

Blank Space Library: the first public installation at Exposed Arts Project

Blank_Space Gallery is pleased to present the first edition of the *Blank Space Library* series. Launching on 2 October, 2019 between 5pm – 8:30pm at Exposed Arts Projects, London, the exhibition will feature an installation of selected artists books, *The Ketty La Rocca Video Works*, audio poetry traces from the *Poesia Visiva* movement and early electronic compositions from Italian pioneering artists. Together with a contemporary sculpture piece by Johanna Tagada.

Jointly organised by curator Daniela Amolini and multi-media artist Alexander Burgess from the Blank_Space Gallery, this installation will provide a contemporary evaluation of artist books as a medium for artistic productions and of the library as a site of resistive practices where alternative public/private knowledge can be constructed. For the length of the exhibition the visitor is invited to engage with this expanded library and use it as both a place for researching and studying or for browsing and relaxing.

Accessible via Exposed Arts Projects' entrance and situated on the first floor, *Blank Space Library 1* will provide audiences with a Research Table designed by Joana Filipe, a WiFi connection and plenty of materials to draw from. In the room adjacent to the library Johanna Tagada's second textile installation *Penser, Manger, Partager* - Think, Eat, Share - offers a safe habitat, and an intimate architecture for the audience to reconnect and engage with environmental issues, our daily practices and a more compassionate way of life. The tent, made from recycled textiles donated to the artist through an open call, has been delicately assembled and will be on display for the length of the library's first edition. The tent has been naturally dyed with skins and pits from fruits and vegetables consumed daily.

Notes to Editors

– ***Blank_Space Library*** is the first edition of a curatorial installation that brings together over 100 artworks to show the impact of language explorations and technologies on artists from the mid-1960s to the present day. It features new

and rarely seen artists books together with multimedia works, video, sculpture, and sound poetry by over 70 artists. It plays with the idea of: *'The notion that the library is a place that has no agenda other than allowing people to invent their own agendas is what makes it an indispensable resource for a democracy. It is where we can learn not just to be readers, but to be the authors of our own destiny.* From Reading, writing and rebelling: growing up with public libraries in The university of the people: celebrating Ireland's public libraries.

– **Exposed Arts Projects** is a cross-disciplinary think-and-do tank that brings together artists, scientists, philosophers, and other researchers for discussion and collaboration — while also acting as an educational platform for non-expert audiences. We are committed to nurturing a constructive discourse about human values at play in the interconnected, technologically-augmented contemporary world. We believe that the switch of the moral compass is needed today more than ever: from assessing what we want and feel — towards establishing why exactly we want or feel something, and why certain things, ideas and practices happen to be more important to us than others. Exposed is founded and directed by Sasha Burkhanova-Khabadze.

– **The Ketty La Rocca Video Works** installation presents for the first time in the UK the video *Verbigerazione* (May, 1973) and *Le Mani* (June, 1973) made through collaborative practices between the artist and respectively The Quadriennale, Rome, and Italian State Television RAI. The exhibition will be accompanied by a homonym book, launched during the exhibition, which acts as a supplement to this artist's investigations with language and Italian pioneering interventions at large.

– Artist **Johanna Tagada** (b. 1990) creates works across mediums including painting, drawing, textiles, sculpture, photography, publishing and installation pieces. The artist is building a coherent and singular body of work, often described as poetic and delicate. She lives and works in the UK but her practice is well established in France, Germany, Japan and India. In 2014, Johanna Tagada founded POETIC PASTEL a printing press whose various projects result in a series of exhibitions, meetings, writings, textiles and unique hand-bound publications. For more information about Johanna please visit johannatagada.net. For her piece *Penser, Manger, Partager* the following hashtag is quite informative on the initiative <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/pensermangerpartager/>. As well as the following online feature: <https://www.theearthissue.com/artists/johanna-tagada>

– **Sound Poetry** and **Electronic Early Experimentations (1960 - 1980)** is a section of the library dedicated to artists experimentations across language, technology and sound. Features audio poetry traces from Visual Poetry artists **Sarenco, Paul De Vree, Pierre Garnier** and **Lucia Marcucci** as well as sound poetry ensembles such as *Towards a Total Poetry* (Los Angeles, 1980) an LP that gathers radio plays and sound poems by **Julien Blaine, Adriano Spatola, F. Tiziano**, and **Paul Vangelisti**. Alongside electronic music experimentations from pioneering female Italian **Franca Sacchi** and **Teresa Rampazzi**, complemented by *Combinatoria* (Florence, 1963) the visionary, subversive and inspirational selection of **Pietro Grossi**'s early studio recordings.

Visitor Information

Opening times: Thursday & Friday, 12am – 4pm, or by appointment. Free entry.
Exposed Arts Projects, 4-6 Drayson Mews, Kensington London W8 4LY.

Nearest London Underground Station: High Street Kensington, or a short walk from Notting Hill Gate.

Press Information

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