

a so-called archive

Onyeka Igwe



8th September - 17th October 2021

Wed - Sat, 12 - 5pm, Booking required

LUX, Waterlow Park Centre, London, N19 5JF, UK

Event URL: bit.ly/37xt1MM

LUX is pleased to announce an exhibition of moving image, sound and ephemera by Onyeka Igwe showing at LUX, Waterlow Park, N19 from 8th September to 17th October 2021.

With a forensic lens, Onyeka Igwe's a so-called archive interrogates the decomposing repositories of Empire. Blending footage shot over 2020 in two separate colonial archive buildings—one in Lagos, Nigeria, and the other in Bristol, United Kingdom—this double portrait considers the 'sonic shadows' that colonial images continue to generate, despite the disintegration of their memory and their materials. Igwe's film imagines what might have been 'lost' from these archives. It mixes the genres of the radio play, the corporate video tour, and detective noir, with a haunting and critical approach to the horror of discovery.

a so-called archive depicts the former vaults—along with their histories of hoarding, monetisation, documentation and now abandonment—as metonyms for the enduring entanglements between the UK and its former colonies. These sites were and continue to be home to purulent images that we cannot, will not, or choose not to see.

-Mason Leaver Yap

Igwe's first solo exhibition at LUX *a so-called archive*, includes the film of the same name, as well as an outdoor audio piece and ephemeral display in the library expanding on the archives interrogated in the film. A collective reading event will also take place on **Saturday 16th October** - details to be announced. Audio described and captioned screenings will take place daily.

RELATED EVENT

Collective Reading Event: Saturday 16th October at LUX Waterlow Park. Time: TBC
Booking required. Register on our website (lux.org.uk).

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Onyeka Igwe is an artist and researcher working between cinema and installation. She is born and based in London, UK. Through her work, Onyeka is animated by the question — *how do we live together?* — with particular interest in the ways bodies, architecture and non-canonical ways of being and knowing can provide answers. She uses embodiment, voice, archives, narration and text to create structural ‘figure-of-eights’, a format that exposes a multiplicity of narratives. The work comprises untying strands and threads, anchored by a rhythmic editing style, as well as close attention to the dissonance, reflection and amplification that occurs between image and sound.

Onyeka is part of B.O.S.S., a sound system collective that brings together a community of queer, trans and non binary people of colour involved in art, sound and radical activism. Together with Rachael Rakes and Laura Huertas Millán, she is part of a curatorial and research initiative, *Counter-Encounters*, thinking on alternative and anti ethnographies.

Onyeka’s video works have been screened at Artists’ Film Club: Black Radical Imagination, ICA, London, 2017; Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh, 2020, and at film festivals internationally including the London Film Festival, 2015; Rotterdam International, Netherlands, 2018, 2019 and 2020; Edinburgh Artist Moving Image, 2016; Images Festival, Canada, 2019, and the Smithsonian African American film festival, USA, 2018.

Solo projects include *Corrections*, with Aliya Pabani, *Trinity Square Video*, Toronto, Canada, 2018, and *There Were Two Brothers*, Jerwood Arts, 2019.

Recent group projects include *Reconfigured*, Timothy Taylor New York, USA, *KW Production Series*, Berlin, Germany, 2020, *[POST] Colonial Bodies 2*, CC Matienzo, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2019, *there’s something in the conversation that is more interesting than the finality of (a title)*, The Showroom, London, UK, 2018 and *World Cup!, articule*, Montreal, Canada, 2018.

Forthcoming solo exhibitions include *The story is what’s in that room*, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada and *a so-called archive*, LUX, London, UK, all 2021.

She was awarded the 2020 Arts Foundation Futures Award for Experimental Short Film and was the recipient of the Berwick New Cinema Award in 2019.

This exhibition is part of this year’s Curatorial Fellowship programme *this broken piece of yard* by Cairo Clarke.

For more information, images and artist interviews please contact Sun Park on +44 (0) 2031412966 or sun@lux.org.uk

EVENT ACCESSIBILITY

LUX is located in Waterlow Park (Highgate), near the Dartmouth Park Lodge Gate on Dartmouth Park Hill. Please note: there is no public parking inside Waterlow Park. The LUX building is fully wheelchair accessible and there are wheelchair accessible toilet facilities.

Address: LUX, Waterlow Park Centre, Dartmouth Park Hill, London, N19 5JF, UK

Please check the screening schedule on our website for audio described and captioned screenings which will take place daily.

For the safety of our visitors and staff, we will maintain most of our COVID safety measures until further notice. This exhibition operates a strict capacity and a time slot can be booked on our website (www.lux.org.uk). Please read the safety information when booking. If you have special access needs to attend our events please contact us at +44(0)20 3141 2960 or events@lux.org.uk. Please include any accessibility needs that would aid this viewing.

Image credit: *a so-called archive*, Onyeka Igwe, 2020.

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