



Press Release

Wednesday 12 July 2017

For immediate release.

DEPTFORD X FESTIVAL 2017 ANNOUNCED

London, UK: The programme for **Deptford X 2017**, running from **22 September to 01 October**, was announced today.

We are delighted that the 2017 festival is supported by Anthology as our lead sponsor. Deptford X also receives public funding from Arts Council England and Lewisham Council.

Founded in 1998 as an artist-led project rooted in Deptford's creative communities, Deptford X has grown to become one of the UK's leading festivals of contemporary art. Over the first ten days of autumn, we present a series of ambitious commissioned artworks within Deptford's varied public spaces, as well as presenting the work of a wider community of mostly local artists through the Deptford X Fringe.

The annual Deptford X festival will consolidate and build on the ambitious new curatorial framework that we successfully piloted in 2016. At its heart are two programmes which together give the festival its unique character: Platform 2017, a set of five commissions for emerging artists in public space, and Fringe 2017, our open programme of independent projects. The Platform programme puts radically ambitious art and public engagement at the centre of the festival; it also supports the development of five emerging artists. Deptford X will also present special projects and learning and engagement activities.

Festival programmes will take place over 10 days in a wide range of public sites and spaces; many projects will engage audiences in active and unexpected ways. The scope of this year's festival is more interdisciplinary than ever before, bringing together performance, moving image, sculpture and sound installation.

This year's Platform 2017 artists – **Evan Ifekoya**, **Project O**, **Sam Austen**, **Sisters from Another Mister**, and **Tom Ireland** – have been carefully selected from a shortlist of nominations by a panel of art world experts. These are **Attilia Fattori Franchini**, **Haroon Mirza**, **Heather Phillipson**, **Legacy Russell**, and **Richard Parry**.



The Deptford X Fringe is an open programme strand for independent projects, facilitated and supported – but not curated – by Deptford X. It runs in parallel with the core programme, and is a celebration of the long-standing creative communities based in Deptford. We are currently inviting artists, curators and local venues to propose projects for the Fringe, and will be accepting proposals until 23 July 2017. The submission criteria are available via the website <http://www.deptfordx.org/fringe>.

Alongside Platform 2017 (as another element of our core programme) we will present a new Special Project in DX Gallery for the duration of the festival. D.A.T.A. (the Deptford Anarchist Tapestry Association) will use the gallery as a base to create anchor-shaped helium balloons, which will be taken out to different venues in Deptford each day of the festival.

Paul Canty, Chair of Trustees of Deptford X said: "2017 promises to be another groundbreaking year for Deptford X, building upon our commitment to create a high profile platform for emerging artists through the curated programme, coupled with the eclectic and vibrant artists' Fringe. It is now established as an important festival on the national visual arts calendar."

Ben Allen, Project Director of the Anthology Deptford Foundry development said: "This year's Deptford X festival is the fourth year that Anthology has pledged its support. Each year the artists and exhibitions bring something fresh and different to engage audiences and we are really looking forward to seeing the displays this year."

"Deptford was the first location for us as a new property developer so the area stays close to our hearts. We are proud to be supporting this festival that nurtures raw artistic talent and attracts a wide range of people to the area for them to experience the creative community firsthand."

12 July 2017
Press Release Ends



Notes for editors

1. **About the 'Platform 2017' artist nominations**

Each of our five expert nominators provided Deptford X with a shortlist of 3 artists, accompanied by a supporting statement, and Deptford X has selected the final 5, one from each list, through an internal curatorial process.

— **Evan Ifekoya's** current work investigates the possibility of an erotic and poetic occupation using film, performative writing and sound, focused on co-authored, intimate forms of knowledge production and the radical potential of spectacle. Their ongoing project 'A Score, A Groove, A Phantom' explores archives of blackness, sociality and inheritance as they diffract through queer nightlife and trauma in the present moment. Ifekoya is an Arts Foundation Fellow in Live Art for 2017. (Ifekoya uses the pronouns they/them, rather than he/she). Ifekoya was nominated by **Heather Phillipson**, who is one of an esteemed line of artists commissioned for the Fourth Plinth, Trafalgar Square. She is also an award-winning poet and has published three collections of poetry.

— **Project O** is a collaboration between Alexandrina Hemsley and Jamila Johnson-Small. Their work blurs the lines between contemporary dance and performance art through a dizzying range of forms and formats. Recent projects include *Voodoo* at Sadler's Wells, and *O*, at various venues including Southbank Centre and the Royal Exchange, Manchester. They were nominated by **Legacy Russell**: a writer, artist, and cultural producer. She is UK Gallery Relations Lead for online platform Artsy.

— **Tom Ireland's** recent exhibitions include *THE HEAVENS* at Arebyte LASER, London, and *Means* at UNIT Projects, Blackpool. Ireland, (b.1984) lives and works in Blackpool, England. He was nominated by **Richard Parry**, the Director of Glasgow International. He was previously Curator-Director of the Grundy Art Gallery between 2013 and 2017. In that time he has curated and organised over 25 exhibitions, including solo exhibitions by Mark Leckey, Heather Phillipson, Jennet Thomas, Matt Stokes and Rob Crosse.

— **Sam Austen**, who is currently studying at the Royal Academy makes films in 16mm format. Sam Austen, (b.1986, London) lives and works in London. Recent exhibitions include *Drawing Biennial 2017*, *The Drawing Room*, London, UK, and *A Cool Drink To Cheek*, Sam Austen and Fani Parali, Plaza Plaza, London, UK. He was nominated by **Attilia Fattori Franchini**, an independent curator and writer based in London. She is co-founder of the online platforms bubblebyte.org and *Opening Times* and contributes critical essays and reviews to publication such as *Kaleidoscope* and *Flash Art International*.

— **Sisters From Another Mister** is a jointly authored artistic identity of Milda Lemberaitė and Amelia Prazak. As a collective, they work with a free-wheeling practice employing gender play, witty sculptural forms, musical interludes and video works. Recent exhibitions and performances include: *I am the grass beneath my feet* (solo), Chalton Gallery, London, UK, 2017; *X* (The Sonnenstube, Lugano, Switzerland, 2016); upcoming projects include: *Tarzan versus IBM* at Fondazione Baruchello, Rome, Italy. They were nominated by **Haroon Mirza**, an artist who has won international acclaim for installations that test the interplay and fric-



tion between sound and light waves and electric current. He devises kinetic sculptures, performances and immersive installations.

2. About Deptford X: London's longest-running Contemporary Arts Festival

Deptford X has a dual role: to support and offer development opportunities to artists; and to create extraordinary art experiences for audiences in Deptford and beyond.

Deptford X is London's longest running contemporary visual arts festival and has been experienced by over one million people since its inception in 1998. Each year we present hundreds of emerging artists across ten days of site-specific installations, group exhibitions, open studios, tours, workshops, one-off performances and events. The festival brings together around 50 diverse venues across Deptford, South East London including galleries, studios, pubs, historic churches, high street shops, cafes, libraries, the cells of an old police station, and even phone boxes.

<http://www.deptfordx.org>

3. This year's Deptford X festival takes place from **22 September to 01 October 2017**
4. The deadline for submissions for the Fringe is 23 July 2017. Deptford X encourages anyone who lives or works in Deptford or the surrounding areas to get involved. The application forms can be accessed from <http://www.deptfordx.org/fringe>. The fringe programme will be available online at the beginning of September.

5. About Anthology

Anthology, established in 2014, is a residential developer backed by funds managed by Oaktree Capital Management, L.P. (Oaktree), led by Managing Director Mark Dickinson, with Steve Bangs as Chief Operating Officer, Adam Gaymer as Executive Director and David Clark as Chief Financial Officer.

Anthology is dedicated to creating homes and enhancing neighbourhoods that inspire the real-life stories of people who are passionate about London. The company has recently launched its first developments, Anthology Deptford Foundry and Anthology Hoxton Press with a third development coming soon in Wembley. The property developer has also recently received planning for a development in Tottenham Hale as part of the regeneration of the area.

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