

Press Release

SERPENTINE GALLERIES PROGRAMME

Autumn 2019 - Spring 2020

EXHIBITIONS

- [Albert Oehlen](#) (2 October 2019 – 2 February 2020)
- [Luchita Hurtado: I Live I Die I Will Be Reborn](#) (until 20 October 2019)
- [Patrick Staff](#) (8 November 2019 - 9 February 2020)
- [Cao Fei](#) (4 March -17 May 2020)
- [Studio Formafantasma](#) (4 March -17 May 2020)

ARCHITECTURE

- [Serpentine Pavilion 2019 Designed by Junya Ishigami](#) (Until 6 October 2019)

LIVE PROGRAMMES

- [COS x Serpentine Park Nights 2019](#) (Selected Fridays, 8pm, Pavilion)
[Precious Okoyomon](#), [Jakob Kudsk Steensen](#), [Shawanda Corbett](#), [Kiko Kostadinov](#) /[vanillajellaba](#)
[Klein](#), (6 September)
[1010 Benja SL](#) (20 September)
[Cecilia Vicuña](#) (27 September)
[Carrie Mae Weems](#) (4 October)
- **General Ecology Programme**
[Listening Session: The Flourishing Diversity Series](#) (8 September, 8pm)
[Alex Cecchetti: Walking Backwards](#) (14 & 15 September 2019)
The Shape of a Circle in the Mind of a Fish Might Be (December 2019)
[Time Time Time: An Opera by Jennifer Walshe and Timothy Morton](#)
(14 December)
- [Albert Oehlen Invites: Steamboat Switzerland and Lorenzo Senni](#) (2 October)
- [Suzanne Treister Talk, Book and Web App launch](#) (19 September)
- [Christodoulos Panayiotou: Dying on Stage](#) (7 December 2019)

DIGITAL COMMISSIONS

- [Serpentine Augmented Architecture: Jakob Kudsk Steensen *The Deep Listener*](#)
- [Suzanne Treister: *From Survivor \(F\) To The Escapist Bhst \(Black Hole Spacetime\)*](#)
- [Jenna Sutela: *I Magma*](#)

Serpentine Gallery
Kensington Gardens
London W2 3XA

Serpentine Sackler Gallery
West Carriage Drive
Kensington Gardens
London W2 2AR

T +44 (0)20 7402 6075
W serpentinegalleries.org



ALBERT OEHLER

2 October 2019 – 2 February 2020

Albert Oehlen (b. 1954, Krefeld, Germany) is one of the most innovative and significant artists working today. He has been a key figure in contemporary art since the 1980s and the diversity of his painting is a testament to the intrinsic freedom that remains at the heart of the medium. Through expressionist brushwork, surrealist gestures and deliberate amateurism, he engages with the history of painting, pushing its essential components to bold new extremes. At the centre of the Serpentine Gallery will be an installation that marks the beginning of Oehlen's process of interpreting the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas. Four new paintings – the same scale and size as the four horizontal canvases found in the Chapel – have been made specifically for this exhibition. Alongside this central installation will be a selection of paintings from the last two decades. A newly-configured soundtrack by the Swiss ensemble, Steamboat Switzerland, will play at intervals throughout the duration of the exhibition. The presence of music will extend through two live concerts taking place during the exhibition's opening week, with performances by Steamboat Switzerland and experimental musician, Lorenzo Senni.

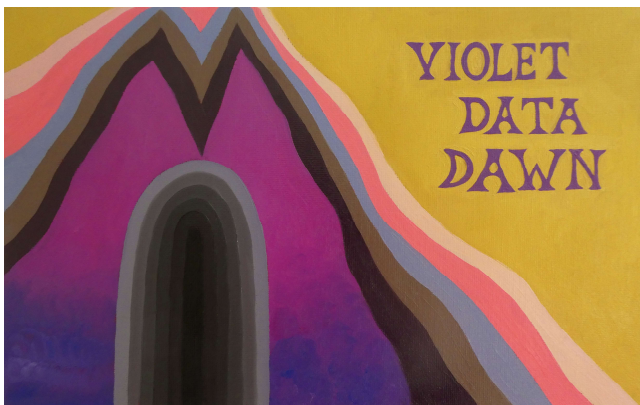


PATRICK STAFF ON VENUS

8 November 2019 - 9 February 2020

Through a varied and interdisciplinary body of work, Patrick Staff interrogates notions of discipline, dissent, labour and the queer identity. Drawing from a wide range of sources, Staff's work cites the ways in which history, technology, capitalism and the law have fundamentally transformed the social constitution of our bodies today, with a particular

focus on gender, debility and biopolitics. For their newly commissioned exhibition at the Serpentine Galleries, *Patrick Staff: On Venus* presents their most ambitious work to date: a site-specific installation exploring structural violence, registers of harm and the corrosive effects of acid, blood and hormones through architectural intervention, video and print. Their work has been presented internationally, including solo shows at MOCA, Los Angeles (2017); Spike Island, Bristol, UK (2016); and Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK (2015). Recent group exhibitions have included *The Body Electric*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2019); *Made in LA*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018); *Trigger*, New Museum, New York (2015).



SUZANNE TREISTER

FROM SURVIVOR (F) TO THE ESCAPIST BHST (BLACK HOLE SPACETIME)

Launching 19 September 2019

Treister's large body of work engages eccentric narratives, unconventional bodies of research and fictional worlds to reveal hidden structures that bind power, identity and knowledge. As part of the Serpentine's digital commission programme, Treister will present an artist publication that draws on recent research in artificial intelligence and astrophysics to create a hallucinogenic imagining of spaces of human and non-human understanding within and beyond those of contemporary science and technology. *The Escapist BHST (Black Hole Spacetime)* will be simultaneously accessible through sky-based portals in augmented reality via a web AR application. By pointing their mobile device's camera into the sky, users will encounter a series of interactive portal drawings, where further works can be viewed and downloads can be kept and used as wallpapers or backgrounds.



JENNA SUTELA

I MAGMA

I Magma App available everywhere for iOS and Android from 2 October 2019

I Magma exhibited as part of *Mud Muses: A Rant About Technology*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 12 October 2019 – 12 January 2020

Jenna Sutela is a Finnish-born, Berlin-based artist who works with words, sounds and other living materials to create experimental installations and performances that bring together biology, technology and cosmology. Her new work, *I Magma*, exists in two related parts: an app for mobile devices developed with the Serpentine in collaboration with Memo Akten and Allison Parrish and an installation exhibited at Moderna Museet, Stockholm. The installation features a series of custom made head-shaped lava lamps whose movements act as a 'seed' in generating the app's visuals and language. Using live camera footage of the lava flow in combination with the routes of app users, it allows the users to receive divinatory readings based on collectively formed shapes. The commission expands Sutela's research into alternative forms of intelligence by applying chemical and digital processes in the creation of an oracle. This project is part of an ongoing relationship between the Serpentine and Sutela that began during the *GUEST, GHOST, HOST: MACHINE!* Marathon in 2017.



CAO FEI
BLUEPRINTS

4 March - 17 May 2020

Cao Fei is a multi-media artist and filmmaker based in Beijing. Video, digital media, photography and objects all play a role in the artist's engagement with an age of rapid technological development. Cao Fei's work is underpinned by an ongoing exploration of virtuality, how it has radically altered our perception of self and changed the way we understand reality. This slippage between the physical and the virtual is always present in her work; from the utopic and dystopic potentials of our modern-day cities, the escapism of users via the virtual platform, Second Life, to the alienating effects of mechanised labour in China, Cao Fei often addresses these far-reaching topics through deadpan humour and the creation of surreal encounters. Although each of Cao Fei's worlds appear to teeter on the edge of apocalyptic uncertainty, her characters navigate these complex and chaotic realities with vigour and agency, harnessing the unique possibilities of technology in order to shape a collective future. The Serpentine Galleries exhibition will bring together new and existing works in an immersive, site-specific installation, expanding the themes of automation, virtuality and technology that Cao Fei continuously draws upon.



STUDIO FORMAFANTASMA

4 March -17 May 2020

Studio Formafantasma are an Italian design duo based in Amsterdam. Their work looks at design's ecological and political responsibilities, while probing the global industries that consume natural resources. This project opens a new chapter in the Serpentine's programme, embracing radical approaches to design and developing a platform for practitioners who operate between the traditional disciplines of design, contemporary art, and research. Formafantasma's project for the Serpentine puts into question the role that design can play in translating emerging environmental awareness into informed, collaborative responses. Specifically, it will focus on forestry practices and production strategies surrounding wood and wood products. The industry's tentacular supply chain has grown out of the bioprospecting that took place throughout colonial territories during the nineteenth century, and has affected the entire biosphere. Formafantasma's practice is characterised by experimental material investigations and detailed explorations of the history, context and implications of the transformation of natural resources into commodities. This project seeks connections with science, conservation, engineering and policymaking, adopting a pioneering multidisciplinary approach to contemporary design.

Mushrooms Make a Forest, the Serpentine's General Ecology project responds to Studio Formafantasma's exhibition with a series of programmes during the Spring season.

GENERAL ECOLOGY PROGRAMME

General Ecology is the Serpentine's long-term project researching complexity, posthumanism, the environment and climate change. Responding to the most urgent crises of the Anthropocene, such as mass species extinction and deforestation, General Ecology manifests through publications, exhibitions, study programmes, radio, symposia and live events bringing together practitioners from the fields of art, activism, design, science, literature and anthropology among others.

PARK NIGHTS PROGRAMME

Park Nights is the Serpentine's experimental, interdisciplinary live platform, sited within the annual architectural commission, the Serpentine Pavilion. The 2019 programme includes [Precious Okoyomon](#), [Jakob Kudsk Steensen](#), [Shawanda Corbett](#), [Kiko Kostadinov](#), [vanillajellaba](#), [Klein](#), [1010 Benja SL](#), [Cecilia Vicuña](#) and [Carrie Mae Weems](#).

Since 2002, Park Nights has presented new work across the spectrum of art, music, film, theatre, dance, literature, philosophy, fashion and technology; work made specially for the Pavilion, offering audiences unique ways of experiencing architecture and performance. The programme has supported many artists in the early stages of their careers as well as pioneering writers and thinkers from around the world. Participants have included Arthur Jafa, Sondra Perry, Eleanor Antin, Dorothy Iannone, Etel Adnan, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Keren Cytter, Ai Weiwei, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Wolfgang Tillmans, Pedro Reyes, Alexander Kluge, Helen Marten, Joseph Grigely, Kamasi Washington, TELFAR, Marianna Simnett, Tamara Henderson, Leslie Thornton, James Richards, Meriem Bennani and Eileen Myles, among many others.

SERPENTINE DIGITAL COMMISSIONS

This artist-led programme proposes critical and interdisciplinary perspectives on the role of emerging technologies. Challenging and reshaping the role that technology can play in our culture and society as part of the Serpentine's ongoing commitment to supporting new experiments in art and technology. The programme develops contemporary artworks with artists that focuses our attention on emerging technologies as a medium, a tool or a topic that can operate beyond the gallery walls. This ongoing exploration and experimentation has led to the creation of an mixed reality ecological expedition of the park ([Jakob Kudsk Steensen](#), 2019), the development of complex artificial life ([Ian Cheng](#), 2018), an open source augmented reality tool for data visualisation and personal testimony ([Hito Steyerl](#), 2019), thoughts and feelings rendered from the human brain with the help of AI ([Pierre Huyghe](#), 2018), a weather prediction model that correlates historic weather data with polling data from major political events such as Brexit ([James Bridle](#), 2015), a mindfulness app that reflects on the human mind's mercurial states of focus, distraction, discipline and the inner impulsive to autopilot ([Ian Cheng](#), 2016), and an AI spam bot living inside the Serpentine's website ([Cecile B Evans](#), 2014). The foundations of the programme are located in a sophisticated R&D platform that explores, interrogates and experiments with the most advanced technologies of our day, from artificial intelligence to blockchain - together with artists the Serpentine seeks to chart a course that tells an alternative story of the role of technologies in our collective future on earth and beyond.

SERPENTINE GALLERIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY - 2020

Details of the Serpentine's 50th anniversary plans will be released later this autumn.

For more information contact:

Rose Dempsey, rosed@serpentinegalleries.org +44 (0)20 7298 1520

Sam Talbot sam@sam-talbot.com

Press images at serpentinegalleries.org/press