

REBECCA LENNON

LIQUID

Southwark Park Galleries // Dilston Gallery, SE16 2DD

15-29 March 2020, performances 2-4pm

Launch event 14 March, 2-5pm

Refreshments served throughout the afternoon

Final performance at 3.30pm

Southwark Park Galleries and Matt's Gallery present their annual collaboration: a new performance work by Rebecca Lennon commissioned specially for Dilston Gallery. *LIQUID* is a poly-vocal live performance and surround sound composition featuring five performers, and a two channel video.

Typical of the artist's work, *LIQUID* combines complex themes arranged linguistically, sonically and visually in an immersive audio-visual assemblage. *LIQUID* deals with urgent themes around finance, housing, the body, the voice and the porous nature of selfhood. Performers decked out in black velour perform alongside two video screens while percussive rhythms of vocal sounds, tics and hums overlap with looped and repeated textual fragments played out via a circle of speakers.

A key point of departure is a story describing the removal of roof tiles from a house to allow water seepage, causing it to rot from the inside and becoming derelict. A performed text and a body of video work describe and viscerally conjure this toxic seepage as a movement of liquid into and out of a body carried by a mosquito; out of the drains of a house, filling the street due to an intrusion of Knotweed, out of the mouth of the animal in absence of a voice; and into the body of the Vampire, via the demand of a melancholic thirst.

Lennon uses the image of planned dereliction as a way into thinking about ownership and its collapse. She departs, using the house as a stand in for the body, to think about how the self is constituted physically and through language, how a voice might be allowed or denied its right to speak and how rhythm may operate as an act of self (and collective) care.

A new text by Rebecca Jagoe will be published alongside the performance series.

***LIQUID* is a 20-minute performance presented on loop on Saturdays and Sundays in March. Performances will start at 2, 2.30, 3, and 3.30pm with a 10-minute interval between each rendition.**

Performers: Carl Gent, Jennifer Hodgson, Sophie Jung, Stella Kajombo, Rebecca Lennon and Chooc Ly Tan

LIQUID is part of a new body of work being developed by Rebecca Lennon with Matt's Gallery and Southwark Park Galleries in London, and Primary, Nottingham.

Rebecca Lennon is supported by an Arts Council England, Developing Your Creative Practice Grant. This exhibition is made possible thanks to Southwark Council, Arts Council England, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Kunstraum, and Forma.

Notes to editors

An artist based in London, **Rebecca Lennon** works across media including video, text, performance, sound and music to think about and play with the non-linear shapes and rhythms of the voice, memory and the speaking body. Exhibiting internationally, across contemporary art and experimental music platforms, radio and recently, publishing, Rebecca graduated from the Slade School of Art London MFA in 2010, and is a visiting lecturer at universities such as Arts University Bournemouth and Royal College of Art. Recent exhibitions and performances have included Essex Rd 6, 2020, Kunstrraum, 2019 and The Whitstable Biennial 2018, as well as solo shows at Matt's Gallery, London and Almanac, Turin.

Rebecca will feature a text in *On Care*, an anthology of artists writing published by MA Bibliothèque 2020, and has had several sound works featured on BBC Radio 3's Late Junction throughout 2019 and 2020.

Founded in 1984 by The Bermondsey Artists' Group, **Southwark Park Galleries** (formerly CGP London) is a non-profit art organisation set across two contrasting spaces in the heart of Southwark Park, Bermondsey. Over the past 35 years Southwark Park Galleries has commissioned over 160 free exhibitions by emergent, overlooked and established British and international artists. Southwark Park Galleries is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. Southwark Park Galleries exist to champion artistic practice across all disciplines, supporting the careers of both artists and curators alike.

Matt's Gallery is one of the UK's leading art galleries and has supported the making of new and innovative work since its foundation in 1979. In 2014 director Robin Klassnik was awarded an OBE, in recognition of his contribution to contemporary art. Since 2016 Matt's Gallery has resided in temporary spaces in Bermondsey whilst the gallery prepares to move to its new space in Nine Elms. Matt's Gallery is registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

Primary is a contemporary visual arts organisation, which supports artistic research and production through an innovative public programme and provision of studio and workshop spaces. Opened in 2012, Primary was established as a registered charity in 2006, and is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

For further information

Matt's Gallery mattsgallery.org 020 7237 0398

Southwark Park Galleries southwarkparkgalleries.org 020 7237 1230