

FLORENCE PEAKE FACTUAL ACTUAL: ENSEMBLE

16 April - 2 July 2023 // Preview: 15 April, 12-5pm with drinks reception 3-5pm
Performances: 15 April, 29 April, 27 May, 10 June, 12-4pm

Southwark Park Galleries' exhibition programme launches this spring with a major new interdisciplinary installation by internationally renowned choreographer & visual artist Florence Peake. Peake will present a monumental painting installation using her distinctive gestural, movement-marking techniques and a series of durational performances.

FACTUAL ACTUAL: Ensemble is co-commissioned by Southwark Park Galleries, London and Towner Eastbourne, in partnership with Fruitmarket, Edinburgh, where the exhibition will tour later in 2023 and 2024.

In Lake Gallery, one continuous 45m long, floor-to-ceiling frieze-style painting, *Ensemble*, envelops the gallery's walls and the viewer. Respected for her queer approach and non-hierarchical process, Peake often works with a multitude of collaborators. This new painting was created through a series of workshops held at Southwark Park Galleries in November 2022. Working with some of our regular community groups – over 55s, young people and families – participants were invited to mark the canvas with Peake through their collective movements, which Peake then further developed in her studio over a period of three months.

Re-interpreting and expanding on a performance at the National Gallery in 2021, *FACTUAL ACTUAL* will respond to the high vaulted ceiling of Dilston Gallery exhibiting seven towering paintings on unstretched canvases that levitate above a mirrored lake-like dance floor. The canvases will be draped like carcasses, waiting to be animated. Five dancers using a rig and pulley system will hoist, lower, collapse, fold and drag the paintings in four-hour durational performances. Shifting between flat and sculptural forms, the paintings create a cacophony of sound, a sea-like sonic soundscape live in the gallery.

Known for her often radical and joyfully irreverent work, Peake's dual exhibition will interrogate what a painting can be, resisting a classical tradition and the idea of the white cube space as the static frame. Painting is brought vividly to life through the physical movement of the body and its chaotic relationship to material objects.

'My performance practice will often take the methodologies, gestures and actions of artmaking as a subject and material for the generation of the performance work. With FACTUAL ACTUAL: Ensemble I want to take some of this thinking in relation to the actions behind the surface of painting.'

– Florence Peake

This touring commission is made possible with thanks to Arts Council England, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts, The London Community Foundation, The Paul and Louise Cooke Endowment and Ada's Circle.

NOTES TO EDITOR

ARTIST BIO

FLORENCE PEAKE (b. 1973, based in London) works internationally and across the UK in galleries, theatres and the public realm.

Recent exhibitions and performances have been presented at: British Art Show 9, a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition shown across 12 venues in the cities of Aberdeen, Wolverhampton, Manchester and Plymouth (2021-22); Arsenic Theatre and Sudpol Theatre, Switzerland (2020); 58th Venice Biennale (2019); CRAC Occitanie, Sète, France (2018); London Contemporary Music Festival (2018); Bosse & Baum, London (2019); De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea (2018); Palais De Tokyo, Paris, France (2018); Hayward Gallery, London (2018); Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge (2017); Studio Leigh, London (2017); Sara Zanin Gallery, Rome, Italy (2017); Serpentine, London (2016); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2016); ICA, London (2016); Modern Art Oxford (2016); BALTIC, Newcastle (2013); Frieze, London (2013); and Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2012).

Peake has an Advanced Teaching Certificate in Skinner Releasing Technique (2011); an MA in Contemporary Performance Making, (Distinction), Brunel University (2007-09); and Diploma in Dance, Lewisham College (1992-94).

Peake is represented by Richard Saltoun Gallery, London.

ABOUT SOUTHWARK PARK GALLERIES

Southwark Park Galleries is an interdisciplinary arts organisation set across two distinctive venues – including a Grade II Listed deconsecrated church and purpose built art gallery – and a community garden in the heart of Southwark Park, southeast London. Through our locally relevant and internationally significant programme of exhibitions, performances and public engagement, our mission is to connect people using the intersection of art, nature and culture to facilitate meaning and wellbeing across communities.

Established in 1984, we have a thriving reputation as a test site for experimental practice by commissioning artists at a critical stage to make their most ambitious work. Our public engagement and community work welcomes everyone.

Our location means we can provide a rare civic offer of vital green and open cultural space for our park neighbours and beyond.

As we approach our 40th anniversary celebrations in 2024, we look forward to strengthening our local, national and international partnerships; amplifying our purpose of making creativity central in building a more engaged and inclusive society.

Southwark Park Galleries is the operating name of the Bermondsey Artists' Group, a registered charity (no. 1073851) and is a Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO).

LISTING INFORMATION

Florence Peake // *FACTUAL ACTUAL: Ensemble*

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Southwark Park Galleries // Lake Gallery & Dilston Gallery

Free entry

Touring to Fruitmarket, Edinburgh, in October 2023 and Towner Eastbourne, in spring 2024.

Events //

Florence Peake in-conversation with art writer and critic Louisa Buck

Thursday 18 May, 6:30-8pm

Southwark Park Galleries // Dilston Gallery

Free, booking required via Eventbrite

Website: southwarkparkgalleries.org

Instagram: @southwarkparkgalleries

Twitter: @SPark_Galleries

Facebook: @SouthwarkParkGalleries

TRANSPORT

Transport Stations: Canada Water, Surrey Quays, Bermondsey Canada Water on the Jubilee and London Overground Lines is 7 minutes' walk from Southwark Park. Bus routes: 1, 47, 188, 199, 225, 381, 395, P12, C10 There is up to 4 hours free parking within Southwark Park.

For further press information, please contact

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