

PRESS RELEASE

Practice in Dialogue
In Whose Eyes?
4 July – 5 August 2018

Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall
Wednesday – Sunday, 11–5pm
Preview: Tuesday 3 July, 6.30–8.30pm

Live performance by Catherine Long Thursdays and Saturdays 12–4pm (except Saturday 14 July).
Live performance by Rose Gibbs, Catherine Long and Martina Schmuecker as part of

Art Night London: Saturday 7 July, 6pm–1am.

Symposium: Sunday 29 July, 11–4pm

IN WHOSE EYES? SUBJECTIVITY–REPRESENTATION–POWER

Miriam Austin | Ingrid Berthon-Moine | Cécile Emmanuelle Borra | Phoebe Collings-James | Rose Gibbs | Lora Hristova | Catherine Long | Ope Lori | Anja Olofgörs | Lauren Schneider | Martina Schmuecker | NT

How can feminist art intervene in dominant culture when the conditions of female representation are so overly determined by the constraints of objectification, sexualisation, violence and racism? This, for artists, is the vexed question.

Taking the act of looking as a starting point, the artists who have collectivised as Practice in Dialogue explore questions of female subjectivity, representation and power in contemporary Western culture. Who is made visible – or excluded – and how they are represented in culture is highly political and impacts on people's lives in numerous intersectional ways. At the same time, the act of looking is never neutral, where we look from and our privilege or marginalisation shapes what we see. The Australian feminist philosopher Elizabeth Grosz asserts that feminism is deeply engaged with the issue of representation primarily because women's invisibility in dominant culture was one of the catalysts for the women's liberation movement. Visual art remains a key site of cultural (re)production and is in direct dialogue with mainstream culture: the two visual fields borrowing imagery from each other in a reciprocal and cannibalistic relationship.

For a ticket to the Symposium on 29 July with keynote speaker Griselda Pollock [book here](#)

In Whose Eyes? is a collaborative exhibition by Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall and Practice in Dialogue jointly curated by Beaconsfield, Rose Gibbs and Catherine Long. The exhibition is supported by Arts Council England, the Swedish Arts Council and CCW Graduate School. Beaconsfield events for [Art Night London](#) are additionally supported by Lambeth Council and Cockayne Foundation.

Notes for Editors:

Practice in Dialogue is a group of artists dedicated to examining the formal structures and strategies of historical feminist art alongside their own art practices. Founded in 2014, Practice in Dialogue evolved out of a need to create a space in which to think critically about feminist art practices, where these are seen as ongoing works-in-progress that call for continual self-reflection and analysis. At a moment when capitalism has co-opted the language of feminism in mainstream media, the backlash against feminism has taken on its most virulent form: behaviours and products that are all part of the capitalist arsenal are recast as feminist tools of 'empowerment', while the derivation of that power remains strikingly unexamined. In this context the need for thorough and interrogative dialogue has become all the more urgent if feminism is to retain its potency.

The group have met on a regular basis over the last four years and previously shown work together at the ICA and The Showroom. Participating artists are: Miriam Austin, Ingrid Berthon-Moine, Cécile Emmanuelle Borra, Phoebe Collings-James, Rose Gibbs, Lora Hristova, Catherine Long, Ope Lori, Anja Olofgörs, Lauren Schneider, Martina Schmuecker, NT.

Art Night London 2018

Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall opens its entire site to Art Night. The exhibition *In Whose Eyes?* by the Feminist collective Practice in Dialogue opens late until 11pm in the Upper Space. At 7pm artists Dafna Talmor and Mel Jordan open a public discussion, *Collectivising Vauxhall*, about action and sustainability. Performances throughout the site from 6pm segue into *Spirit_Off* an immersive sound and performance experience in Beaconsfield's Arch space, 8pm-1am, featuring **Antenes** (New York City), **Ewa Justka** (Oram award), **Rose Gibbs**, **Catherine Long** and **Martina Schmuecker** (Practice in Dialogue) and concluding with **Rachael House's** Feminist Disco, putting the 'disco' into 'discourse'.

Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall is a unique, non-profit, politically engaged, artist-led entity, placing equal emphasis on audiences and artists. Founded as an educational charity in 1994 with the desire to fill a niche between the institution, the commercial and the 'alternative', Beaconsfield's reputation rests on the staging of an influential programme of commissions (beacons) in a range of art mediums (field). The organisation's function as a primary research vehicle is particularly notable for pioneering developments in time-based and sound art as well as curatorial practice.

More information: press@beaconsfield.ltd.uk

BEACONS 