

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Wandsworth Council presents:

WE ARE HAVING A LITTLE FLIRT

Adam Christensen

Monica Espinosa

Anneke Kampman

Erica Scourti

25 April 2018 – 8 July 2018

Preview: 24 April 2018, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Wandsworth Council's Pump House Gallery presents *We are having a little flirt*, a group exhibition offering perspectives on the uncertainty of attraction and desire. Through playful interaction, the exhibition examines the theatre of small everyday exchanges whilst also considering the shifting politics of human interaction in a digital age. Works ranging from installation, video and performance test the boundaries of the artists' relationships with friends, future and past lovers, and even their audiences.

Adam Christensen presents a textile work hung across a steel frame depicting a shirt designed by an ex-boyfriend. Its biographical content and delicate construction invite the viewer to bear witness to the fragile remnants of a break-up. On the opening night, Christensen will also stage a performance in the space, combining music with readings of confessional texts, further entangling the audience in the artist's private life.

Erica Scourti presents a responsive installation that contemplates the role digital technology plays in both surveillance and tracking, in our physical bodies, and in our intimate social interactions. Drawing on her personal chat archive, she presents the audience with the anxiety and paranoia – but also the thrill and pleasure – of socializing and bonding online.

A ladder and a bucket filled with water forms *Secretos*, a sculptural installation by Monica Espinosa. The bucket contains a speaker playing recordings of the artists' secrets, but, as the liquid absorbs and muffles the sound, the viewer must move closer to witness the recordings transforming into waves in the water. This playful proposition teases the audience, inviting them to test the limits of their curiosity.

Anneke Kampman presents a video work that can be viewed from the balcony above. In the style of an essay-come-operetta, the piece plays with the idea of the music video, focusing on the construction, audio-visual landscape and unwritten rules of these digitally produced worlds. Comprising personal experiences, popular figures and commercial media material, the work exposes how 'personality' is constructed and simulated within this popular form.

Together these works produce a set of connections that lead to new ways of seeing and experiencing what flirting is, and can be: flirtation as the potential of an exchange, a love encounter or a future attachment, which might or might not occur.

GALLERY

@PumpHouseGal
PumpHouseGallery
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www.pumphousegallery.org.uk



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A programme of artist performances, workshops and talks will accompany the exhibition, inviting audiences to explore the wide-ranging issues at stake in the act of flirting.

The exhibition is curated by Paula Zambrano and Ned McConnell.

For more information see pumphousegallery.org.uk or contact Anna Williams on 020 3959 0025 or AWilliams@enablelc.org or Hannah Keating on 020 3959 0020 or HKeating@enablelc.org.

This exhibition is supported by [Wandsworth Council](#), [Arts Council England](#) and [The Mexican Embassy](#).

INHOUSE PROJECT SPIN THE BOTTLE

25 April 2018 – 8 July 2018

Pump House Gallery's InHouse Projects invite visitors to explore the themes of the exhibition through hands-on activities. Alongside *We are having a little flirt*, exhibiting artist Anneke Kampman collaborates with Tom Varley and invites visitors to drop in and play a game which uses chance as a creative tool. In each workshop, we'll spin to let the bottle decide what is made. Using a host of materials and tools we'll create stories, scenes, songs and images using the bottle's instructions as a starting point. Over the course of the exhibition, materials produced will gradually fill the Project Space.

A non-competitive gameshow for all ages, 'Spin the Bottle' uses chance encounters as a creative tool.

PUMP HOUSE PAVILION

18 May – 3 June 2018

Pump House Gallery is delighted to welcome back the Pavilion to the gallery forecourt from Friday 18 May to Sunday 3 June 2018.

Come down to Battersea Park and join the team at Pump House Gallery for a range of free family activities and creative experiences. Connected to Wandsworth Arts Fringe, Chelsea Fringe and London Festival of Architecture, Pump House Pavilion will host a series of workshops, performances and events in response to themes in the coinciding exhibition, *We are having a little flirt*. Suitable for all ages, the activities will explore the themes of uncertainty, taking chances, finding limits and multiple possibilities.

The Pavilion is a partnership project between St William and Wandsworth Council, forming part of the borough's Cultivate education programme and Nine Elms area cultural development programme to extend the vitality of London's South Bank all the way to Battersea Park. Commissioned by Dallas-Pierce-Quintero and Pump House Gallery, architects NEON and structural engineers Elliott Wood collaborated with pupils from Chestnut Grove Academy in Balham to conceive and design the structure.

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PUMP HOUSE

PUBLIC PROGRAMME EVENT

WE ARE ALL WOLVES

26 May 2 – 5pm

Join us at Battersea Park's Old English Garden for readings performed by local actors. Hear an intimate reading of a selection of texts by J. G. Ballard, Edouard Glissant, Donna Haraway and Ursula Leguin, scrutinising our flirtatious, sometimes amorous, and occasionally hateful relationship with nature.

Notes to editors:

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS

Nicolas Deshayes, 4 July – 19 August 2018; **Charlie Duck**, 25 July – 23 September 2018.

Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park, London SW11 4NJ. Telephone 020 3959 0021. Email: info@pumphousegallery.org.uk. Opening hours: Wednesday – Sunday 11am – 5pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday and between exhibitions. Admission free. For more information see pumphousegallery.org.uk for follow us on Facebook, @PumpHouseGallery, twitter @PumpHouseGal, and Instagram @PumpHouseGallery.

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 1950s, which destroyed the windows and the original roof, the building fell into disrepair and eventually became derelict. In 1988 Wandsworth Council renovated the building and re-opened it as an interpretation centre. Following further development the building became Pump House Gallery in 1999, presenting a year round programme of contemporary visual art. Collaboration and participation are at the heart of its programme. Pump House Gallery presents a year-round programme of contemporary visual art, including an exhibition of recent work by David Panos in 2017, and, most recently, *a hook but no fish*, the first UK solo exhibition of London based New Zealand artist Sriwhana Spong. The gallery is operated by Enable Leisure & Culture on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

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. For more information visit wandsworth.gov.uk.

About Enable Leisure & Culture

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Enable Leisure and Culture is a not-for-profit organisation, company no. 09487276, and registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1172345) and is partner to Wandsworth Council's commitment to deliver first class leisure and culture services. As a Public Service Mutual, it is a form of social enterprise that manages and delivers the arts, bereavement services, parks, sports facilities, events, the film office, public halls and Putney School of Art and Design across Wandsworth on behalf of Wandsworth Council. For further information visit enablelc.org.

About Wandsworth Council

Wandsworth Council is proud to support the borough's cultural infrastructure and ensure that all residents have access to quality creative activities. Through the Enable Arts team, Wandsworth Council ensure the delivery of a high quality arts and culture programme that is accessible to all residents, businesses and visitors to the borough.

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