Press Release

FRIEZE WEEK AT THE SERPENTINE GALLERIES

Exhibitions and events 5 – 15 October 2020
Online + Serpentine Sackler Gallery

Formafantasma exhibition; Radio Ballads premiere – Rory Pilgrim; Cao Fei in conversation; Creative AI and more

All Serpentine events are free but may require booking, see listings

Rory Pilgrim, Rafts, 2020. Oil, Nail Polish, Body Glitter on Wooden Board Courtesy of the artist and andriesse-eyck galerie
EXHIBITION: Formafantasma: Cambio
29 September-15 November
Serpentine Sackler Gallery
Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm
FREE, booking essential via press@serpentinegalleries.org

‘[Cambio] 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, March 2020

This major design exhibition explores wood and the global dynamics of the timber industry. Connecting science, engineering, conservation and policymaking, Cambio investigates how design can shape a better future.

ONLINE EVENT: Premiere of Radio RAFTS, introduced by artist Rory Pilgrim and Serpentine Civic Curator Amal Khalaf
Part of Radio Ballads
Monday 5 October, 5pm
FREE, RSVP essential via rsvp@serpentinegalleries.org
This event will be closed captioned

A first look at RAFTS, a work in progress by Rory Pilgrim. Part of Radio Ballads, a major project which sees artists embedded long-term within frontline services in Barking & Dagenham, in partnership with New Town Culture. Funded by Mayor of London as part of London Borough of Culture.

Introduced by Pilgrim and Serpentine Civic Curator Amal Khalaf, this special preview features excerpts from two Radio RAFTS, sound pieces made with members of Green Shoes Arts in Barking & Dagenham and Project Well Being in Boise, Idaho. These Radio RAFTS explore how to maintain connection during a pandemic, and ask, in moments of change and transition, what supports and keeps us afloat?

Radio Ballads runs throughout 2020/21 and features work by Sonia Boyce, Helen Cammock and Ilona Sagar culminating in works and performances at the Serpentine and in Barking and Dagenham.

ONLINE EVENT: Special Frieze preview of new film Beyond the Visible: Hilma af Klint
From Friday 2 October to Thursday 8 October
Preview tickets £9.99 via Modern Films

Watch this new film by director Halina Dyrschka online before its official cinema release. This is the first film about the life and craft of visionary artist Hilma af Klint (1862-1944), whose paintings and drawings were exhibited at the Serpentine in 2016. This special preview is presented by Modern Films in collaboration with the Serpentine Galleries and Camden Arts Centre as part of Frieze Week.
ONLINE EVENT: Aesthetics of new AI – join a Creative AI Reading Group
Friday 9 October, 6-7pm
FREE, RSVP essential via rsvp@serpentinegalleries.org
This event will be close captioned

Machine learning technology (a subset study of Artificial Intelligence) has profoundly advanced in the past few years and is becoming a mainstay in artistic practices. The Serpentine’s Creative AI lab in collaboration with NYU Digital Theory H-Lab offer a discussion on machine learning and its aesthetic capacity, and seek to answer questions including: What new aspects does the technical framework of machine learning bring to art making? And conversely, what can artworks that use AI point to in AI research and development?

Attendees will be sent a reading list before the event.

ONLINE EVENT: Cao Fei, Yang Beichen, Sun Xiaoxi, Hans Ulrich Obrist and Joseph Constable in conversation
Thursday 13 October, 3pm
FREE, watch via youtube.com/SerpentineGalleriesUK

To mark the publication of Cao Fei’s new book HX, the artist will be in conversation with curator and academic Yang Beichen, HX designer Sun Xiaoxi, Serpentine Artistic Director Hans Ulrich Obrist, and curator Joseph Constable. Cao Fei’s exhibition Blueprints ran at the Serpentine Gallery between 3 March-13 September this year. HX is a counterpart to the works in Blueprints and presents a comprehensive view of the historical and political themes underlining Cao Fei’s recent research and work, from an expansive array of perspectives.

ONLINE EVENT: Manthia Diawara, Formafantasma and Anab Jain (Superflux) in conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist
Thursday 15 October, 7-8pm
FREE, RSVP essential via rsvp@serpentinegalleries.org

In the face of ecological crisis, how can art, design and philosophy affect long-term change?

Connecting Formafantasma’s current exhibition Cambio and on-going Serpentine project Back to Earth, this discussion brings together artists and practices that span multiple continents, perspectives and media, but which share key concerns: how can we do better by learning more about the systems that we are a part of? How do we go about changing these systems, and our own behaviours as a result?

Manthia Diawara will talk about his new film for Back to Earth, which connects local economies in Yene, Senegal with philosophical approaches to climate change drawn from Édouard Glissant; Anab Jain from Superflux will describe her studio’s process of introducing audiences to possible futures through multimedia installations, films, objects, systems and technologies, and Formafantasma will focus on what they have learnt from Cambio and from the pandemic, what the outcomes of both might be, through their methods as designers and as teachers.
Booking Information
The Gallery is open Tues-Sun, 10-6pm
Entry to the gallery is free, booking essential via serpentinegalleries.org/tickets
For press tickets and further info contact nadiac@serpentinegalleries.org /+44 7775 792 894