

barbican

Daria Martin

The Curve, Barbican Centre

31 January – 7 April 2019

Media View: Wednesday 30 January, 10am – 1pm

Free Admission

#DariaMartin

Supported by Wellcome and using public funding by Arts Council England. Projections by Christie Digital.

Barbican Art Gallery presents London-based artist and filmmaker **Daria Martin**'s first solo commission for a major London public gallery, opening on 31 January 2019 in The Curve. The exhibition is part of the Barbican's 2019 season, *Life Rewired*, which explores what it means to be human when technology is changing everything.

Combining film and computer gaming technology, Martin creates an atmospheric environment, in which visitors can explore the vivid and unconscious memories of artist Susi Stiasni, Martin's grandmother, who fled from the Holocaust. Martin draws on an extensive archive of her grandmother's dream diaries amounting to over 10,000 pages. These forensically recorded accounts were created over a 35 year period, initially for the purposes of psychoanalysis. Stiasni's dreams frequently return to the curious and traumatic history of her childhood home, a modernist villa, still standing today in the city of Brno located in then Czechoslovakia.

Entering the exhibition, visitors encounter a film created using computer gaming technology which journeys through a rendering of the villa in Brno as it was when Stiasni lived there. A second film, shot with actors, reveals a reimagining of five of Stiasni's dreams set within the modernist house. Martin envisages that the installation will become simultaneously a portrait of her ancestor, a self-portrait and an exploration of intergenerational trauma, migration, loss, and resilience.

Daria Martin said: *"I was intrigued to discover that The Curve was originally designed as a liminal space: a sound buffer to wrap around the back of the Concert Hall. My exhibition explores another sort of 'back room' – a lost dream diary archive. The installation plays with the dramatic sweep of the grand, semi-circular curved wall – and in particular the way that it enables a cinematic journey of successive 'reveals' – but also with the space's more eccentric insides."*

Daria Martin is an internationally exhibited artist living in London, and Professor of Art at The Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford. Martin's films aim to create a continuity between disparate media such as painting and performance, between people and objects, and between internal and social worlds.

Martin was born in 1973 in San Francisco. After studying humanities at Yale, she received her Master in Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2000. Solo exhibitions include *Maureen Paley*, London (2016); *One of the Things That Makes Me Doubt*, ACCA: Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia (2013); *Sensorium Tests*, Milton Keynes Gallery, Milton Keynes, UK (2012). Recent group exhibitions include *The New Human*, Moderna Museet Malmö, Sweden, touring to Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2016); 14th Istanbul Biennial *SALTWATER: A Theory of Thought Forms*, Istanbul, Turkey (2015); 10th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China (2014); *In the Holocene*, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA (2012); *Dancing Through Life*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2011). Martin has recently been shortlisted for the 2018 Jarman Award. Martin is represented by Maureen Paley, London.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Press Information

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Press images available online from the Barbican Newsroom

A link to the image sheets can be found in the 'Downloads' box on the top right-hand side of the page from: www.barbican.org.uk/DariaMartinNews

Barbican Newsroom

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communication team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/news

Public Information

The Curve, Barbican, London

Public information: 0845 120 7550 / www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery

Free admission

The Curve opening times:

Saturday – Wednesday 11am–8pm

Thursday & Friday 11am–9pm

Bank Holidays 12pm–8pm

Exhibition

The exhibition has been commissioned by Barbican, London and co-commissioned by The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco. Additional support provided by the South Moravian Film Endowment Fund (Czech Republic), Masaryk University (Brno) and St John's College, University of Oxford.

The exhibition will travel to The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco in summer 2019.

Events

To find out more about specific events as they are confirmed, check the website for full listings:

www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery

Book

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully-illustrated publication, including a newly commissioned essay and an interview with the artist. The book is the ninth in a publication series by Barbican Art Gallery that focuses on The Curve exhibition programme.

£12.00.

[Life Rewired](#)

Life Rewired is the Barbican's year-long arts and learning season exploring what it means to be human when technology is changing everything. Running throughout 2019, the season investigates the impact of the pace and extent of technological change on our culture and society, looking at how we can grasp and respond to the seismic shifts these advances will bring about.

Life Rewired demonstrates how artists are finding imaginative ways to communicate the human impact of unprecedented technological shifts and scientific advances, as well as finding creative new uses for Artificial Intelligence, big data, algorithms and virtual reality.

The Curve

The Curve is the Barbican's free exhibition space that wraps around the back of the Concert Hall. Launched in May 2006, Curve Art is a series of new commissions in which contemporary artists respond to the distinctive architecture of the space. Artists who have previously made new commissions for The Curve are Tomas Saraceno (Argentina); Richard Wilson (Britain); Jeppe Hein (Denmark); Marjetica Potrč (Slovenia); Shirana Shahbazi (Switzerland/Iran); Hans Schabus (Austria); Huang Yong Ping (France/China); Rafael Lozano-Hemmer (Canada/Mexico); Peter Coffin (USA); Clemens von Wedemeyer (Germany); Robert Kusmirowski (Poland); Céleste Boursier-Mougenot (France); John Bock (Germany); Damián Ortega (Mexico); Cory Arcangel (USA); Junya Ishigami (Japan); Song Dong (China); rAndom International (Britain); Geoffrey Farmer (Canada); Ayşe Erkmen (Germany/Turkey); United Visual Artists (Britain); Walead Beshty (USA/Britain); Roman Signer (Switzerland); Eddie Peake (Britain); Imran Qureshi (Pakistan); Bedwyr Williams (Wales); Richard Mosse (Ireland); John Akomfrah (Britain); Yto Barrada (Morocco); and most recently Francis Upritchard (New Zealand).

Barbican Art Gallery and The Curve

Our visual arts programme embraces art, architecture, design, fashion, photography and film. Many of our exhibitions explore the interconnections between disciplines, periods and cultures, and aim to imagine the world in new ways. Designers, artists and architects are our collaborators in this process.

We invest in the artists of today and tomorrow; The Curve is one of the few galleries in London devoted to the commissioning of new work. Through our activities we aim to inspire more people to discover and love the arts. Entrance to The Curve is free. Through Young Barbican we offer £5 tickets to 14-25 year olds for our paid exhibitions, children under 14 are free.

Our exhibitions are complemented by comprehensively researched catalogues and a full range of public events. We develop engaging online content for audiences and offer special tours for schools. In partnership with renowned museums and art galleries, many of our exhibitions travel to reach both national and international audiences.

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas One, Two and Three, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue Entertainment](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). International Associates are [Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam](#), [New York Philharmonic](#), [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#), [Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig](#) and [Jazz at Lincoln Center](#).

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