

### ***The Grounds We Tread***

**Jiří Kovanda, Lloyd Corporation, Ilona Sagar, Cara Tolmie, Samara Scott, Lawrence Abu-Hamdan, Harun Farocki and others**

19 April – 11 December 2016, Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park, London SW11



Pump House Gallery is delighted to announce *The Grounds We Tread*, a new programme led by international and emerging contemporary artists responding to Battersea Park and the rapidly changing urban landscape of Wandsworth and Nine Elms. Exploring ideas of public space and intimacy, the programme also marks the re-launch of Pump House Gallery as a new contemporary art space for London, supported by Arts Council England and Wandsworth Council.

*The Grounds We Tread* opens in April with a show of the same name featuring **Jiří Kovanda, Lloyd Corporation, Ilona Sagar** and **Cara Tolmie**. The artists – who show consecutively throughout the exhibition – present individual performative works and exhibitions that dynamically transform the Gallery and the spaces beyond. New commissions and existing works explore the fascination with tracking our health through technology; the manipulative power of live singing and the spaces of its distribution; amateur forms of advertising and announcement in public places; and the negotiation and use of public and private areas.

In August **Samara Scott** creates a new installation following a residency working with local organisations, and research into local industrial history including the starch and silk manufacturers, and saltpetre and chemical works that were once based in Battersea. The work will evolve from a period of testing, experimenting and reworking materials that are changed by time and the natural environment.

Concluding the programme in October, *Each fighting its own little battle in happy ignorance* is a group exhibition featuring **Lawrence Abu-Hamdan, Harun Farocki** and others, inspired by Graham Greene's 1934 novel *It's a Battlefield*, set in Wandsworth and written when he was living in Battersea.

In response to identified exhibition themes, other artists are working on projects with Gallery visitors, families, local residents from nearby estates, schools and other

cultural organisations. In the Gallery's Project Space **Rosalie Schweiker** is collaborating with residents during *The Grounds We Tread*, and **Jasleen Kaur** is working with local families during Samara Scott's exhibition. Beyond the Gallery, the OutHouse programme will work with the local community; **Orly Orbach** will work with St Mary's Primary School; and **Pencil & Help** and **CoDa Dance** with local families and West Hill Primary School at Southside Shopping Centre.

Paul McCue, Managing Director of Enable Leisure, said: "*The Grounds We Tread* offers a dynamic and thought-provoking programme for new and existing audiences to engage with, which will re-energise Pump House Gallery, and reflect our ongoing commitment to the contemporary art landscape locally, across London and beyond."

Throughout 2016 a series of In-Conversation events, performances and live music bring together artists, academics and other cultural practitioners to explore the concepts presented in *The Grounds We Tread*.

Pump House Gallery has presented a year round programme of contemporary visual art since 1999 including most recently, *Take the leap* by Faisal Abdu'Allah and *At Home* by Hetain Patel in 2014, and *The First Humans* by Caroline Achaintre, Salvatore Arancio, Vidya Gastaldon, Andy Harper, Ben Rivers and Jack Strange in 2015.

A new website for Pump House Gallery launches in April 2016.

**For further information, images and interview requests please contact Janette Scott Arts PR on [janettescottartspr@gmail.com](mailto:janettescottartspr@gmail.com) or +44(0)7966 486156.**

## Notes To Editors

***The Grounds We Tread***, 19 April – 19 June with Jiří Kovanda, Lloyd Corporation, Ilona Sagar and Cara Tolmie.

***Samara Scott***, 3 August – 25 September.

***Each fighting its own little battle in happy ignorance***, 12 October – 11 December with Lawrence Abu-Hamdan, Harun Farocki and others.

Current exhibition: ***Progress Report from the Strategic Sanctuary for the Destruction of Free Will, Pil and Galia Kollektiv***, 24 February – 3 April 2016. For their first solo exhibition at Pump House Gallery, Pil and Galia Kollektiv transform the building into a makeshift film set. Making environments that juxtapose the institutional and the psychedelic, they will create a distorted, jagged architecture in which to shoot a film during the Gallery's closing hours, screening short missives as the exhibition progresses.

**Pump House Gallery**, Battersea park, London SW11 4NJ. Telephone 020 8871 7572. Email: [info@pumphousegallery.org.uk](mailto:info@pumphousegallery.org.uk). Opening hours: Wednesday - Sunday 11am - 4pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday between exhibitions. Admission free. For more information see **[www.pumphousegallery.org.uk](http://www.pumphousegallery.org.uk)**

**Pump House Gallery** is a public contemporary exhibition space housed in a distinctive four story grade II\* listed Victorian tower by the lake in Battersea Park. The pump house tower was built in 1861 to contain a coal-fired steam engine house, water pump and cast iron tank to feed water from the Thames to an artificial rock cascade in the nearby lake and water plants in the Park. After a fire in the 1950's, which destroyed the windows and the original roof, the building fell into disrepair and eventually became derelict. After renovation the building opened

as an interpretation centre in 1988 and following further development became Pump House Gallery in 1999, presenting a year round programme of contemporary visual art. Collaboration and participation is at the heart of its programme. The gallery is operated by Enable Leisure and Culture on behalf of Wandsworth Council. [www.pumphousegallery.org.uk](http://www.pumphousegallery.org.uk)

**Battersea Park** is a 200 acre, Grade II\* listed Victorian park formally opened in 1858, one of many intended to improve living conditions for those living in the city. During both wars, the park was utilized by the military to protect London, shelters were dug, allotments were created and a pig farm was set up. After the Second World War in 1951, thirty-seven acres were developed to form the Festival Pleasure Gardens. In 1986 when Wandsworth Council became responsible for the park, there were serious signs of neglect and much needed improvements restored and recreated the most significant Victorian and Festival features. In 2011 the Winter Garden designed by Dan Pearson was opened.

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200521/battersea\\_park/266/battersea\\_park](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200521/battersea_park/266/battersea_park)

**Enable Leisure and Culture** is a new organisation created out of the local authority sector as a Public Service Mutual. It is currently applying for charitable status and provides a wide range of services across a leisure and cultural portfolio contracted out by Wandsworth Council. It has an annual turnover in excess of £8 million. [www.enablelc.org](http://www.enablelc.org)



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Images, from left to right; Untitled, Jiří Kovanda, Noisy-Le-Sec, 2014; Untitled, Wellcome Library, London, created from material preserved by the BFI National Archive, Ilona Sagar, 2016; *Congruous Personality*, Cara Tolmie, 2015; *The World For Less*, Lloyd Corporation, 2014.