



Ting-Ting Cheng, 'On the Desert Island' (2017). Audio guide and site-specific installation in the Stuart Hall Library, London. Photo: George Torode

ON THE DESERT ISLAND

A SOLO JOURNEY THROUGH THE STUART HALL LIBRARY

TING-TING CHENG'S NEW ARTWORK INSPIRED BY BBC RADIO 4'S *DESERT ISLAND DISCS* INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR STUART HALL

@Iniva_arts #OnTheDesertIsland

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) and Stuart Hall Foundation are delighted to announce the launch of *On the Desert Island*, an interactive audio site-specific work by artist Ting-Ting Cheng which will be presented in Iniva's Stuart Hall Library (1 June - 1 December 2017).

Offering a unique way to explore Iniva's remarkable collection, *On the Desert Island* takes its cue from Professor Stuart Hall speaking to Sue Lawley on BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* in February 2000. On the long-running radio show, the presenter asks the guest to punctuate their conversation with eight records they would choose to take with them if they were cast away on a desert island.

Ting-Ting Cheng draws on the recording of Professor Stuart Hall's interview to create an audio guide which imagines the Stuart Hall Library as islands with its bookshelves and contents as land mass to be negotiated. Using the library's categorisation system that places exhibition catalogues according to their geographical location, the artist's tour encourages the listener to wander between Great Britain and Jamaica as if they were part of an archipelago. On this physical journey they will follow Professor Stuart Hall's conversation about identity and diversity 17 years ago in the context of Britain today. Revisiting Professor Stuart Hall's commentary *On the Desert Island* casts a curious light on today's political, social and cultural realities where issues of sovereignty and the rise of uncontained xenophobia are as prophetic as he imagined:

'Britain is facing these two possibilities as alternative futures and I want the British to consciously move towards a more cosmopolitan idea of themselves.'

Professor Stuart Hall, Desert Island Discs, February 2000

Speaking about *On the Desert Island*, Melanie Keen, Director of Iniva, said:

"Iniva's Stuart Hall Library in east London, which houses our unique collection of books, catalogues and papers on contemporary visual arts from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the diasporas, sits at the very heart of our artistic programme. We are thrilled to present the outcome of the first ever Stuart Hall Library Artist's Residency, a new strand in our ever growing programme which will further develop the role of our library as a repository of critical and creative exchange.

Ting-Ting Cheng's *On the Desert Island* demonstrates a deep engagement with Professor Stuart Hall's legacy. Seventeen years after his *Desert Island Discs* interview, we hear him, on his desert island, ruminate on Britain being at a historical turning point, dangerously on the verge of becoming a citadel. Or it could, he muses, more radically embrace the idea of mixture and newness which has been part of British history for centuries. Professor Stuart Hall's insightful commentary couldn't be more relevant to the Britain we find ourselves in today."

Speaking about *On the Desert Island*, Maria Amidu, Stuart Hall Foundation Trustee said:

"*On the Desert Island* is a poignant and evocative work, which transported me to a location beyond the bounds of the walls of Stuart Hall Library towards a less tangible, more mutable space. Guided by the interplay of the narrator's poetic and practical instructions, echoes of Stuart's distinctive voice, and the cadence of the music I became immersed in Ting-Ting Cheng's quest – committed to the search amongst the pages of the beautifully altered and annotated books. The subtlety and pace of this wayfinding is deceptive. What Ting-Ting Cheng has accomplished through this new work is an accessible route into the complex issues of place and identity in Britain and across the diaspora.

It is due to Ting-Ting Cheng's enthusiasm and artistic rigour that *On the Desert Island* is a wonderful outcome to the inaugural Stuart Hall Library residency. It is an ideal start for the partnership between the Stuart Hall Foundation and Iniva, and both organisations are committed to continuing this exciting opportunity for culturally diverse visual artists."

The Stuart Hall Library Residency has been jointly funded by Iniva and the Stuart Hall Foundation. The residency programme has been established to build on Professor Stuart Hall's prolific contribution to intellectual and cultural life.

On the Desert Island will be available to listen to in the Stuart Hall Library from 1 June until 1 December 2017. The work is available as a free, solo, 45-minute experiential journey around the Stuart Hall Library. For this reason pre-booking is essential. For booking details please contact library@iniva.org.

Ends

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Notes to Editors

About Ting-Ting Cheng

Ting-Ting Cheng was born in 1985 in Taipei. After graduating from BA Advertisement and PR at Fu-Jen University, Cheng moved to London and received her first MA on Photographic Studies from University of Westminster in 2009. After participating in a number of solo and group shows internationally, she graduated from MFA Fine Art at Goldsmiths College, London in 2014.

Cheng has had solo shows at Taipei Fine Art Museum, Galerie Grand Siècle (Taiwan), Identity Gallery (HK), Nomart (Japan), Addaya Art Centre and Luis Adelantado (Spain). Her group shows include the Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen), III Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, KuanDu Museum (Taipei), National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art (Taichung), National Art Museum of China (Beijing), ARCO Madrid, Art 14 (London) and Singapore Art Stage.

She was shortlisted for the Taipei Art Award in 2011 and selected for MIT at Art Taipei in 2012. In 2015, Cheng was awarded Asian Exchange Prize by Asian Creative

Award in Japan, and was commissioned by 19th Contemporary Art Festival Sesc_Videobrasil in Sao Paulo.

About the Stuart Hall Library Artist's Residency programme

The Stuart Hall Library Artist's Residency is a partnership between Iniva and the Stuart Hall Foundation. Ting-Ting Cheng's proposal was selected from an open call that attracted nearly 100 entries. This inaugural three-month residency took place at Iniva's Stuart Hall Library, from January to March 2017. The annual residency offers an opportunity for an artist to spend supported research time in the library and make a response to the library's collections.

About Iniva & The Stuart Hall Library

Iniva is an evolving, radical visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects the social and political impact of globalisation. With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for our work, we collaborate with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. We aim to engage a wide audience, particularly young people, in discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, class and gender.

Through our programme we work predominantly with British-born and British-based visual artists of African and Asian descent supporting them at different stages in their careers. We offer residencies, commission new work and promote existing practices enabling ambition and artist development. By cultivating innovative thinking, we are committed to disseminating research across a wide cultural spectrum and geographical network. Our ambition is to build a greater body of knowledge around each of the artists with whom we work to ensure the legacy of their practices for future generations of researchers and audiences.

Founded in 1994, under the leadership of renowned academic Professor Stuart Hall, Iniva is a non-profit organisation based in East London. It has established itself as a pioneering arts organisation in the artistic environment in the UK and beyond.

Professor Stuart Hall (1932-2014) gave his name to Library which Iniva's runs. His work provides the library with its guiding principle, of culture as site of resistance and action, and acts as hub for Iniva's work, where much of its programme of talks and events take place. The library holds an international collection of contemporary visual art, with a focus on African, Asian and Latin American art, as well as diaspora artists from those continents. It holds over 4000 exhibition catalogues and over 1000 artist monographs, a unique collection of contemporary art journals from around the world, a growing collection of artist and activist zines, and many artist moving image and audio works, as well as a selection of critical theory texts on the politics of globalisation, identity and diaspora in relation to contemporary visual art, fashion and material culture. It is a free, fully browseable, reference library, open to the public four days a week.

Iniva has worked with internationally renowned artists and curators early in their careers including David A Bailey, Sonia Boyce, Sheela Gowda, NS Harsha, Isaac Julien, Steve McQueen, Chris Ofili, Yinka Shonibare, Kobena Mercer, Okwui Enwezor, and Guy Brett. Their work is represented in material held in the library collection.

Iniva is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation. Iniva is also supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. www.iniva.org

About the Stuart Hall Foundation

The Stuart Hall Foundation is inspired by the life and work of the eminent scholar and Jamaican born British intellectual Professor Stuart Hall. The Foundation seeks to support a new generation of creative thinkers and provoke original thinking, debate and research, illuminating connections between politics, culture and society. Diversity, social justice and access were central to Professor Stuart Hall's work in education and the arts and are embedded in the Foundation's values, programme and approach.

The Foundation is committed to building on the legacy of Professor Stuart Hall by attending to the urgent political, social and cultural questions of our time; articulating the 'apparently unsayable' and shifting the terms of the debate 'so that something else can come through'. The Foundation is developing a distinctive and unique programme which creates opportunities for those people whose ideas, works and agendas may not otherwise have a platform or support.

The Foundation's programme of activities in the UK and abroad include the Stuart Hall Scholarships and Fellowships, the Stuart Hall Library Residency, commissions and a public programme of debates, talks, film screenings, exhibitions and seminars.

Stuart Hall Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales. Charity number: 1159343. Stuart Hall Foundation is supported by individual donors and trusts and foundations (Garfield Weston Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy and Hollick Family Charitable Trust).

www.stuarthallfoundation.org



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