

Press Release

# SERPENTINE REOPENS GALLERIES ON 4 AUGUST 2020

Programmes resume with Cao Fei and Formafantasma exhibitions in galleries, Radio Ballads in Barking and Dagenham and more...

Press information and images [serpentine.org/press](https://serpentine.org/press)



Cao Fei, *Blueprints* (Installation view, March 2020, Serpentine Gallery) Photo credit: Gautier Deblonde

The Serpentine will begin a phased reopening on 4 August 2020 when **Cao Fei's** immersive, site specific installation *Blueprints* resumes at the Serpentine Gallery and remains on view until 13 September. On 29 September, **Formafantasma's** radical design exhibition exploring wood and the global dynamics of the timber industry, *Cambio*, will re-open at the Serpentine Sackler Gallery and continue until the end of the year.



During the period of gallery closure, Serpentine's ***Radio Ballads*** project in Barking and Dagenham and online campaigns for ***Back to Earth*** have continued. These initiatives will remain ongoing throughout the year.

Please see the Serpentine reopening calendar and descriptions below for full details on these and other current 2020 programmes.

*Public health safety measures will be of the utmost priority at the Galleries this summer and into the future. The Serpentine Galleries remain free to all visitors, however entrances will be controlled through a timed ticketing system that ensures a safe capacity and proper social distancing are maintained at all times. Tickets can be booked in advance via [serpentinegalleries.org](https://serpentinegalleries.org) from mid-July. For the safety of visitors and staff, both will be **required to wear face coverings** and observe social distancing. Visitors will sanitise hands upon entry and follow a set route through the exhibitions.*

#### SERPENTINE REOPENING CALENDAR AND PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

<u>9 July</u>	<b><u><i>Future Art Ecosystems report launch</i></u></b>	Online
<u>4 August – 13 September</u>	<b><u><i>Cao Fei: Blueprints</i></u></b>	Serpentine Gallery
<u>29 September – end of 2020</u>	<b><u><i>Formafantasma: Cambio</i></u></b>	Serpentine Sackler Gallery
Ongoing	<b><u><i>Radio Ballads</i></u></b>	Barking and Dagenham
Ongoing	<b><u><i>Back to Earth</i></u></b>	Online
Ongoing	<b><u><i>do it (around the world)</i></u></b>	Online
Ongoing	<b><u><i>Counterspace Serpentine Pavilion 2020+21</i></u></b>	Online + throughout London

#### 4 August – 13 September 2020

##### ***Cao Fei: Blueprints***

Serpentine Gallery

Cao Fei's immersive, site-specific installation *Blueprints* expands on themes of automation, virtuality and technology, with a new body of work examining the social history and urban transformation of Beijing's Jiuxianqiao (Hong Xia) district. This major solo exhibition, the artist's first in a UK public institution, originally included the world premiere of the virtual reality work *The Eternal Wave*, produced in collaboration with Acute Art. In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Acute Art has developed an augmented reality version of the kitchen space in which *The Eternal Wave* begins. This new artwork, visible through visitors' smartphones, represents the second chapter in Cao Fei's recent exploration of virtual possibilities.



*‘an immaculately crafted exhibition... This latest in the Serpentine’s exploration of VR and AI is exceptional both in engaging so critically with the “century of progress” that precedes it, and in suggesting that redemption lies not in new technology, but human contact.’ — The Guardian, March 2020*

29 September – December 2020

**Formafantasma: Cambio**

Serpentine Sackler Gallery and Online

Formafantasma are an Italian design duo based in Amsterdam, whose work looks at design’s ecological and political responsibilities. Their Serpentine exhibition *Cambio* continues their investigations into experimental materials and detailed explorations of the transformation of natural resources into commodities, with a focus on the timber industry. This project seeks connections with science, conservation, engineering and policymaking, adopting a pioneering multidisciplinary approach to contemporary design.

Visit [cambio.website](http://cambio.website)

*‘Cambio is also quite brave. It unleashes a rebuke to two centuries of design practice, while reprimanding those designers and manufacturers whose environmental ambitions fail to take into account the systems that they perpetuate. If designers are to have any role in sparing our world from climate catastrophe, Formafantasma must be heeded.’*

Icon Magazine, March 2020

*Ongoing*

**Radio Ballads**

Artist residencies in Barking and Dagenham

As part of New Town Culture, a programme of workshops, exhibitions, radio broadcasts and live performances taking place in adult and children’s social care across the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Serpentine Galleries is leading the development of a series of collaborative artist residencies and commissions with artists **Sonia Boyce, Helen Cammock, Rory Pilgrim** and **Ilona Sagar** called *Radio Ballads*. These commissions explore the futures and histories of work through collaborations with local boroughs and mark the 50th anniversary of the 1970 Equal Pay Act which followed in the wake of the Dagenham Ford sewing machinists strike of 1968.

*Radio Ballads* builds on Serpentine’s history of embedding artists in public institutions, activist groups and grassroots organisations and are inspired by the original Radio Ballads, radio plays produced by musicians Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger, working with radio producer Charlie Parker for the BBC. Focusing on workers’ experiences and issues and centering voices that were never heard on radio before, the series of eight one-hour Radio Ballads revolutionised radio documentary when broadcast by the BBC, from 1957 to 1964. A combination of song, music, sound effect and recorded voice, each presented a distinct view on the working lives of British people.



*Ongoing*

**Back to Earth**

Online, Gallery and Podcasts

Leading artists, musicians, architects, poets, filmmakers, scientists, thinkers and designers—including **Torkwase Dyson, Karrabing Film Collective, Carolina Caycedo, Brian Eno**—continue to launch artworks and projects in response to the climate emergency in this multi-year “slow programming” initiative.

*Back to Earth* addresses key topics facing our world, such as water and toxicity, fishing, farming and the limits of consumption. It will also explore and challenge our understandings of indigenous land rights and legal personhood, healing and how to think beyond our current limits.

A series of podcasts released during lockdown asks: How can art respond to the climate emergency? Bringing together conversations, sound commissions, music and field reports, the series tracks the journey of an arts institution dedicating itself to artist-driven approaches to ecology, technology and equality.

*Ongoing*

**do it (around the world)**

Online

Internationally acclaimed artists create new instructions for this new chapter in one of the world’s longest running exhibitions, *do it*.

Discover new works to recreate at home from creative figures including **Virgil Abloh, Evan Ifekoya, Es Devlin, Oscar Murillo and Kelsey Lu**, plus hundreds of archive instructions, at Google Arts and Culture's new *do it* hub. New instructions are released regularly on Instagram @SerpentineUK and audiences are invited to share their creations using the hashtag #doitaroundtheworld

Presented by Serpentine Galleries, Google Arts & Culture, Independent Curators International and Kaldor Public Art Projects

[g.co/doitaroundtheworld](https://www.g.co/doitaroundtheworld) and @serpentineuk

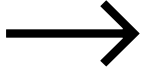
**9 July 2020**

***Future Art Ecosystems* launch**

Online

The first in an annual series, *Future Art Ecosystems: Issue 1, Art x Advanced Technologies* focuses on the new infrastructures being built around artistic practices engaging advanced technologies and traces new paths for the role of art in shaping technologies of the future.

[Futureartecosystems.org](https://futureartecosystems.org)



## **Creative AI Lab**

Online

The **Creative AI Lab** is a partnership between the **Serpentine R&D Platform** and the **Department of Digital Humanities at King's College**. Founded to address Artificial Intelligence through the lens of artistic practices, the Lab is a research space for the cultural sector to engage with AI, a technology that will shape human development over the next century.

[creative-ai.org](https://creative-ai.org) (from 9 July)

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