Press Release

SERPENTINE PODCAST
SEASON 4: ON PRACTICE

A three-part Serpentine Podcast series exploring why and how artists use practices such as cooking, listening and walking to bring people together to work towards change.

All episodes released 5 March 2021
https://playpodca.st/serpentine

Over the last year, through the Covid pandemic, the impact of our actions on others and the interdependence of individuals and communities has been made more apparent than ever. As the world adapts to new ways of being this three-part podcast series explores the practices that can sustain us individually and collectively – focusing on Cooking, Listening and Walking.

Hosts Amal Khalaf and Alex Thorp welcome artists, collaborators and friends to explore ideas and projects developed as part of Serpentine’s Education and Civic programme, which connects communities, artists and activists to generate responses to pressing social issues. These are projects that have been developed in collaboration with people, centred on the body, the city, and exploring injustices experienced in everyday life. Hear from Ximena Alarcón, Ain Bailey, Sam Curtis, Katouche Goll, Tim Ingold, Fozia Ismail, Jasleen Kaur, Micro Rainbow, Elia Nurvista, Portman Early Childhood Centre, Ultra-red and Voice of Domestic Workers.
Each of the three episodes is accompanied by an exercise, kindly shared by the artists, an invitation to join their practice.

**Episode 1**
*On Practice: Cooking* asks: How can cooking bring people together and provide nourishment and care? What are the ways that cooking together can open up difficult conversations about racism, colonialism and migration? This episode highlights artist Jasleen Kaur’s collaboration with women from the Portman Early Childhood centre through the *Changing Play* project *Everyday Resistance*, and includes Yogyakarta based artist and researcher Elia Nurvista’s reflections on food and power, and researcher and cook Fozia Ismail speaking about food as resistance.

**Episode 2**
*On Practice: Listening* asks: How can listening form a space of political encounter? What is the difference between listening and hearing? How do other people hear? This episode features artist Ain Bailey’s collaboration with Micro Rainbow alongside recordings from Pauline Oliveros’ tuning meditations, a sound piece from artist collective Ultra-red and a contribution from academic and sound practitioner Ximena Alarcón.

**Episode 3**
*On Practice: Walking* asks: How does walking shape our experience of the city? How can it be used as a tool for resistance and change? Featuring artist Sam Curtis’s *Changing Play* project with children from the Portman Early Childhood centre, *Which Way Now*? alongside interviews with anthropologist Tim Ingold, campaign group Voice of Domestic Workers and writer Katouche Goll.

The Serpentine Podcast is produced by Reduced Listening.

For further info or for preview links contact:
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Notes to Editors

About Serpentine Education & Civic Projects
Serpentine Education and Civic Projects redefines the role of the arts during periods of transition and social change, connecting communities, artists and activists to generate responses to pressing social issues.

The programme is guided by four questions: How can we work in solidarity with those facing struggles around racism and migration? How do we care in times of austerity? How can we survive an increasingly competitive schools system? How do we navigate an increasingly surveilled and gentrified city?

The Education programme is curated by Alex Thorp, Education Curator and Jemma Egan, Assistant Education Curator.

The Civic programme is curated by Amal Khalaf, Civic Curator, Elizabeth Graham, Associate Civic Curator and Layla Gatens, Assistant Civic Curator.

To find out more visit serpentinegalleries.org/learn

About Serpentine Podcast
Serpentine Podcast is a publishing and commissioning platform for audio, supporting an occasional live broadcast radio station and a growing archive of Serpentine activity. As an editorial platform, it offers audiences access to the research and knowledge generated by the Serpentine programme while also responding to wider cultural, social and political contexts.

Initiated on the occasion of the Transformation Marathon in 2015, the Serpentine podcast is presented in thematically organised seasons that bring together the artists, writers, and thinkers of our time to explore questions around ecology, technology, and community.

Biographies: On Cooking

Jasleen Kaur
Jasleen Kaur (b.1986, Glasgow) is an artist currently living and working in London. Her work is an ongoing exploration into the malleability of culture and the layering of social histories within the material and immaterial things that surround us. Her practice examines the hierarchy of histories and labour using a range of mediums and methods including sculpture, video, conversation and cooking.
Kaur employs the cobbled together as an artistic approach, another way to understand the already made. Her refashioned objects are based on instinct and resourcefulness, reflecting a hybridity of national custom and reconsidering the realities of materiality, usage and everyday routine. Creating associations between past and present, high and low culture, mass produced and singular, she flattens hierarchies and acknowledges the less visible. A practice centering on tending her relationships with people and her understanding of materials, makes the processes employed as important as the outcomes.

Recent commissions include the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow Women’s Library, Eastside Projects and Hollybush Gardens. Her work is part of the permanent collection of the Royal College of Art and Crafts Council.

Fozia Ismail
Fozia Ismail is a scholar, cook and the founder of Arawelo Eats, an East African Supper Club which provides a research platform for exploring politics, identity and colonialism through East African food. Ismail is a researcher writing about race and British identity and has spoken at the Oxford Symposium on Food & Cookery, designed workshops with Keep It Complex, Jerwood Project Space and the Museum of London using food as a method to think through issues around race and empire in Britain today.

Fozia is also part of Dhaquan Collective, a feminist art collective of Somali women, centering the voices of womxn and elders in the community, and privileging co-creation and collaboration. She is currently a City Fellow for the Arnolfini, Bristol.

Elia Nurvista
Elia Nurvista is an artist who lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia whose practice focuses on food production and distribution and its broader social and historical implications. Food in various forms — from the planting of crops, to the act of eating and the sharing of recipes — are Nurvista’s entry point to exploring issues of economics, labour, politics, culture and gender. Her practice is also concerned with the intersection between food and commodities, and their relationship to colonialism, economic and political power, and status. She runs Bakudapan, a food study group that undertakes community and research projects, and her social research forms the background of her individual projects, presented through mixed media installations, food workshops and group discussion. Her previous installations use a range of materials from crystalline sugar sculptures to sacks of rice, often incorporating video or mural painting and an element of audience interaction.

Biographies: On Listening

Ain Bailey
Ain Bailey is a sound artist and DJ. She facilitates workshops considering the role of sound in the formation of identity and recently held a residency at the ICA, London. Exhibitions in 2019 included ‘The Range’ at Eastside Projects, Birmingham; ‘RE:Respite’ at Transmission Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland, and ‘And We’ll Always Be A Disco In The Glow Of Love’, a solo show at Cubitt Gallery, London. Bailey
was also commissioned by Supernormal and Jupiter festivals to create and perform a new work, ‘Super JR’. Last year, Bailey was commissioned by Radiophrenia Glasgow, a temporary art radio station, to create a new composition entitled ‘Ode To The N.H.S.’. Currently, following a commission by Serpentine Projects, she is conducting sound workshops with LGBTI+ refugees and asylum seekers, as well as working on a commission for Savvy Contemporary’s new radio station, SAVVYZAAR.

**Micro Rainbow International**

Micro Rainbow International supports LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. Our work focuses on supporting isolated LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers who flee countries like Uganda, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and many other countries where LGBTI people face persecution. Our projects tackle isolation through workshops, peer support groups and our choir. We also support refugees into employment and skills training, and support those starting or wanting to start small businesses. Micro Rainbow opened the first safe house in the United Kingdom dedicated solely to LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees. Our brand new safe housing project is the first of its kind in the UK and provides accommodation for LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers who face homelessness or dispersal. Our social inclusion tackles isolation experienced by LGBTI asylum seekers who flee their country and, coming to a new country, usually experience feelings of withdrawal.

**Ultra-red**

In the worlds of sound art and modern electronic music, Ultra-red pursue an exchange between art and political organizing. Founded in 1994 by two AIDS activists, Ultra-red have over the years expanded to include artists, researchers and organisers from different social movements including the struggles of migration, anti-racism, participatory community development, and the politics of HIV/AIDS.

Collectively, the group have produced radio broadcasts, performances, recordings, installations, texts and public space actions (ps/o). Exploring acoustic space as enunciative of social relations, Ultra-red take up the acoustic mapping of contested spaces and histories utilising sound-based research (termed Militant Sound Investigations) that directly engage the organizing and analyses of political struggles. Ultra-red were in residence with the Serpentine Galleries’ Centre for Possible Studies from 2009 - 2013 resulting in the exhibition RE-ASSEMBLY.

**Ximena Alarcón**

Ximena Alarcón (PhD) is a sound artist and academic researcher interested in listening to in-between sonic spaces and how they are manifested in dreams, underground public transport and the migratory context. Her research focuses on creating telematic improvisations using Deep Listening®, and interfaces for relational listening. Her most recognized works are the interactive sound space Sounding Underground (IOCT-DMU, The Leverhulme Trust Fellowship 2007-2009), the series of telematic sound performances Networked Migrations (CRiSAP - UAL, 2011-2017), and INTIMAL: Interfaces for Listening Relational (RITMO-UiO, 2017-2019, Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowship). Ximena is a certified Deep Listening tutor and has taught the practice in Colombia, India, Spain, Germany, Mexico, Brazil and the UK. She is currently a tutor in the online Deep Listening certification program offered by the Center for Deep Listening (RPI), and works independently in the
second phase of the INTIMAL project that involves: an "embodied" physical-virtual system for relational listening in telematic sonic performance; a virtual territory of Latin American migrant women in Europe; and a telematic creation laboratory for the women who inhabit the INTIMAL territory.

Biographies: On Walking

Sam Curtis
Sam Curtis is an artist and curator based in London. Working with other people is central to his practice. Through dialogue, walking and making with others; his work explores ideas around agency, autonomy, exchange and labour.

He has exhibited and worked with Seymour Art Collective, Whitechapel Gallery, Edgware Road Project: Serpentine Galleries, Turner Contemporary, CREATE London, The Showroom, Eastside Projects, Arts Admin, Ateliers de Rennes Biennale, Beursschouwburg, News of the World and Pi: Artworks Istanbul. He has an MFA from Goldsmiths College and his work is represented by Division of Labour. He is currently curator at Bethlem Gallery.

The Portman Early Childhood Centre
The Portman Early Childhood Centre provides education, care and family support services for young children and their families living in the Church Street area of Westminster, North London. These include a nursery school, adult education classes, family support, employment services, parenting groups and workshops.

Tim Ingold

Voice of Domestic Workers
The Voice of Domestic Workers is an education and campaigning group calling for justice and rights for Britain’s 16,000 migrant domestic workers. They provide educational and community activities for domestic workers – including English language lessons, drama and art classes and employment advice, and mount rescues for domestic workers stuck with abusive employers. Their work seeks to en
discrimination and protect migrant domestic workers living in the UK by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare and legal advice.

**Katouche Goll**
Katouche Goll is a disability activist and writer. She is passionate about fostering a productive dialogue about the intersection of Black and disabled identities. A recent first-class grad in BA History, Katouche enjoys sharing the knowledge of her degree through her advocacy for Black disabled young people. Featured on platforms such as Buzzfeed (2016), Kandaka (2017), BBC Radio 1Xtra (2018), TABOU Magazine and BlackBallad (2020). Katouche is also a makeup enthusiast who creates online content to promote diversity in beauty and highlight issues of inclusion.