

LUX  
Waterlow Park Centre  
Dartmouth Park Hill  
London  
N19 5JF

tel +44 (0)20 3141 2960  
fax +44 (0)20 7561 0570  
www.lux.org.uk



EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

## **RIGHT OF WAY**

### **Ufuoma Essi, Dan Guthrie, Arjuna Neuman**

18 January – 18 March 2023

Wed - Sat, 12 - 4pm

LUX, Waterlow Park Centre, London, N19 5JF, UK

URL: [bit.ly/3e8OKSe](https://bit.ly/3e8OKSe)



**LUX is pleased to announce an exhibition of newly commissioned moving image works by Ufuoma Essi, Dan Guthrie and Arjuna Neuman exploring representations of the English rural landscape.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic – as people realised anew the importance of nature and open spaces for our health and mental wellbeing – inequalities of access to rural land were being exposed, revealing the disconnect felt by millions of people towards the English countryside. A 2019 government review found that many Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people view the countryside as an ‘irrelevant white, middle-class club’, concluding that this divide is only going to widen as society changes and ‘the countryside will end up being irrelevant to the country that actually exists’. These new commissions interrupt and challenge the enduring perception of the rural idyll as an untouched and unchanging space where time stands still and asks how can our natural spaces be home to difference, protest, and activism.

**Ufuoma Essi's** Pastoral Malaise explores the absences within the rural pastoral environments that are often framed by romanticism and picturesque conventions, constructed as tourist sites and refuges in rural landscapes across Britain.

**Dan Guthrie's** black strangers seeks a man called 'Daniel' recorded on a bishop's transcript held in Gloucestershire Archives, who was buried in Nympsfield in 1719 and described as 'a black stranger'. Whilst walking, Dan talks directly to Daniel, speculating about the parallels between him and his namesake, and about how his experience in his hometown of Stroud mirrors that of 'Daniel'.

**Arjuna Neuman's** Syncopated Green reflects on the history of outdoor free parties in the English countryside, using rave music, past and present, to help forget the 'official' portrayal of England as picturesque, nostalgic, white, and rural. The film invites rave music into the English landscape – turning imperial history inside out. Somewhere between a music video, a memoir and an essay, it asks: how might our future be different if we had other histories to lean on – and dance with?

Right of Way has been commissioned with the Independent Cinema Office as part of an archival film touring project celebrating the history and legacy of the National Trails in England.

The exhibition is accompanied by a selection of related works from the LUX Collection.

## **RELATED EVENT**

### **Breakfast Opening: Wed 18 January 2023, 9-10.30am**

Join us for a breakfast opening and an opportunity to preview the exhibition, with coffee, tea and pastries in our conservatory.

### **Screening/Talk: Thu 23 February 2023**

Right of Way Screening and artists' talk at BFI Southbank. Screening of commissions with archival films followed by a discussion with artists and curator Jonathan Ali.

# NOTES FOR EDITORS

**Ufuoma Essi** is a filmmaker and artist from south-east London whose work spans film, moving image, photography and sound. Using the archive as an essential medium, her work revolves around Black feminist epistemology and the configuration of displaced histories, with the aim of interrogating and disrupting the silences and gaps of political and historical narratives. Recent screenings, solo and group exhibitions include South London Gallery, Public Gallery, London, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague; Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, Berwick; Lisson Gallery, London; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Maysles Documentary Center, New York; and Black Star Film Festival, Philadelphia. Recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include *Is My Living in Vain* at Gasworks, London (Autumn 2022) and *Te Uru Waitakere* Contemporary Gallery, Auckland (2023).

**Dan Guthrie** is an artist, researcher and writer whose practice often explores representations of Black Britishness, with an interest in examining how they manifest themselves in rural areas. In the last year, he has been a participant in East Bristol Contemporary's Day School programme, a panel member for Stroud District Council's review of streets, buildings, statues and monuments, and a part-time librarian. His work has been shown at the Whitstable Biennale, Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Focal Point Gallery, Obsidian Coast and the ICA, and he has previously worked as a submissions viewer for the London Short Film Festival and Glasgow Short Film Festival.

**Arjuna Neuman** was born on an airplane: that's why he has two passports. He is an artist, filmmaker and writer. With recent presentations at CCA Glasgow; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Manifesta 10, Marseille; Showroom Gallery, London; TPW Gallery, Toronto; Forum Expanded, Berlin Berlinale; Jameel Art Centre, Dubai; Berlin Biennial 10, Germany; Serpentine, London X Qalandia Biennial, Palestine; Gasworks, London; Bold Tendencies, London, UK; Or Gallery, Vancouver; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Istanbul Modern, Turkey; MAAT and Doclisboa, Portugal; Sharjah Biennial 13, UAE; Bergen Assembly, Norway; at NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore; the 56th Venice Biennale and SuperCommunity; Industry of Light, London; the Haus Der Kulturen der Welt; at Ashkal Alwan and the Beirut Art Centre, Lebanon; Le Gaité Lyric, Paris; the Canadian Centre for Architecture; and the Rat School of Art, Seoul amongst others. As a writer he has published essays in Relief Press, Into the Pines Press, The Journal for New Writing, VIA Magazine, Concord, Art Voices, Flaunt, LEAP, Hearings and e-flux.

**LUX** is the UK agency for the support and promotion of artists working with the moving image based in London and Glasgow. Originally founded in 1966 as the London Filmmakers Co-operative, it represents an over 50 year history of artists' engagement with the moving image in the UK. As well as organising exhibitions, education programmes, commissioning, artists professional development and research LUX represents Europe's largest collection of films and videos made by visual artists. [www.lux.org.uk](http://www.lux.org.uk)

# EVENT ACCESSIBILITY

**Getting here:** LUX is located in Waterlow Park (Highgate), near the Dartmouth Park Lodge Gate on Dartmouth Park Hill. Please note Waterlow Park is on a hill and from Archway Station there is a steep walk up Highgate Hill. You can learn more about public transport options and their accessibility [on our website](#).

**Address:** LUX, Waterlow Park Centre, Dartmouth Park Hill, London, N19 5JF, UK  
Entrance location on what3words <https://w3w.co/rates.fallen.joins>

**Step Free Access:** The LUX building is fully wheelchair accessible and there are wheelchair accessible toilet facilities.

**Auditory/Visual Access:** We have hearing loops, large print guide and magnifying glasses available in the space. The works will be presented with captions and audio description.

**Sensory Access:** Please note that the exhibition space is very dark, and the sound/noise volume is adjusted to a higher level. Let us know in advance if you require the room to be brighter or lower volume environment. The films contain flashing lights and flickering images.

Ask the reception for sitting options with backs and beanbags to lay down if they are not present in the space. Assistance dogs are welcome in all spaces at LUX. You can learn more about detailed access information on [our website here](#). If you have any access needs to attend our events please contact us at +44(0)20 3141 2960 or [events@lux.org.uk](mailto:events@lux.org.uk).

---

Image credit: Syncopated Green, Arjuna Neuman, 2022. Courtesy of the artist.  
Image Description: Against rural background with a house separated by a tall green hedge, an arm stretches through the frame, holding what appears to be a small circular mirror. The mirror shows a reflection of people carrying a large speaker on their shoulders.

For more information, images and artist interviews please contact Sun Park  
[sun@lux.org.uk](mailto:sun@lux.org.uk)

LUX is a registered charity and not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.

Company No: 4421812 VAT No: 795 9063 73  
Charity No: 1094936

 **ICO** | Independent  
Cinema  
Office



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**LUX**