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EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

Grace Ndiritu - An Absolute River

11 May - 16 July 2022

Open Wednesday - Saturday, 12-5pm

Opening Event: 11 May 2022, 5-8pm

URL: bit.ly/35Pqi48



Grace Ndiritu - An Absolute River* is an exhibition from Wednesday 11th May - Saturday 16th July 2022, programming weekend on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th May, with an accompanying publication, taking place at LUX, London.

The project calls upon artists to expand the public's horizons of temporal divides of past, present and future. The global pandemic has caused many to question the dominance of linear time. Through moving image, live performance, workshops and text, the artists in this project investigate different subjectivities of time. The exhibition is dedicated to the British Kenyan artist and activist, **Grace Ndiritu** (b.1982), whose practice is deeply concerned with our contemporary world seeing it through the twin lenses of healing and spirituality, by finding alternative ways for humanity to live. Her archive of over forty 'hand-crafted' videos; Post-Hippie Pop-Abstraction collages and shamanic performances reflect her alternative ways of looking and seeing the world through spiritual practice.

In the accompanying public programme, artists **Rieko Whitfield**, **Serena Huang** and **Dr Jason Allen-Paisant** will guide audiences through an atemporal journey. Inspired by Jorge Luis Borges', the Argentinian writer, ideas around the mysterious nature of time, the exhibition and programme will explore alternative ideas of time to widely accepted linear narratives.

**Grace Ndiritu - An Absolute River's* title derives from Borges' theories on the fluidity of time. Borges features as a fictional protagonist in Ndiritu's "Black Beauty", and his notion of "An Absolute River" was inspired by Heraclitus' "No Man ever Steps in the Same River Twice".

Inviting audiences to immerse themselves in Ndiritu's two films: "A Week in the News: 7 places we think we know, 7 news stories we think we understand" (2010) and "Black Beauty" (2021), the exhibition reflects the artist's explorations of "deep time". The two works stand in dialogue with each

other in two separate screening rooms to enable the viewers to see a continuity between the artist's ideas across eleven years. Ndiritu's intermediary film "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (2015) will also be screened online for the first week of the exhibition. Her films blur the lines between different time frames and explore themes of media, authorship and historical narratives, whilst expanding on notions of temporality.

Grace Ndiritu's debut short film "Black Beauty" has been selected for prestigious film festivals including 72nd Berlinale in the Forum Expanded section (2022) and 32nd FIDMarseille (2022). Most recently her work has been featured at Flat Time House (2022), British Art Show 9 (2021/2022), Nottingham Contemporary (2021) and Kunsthal Gent (2021).

In the live programme, the three contributors, likewise, each deal with critical conceptions of time in their practice. Visitors to the workshop led by Rieko Whitfield will reflect on past histories through non-linear writing activities and guided meditation. Serena Huang will invite her participants to reimagine potential futures using found objects to create a temporary work of art. Performing a soundscape with spoken word, Dr Jason Allen-Paisant explores the ways in which sound evades temporal categorisation and affects us differently to visual representations. The audience is invited to contemplate an unfinished past and imagine futures beyond linear time. The accompanying publication will offer different perspectives of temporality, and give audiences opportunities to interact with these themes and the screenings in a tangible way.

Grace Ndiritu - An Absolute River is curated by students from the MA Curating Contemporary Art Programme as part of the Graduate Projects 2022, Royal College of Art, in partnership with LUX.

For images and more information please contact Sun Park sun@lux.org.uk / 020 31412960

RELATED EVENTS

Opening Event (11 May 2022, 5-8pm)

- **Artist Talk: 11 May 2022, 7pm**
 - Artist **Grace Ndiritu** in conversation with LUX Director **Benjamin Cook**.

Programming Weekend (13 - 14 May 2022)

- **Workshop with Rieko Whitfield: 13 May 2022, 2-4pm**
 - A writing workshop and guided meditation led by multidisciplinary artist Rieko Whitfield.
- **Workshop with Serena Huang: 14 May 2022, 2-4pm**
 - A collective performance workshop using local materials sourced from Waterlow Park.
- **Performance: Jason Allen-Paisant: 14 May 2022, 5-6pm**
 - An embodied performance incorporating soundscapes from Waterlow Park.

More information about related events to be announced on the LUX website.

NOTES TO EDITOR

Grace Ndiritu is a British-Kenyan artist whose artworks are concerned with the transformation of our contemporary world. Works including *The Ark: Center for Interdisciplinary Experimentation*; *COVERSLUT@ fashion* and economic project; and performance art series, *Healing The Museum*, have been shown around the world since 2012. Recently, her debut short film *Black Beauty* has been selected for prestigious film festivals including 72nd Berlinale in the Forum Expanded section (2022) and 32nd FIDMarseille (2021). Ndiritu has been featured in *TIME* magazine, Phaidon's *The 21st Century Art Book*, *BOMB* magazine, *Art Monthly* and *Elephant* magazine. Her work is housed in museum collections such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The British Council and The Modern Art Museum (Warsaw). Her writing has been published in her critical theory book *Dissent Without Modification* (Bergen Kunsthall) in 2021; The Whitechapel Gallery in the *Documents of Contemporary Art* anthology series; *Animal Shelter Journal*, *Semiotext(e)* The MIT Press; *Metropolis M*; and The Oxford University Press.

Rieko Whitfield (b. 1992, Japan) is an MA graduate of the Royal College of Art and founding director of the performance art platform *Diasporas Now*.

Serena Huang (b. 1995, China) is a 2020 RCA Contemporary Art Practice graduate, she was recently awarded Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2021 Prize.

Dr Jason Allen-Paisant is a poet, writer and lecturer in Caribbean Poetry & Decolonial Thought in the School of English at the University of Leeds, where he's also the Director of the Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies.

LUX is the UK agency for the support and promotion of artists working with the moving image based in London and Glasgow. Originally founded in 1966 as the London Filmmakers Co-operative, it represents an over 50 year history of artists' engagement with the moving image in the UK. As well as organising exhibitions, education programmes, commissioning, artists' professional development and research LUX represents Europe's largest collection of films and videos made by visual artists.
www.lux.org.uk

RCA CCA: Fei Xu, Jieyi Zhang, Kirsty Flockhart, Kit Wan Yeong, Livia Nervi, Lorenzo Menegazzo, Mala Yamey, Sanya Malik

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, with a hearing loop and there are wheelchair accessible toilet facilities. The exhibition offers captioned screenings of "Black Beauty" by Grace Ndiritu on a daily basis.

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

Please contact us at +44(0)20 3141 2960 or events@lux.org.uk if you have special access requirements.

SOCIAL MEDIA

LUX: IG: @luxmovingimage | TW: @luxmovingimage | FB: @luxmovingimage

An Absolute River: IG: @an_absolute_river

Grace Ndiritu: IG: @theofficialgracendiritu

#AnAbsoluteRiver #GraceNdiritu #RiekoWhitfield #SerenaHuang #JasonAllenPaisan
#LUXMovingImage

Image: *Black Beauty*, Grace Ndiritu, 2021



Royal College of Art
Postgraduate Art & Design