

Programme announcement Exhibitions 2024



Lonnie Holley, *MONDO, The Property of All*, 2023.
Image courtesy Edel Assanti Gallery, London.

January 2024 begins with Bloomberg New Contemporaries, which returns to Camden Art Centre for the first time in 20 years to showcase 55 of the UK's most promising early career artists. In April, *The Bough Breaks*, a major exhibition of paintings and works on paper by Matthew Krishanu, will be shown alongside the first major solo exhibition of London-based Ugandan artist Andrew Omoding. In July, an extensive exhibition by American artist and musician Lonnie Holley will showcase a substantial new body of work alongside existing pieces. From September to December, two concurrent solo exhibitions will be shown: Nicola L., presenting the full breadth of the artist's practice across sculpture, film, performance, painting and installation in the UK for the first time; and Jack O'Brien, 2023 recipient of Camden Art Centre's Emerging Artist Prize at Frieze.

New Contemporaries
19 January/14 April 2024
Private view: 18 January

Bloomberg New Contemporaries returns to Camden Art Centre in 2024 after more than 20 years. The exhibition features 55 of the UK's most exciting artists emerging from art schools and alternative peer-to-peer learning programmes. With works selected by internationally renowned artists Helen Cammock, Sunil Gupta and Heather Phillipson through an open call, the resulting exhibition provides a distinctive snapshot of current artistic concerns and approaches spanning a breadth of disciplines.

The selected artists for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2023 are: Savanna Achampong, Bunmi Augusto, Ahaad Alamoudi, Adama Dercilia Bari, Alexandra Beteeva, Cai Arfon Bellis, Matthew Burdis, Thomas Cameron, Yingming Chen, Helen Clarke, Sarah Cleary, Alannah Cyan, Nina Davies, James Dearlove, Harriet Gillett, Haneen Hadiy, Joseph Ijoyemi, Jennifer Jones, Bessie Kirkham, Noa Klagsbald, Iga Koncka, Emily Kraus, Margaret (Weiyi) Liang, Harry Luxton, Ranny Macdonald, Jil Mandeng, Anne McCloy, Phyllis McGowan, SAM (Ayrton Mendes), Zayd Menk, Efrat Merin, Rhys Morgan, Joe Moss, Lili Murphy-Johnson, Elena Njoabuzia Onwochei-Garcia, Abi Palmer, Emerson Pullman, Harmeet Rahal, Daniel Rey, Alicja Rogalska, Luke Anthony Rooney, Jeremy Scott, Holly Sezer, Emma Sheehy, Charan Singh, Jame St Findlay, Korallia Stergides, Samuel Thompson-Plant, Jiayi Wang, Sidney Westenskow, Georg Wilson, Joshua Woolford, Hester Yang, Osman Yousefzada and Samuel Zhang.

Matthew Krishanu

The Bough Breaks

26 April/23 June 2024

Private view: 25 April

Matthew Krishanu's first major solo exhibition in London will include both paintings and works on paper. Bringing together an important group of canvases from his ongoing series' *Mission*, *Holy Family* and *House of God*, it will also include a significant body of new work, made especially for this exhibition.

Krishanu's atmospheric, pared-back compositions often depict scenes from his own life: including his childhood years in Bangladesh and Bradford, growing up with his brother and their parents who were Christian missionaries. Seemingly familiar narratives are alluded to but destabilised, and the viewer's own projections are called upon to fulfil the interpretive loop, raising questions about childhood, religion, race, power and the legacies of empire. Working in series, one painting segues into the next as a natural telling of the artist's own journey through the joys and sorrows of life, with deeply personal subject matter that speaks directly to the human condition in all its complexity.

Andrew Omoding

26 April/23 June 2024

Private view: 25 April

Andrew Omoding's work is largely autobiographical, containing references to his childhood memories of Uganda, including the civil war which culminated in his migration to the UK as a refugee when he was 12 years old, and his perceptions of life as an artist with learning-disabilities. Omoding has a longstanding relationship with Camden Art Centre—building on his role as a workshop leader on our SEN Schools Programme, and as Artist-in-Residence in 2019, he will now return for a major solo exhibition. Involving newly commissioned work developed site-responsively, reclaiming abandoned materials from his immediate surroundings and metalwork produced with a London foundry, the installation will embrace the vibrant and energetic breadth of Omoding's practice, involving music, sound, performance and video.

Omoding's works are both a communicative tool and a medium through which he processes his experiences, past and present. As such, they celebrate his African heritage and memories and intimations of home, family and the African continent. Amid the complex and at times contradictory nature of everyday life, Omoding looks to material, sound, and movement as a connective and propulsive force. Through his practice, Omoding extends the language of sculpture to encompass an ineffable yet magnetic quality that lies within his assemblages.

Lonnie Holley

5 July/15 September 2024

Private view: 4 July

For over 40 years, American artist and musician Lonnie Holley's practice has existed at the intersection of spontaneity, catharsis and remembrance. His ambitious works—multimedia assemblages that often combine man-made materials and detritus—serve as thematic tools that reflect his investment in aesthetic traditions, narratives of futurity, and the inherent complexity that resides in found objects. He works with an improvisational creativity, transforming materials and objects into complex figurations that carry histories of Black tradition and culture.

Holley's highly conceptual objects are interwoven with threads of memory, space, temporality, and material. The sculptural environments he creates are laden with a visual and haptic dynamism that requires a purposeful and deliberate engagement from its audience and resists straightforward readings. His practice—heavily impacted by his mercurial, itinerant and at times traumatic upbringing—utilises found materials to convey narratives rooted in technology, ecology, civil rights, and ancestral memory. Visceral materials—twisted wires, bone, blood, rock, rusted metal, splintered wood, frayed thread—are reused, assembled, and infused with cultural, collective, and personal resonance. While they can stand individually and carry a heavy visual plangency, it is through their mutual association that the depth of their affective resonance can be felt.

This exhibition will be his first institutional solo show in the UK and will include new and recent work in painting, sculpture and sound.

Nicola L.

27 September/29 December 2024

Private view: 26 September

This will be the first time the full breadth of Nicola L's work has been shown in the UK and presents a rare opportunity to experience her extraordinary work across sculpture, film, performance, painting and installation. Born Nicola Leuthe in El Jadida, Morocco, in 1932, she studied abstract painting at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and later lived and worked for much of her life in New York, though she travelled widely.

Nicola L.'s work blurs the boundaries between body, space, functionality and art. Each is influenced by and, in turn, influences the other—pieces are serviceable yet whimsical, confrontational yet deeply personal. Her objects demonstrate a technical mastery and convey an emphatic energetic charge: furniture is endowed with an anthropomorphic quality—lamps take the shape of an eye, a coffee table is carved to mirror the schema of a woman's body, and a sofa extends into a long, slim foot; her 'Penetrables' exist as wearable skins that hang now like enigmatic and ominous avatars, their signs declaring 'We Don't Want War', and 'We Want to Breathe'; while her paintings and collages celebrate and commemorate female icons from Marilyn Monroe to Joan of Arc and Ulrike Meinhof. Much of her work calls into question the objectification, sexualisation and treatment of the feminine form, as well as broader themes of political and social injustice and collective action. Immersive, adaptable, radical and subversive, Nicola L.'s work positions itself firmly in the interwoven legacies of feminism, humanism, counter-cultural modernity and design.

Jack O'Brien

27 September/29 December 2024

Private view: 26 September

As the 2023 recipient of Camden Art Centre's Emerging Artist Prize at Frieze, London-based artist Jack O'Brien will develop a major new commission for Camden's iconic Gallery Three in the autumn of 2024. He was awarded the prize for his presentation at Frieze Focus, with his gallery Ginny on Frederick, centred around a large site-specific sculpture—*Volent*—which repurposed an historical English horse-racing carriage, wrapping it in layers of industrial polythene.

O'Brien describes the objects and materials he incorporates in his work as "eloquent texts" that encode cultural and historical meaning. Manipulating them by twisting, binding, stretching or puncturing feels charged with the erotic and probes at taboo, fetish and the commodification of queer aesthetics. His signature gesture of tightly wrapping objects with industrial polythene submits them to a kind of restraint that accentuates their outer form whilst withholding full legibility, pushing towards abstraction. O'Brien's practice encompasses painting and drawing as well as sculpture exploring the production of desire and the aesthetic codes of late-capitalist consumption.

Titles and dates are subject to change.

Notes to editors

For further information, interviews and images please contact:

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Camden Art Centre

Camden Art Centre is a place for world-class contemporary art exhibitions and education. Situated in Hampstead, North London (charity number 1065829) Camden Art Centre is a place for art and artists; a place for the curious, the novice and the expert alike. It's a place to see, to make, to learn and to talk about contemporary art, whether in our building, attending off-site projects or via our digital forums. Founded by artists in 1965, the Centre continues to be a space for the most vital and diverse mix of practices and ideas and is dedicated to supporting artists at every stage of their careers.

New Contemporaries

Since its foundation in 1949, New Contemporaries has been dedicated to supporting early-career professional experience to recently graduating artists in the UK. Following a revised organisational structure and name change in 1988 (from Young Contemporaries to New Contemporaries) the organisation has expanded its support and services to new career artists.

Each year New Contemporaries works with a group of selectors, composed of artists and its alumni, for the annual survey exhibition, selected from a pool of applications, gathered through a nation-wide open call to all artists in higher education and alternative schooling. The group exhibitions composed of shortlisted artists take place in and outside London, organised in collaboration with different institutional partners.

Today New Contemporaries delivers mentoring programmes, national and international opportunities and peer-to-peer learning. Through partnerships with national collections, New Contemporaries provides a platform for artists to be acquired at an early phase in their careers. Since 2014, New Contemporaries has developed a range of studio bursaries to further support the artists and aiming to make their practices sustainable in the long term.

New Contemporaries is an Arts Council of England National Portfolio Organisation. Bloomberg Philanthropies is the title sponsor of the annual exhibitions since 2001. New Contemporaries receives further support from The Bridget Riley Art Foundation, national trusts and foundations and international agencies. For more information visit newcontemporaries.org.uk or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter @NewContemps.

Matthew Krishanu

Matthew Krishanu (b.1980) was born in Bradford and is based in London. He completed an MA in Fine Art at Central Saint Martins in 2009. Recent solo exhibitions include *Playground*, Niru Ratnam, London (2022); *Undercurrents*, LGDR, New York (2022); *Picture Plane*, Niru Ratnam, London (2020); *Arrow and Pulpit*, Tanya Leighton, Berlin (2021); *Corvus*, Iniva, London (2019); *House of Crows*, Matt's Gallery, London (2019); *A Murder of Crows*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2019); *The Sun Never Sets*, Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, (2019) and Huddersfield Art Gallery (2018). Recent group exhibitions include *Life is More Important than Art*, Whitechapel, London (2023); *Dhaka Art Summit*, Dhaka (2023); *The Kingfisher's Wing*, GRIMM, New York (2022); *Prophecy*, Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre (2022); *Mixing It Up: Painting Today*, Hayward Gallery, London (2021); Coventry Biennial, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum and Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (2021); *Everyday Heroes*, Hayward Gallery/Southbank Centre (2020); *A Rich Tapestry*, Ikon, Lahore Biennale (2020); *New Figurations*, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai (2019); and *Childhood Now*, Compton Verney (2019).

Andrew Omoding

Andrew Omoding (b. 1987, Uganda) lives and works in London. His sculptural forms, constructed from found material, fabric, and other macrame, are often autobiographical in nature. His early childhood in Uganda, migration to the United Kingdom as a young refugee, and subsequent life in London have all informed the intuitive, systematic, dynamic and methods he employs in the creation of his works. In his multi-media practice, Omoding's innate conceptualization of colour, form, texture, and space are on full, vibrant display.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Welcome to Me, Scarborough. To See and Hold My Work*, Woodend Gallery, Scarborough (2022); EXPLORERS Conference: Art, Rights and Representation, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes (2019); *It's my work, come see, come see.*, Camden Art Centre, London (2019); and *Art, Materiality and Representation*, SOAS University of London, London (2018). Recent group shows include *Season One*, Cromwell Place, London (2022); *Shaking the Everyday*, Cockpit Arts, London (2021); *Summer Exhibition 2021*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2021); *The Future Is Loading*, Shape Arts, virtual (2020); *Prints!*, Project Ability, Glasgow (2019); *Outside In: Journeys*, Sotheby's, London (2018); *Radical Craft: Alternative Ways of Making*, Craftspace, Aberystwyth (2017); and *The Shop of Curiosity*, The Geddes Gallery, London (2016). In 2019, Omoding was the artist in residence at Camden Art Centre, and he has held other residencies at the Barbican Arts Group Trust and Craftspace.

Lonnie Holley

Lonnie Holley (b. 1950, Birmingham, Alabama) lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia. Recent solo exhibitions include *Lonnie Holley*, UT Downtown Gallery, Knoxville (2023); *If You Really Knew*, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Miami (2023); *What Have They Done with America*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles (2022); *The Growth of Communication*, Edel Assanti, London (2022); *Coming From the Earth*, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas (2022); *The Influence of Images*, Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland (2021); *Everything That Wasn't White*, Parrish Art Museum, *Water Mill* (2021); *Somewhere in a Dream I Got Lost: Works by Lonnie Holley*, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem (2019); and *The Weight of Everything at James Fuentes*, New York, NY (2017).

Recent group exhibitions include *Souls Grown Deep like the Rivers: Black Artists from the American South*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2023); *Deep Horizons*, Middlesbrough Institute of Art, Middlesbrough (2023); *Called to Create: Black Artists of the American South*, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. (2022); *The Art of Assemblage*, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale (2022); *American South*, The Morgan Library & Museum, New York (2021); *Forms of Life*, Morán Morán, Los Angeles, CA (2020); and *History Refused to Die: Highlights from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation Gift*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2018).

Holley is represented by Edel Assanti in London and Blum & Poe Gallery in the United States and was named a United States Artist Fellow in 2022.

Nicola L.

Nicola L. (1932–2018) was born in El Jadida, Morocco. She studied abstract painting at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and later lived and worked for much of her life in New York, though she travelled widely. Her multidisciplinary practice encompassed sculpture, performance, painting, and film—all of which carried an air of wit, playfulness, and radical subversion. Born Nicola Leuthe, the artist's proximity to the French New Realist group engendered space for a deeper visual and material engagement with counter-cultural, feminist, and collectivist politics that surrounded and informed her. She has exhibited for over five decades across institutions in Europe, Asia, and North and South America. Her solo shows include *Nicola L., Alison Jacques*, London (2022); *Nicola L.: Works, 1968 to the Present*, SculptureCenter, New York (2017); *Nicola L., Atmosphere in White*, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool (2014); *The Blue Cape*, Gallery Twentieth, Geneva (2004); and *Nicola L.: Retrospective 1968–2002*, Galería La Casona, Havana (2002). Her work has featured in several recent and notable group exhibitions, including *Future Bodies From Recent to Past—Sculpture, Technology, and the Body since the 1950s*, Museum Brandhorst, Munich (2022); *Our Silver City, 2094*, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham (2021); *A Modest Proposal*, Hauser & Wirth, New York (2016); *The World Goes Pop*, Tate Modern, London (2015); *Artevida: Política*, MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro (2014); *L'esprit du jeu: la collection du Frac Bretagne*, Gyeongnam Art Museum, Changwon (2010); *Elles*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2009); and *Le Corps est le paysage*, Chapel of Notre-Dame de Pitié, Saint-Rémy De Provence (2005).

Her art is represented in the collections of the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York, the Design Museum Brussels, and Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow, among others.

Jack O'Brien

Jack O'Brien (b.1993) lives and works in London and is represented by Ginny on Frederick. Recent solo and duo exhibitions include: *The Answer*, Sans Titre Invites, Paris, FR (2023); *To More Time*, Lockup International, London, UK (2022); *The Influence of Emotions On Associated Reactions*, with Henryk Morel (1937-68), *Polamagnetczne Gallery*, Warsaw, PL (2022) and *Waiting For The Sun To Kill Me*, Ginny on Frederick, London, UK (2021). Recent group exhibitions include: *Support Structures*, Gathering, London, UK (2023); *Memory of Rib*, N/A Gallery, Seoul, KR (2022); *Chômage Technique*, Lovaas Projects, Munich, DE (2022); *Something is Burning*, Kunsthalle Bratislava, SK (2022); *An Insular Rococo*, Hollybush Gardens, London, UK (2022) and *Strange Messengers*, Peres Projects, Berlin, DE (2018).