Press Release

PARK NIGHTS 2021:
MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE RETURN TO SERPENTINE

Serpentine Pavilion, designed by Counterspace
Summer 2021

Live encounters and performances in music, poetry, dance and more in the Serpentine Pavilion on selected nights throughout the summer

Partnership with Boiler Room offers livestream for global audiences

Images at serpentinegalleries.org/press

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Park Nights returns for 2021 with five new commissions developed for this year’s Serpentine Pavilion, designed by Counterspace.

Friday 9 July  aga ujma
Friday 16 July  Jota Mombaça
Friday 27 August John Glacier
Friday 17 September  Rhea Dillon
Wednesday 22 September  taraxos with Tosh Basco
Park Nights is Serpentine’s experimental, interdisciplinary, live platform sited within the organisation’s architectural commission, the Serpentine Pavilion. Since 2002, Park Nights has presented new works across art, music, film, theatre, dance, literature, philosophy, fashion and technology. Each year’s commissions are conceived in response to the Pavilion and offer audiences unique ways to experience 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.

Devised during a period when rights to movement are restricted and our relationship to our bodies is being reconfigured, Park Nights 2021 reimagines what it means to come together, witness and share through performance. Building upon Counterspace’s Pavilion design, which is based on gathering and community spaces throughout London, Park Nights will unfold as a series of intimate encounters within the structure for audiences in person, and around the world via livestream. This year for the first time Serpentine has partnered with Boiler Room to livestream the programme.

Friday 9 July, 8pm: aga ujma
For Park Nights 2021, multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter and composer, aga ujma, presents a new performance titled ‘sun was glazed in rainbow’ based on personal stories, poems, traditional Indonesian musical pieces, and compositions inspired by the Serpentine Pavilion and its character. Conceived as a transformative movement across two chapters, the performance will shift from an intimate solo set written for sasando, an Indonesian 32-strings bamboo zither and harp, to a more expanded Javanese ensemble of intricate gamelan instruments, including bronze xylophones, gongs, rebab - a bowed fiddle - and other various traditional and non-traditional percussion instruments.

Friday 16 July, 8pm: Jota Mombaça
For Park Nights 2021, Jota Mombaça will present ‘Can you sound like two thousand?’, a performative, experimental collective reading session. The piece encompasses an immersive installation in which the audience is encouraged to engage with a cacophonous reading programme designed by the artist that reflects upon the elemental agency of fire. The session will be accompanied by a newly-devised sonic composition by Mombaça and sonic producer and researcher, Anti Ribeiro.

Friday 27 August, 8pm: John Glacier
Friday 17 September, 8pm: Rhea Dillon
Wednesday 22 September, 8pm: taraxos with Tosh Basco

RSVP for Boiler Room livestream via serpentinegalleries.org/park-nights-2021
A limited number of in person tickets will be released in the week before each Park Night; book via [serpentinegalleries.org/park-nights-2021](http://serpentinegalleries.org/park-nights-2021)

More details on future performances to be released soon.

*Park Nights 2021* is curated by Claude Adjil, Curator-at-Large, and Joseph Constable, Associate Curator, with Caterina Avataneo, Assistant Curator.

#ParkNights2021

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**Notes to Editors**

**Park Nights**
Park Nights is the Serpentine’s experimental, interdisciplinary live platform, sited within the Galleries’ annual architectural commission, the Serpentine Pavilion. 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 Precious Okoyomon, Cecilia Vicuña, Shawanda Corbett, Carrie Mae Weems, Arthur Jafa, Sondra Perry, Eleanor Antin, Dorothy Iannone, Etel Adnan, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Black Quantum Futurism, Ai Weiwei, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Wolfgang Tillmans, Pedro Reyes, Alexander Kluge, Megan Rooney, Joseph Grigely, Kamsi Washington, TELFAR, Marianna Simnett, Tamara Henderson, Leslie Thornton, James Richards, Meriem Bennani and Eileen Myles, among many others.

**Biographies**
Based in London, **aga ujma** was recently signed to Slow Dance label and announced her debut EP ‘songs of innocence and experience’. Using an experimental approach to singing and composing songs, ujma mixes her classical music upbringing and folk influences from Poland with traditional music studies at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts in Surakarta, Central Java and SOAS University of London.

**Jota Mombaça** is an interdisciplinary artist whose work derives from poetry, critical theory, and performance. The sonic and visual matter of words plays an important role in their practice, which often relates to anti-colonial critique and gender disobedience. Through performance,
visionary fiction, and situational strategies of knowledge production, they intend to rehearse the end of the world as we know it and the figuration of what comes after we dislodge the Modern-Colonial subject off its podium.

London born John Glacier has become an almost totemic figure within London’s underground music scene. Widely regarded as one of the UK’s most exciting and elusive talents, John's officially released output is scarce. Save for scene-stealing features for Dean Blunt’s Babyfather project and, Ragz Originale, as well as a handful of extremely well-received online releases, her talents are somewhat of an urban legend. However, this is all due to change this summer with the release of her debut project.

Rhea Dillon is an artist, writer and poet based in London. Through her practice she examines and abstracts her intrigue of the ‘rules of representation’ as a device to undermine contemporary Western culture as well as, seeking to continually question what constitutes as the ontology of Blackness versus the ontic. Recent exhibitions include Peak Gallery, London; Almine Rech, London; Drawing A Blank, Paris; External Pages, Online net artwork, Division of Labour, UK and Soft Opening, London. Her first solo show in London will be at V.O Curations in October.

taraxos is Sophia Al-Maria’s first public artwork, recently launched at Serpentine. Al-Maria is a Qatari-American artist who lives in London. Though her work spans many disciplines including drawing, film and screenwriting for TV, it is united by a preoccupation with the power of storytelling and myth, and in particular with imagining revisionist histories and alternative futures. Her work has been exhibited and published internationally and collaboration remains a fundamental principle of her expansive practice. Al-Maria was the co-curator of the Serpentine Miracle Marathon in 2016, participated in the 2014 Extinction and 2015 Transformation Marathons and her films have been screening widely at Serpentine Cinemas and symposia, most recently as part of the General Ecology.

Tosh Basco’s practice encompasses performance, photography and drawing. Her improvisational movement-based work under the name boychild arose from the underground drag scene in San Francisco. She is co-founder of the collaborative entity Moved by the Motion with Wu Tsang.