



Matthew Krishanu, Crow (profile, green), 2019, oil on board, 20 x 15cm. Photo: Peter Mallet. Image courtesy of the artist.

Iniva presents

Corvus. A painting installation by Matthew Krishanu

The Stuart Hall Library, 16 John Islip St, London SW1P 4JU

Preview: 11 September, 6-8pm

12 September - 2 November 2019, Tuesday (10-5pm) to Saturday (10am-4pm)

Crows, rooks, jackdaws and ravens: corvid, corvus, and corvidae. They are considered to be cosmopolitan creatures endowed with a preternatural intelligence. Over 120 species exist and the genus *Corvus* makes up over a third of the entire family. They are legion and amongst us every single day.

Matthew Krishanu's crows could be described as relatives of sorts, sharing similarities of pose and abstracted form, always painted singly and never in flight. Standing on twin legs gives them an anthropomorphic quality, looking directly at the viewer or stepping awkwardly away. Krishanu has been documenting London crows for over seven years and painting their intimate portraits in oil on canvas board. He has captured the minutiae of their lives – perching, feeding, pacing or standing – that only a sustained period of observation could reveal.

In the space of the Stuart Hall Library, systems of classification, taxonomy and assemblage come into focus. The crows emerge between shelves and bask alongside books, populating the collection with their delicate, comical and eerie presence. Painted in rich tones of black, blue and brown, often against a pale background, this cast of distinctive magical birds has flocked to the library seeking refuge from the outside for a while. When we look up and around, the sometimes-solitary practice of reading is suspended by their curious companionship.

Notes to Editors

About 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.

Exhibitions include: *House of Crows*, Matt's Gallery, London; *The Sun Never Sets*, MAC, Birmingham; *A Murder of Crows*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2019); *The John Moores Painting Prize 2018*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; *In the City*, East Gallery, Norwich (2018); *Contemporary Masters from Britain*, Yantai Art Museum, Jiangsu Art Museum, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, China (2017-2018); *Aviary*, Transition Gallery, London (2016); *Contemporary Drawings from Britain*, Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts, China (2015); *Another Country*, The Nunnery, London (2014). He has works in collections including the Arts Council Collection, Priseman-Seabrook Collection, and Jiangsu Art Museum, China.

www.matthewkrishanu.com

About Iniva

Iniva is an evolving, radical visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects the social and political impact of globalisation. With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for our work, we collaborate with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. We engage a wide audience, particularly young people, in discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, class and gender.

Through our programme we work predominantly with British-born and British-based visual artists of African and Asian descent supporting them at different stages in their careers. We offer residencies, commission new work and promote existing practices enabling ambition and artist development. By cultivating innovative thinking, we are committed to disseminating research across a wide cultural spectrum and geographical network. Our ambition is to build a greater body of knowledge around each of the artists with whom we work to ensure the legacy of their practices for future generations of researchers and audiences.

Founded in 1994, under the leadership of renowned academic Professor Stuart Hall, Iniva is a non-profit organisation based in London. It has established itself as a pioneering arts organisation in the artistic environment in the UK and beyond. Iniva has worked with internationally renowned artists and curators early in their careers including David A Bailey, Sonia Boyce, Sheela Gowda, NS Harsha, Isaac Julien, Steve McQueen, Chris Ofili, Yinka Shonibare, Kobena Mercer, Okwui Enwezor, and Guy Brett.

Iniva is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and is generously supported by individual donors, trusts and foundations.

In 2019, Iniva celebrates its 25th anniversary.

www.iniva.org

For more information, please contact us at info@iniva.org or call 020 7630 1278.