

# MOLTEN STATES

*Molten States* explores the links between art, performance and experimental theatre through the exhibition of works by Berlin-based artists Olaf Nicolai and Julian Rosefeldt, the dramatist René Pollesch (and his collaborators Bert Neumann and Ute Schall) and the American artist Catherine Sullivan. It utilises four interdependent galleries as a route through the artists' ideas.

Artists are increasingly interested in the relationship between theatre and video extending into the conventions of performance and role-playing. It is rooted in historical and cultural references that include film-noir, avant-garde cinema, contemporary art and the history of theatre.

*Molten States* examines the intertwining of viewpoints in contemporary art with theatrical means of expression where the exploration of possibilities in art becomes a form of spectacle.

Inspired by a series of magazine articles and discussions between René Pollesch, Olaf Nicolai and the theatre critic Thomas Irmer, the addition of Julian Rosefeldt and Catherine Sullivan to *Molten States* provides an overview that explores the anxiety that is part of the modern condition and its relationship to issues that exacerbate contemporary life.

temporarycontemporary's *Event Horizon* extends the idea of an art/theatre crossover to embrace a moment when sculpture transforms into performance – the point at which objects cease to be something to appreciate for their own sake and become a means of experiencing live theatre.

**David Thorp**

*Curator GSK Contemporary*

# OCTOBER

**Friday 31 Oct, 12noon-10pm**

**'Rodakis' by Olaf Nicolai**

A film portrait of the builder of a house on the Greek island of Aegina takes the form of an unusual architectural documentary.

**Friday 31 Oct, 8pm**

**Live performance of 'Tod eines Praktikanten' ('Death of a Trainee') by René Pollesch**

Berlin-based artist René Pollesch will stage a performance over two evenings in German with a digital translation. This high-energy piece develops into an installation that will remain on show in the gallery.

**Friday 31 Oct to Thursday 4 Dec**

**'Trilogy of Failure' by Julian Rosefeldt**

This piece by Berlin-based artist Julian Rosefeldt features three multi-screen installations, *The Soundmaker*, *Stunned Man* and *The Perfectionist*, all of which demonstrate the potential absurdity of normal activity turned into drama. This is the first time that all three works have been shown together. The set of *The Soundmaker* is also on display.

**Friday 31 Oct to Sunday 7 Dec**

**'Triangle Of Need' by Catherine Sullivan**

American artist Catherine Sullivan, who originally trained as an actress, is well known for her video work which explores the nature of performance. This multi-screen work is a collaboration with the composer Sean Griffin, the choreographer Dylan Skybrook and the actor and director Kunle Afolayan.

**Friday 31 Oct to Tuesday 9 Dec**

**'Samani. Some Proposals to Answer Important Questions' by Olaf Nicolai**

Berlin-based artist Olaf Nicolai presents his newly commissioned work. Using the choreographed movement of a pole dancer, a single light moves up and down a pole also turning on its own axis. The effect of the light in a darkened room is dramatic and theatrical.

**Friday 31 Oct to Tuesday 25 Nov**

**Marc Camille Chaimowicz**

Objects such as handcrafted dressing tables, bespoke wallpaper, found objects and maquettes describe an environment poised between reflection, **immersion and display**.

**Friday 31 Oct to Tuesday 25 Nov**

**David Medalla**

This wry multi-media installation narrates the bizarre love triangle trade between one of the West's most beloved sculptures, the museum that desired her, and the adoring throngs that flock to see and photograph her.

**Friday 31 Oct to Monday 19 Jan**

**Georgina Starr**

Casts of classical female nudes form the basis for this dramatic installation of sculptures, their demure sensuality intensifying the latent eros of the neo-classical environs.

# NOVEMBER

Please note: galleries close at 6pm on Monday 3 Nov.

**Saturday 1 Nov, 8pm**

**Live performance of 'Tod eines Praktikanten' ('Death of a Trainee') by René Pollesch**

(see Friday 31 Oct)

**Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 Nov,**

**12noon-10pm; Monday 3 to**

**Wednesday 5 Nov, 12noon-5pm**

**'Rodakis' by Olaf Nicolai**

(see Friday 31 Oct)

**Sunday 2 Nov to Tuesday 9 Dec**

**Installation and film of 'Tod eines Praktikanten' ('Death of a Trainee')**

(see Friday 31 Oct)

**Thursday 6 and Friday 7 Nov, 8pm**

**Words and Music by Martin Creed**

A new performance from Martin Creed and his band.

● An additional charge applies. Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

**Friday 7 Nov, 6pm**

**David Medalla**

Performance by David Medalla in homage to the *Venus de Milo*.

**Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 Nov,**

**12noon-10pm**

**Susan Norrie**

A two-day programme featuring Susan Norrie's work, with films selected by her shown on the second day. Check the website for details.

**Monday 10 Nov, 9pm**

**Bourgeois & Maurice**

Monday evenings in the bar will feature a programme of modern cabaret by Bistrottheque.

**Monday 10 to Wednesday 12 Nov,**

**12noon-5pm**

**'Rodakis' by Olaf Nicolai**

(see Friday 31 Oct)

**Mondays 10 and 24 Nov, 7-8pm**

**Architecture Programme: Learning Curve**

Over three events (see also Monday 8 Dec), teachers such as Professor Neil Spiller of the Bartlett, UCL (10 Nov) and Eyal Wiezman of Goldsmiths (24 Nov) host events which engage architecture students and practitioners in a discussion about the territory they are exploring.

● An additional charge applies. Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

**Thursday 13 Nov, 12noon-10pm**

**'Rodakis' by Olaf Nicolai**

(see Friday 31 Oct)

**Friday 14 Nov 7-8pm**

**Thomas Irmer: The Space of Speech.**

**From Peter Handke to René Pollesch**

Thomas Irmer, the renowned critic, filmmaker and instigator of *Molten States*, has been closely involved with the development of René Pollesch's 'discursive' form of theatre. Irmer will provide an insight into the exhibition and ideas behind it. His talk will be contextualised with excerpts from two influential works: Peter Handke's *Cursing the Audience* from 1966, directed Claus Peymann; and Elfriede Jelinek's *Ulrike Maria Stuart* from 2006, directed Nicolas Stemann. These two works establish an historical framework and provide an argument for the reason that Pollesch's form of theatre has evolved in Germany, in marked contrast to English theatrical traditions.

**Saturday 15 November**

**2-5.30pm**

**Outset Symposium**

**Myths of Crossover and Intermedia**

Taking *Molten States* on show in the galleries as a starting point, the panel will explore issues raised by the exhibition and recent developments in live art, particularly the territory between film and performance. Speakers include: independent film curator Karen Alexander, Berlin-based writer and critic Thomas Irmer, artists Gary Stevens and Spartacus Chetwynd, and Curator of Tate Modern's *World as a Stage* Catherine Wood. Chaired by Sally O'Reilly. Organised by A Foundation.

● An additional charge applies. Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

**Saturday 15 Nov, from 1pm – Offsite**

**'A World Without Borders'**

**by Reza Aramesh**

Invoking a military presence, this work subverts expectation as uniformed performers read radical texts on the streets around the exhibition.

# DECEMBER

Please note: galleries close at 6pm on Friday 26 Dec.

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## Saturday 15 Nov, evening

### Spartacus Chetwynd's Helmut Newton Ladies Night

To be free from restrictions, control or dictatorial influence, to be independent to enjoy make-up and documentaries, abstract ranting and nudity, feminist lectures, literature and screenings, performances and bands, lesbian gore DJing and dancing.

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## Sunday 16 Nov, 8pm

### 'Ape' by Gary Stevens

Three performers are inextricably linked by one rule: to copy each other's behaviour. Things rapidly descend into a chaotic world of gestures, language and not quite enough props, as they struggle to assert their own character and take control.

● An additional charge applies. Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

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## Monday 17 Nov, 7-8pm

### Architecture Programme: Two Stories

(see also Mondays 1 and 15 Dec)  
Editor of *Blueprint* Vicky Richardson explores the working process behind inspiring relationships between architect and clients, with photographer Frédéric Lefever and Didier Faustino.

● An additional charge applies. Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

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## Monday 17 Nov, 9pm

### Bourgeois & Maurice

(see Monday 10 Nov)

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## Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 Nov,

12noon-5pm; Thursday 20 Nov,

12noon-10pm

### 'Rodakis' by Olaf Nicolai

(see Friday 31 Oct)

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## Friday 21 Nov, 6pm

### 'My Favourite Pastime/London' and 'The City as a Stage'

Kathrin Becker, Head of Video Forum, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k), has curated screenings of two selections of works from the n.b.k collection.

*My Favourite Pastime/London* features staged performances for video that cover the idea of BERLIN NOW and create an interesting link to *Molten States*.

*The City as a Stage* shows artists from both older and younger generations, from Berlin and abroad, in footage from the n.b.k archive. The screenings will be presented by Kathrin Becker and she will be in conversation with artist Melanie Manchot.

6pm	<i>My Favourite Pastime/London</i>
7pm	Kathrin Becker in conversation with Melanie Manchot
8pm	<i>The City as a Stage</i>

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## Friday 21 Nov, 7.30pm

### Alexander Hildago fashion show and installation

Conceptual art suffused with a romantic touch, Hildago presents an haute couture performance.

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## Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 Nov,

12noon-10pm

### Stuart Croft

A two-day programme of films by the artist Stuart Croft including his latest *The Death Waltz*. The second day will show films selected by him. Check the website for details.

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## Saturday 22 Nov to Thursday 11 Dec

### Bob and Roberta Smith

Smith's kiosk offers all manner of DIY texts and objects for sale. The artist also takes to the stage with ditties of artistic abjection for piano-bar nights, with additional performances by The Apathy Band (on evenings Saturday 22 Nov, Friday 28 Nov and Friday 5 Dec).

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## Monday 24 Nov, 7-8pm

### Architecture Programme: Learning Curve

(see Mondays 10 Nov and 8 Dec)  
Imaging Geopolitics: Goldsmiths' Centre for Research Architecture.

● An additional charge applies. Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

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## Monday 24 Nov, 9pm

### Bourgeois & Maurice

(see Monday 10 Nov)

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## Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 Nov,

12noon-5pm

### 'Rodakis' by Olaf Nicolai

(see Friday 31 Oct)

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## Thursday 27 Nov, 6-10pm

### Artprojx presents 'Dynamite Fighter'

A new work by boyleANDshaw loosely based on the life of the British boxer Paul Sykes, this site-specific performance incorporates music, film and sculptural elements. The set design is inspired by Allen Jones's unrealised designs for the Korova Milkbar scene in *A Clockwork Orange*.

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## Thursday 27 Nov to Thursday 18 Dec

### Brian Griffiths

Griffiths' two-room environment with hanging paintings and wooden structures, populated by a multitude of small sculptures, conjures the melancholic from the vernacular, creating a place where time and action are suspended.

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## Friday 28 to Sunday 30 Nov,

12noon-10pm

### Russian ACT no 5

A series of films selected by three well-established Russian artists, Victor Alympiev, Olga Chernycheva and Sergey Bugaev Afrika. Check the website for details.

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## Mondays 1 and 15 Dec, 7-8pm

### Architecture Programme: Two Stories

(see also Monday 17 Nov)

Vicky Richardson, editor of *Blueprint*, in conversation with Donaghy and Dimond Architects and Mairéad Ni Mhaonaigh (1 Dec), and Ullmayer Sylvester Architects and Erik Spiekermann (15 Dec).

● An additional charge applies.

Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

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## Monday 1 Dec, 9pm

### Bourgeois & Maurice

(see Monday 10 Nov)

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## Monday 1 to Wednesday 3 Dec,

12noon-5pm

### 'Rodakis' by Olaf Nicolai

(see Friday 31 Oct)

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## Thursday 4 and Friday 5 Dec, 8pm

### Ape by Gary Stevens

(see Sunday 16 Nov)

● An additional charge applies.

Booking recommended. Check the website for details.

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## Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 Dec,

12noon-10pm

### Lida Abdul

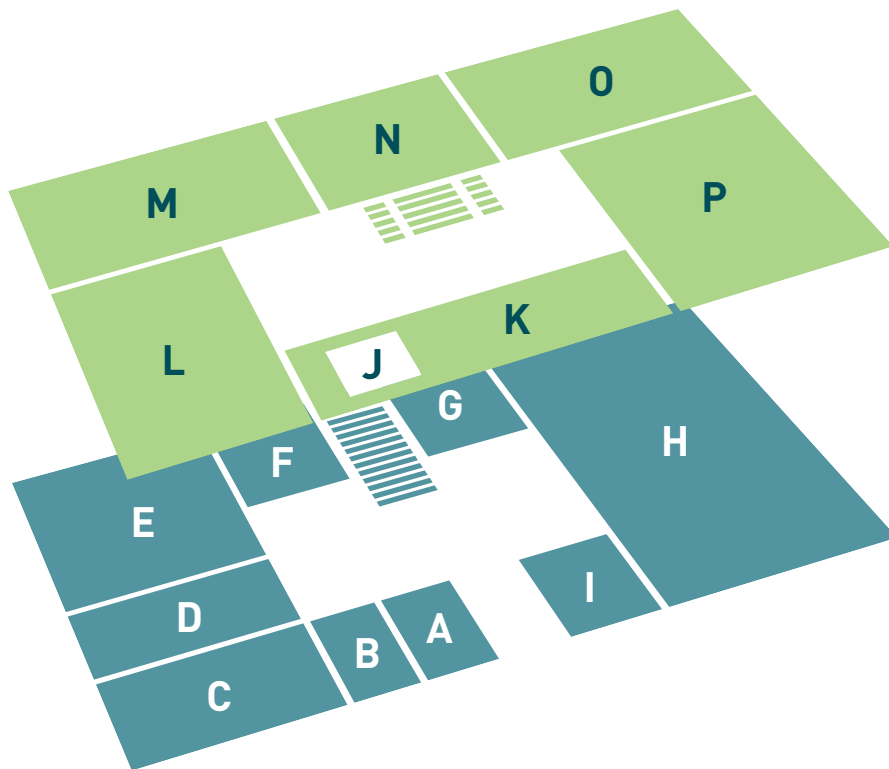
A two-day programme of Lida Abdul's works in film. The first day is a selection of her works, while the second day shows films selected by her. Check the website for details.

Please note: Between the change from Part 1: *Molten States* to Part 2: *Collision Course*, the exhibition will remain open with the majority of galleries accessible to visitors. Please check calendar and website for further details.

All information is correct at time of going to print. Check website for timings and for details of other 'happenings' taking place throughout the season.

Unless otherwise stated, events run throughout regular gallery hours (see opening times on reverse).

# FLOOR PLAN



## GROUND FLOOR

- A** TICKETS
- B** SHOP
- C** CINEMA
- D** TOUCHING SPACE
- E** TOADBALL TV
- F** LADIES TOILETS
- G** GENTS TOILETS
- H** FLASH
- I** CLOAKROOM

## FIRST FLOOR

- J** BAR
- K** EVENT HORIZON

## MOLTEN STATES

- L** RENÉ POLLESCH
- M** OLAF NICOLAI
- N** JULIEN ROSEFELDT
- O** CATHERINE SULLIVAN
- P** JULIEN ROSEFELDT

## TICKETS

- Visit Ticket** £6
- Multiple Visit Ticket** £25 (8 visits)
- Concessions** £5

(available at the door only)  
 To book in advance visit  
[www.royalacademy.org.uk/gskcontemporary](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/gskcontemporary) or call 08716 20 40 20\*

\*Booking fees apply. Calls cost 10p per minute from a standard BT landline.

Royal Academy of Arts  
 6 Burlington Gardens  
 London W1

[www.royalacademy.org.uk/gskcontemporary](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/gskcontemporary)

## OPENING TIMES

- Sunday and Monday 12noon-10pm
- Tuesday and Wednesday 12noon-6pm
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12noon-12 midnight
- Closed 24 and 25 December

## ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE SEASON HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY

- The Henry Moore Foundation
- Goethe Institut London
- IFA (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V.)
- The Flow Foundation
- The A Foundation
- Pro Helvetia
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