

**HOT WITH EXCESS:  
A SEASON OF CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS' OPERA  
12 MARCH – 27 MARCH, 2020**

**A programme of events featuring Sam Belinfante, Trulee Hall, Richard Kennedy, Benjamin Orlow, Marijke de Roover and Alexandre Singh.**

**Please note that the gallery is not open for visitors between the events.**



This special season of live events explores the collision of contemporary art and opera. Performances, screenings and discussion reveal how artists working today are commandeering this cultural tradition to propose new hybrid ways of working that resist easy definition. The first programme of its kind to focus on contemporary artists using opera in their practice in the UK, this will also be the first time the Zabludowicz Collection dedicates all the gallery spaces to a live project, transforming one room into a social space with a bar.

*Hot with Excess: A Season of Contemporary Artists' Opera* launches with a newly commissioned opera by LA-based artist Trulee Hall and includes a 24-hr film work with live augmentations by Benjamin Orlow, a new site specific staging by Sam Belinfante, a fully realised operatic performance of Marijke de Roover's *Live, Laugh, Limerence*, as well as a screening from Alexandre Singh. It culminates in a restaging of *Black Rage*, the UK-debut of Berlin-based American artist Richard Kennedy. A discursive element organised in partnership with Centre for Audio Visual Experimentation (CAVE) at Leeds University will offer space to reflect and consider the contemporary context for this programme. With eclectic backgrounds in music, composition, film, and visual arts, by way of Hollywood and Broadway, the participating artists' collaborative and eclectic approaches engage with the designation 'opera' in varied and forceful ways.

The embedding of emotionally intense stories in drama, music and the voice is fundamental to the established opera canon. Similarly, this season will explore how personal and political, intimate and global narratives are communicated through these entwined models. While often understood as bombastic and theatrical, it would be too easy to simply label opera as escapism, and this is equally true of these works. This programme invites us into multiple cathartic moments of unrequited love, fury at society's racial and hetero norms, the messiness of female sexuality, and states of confusion and even boredom, in the face of what it means to be human. These works run counter to social expectations of what is acceptable, they share an excess – of time, aesthetics, bad taste, emotion. They demand our attention and push us to think further than our existing parameters.

Using the Zabłudowicz Collection's scale and architecture, the performances and screenings are free from the formality of the opera house. The programme asks: by reframing the component parts of voice and song, music, libretto, staging and costumes, how far can opera be dissolved and reconfigured? Far from the traditional and assumed inaccessible art form, this programme reconsiders opera's narratives, structure, production and duration. Freed from its conventions, these artists embrace the idea of opera as the original 'impure' form; a parasitic mix of music, dance and theatre. The resulting works are multi-layered, collaborative, celebratory, intense and immersive. They tumble between definitions, while at the same time being many things at once.

Arguably the paradoxical nature of opera – a relic that remains vital, a dead form that continues to thrive – makes it the ultimate art form for our conflicted and divisive world. *Hot with Excess: A Season of Contemporary Artists' Opera* offers more than an escape; it offers an audacious platform to confront our fears and desires, and explore a new way of describing who we are and might be.

The programme is curated by Antonia Blocker, Curator: Performance & Engagement at Zabłudowicz Collection.

## **PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

### **12 March, 7pm: Performance**

Trulee Hall, *Tongues Duel the Corn Whores, an Opera*  
(£12/£10 conc. seated and £10/£8 conc. standing tickets)

### **13 - 14 March, 6pm – 6pm: Screening**

Benjamin Orlow, *Horses and Ants: An Opera in Eight Acts* with live performances (FREE)

### **15 March, 3pm: Screening**

Alexandre Singh, *The Humans* (£5/£3 conc.)

### **19 March, 7pm: Performance**

Sam Belinfante (£8/£6 conc.)

### **21 March, 7pm: Performance**

Marijke De Roover, *Live, Laugh, Limerance* (£12/£10 conc.)

### **26 March, 7pm: Talk**

Panel discussion with Centre for Audio Visual Experimentation (CAVE) (FREE)

### **27 March, 7pm: Performance**

Richard Kennedy, *Black Rage* (£12/£10 conc.)

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Sam Belinfante** is an artist living and working in London. Recent performances include *They Are Waiting for You*, with Laure Prouvost and Pierre Droulers at Kaaitheater, Brussels (2019), *Feedback* at Palais De Tokyo, Paris (2017) and *On the One Hand and the Other* at Camden Arts Centre and Supernormal Festival, UK (2016).

**Marijke De Roover** lives and works in Ghent. She has had solo exhibitions at Arcade, London, Trampoline, Antwerp, SEAS Knokke, and TTTT, Ghent. Upcoming projects will take place at a.o. De Pont, Tilburg, Netherlands, and Performance Exchange in London. De Roover is represented by ARCADE, London.

**Trulee Hall** will present her first institutional solo exhibition at the Zabłudowicz Collection this autumn as the 2020 annual commission. Other recent projects include *The Other and Otherwise*, at Maccarone Los Angeles and Frieze Projects, Frieze Los Angeles (both 2019). Exhibitions and screenings of her work have been held at Hammer Museum, Redcat, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND), Human Resources LA, Barrick Museum of Art, Michael Benevento Gallery, OUTFEST LA, The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Billy Wilder Theatre, Yale Union and Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) among other numerous exhibitions and screenings internationally.

**Richard Kennedy** is an artist, experiential composer, and librettist currently living in Berlin, Germany. Recent solo exhibitions include at Peres Projects, Berlin, and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Virginia Commonwealth University. Kennedy has recently presented performance works at MoMA, The Shed, The Kitchen, The Studio Museum Harlem, BOFFO Performance Festival and Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles.

**Benjamin Orlow** is a London-based artist working with film, performance and sculpture. His work has been exhibited at ICA London, Kunsthalle Münster, Fahrenheit Los Angeles, The Tetley in Leeds, Phoenix Leicester, Finlandsintitutet Stockholm and Hordaland Kunstcenter in Norway.

**Alexandre Singh** lives and works in New York. He recently had an exhibition in 2019 at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. *The Humans* premiered at Witte de With, Rotterdam, and later presented as part of Performa 13 in 2013. He has had solo exhibitions at the Drawing Center, New York; Palais de Toyko, Paris; and Ballroom Marfa, Texas. His work has also been included in the Whitney Biennial, Lyon Biennial, and Manifesta 8, among many other group shows.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations.

The collection contains over 3000 works of art by more than 600 artists, spanning 40 years of art production. Its focus is on emerging art from the late 20th century to the present day and it is in constant development. The Collection has been directed since 2006 by Elizabeth Neilson.

In 2007 the Collection opened its main exhibition space in London, in a 19th Century former Methodist Chapel, where it has worked with artists, curators and the collection to produce exhibitions and events examining contemporary art practice in a public forum. The Collection now also runs an international programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and commissions across four permanent venues in the UK, USA and Finland.

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