

# REBECCA LENNON THE KNOT COMMONS

Southwark Park Galleries // Dilston Gallery, SE16 2DD  
15–31 October 2021, Friday–Sunday, 11am–5pm  
Performances Sunday 31 October, 11am–5pm  
(free, no booking required)

*THE KNOT COMMONS* is a new large-scale poly-vocal three channel video and surround sound composition with performance by Rebecca Lennon. It is the annual collaborative commission by Southwark Park Galleries and Matt's Gallery created especially for Dilston Gallery.

Originally planned for March 2020, the show was postponed, re-thought and re-designed over the successive national lockdowns. *THE KNOT COMMONS* became the second part in a series of works, following on from *Liquid i* at Primary, Nottingham in 2020/2021, building on themes explored there. *Liquid i* was accompanied by a text written by Sophie Jung. A new text by Rebecca Jagoe will be published alongside this exhibition.

The exhibition expands a two-part spatial composition of vocal loops, textual knots, and imagery inhabiting / moving around two different repurposed civic architectures, a school and a deconsecrated church. The work deals with urgent themes around finance, housing, the body, the voice and the porous nature of selfhood, combining complex and poetic themes arranged linguistically, sonically and visually in an immersive audio-visual assemblage. Characters are decked out in uniform black velour. Percussive vocal sounds, tics and hums build up spatial rhythms like an incantation. Entanglements of bodies unravel; public and private, human and non-human. An aerialist loops in air, mosquitoes spit blood in rhythms, mouths speak multiple voices, while others spit water like fountains.

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 become derelict. This body of video and sound 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 in absence of a voice; 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 it may also be repurposed for self (and collective) care, a commons.

Performers, voices and characters in the video: Carl Gent, Jennifer Hodgson, Stella Kajombo, Rebecca Lennon, Chooc Ly Tan, Leon Dee and aerialist Mim Wheeler. Animated fountains by Carla Mackinnon.

**LIQUID i the Knot Commons** is 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 and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

### Notes to editors

An artist based in London, **Rebecca Lennon** works across media to produce large-scale multi-channel sound and video installations, musical releases, performances, texts and visual scores. Using rhythm and musicality within video and sound editing to disturb narrative flow, Rebecca evokes a psychological and neurodivergent relationship to language, words, loops and noise - meditating on memory and its voices, while spatialising layers of sound, vibrations and visceral texts that fragment and repeat. Recent video and texts focus on entanglements of ownership, forms of housing (and their collapse), embodiment, porosity and questions of what constitutes a voice.

She has exhibited internationally across contemporary art and experimental music platforms, radio and publishing. Graduating from the Slade School of Art London MFA in 2010, Rebecca is a visiting lecturer at Universities such as Arts University Bournemouth and Royal College of Art, London.

Upcoming/recent exhibitions include Cafe Oto, London (2022); Galeria Duarte Sequiera, Braga (2021); Kaunas Film Festival, Lithuania (2020); and Whitstable Biennale (2018). Solo exhibitions include Southwark Park Galleries, London (2021); Primary, Nottingham (2020); Almanac, Turin (2019); and Matt's Gallery, London (2018). Rebecca recently featured in 'On Care' published by MA BIBLIOTHÈQUE (2020); BBC Late Junction (2019–20); and on a collection of artist interpretations of scores by writer Salomé Voegelin (2022). She is currently pursuing her PhD at Goldsmiths across Fine Art and Music.

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 37 years Southwark Park Galleries has commissioned over 450 free exhibitions by emergent, overlooked and established British and international artists. Southwark Park Galleries is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (ACE NPO) and registered charity. 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 contemporary 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 ACE NPO.

**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 ACE NPO.

### For further information

Southwark Park Galleries // [southwarkparkgalleries.org](https://southwarkparkgalleries.org) // 020 7237 1230

Matt's Gallery // [mattsgallery.org](https://mattsgallery.org) // 020 7237 0398



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