



Women, Community, and the Arts
Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX
22 June 2019

The Bluecoat programme brings to a close the three-day symposium organized as part of Articulating Women: Interrogating Intersectionality and Empowering Women Through Critical Engagements.

11am – 1pm

Family Workshop: ARTiculated Women: Animation workshop

We'll be joined by artist filmmaker Laura Spark to create a stop motion animation celebrating the power of women and girls around the world. This workshop has been specially devised for children and families to engage with ideas of feminism and empowerment.

1,30 – 3,20pm

The Spectre of Colonialism: Art, Feminism and Humanity in the 21st Century

Visual artists Chinar Shah, Scarlett Crawford and poet Yazzie Min will be joined by Bluecoat's Assistant Curator, Amrita Dhallu to share their work as artists and writers belonging to societies haunted by Britain's colonial history.

3,20 - 4pm

Tea and coffee

A final chance to discuss the ideas and themes of the conference over tea and coffee at Bluecoat.

Further information is available through Bluecoat website:

<http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk/events/show/events>

More details about the full programme of events are available through the project website:

<https://empowering-women.net/liverpool-symposium-3/>

Biographies

Laura Spark is a Scottish visual artist working in animation, film and performance.

A Royal College of Art graduate, her feminist horror films and kaleidoscopic pop videos play at festivals around the world, from Frightfest 2018, and London Short Film Festival 2019 in the UK, to Stoptrik 2017, Slovenia; Final Girls Festival 2018, Berlin; and Women in Horror 2018, USA.

Laura also makes animation, projection and live visuals for theatre, performance and installation, most recently working with Laura Cannell on *The Untuning of the Sky*, a new AV commission for York Mediale, 2018. Her undergraduate degree in drama brings strong theatrical elements to her work and her time as a gigging musician is demonstrated in her intuitive knowledge of music and rhythm. Drawing on themes from folk, myth, horror and psychedelia, Laura's work veers from the symbolic and related to the haunting and visceral.

Chinar Shah is artist in residence at Bluecoat for the Articulating Women project. Shah works across photography, installation and digital interventions such as her 2017 work *Apology For Sale*, which existed on the online auction website eBay. Much of Shah's work deals with photography and its implications in moments of violence and conflict. She is the founder of *Home Sweet Home*, an exhibition series that uses domestic spaces to show works of art. She also teaches at the Srishti Institute for Art, Design and Technology (Bangalore, India) and is the co-editor of *Photography in India: From Archives to Contemporary Practice* (Bloomsbury, UK, 2018). Her recent work, *A Memorial for the New Economy*, produced with publisher Reliable Copy, deals with the 2016 demonetisation of Indian 500 and 1000 rupee banknotes and the deaths occurring as a consequence of this policy.

Scarlett Crawford is an artist and educator based in London. She holds a Masters in Global Cultural and Creative Industries from the School of Oriental and African studies. Her photographic work examines the semiotics of race and class by creating images that try to portray narratives of the under represented and interrogate power structures. To mark the introduction of the Race Relations Acts in 1965, 1968 and 1976, the Parliaments Speakers Advisory Committee on Works of Art commissioned Crawford to undertake a residency to create work with communities across the UK that were impacted by the introduction of the early race discrimination legislation. As part of this project, Crawford worked with Bluecoat and young people from the Greenhouse Project and Liverpool Community Spirit's Multi-Faith Youth Council to create artworks which explore the impact of race relations legislation on their lives.

Yazzie Min is a poet, motivational speaker, empowerment coach and founder of Stand for Humanity, a movement inspired by her work campaigning for refugees since 2015. Yazzie saw that the wider problem surrounding not only the refugee crisis but indeed all other humanitarian issues, was that of apathy and a growing sense of helplessness amongst Western society. Stand for Humanity aims to break down these barriers by simply asking people to RE-connect to that which makes them human - and make a pledge to one thing solely for the sake of humanity. This serves as a reminder of the power that lies within us as individuals to make change and rather than feeling discouraged by being 'only one person' to in fact feel empowered. Through her work as both a poet and a public speaker, Yazzie Min has often responded to instances of racism, inequality and lack of education in British society.

Amrita Dhallu is a curator working across London and Liverpool. She currently holds the post of Assistant Curator at Bluecoat, Liverpool, and is undertaking research at Iniva, London. Her work focuses on providing support structures for emerging British artists of Black and Asian descent, through commissioning, creating networks and establishing intergenerational learning spaces. Her current research looks at radically positioning care and wellbeing within formal arts education and exhibition making in order for artists to re-think ways of professional development. She has recently produced *Now Let Us Shift*, an e-publication exploring an intergenerational discourse around the creativity, wellbeing and labour of women artists of colour - devised as part of her role as the 2018-19 Curatorial Assistant: Commissions at Chisenhale Gallery, London. She is also the lead artist of Camden Arts Centre's 2018-2019 PEER FORUM.