:

Monday: Closed

Tue to Sun: 12–8pm

Access

If you have an access requirement that we can assist you with, please contact us in advance of your visit for more information at access@ica.art and we will make our best endeavours to help you. Full venue accessibility information can be found here, and you can download an accessibility map of the venue at www.ica.art/media/01795.pdf

About 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 ICA platforms the daring and the curious, supporting artists and ideas that challenge perceptions, inspire social change, and connect with diverse audiences locally and globally. As a space for bold, boundary-pushing creativity, we cultivate connections across disciplines, communities, and cultures. Our cross-disciplinary programming invites audiences to explore beyond the boundaries of individual art forms, fostering experimentation and the discovery of new perspectives. Open to all voices and ideas, we embrace interplay and interaction across club nights, film festivals, gigs, exhibitions, talks, and digital art. With inclusivity and collaboration at the heart of our work, we remain fearless in shaping contemporary creativity, connecting diverse voices, and making unexpected connections that define the future of arts and culture.

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, David Bowie to Stormzy, 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.

Exactly 78 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. Central to the ICA's vision and mission is a commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion at all levels of the organisation. We want to create and maintain an ICA that is a positive environment where similarities and differences of people are valued – a space where everyone belongs and feels welcome. We hold ourselves accountable through our regularly reviewed Anti-Racism Strategic Plan; Equality and Diversity Policy and Action Plan; and Safety Policy.

Since its inception, the ICA has been the home of future-thinking ideas and urgent cultural discourse. We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment that encourages dialogue and debate, recognising that differing viewpoints are essential to the advancement of contemporary arts and culture.

The ICA is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.