

**Taking on the theme of 'On Edge', Art on the Underground  
announces 2019 programme of major new works  
from internationally renowned artists**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Art on the Underground has today announced its programme for 2019, comprising major new works from internationally renowned artists. As we approach the prospect of the UK leaving the European Union and edge towards an uncertain future, the 2019 programme will explore what it means to be 'on edge', individually, collectively, politically and socially. The 2019 programme will look at the role artists can play in developing utopian ideas of togetherness and belonging.

Bringing leading international artists to London, Art on the Underground's programme discusses the emotional weight of longing and belonging to the city as it crosses this edge. Major commissions situated across London include:

- For her first UK public commission, **Aliza Nisenbaum** will be in residence at Brixton station for two months, painting Transport for London staff.
- **Laure Prouvost** will create her first public commission in the UK, an ambitious city-wide series of signs and slogans, infiltrating all 270 London Underground stations and seen by millions of people each day.
- **Denzil Forrester** will reinterpret his seminal painting 'Three Wicked Men' from 1982 for his first public commission in over three decades.
- **Larry Achiampong** will re-imagine London Underground's iconic logo, the Roundel, in a configuration of his ongoing series, the 'Pan African Flag for the Relic Travellers' Alliance'.
- **Nina Wakeford** will present her two-year research project alongside the new Northern Line Extension programme in South London.
- For the Pocket Tube map, **Bedwyr Williams** will create one of his iconic drawings which merge art and life with a comedic twist.

Art on the Underground's 2019 programme is part of the Mayor Sadiq Khan's London is Open campaign, emphasising that, despite Brexit, London remains open to the world, open to visitors, investment, talent and ideas, creativity and opportunity. It follows a critically acclaimed 2018 programme which showcased exclusively women artists to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act.

*'Edges involve extremes. Edges are borders. Edges are very much about identity, about who you are ... Who are you?'* Ali Smith, 'On Edge', *Artful*, Hamish Hamilton, 2012

On 10 April 2019, **Aliza Nisenbaum** will present the second commission in a new series at Brixton station that uses the Brixton murals from the 1980s as inspiration. Influenced by the Mexican mural movement and its depiction of social history, Mexico City-born Nisenbaum is best known for her exquisitely painted portraits of underrepresented communities. Often lushly decorated with patterned textiles, her canvases ask for a close look in keeping with her personal connections to her subjects. For her, the process of painting portraits is a reciprocal act, one that sets up an ethical encounter in which participants give their attention and trust, creating works which challenge the hierarchies of portraiture. She will be in residency at Brixton station for two months painting TfL station staff.

In May 2019, French artist **Laure Prouvost** will create a series of new artworks utilising advertising sites, including posters, digital screens and pocket Tube maps, throughout London. Large-scale installations at international stations Heathrow and Stratford will bookend the commission from East to West London, playing with slippages in language and meaning, and inviting millions of viewers to question what they see.

**Denzil Forrester** will be the third artist in the Brixton mural programme, which will launch on 19 September 2019. Forrester's immersive large-scale paintings are largely inspired by London's urban life and the music of the West Indies which he translates into dynamic colour and movement. For his commission he will reinterpret his seminal painting 'Three Wicked Men' from 1982, which depicts the death of Winston Rose, a friend of Forrester's who died in police custody, a year before. For decades, Grenada-born Forrester's paintings have been rooted in, and provide commentary, on the Afro-Caribbean experience in London. His early paintings depicted the underground reggae scene and reflected the rising tension between the police and members of the black community in Thatcherite Britain. Through his energetic paintings he continues to make work about the past and present aspects of his life.

British-Ghanaian artist **Larry Achiampong** has been invited to reimagine London Underground's logo, the Roundel, in November. An iconic symbol synonymous with London, Achiampong will redesign the red, white and blue logo colours into a configuration of the traditional pan-African colours of red, black, gold and green as part of his ongoing series 'PAN AFRICAN FLAG FOR THE RELIC TRAVELLERS' ALLIANCE', an Afrofuturistic icon that represents a move towards unity and equilibrium.

In November 2019, British artist **Nina Wakeford** will realise her two-year research project alongside the new Northern Line Extension programme in South London. Examining the politics of representation in the area from the longstanding LGBTQ+ community to the women engineers building the Northern Line Extension, Wakeford explores how we balance memory, nostalgia and future visions of and for a

place. In an area undergoing huge changes above and below ground where do these invisible stories and memories go?

**Bedwyr Williams** takes on the December 2019 cover of the Pocket Tube map. The Welsh artist's work has long drawn on ideas of belonging – to the art world, clubs, societies, Wales and the United Kingdom – using satire, caricature and irony to highlight idiocy and injustice. His wry humour often questions cultural snobbery and elevates minute observations to a monumental scale.

*“Our 2019 programme reminds us that edges are not neutral, that crossing a threshold can question your very right to belong, to locate yourself, to be seen and to have your voice heard. Contemporary discourse has a tendency to emphasise similarities, a position at odds with the complex make-up of societies and our individual experiences within them; forcing complex experiences into a single definition of culture risks misrepresentation and dislocation. Through our 2019 commissions, the programme interrogates questions applied unequally in society; who is unprotected, overlooked, ignored or mistranslated and what artistic positions might counter this?”* commented Eleanor Pinfield, Head of Art on the Underground.

Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons said: *“Art on the Underground has transformed the Tube into London’s largest gallery bringing art to millions of people travelling across the capital each day.*

*“After a year-long programme of women artists to celebrate the centenary of women’s suffrage, Art on the Underground once again will bring thought-provoking art to our daily commute. Next year’s ‘On Edge’ commissions will welcome international artists and show that even if the country heads towards Brexit, London is open to people, ideas and creative talent.”*

## Notes to Editors

### About Art on the Underground

Art on the Underground invites artists to create projects for London’s Underground that are seen by millions of people each day, changing the way people experience their city. Incorporating a range of artistic media from painting, installation, sculpture, digital and performance, to prints and custom Tube map covers, the programme produces critically acclaimed projects that are accessible to all, and which draw together London’s diverse communities. Since its inception, Art on the Underground has presented commissions by UK-based and international artists including Jeremy Deller, Yayoi Kusama, Mark Wallinger, and Tania Bruguera, allowing the programme to remain at the forefront of contemporary debate on how art can shape public space. Art on the Underground is funded by Transport for London.

### Artist biographies

**Aliza Nisenbaum** (b. 1977 Mexico City) lives and works in Harlem, New York. Nisenbaum completed a BFA and MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Recently she has presented her work at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Minneapolis Institute of Art; Whitney Biennial 2017, New York; The Flag Art Foundation, New York; Institute of Contemporary Arts at Maine College of Art; Biennial of the Americas, Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; Rufino Tamayo Painting Biennial, Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City; and is represented by Anton Kern gallery, New York and Mary Mary, Glasgow. She is Assistant Professor of Visual Arts at Columbia.

**Laure Prouvost** was born in Lille, France (1978) and is currently based in London and Antwerp. She received her BFA from Central St Martins, London in 2002 and studied towards her MFA at Goldsmiths College, London. She also took part in the LUX Associate Programme. Solo exhibitions include: 'Ring, Sing and Drink for Trespassing', Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2018); 'They Are Waiting for You', BASS Museum, Miami, USA (2018); 'They Are Waiting for You', Performance for stage at the McGuire Theatre, Minneapolis, USA; 'the wet wet wanderer', as part of 'Para|Fiction', Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2017); 'softer and rounder so as to shine through your smooth marble', SALT Galata, Istanbul, Turkey (2017); 'And she will say: hi her, ailleurs, to higher grounds...', Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2016); 'GDM – Grand Dad's Visitor Center', Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan, Italy (2016); 'all behind, we'll go deeper, deep down and she will say,' Museum Für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt Am Main, Frankfurt, Germany (2016); 'Into All That is Here', Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, China (2016); 'we would be floating away from the dirty past', Haus Der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2015); 'For Forgetting', New Museum, New York, USA (2014); 'While You Weren't Looking', Laboratorio Arte Alameda, Mexico City, Mexico (2014); Max Mara Art Prize for Women, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK and Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2013); 'Laure Prouvost / Adam Chodzko' as part of 'Schwitters in Britain', Tate Britain, London, UK (2013); The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK (2012); and 'All These Things Think Link', Flat Time House, London, UK. In 2013, Prouvost won the MaxMara Art Prize for Women and was the recipient of the Turner Prize. Prouvost was selected to represent France at the 58th International Art Biennial Venice in 2019. In February 2019, MuHKA in Antwerp will present *AM-BIG-YOU-US LEGSICON*, a major exhibition on the practice of Laure Prouvost. Laure Prouvost is represented by Lisson Gallery, Carlier | Gebauer and Galerie Nathalie Obadia.

**Denzil Forrester** (b.1956 Grenada, West Indies) lives and works in Truro, Cornwall. Forrester came to England at the age of eleven. After completing his BA at the Central School of Art and his MA at the Royal College in London, Forrester won the Rome Scholarship in 1983, followed by the Harkness Fellowship, which took him to New York for two years. In 1987 he received the Korn/Ferry International Award for his painting 'Carnival Dub' at the Royal Academy Summer Show in London. In 1991 he was awarded a touring exhibition by the Harris Museum & Gallery, Preston. In 2000 he was awarded the Diana King/Scottish Gallery Award for his painting 'Bag Bag' at the Royal Academy. His work is included in the collections of Tate, Arts Council and the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston.

**Larry Achiampong** is an artist based in London. His solo and collaborative projects employ imagery, aural and visual archives, live performance and sound to explore ideas surrounding class, cross-cultural and post-digital identity. With works that examine his communal and personal heritage – in particular, the intersection between pop culture and the postcolonial position, Achiampong crate-digs the vaults of history. Recently he has used gaming mods in his work, *Voyage of The Relic Traveller* and *The Finding Fanon Trilogy* a collaboration with artist David Blandy, for which they were nominated for the 2018 Jarman Award.

**Nina Wakeford** is an artist and sociologist, teaching at both Goldsmiths (Reader in Sociology) and the Royal College of Art (Reader in Contemporary Art). As an artist she makes work that begins with what she thinks of as the unfinished business of past social movements, and the challenges of revisiting the demands and energies that these movements created.

**Bedwyr Williams** (b. 1974 St. Asaph, Wales) lives and works in Caernarfon, Wales. He studied at Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, London, and Ateliers Arnhem, The Netherlands. He is a winner of the Paul Hamlyn Award in 2005, represented Wales at the Venice Biennale 2013 and won the Derek Williams Trust Purchase Award in association with Artes Mundi 7 in 2017. He was one of ten artists commissioned by Art on the Underground to create artwork to support the London Mayor Sadiq Khan's #LondonIsOpen campaign in 2016. He has exhibited nationally and internationally with solo presentations at Barbican, London in 2016; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; Visual Centre for Contemporary Art, Carlow, Ireland; and Vestijllands Kunstpavillon, Denmark (all 2015); Tramway, Glasgow in 2014; and Ikon Gallery, Birmingham in 2012.