

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 23 May 2023

**Can publications be porous?
*co-curated Exhibition with Lauren Craig***

Wednesday 24 May – Thursday 28 July 2023

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts)
16 John Islip Street, London SW1P 4JU



Image left: Poster by Sabrina Tirvengadam

Image right: Lauren Craig, photographed by Ajamu X / @ajamustudios

Can publications be porous? Exhibition at Stuart Hall Library

iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) presents ***Can publications be porous?*** an exhibition of audio collage, drawing, painting, and sculpture by Sadia Pineda Hameed (LUMIN), Amber Akaunu, and Fauziya Johnson (ROOT-ed Zine), co-curated with artist and cultural futurist Lauren Craig. The exhibition runs from May 24 to July 28 2023, with an opening event on Wednesday 24 May, from 5:30-7:30pm at Stuart Hall Library, 16 John Islip Street, London SW1P 4JU.

Can publications be porous? invites audiences to speculate a trajectory from out-of-print black feminist books to possible notions of publishing futures, offering ideas for collective transformation. This exhibition takes the Stuart Hall Library as an experimental space to question the porosity of publishing in conceptual, existential, and material forms. Its two principal aims are to explore how artists consider, experiment with, and reject concepts of collectivity and individuality, and to expand awareness of, diversify, and horizontalize knowledge systems.

This exhibition is the third phase of a project initiated by Lauren Craig in 2021 under the title *HerStories // Shelf Life*, which brings together B/black women's and non-binary people of colour's creative writing and publishing collectives. Highlighting collaborative and rhizomatic methods of cultural production and dissemination, it takes a peek at the shelf life of collective publishing, from printed matter to digital to audiovisual.

The first phase (2021) entailed a roundtable discussion, while the second phase (2022) was composed of online one-to-one performative interviews. The research findings from the two earlier phases creatively manifest in this third phase – a physical exhibition, where the library becomes a transitional space. It brings together the artists' interviews and book lists as abstract audio collages, and the artists' visual responses to a score composed by Lauren Craig through the conceptual modality S:E:P:A:L:S, which will be unpacked in a public programme.

Lauren Craig says: “The artworks in the exhibition aim to challenge the notion of the hierarchy of communication, where a library is a space where the English academic language is the dominant ruler. The exhibition aims to share an expansive sense of culture through publishing. The artists and I are using horizontal approaches – listening, feeling, and being with images, activating multiple senses – as viable ways to receive and send knowledge, where we can have more porous collective relationships with

sharing knowledge and learning. The works propose alternative modes and formations for expanding cultural publishing frameworks.”

Stuart Hall Library Exhibition are supported by Arts Council England and Freelands Foundation.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT ARTISTS

Lauren Craig (she/her/hers) is a social-media shy, internet- curious cultural futurist based in London. Her practice intentionally moves slowly between curation, performance, installation, art writing, moving images and auto- ethnographic photography. Through collaborative live engagement, systems thinking and social archival histories, Lauren elevates lived experience as a tool for reframing past and present underexposed narratives.

Fauziya Johnson is a Somali-Dominican, queer artist, curator and producer based in Manchester, who currently works with the contrast and comparing of bodies and architecture, in an aim to decolonise and re-claim spaces and ideologies. She creates her work with the need to communicate social and political history through art, referencing mainly architectural and black history, with personal contributions from a current black, queer and disabled perspective.

Amber Akaunu is a Liverpool born Nigerian-German filmmaker working in cinema and art to document and explore Black culture, identity, and history. Amber is a BAFTA scholar and recent MA film graduate who is currently residing in South London. Her creative practice extends to her role as co-founder and editor of ROOT-ed Zine where she works to support Black, Asian and PoC artists in the North West of England through publishing, workshops, guest lectures, curating, and producing.

Sadia Pineda Hameed is a Filipina Pakistani artist and writer based in the Ebbw Valley, Wales. She works in film, installation, text and performance to explore collective and inherited trauma; in particular, the latent ways we speak about this through dreaming, telepathic communion and secrets as an anti-colonial strategy inherent to us. Sadia received the Paul Hamlyn Award for Visual Artists 2021. She often works with Beau W Beakhouse as a collaborative duo. Together they are on the g39 Fellowship 2022-24, and run small press and radio project LUMIN.

ABOUT INIVA

iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) is an evolving, radical visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects on the social and political impact of globalisation.

With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for their work, iniva collaborates with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. iniva engages a wide audience, particularly young people, in discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, class and gender.

iniva's programme supports artists at different stages in their careers, offering residencies, commissioning new work and promoting practice which enables artistic ambition and development. By cultivating innovative thinking, iniva is committed to disseminating research across a wide cultural spectrum and geographical network. Their ambition is to build a greater body of knowledge around each of the artists with whom they work to ensure the legacy of their practices for future generations of researchers and audiences.

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