

DICTATOR(SHIP)

A floating performance of 'refugee-dictators' and exhibition to reflect upon the distribution of power through subversion and satire



On Saturday, 24th March 2018, from 11 am to 1 pm on Regent's Canal, London (between *Little Venice* - Paddington, and *Camden Lock* - Camden Town), a collective of five artists working in conjunction with Goldsmiths, University of London, will enact a performance entitled 'DICTATOR(SHIP)'. It will be a carnivalesque 'Ship of Fools' of imaginary dictators forced to flee from their countries seeking protection as if they were refugees. An exhibition produced by the artists will showcase an installation and a set of video documentation that generates reflection around power, oppression and refugees. It will run from Sunday 25th to Wednesday 28th March 2018 at St. James Church exhibition space at Goldsmiths University.

The project was inspired by research on the history of Haiti, in which cultural mediums such as 'KANAAVAL' play a significant role in political and social protest. It comes in the context of Donald Trump recently calling Haiti and other Caribbean and African countries "*shithole countries*". The work asks what role art can play in terms of generating awareness around these issues? Does it have the power to raise questions and open new debates?

Playing with the satirical and subversive nature of the carnivalesque medium, the artists will dress up as imaginary dictators. They will wear self-designed fanciful and ironic hybrid costumes, which mix political and dictatorial aesthetics with the artists' personal re-interpretation. During the performance the artists will enact a set of prepared and improvised scenes, in order to establish an interaction with the audience. The exhibition installation conceived by the same artists will be showcased alongside other art installations and projects, all inspired by Haiti.

A panel discussion led by the curator *Erica Capecchi*, will be held on Monday 26th of March from 4 - 6 pm. This will include Dictator(ship) artist *Eef Veldkamp*, *Fiona Compton* (independent St. Lucian photographer and artist), *Julie Angeyo* (founder of Anydawe Children and Family Welfare Association), *Alessandra Cianetti* (live art curator and founder of performingborders) and *Xavier De Sousa* (independent performance maker, curator and producer).

Dates, hours and locations

Performance

Date: Saturday 24th March 2018
Time: 11^{am} - 1^{pm}
Location: Regent's Canal, from Little Venice to Camden Lock

Exhibition

Date: Sunday 25th until Wednesday 28th March 2018
Opening hours: 12^{pm} - 8^{pm}
Official opening: 6^{pm} - Monday 26th of March 2018
Location: St. James Hatcham, Church exhibition space, Goldsmiths College, New Cross, SE14 6NW
Entrance: Free

Panel discussion

Date: Monday 26th of March
Time: 4^{pm} - 6^{pm}
Location: St. James Hatcham, Church exhibition space, Goldsmiths College, New Cross, SE14 6NW
Entrance: Free

Curated by: Erica Capecchi
Developed by: Erica Capecchi, Eef Veldkamp, Barry & Spencer, Ariel Lien and Seungha Lee.

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