

# Re: Over everything which exists under the sky

## Press Release

### Re: Over everything which exists under the sky

**Open Studio:** Thursday May 23 - Sunday May 26, 2019, 12-6 pm

**Closing Event:** Sunday, May 26, 2019, 4-6 pm

**Address:** Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall Street, London SE11 5RH

*Re: Over everything which exists under the sky* is a collaborative and interdisciplinary project taking place at Gasworks, London, from October 2018 to May 2019. A group of international curating students from the Royal College of Art has initiated the first curatorial residency at Gasworks to run alongside the institution's long-established international artist residency programme. Over an eight-month period the curators-in-residence are transforming Gasworks' Participation Space into a temporary research studio, questioning what it means to be a *resident* in both the art world and the wider geopolitical context of restricted mobility. Current discourses around human mobility are being explored through the lens of the non-human and the extra-terrestrial:

*What are the links between human movement and that of extra-terrestrial objects, such as stars, planets, and satellites?*

*Does the 'uprooting' and 're-grounding' of plants directly speak to the construction of identity in relation to displacement?*

*What is the relationship between horizontal and vertical forms of colonisation?*

The research that has been collaboratively gathered over the duration of the project will culminate in an Open Studio between May 23 - 26 2019, mirroring the concept of the Open Studio at the end of each artist residency at Gasworks. The studio will be reconfigured through a new architectural commission by artist and scenographer **Romy Kießling**. Her work will facilitate the engagement of the audience by giving visitors a space to sit down, read, think and contribute to this collaborative investigation. The structure inhabiting the room hosts the findings gathered by the curators during their residency and provides a space for showcasing the research conducted in collaboration with different artists and their newly commissioned works.

The title *Re: Over everything which exists under the sky* quotes **Belinda Zhawi's** *Dear Whinchat*, a poem that touches upon themes of displacement and belonging from the perspective of a migrating bird. This will be the point of departure for an activity led by Zhawi during the Open Studio expanding on themes dear to her poetic, such as the concepts of home and migration, and their relation to poetry, spoken word and art.

**Mati Jhurry's** practice concerns the tension between exoticism and the exotified. Through her research, she explores the labour and politics involved in selling paradise and in performing this fantasy – particularly in the hospitality sector. She is currently undertaking a durational covert performance; a long term commitment in which she works full-time as a cabin crew member for an international airline. Jhurry will engage with the project through video calls before and during the Open Studio, as a way to check-in with the curatorial residents and to share her experiences with the audience. The calls will reflect on the collapse of the boundaries between life and art in her travelings across countries while facing the demanding realities of her labour. In reference to the tracing of flight or trade routes, **Helena Hunter** engages with the Horniman Museum's Natural History Collection, responding to its taxidermy archive. With *Falling Birds*, Hunter uses poetry and

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performance to reimagine the entangled worlds of the human and the non-human. In the Open Studio, she will combine words and x-rays of taxidermy mounts to recall stories of endangered and extinct birds that never actually existed in Britain.

In his project titled *Plant Hunters*, artist **Xinhao Cheng** challenges and questions the modernisation of natural history, in part formed by the colonial explorations conducted by western ‘plant hunters’ in the Province of Yunnan, in China. Cheng will present his field study on botanical taxonomy, questioning the use of classification systems, the principle of knowledge production and the hidden power dynamics between East and West. Addressing questions related to colonial botany, **Fatima Uzdenova** traces the journey of a palm tree to the UK and the conditions and drivers of this displacement. At Gasworks, Uzdenova will further this line of research through audio-visual recordings of her explorations from Vauxhall to Kew Gardens. Visitors will be carried on a journey outside the Open Studio and guided by a flaneuse to investigate the uprooting and regrounding of plants. In doing so, the artist touches upon themes of migration, displacement, and the quest for identity.

The pursuit for identity, especially in a diasporic context, is also one of **Marissa Malik**’s interests. By using printmaking, writing, illustration and astrology, Malik explores and challenges normative narratives of cultural assimilation and exchange. At Gasworks, Malik will engage in conversation with artist, tarot priestess and poet Daniella Valz Gen to talk about a recent astronomical event, the passing of Chiron into Aries, and explore its relation with trauma in diasporic context. **Niccolò Moronato** also uses the extra-terrestrial as a space to project human stories. In his ongoing project *Firmament*, Moronato invites the public to imagine an alternative sky as seen from another planet, declared a possible “Earth’s twin”. During the Open Studio, the artist will lead *Star Survey*, a workshop that will ask participants to compose new constellations that will be added to an *Archive of Potential Skies*.

For the duration of the project and during the Open Studio, members of the public are invited to follow the process of research via Instagram (@gasworkscuratorialresidents). At Gasworks, the audience will also be able to join the research through live events with the artists and by engaging in informal discussions with the curators in residence. In gathering multiple voices and drawing from research, speculation and lived experiences, *Re: Over everything which exists under the sky* aims at shaping a form of knowledge production that is open-ended, cooperative and widespread.

*Re: Over everything which exists under the sky* is part of the Curating Contemporary Art MA Graduate Projects 2019, at the Royal College of Art in partnership with Gasworks. The Gasworks Curatorial Residents are Linnéa Bake, Yalda Bidshahri, Carlie Yixuan Chang, Claudia Contu, Victoria Gyuleva, Jing Jin, and Lika Tarkhan-Mouravi.

## Further information about the project and accompanying public events:

Project page:

<https://www.gasworks.org.uk/participation/over-everything-which-exists-under-the-sky-2018-10-01/>

Instagram: @gasworkscuratorialresidents #gasworkscuratorialresidents

WeChat: Gasworks\_CR

## For further information or images contact:

Carlie Yixuan Chang, [cca-gasworks@rca.ac.uk](mailto:cca-gasworks@rca.ac.uk), 07512219165

Over  
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**Gasworks Curatorial Residents**

**Open Studio: Thursday May 23 - Sunday May 26, 2019, 12:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Thursday, 23 May 2019**

**Open Studio 12:00 - 6:00 pm**

12:00 - 1:00 pm

**Niccolò Moronato** *Star Survey* Workshop

Capacity: 15-20 people (please sign up via Eventbrite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-star-survey-if-you-see-something-draw-something-tickets-60471421650>)

3:00 - 5:00 pm

**Xinhao Cheng** Cyanotype Workshop

Capacity: 10-15 people (please sign up via Eventbrite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/plant-sample-making-by-cyanotype-form-your-own-collection-of-plants-tickets-60523456287>)

during the day

**Mati Jhurry** Phone call

**Friday, 24 May 2019**

**Open Studio 12:00 - 6:00 pm**

3:00 - 4:00 pm

**Fatima Uzdenova** Tea with the artist

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Reading Group: Poetry by **Belinda Zhawi**

during the day

**Mati Jhurry** Phone call

**Saturday, 25 May 2019**

**Open Studio 12:00 - 6:00 pm**

12:00 - 1:00 pm

**Niccolò Moronato** *Star Survey* Workshop

Capacity: 15-20 people (please sign up via Eventbrite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-star-survey-if-you-see-something-draw-something-tickets-60471421650>)

4:00 - 5:30 pm

**Marissa Malik** Performance lecture *Mapping Chiron: From Pisces to Aries, steam rises*, with Daniella Valz Gen & Carlos Mauricio

during the day

**Mati Jhurry** Phone call

**Sunday, 26 May 2019**

**Open Studio 12:00 - 6:00 pm / Closing Event 4:00 - 6:00 pm**

12:00 - 1:00 pm

**Niccolò Moronato** *Star Survey* Workshop

Capacity: 15-20 people (please sign up via Eventbrite:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-star-survey-if-you-see-something-draw-something-tickets-60471421650>)

during the day

**Mati Jhurry** Phone call

4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Helena Hunter** Performance *Falling Birds*

5:00 pm

**Gasworks Curatorial Residents & Romy Kießling** Open invitation to discuss and reflect on the project; drinks with the residents

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## Notes to editors:

### Gasworks

Established in 1994, Gasworks is a non-profit contemporary visual art organisation working at the intersection between UK and international practices and debates. The organisation provides studios for London-based artists; commissions emerging UK-based and international artists to present their first major exhibitions in the UK; and develops a highly respected international residencies programme, which offers rare opportunities for international artists to research and develop new work in London. All programmes are accompanied by events and participatory workshops that engage audiences directly with artists and their work.

[www.gasworks.org.uk](http://www.gasworks.org.uk)

### Royal College of Art

The RCA, the internationally renowned art and design university, provides students with unrivalled opportunities to deliver art and design projects that transform the world. A small, specialist and research-intensive postgraduate university based in the heart of London, the RCA is a high-performing institution, a radical traditionalist in a fast-paced world. The RCA's approach is founded on the premise that art, design, creative thinking, science, engineering and technology must all collaborate to solve today's global challenges.

In 2018, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales became Royal Visitor of the College. The Prince of Wales succeeded His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, who was Royal Visitor for 50 years. The RCA employs a cadre of around 1,000 professionals from around the world – spanning professors, researchers, art and design practitioners, advisers and visiting lecturers – to teach and develop students in around 30 academic programmes. RCA students are exposed to new knowledge in a way that encourages them to experiment. Working across scientific and technical canvases and beyond set boundaries, RCA students seek to solve real-world problems.

RCA opened the Burberry Material Futures Research Group in 2018 to invent sustainable materials, transform consumer experience and advance manufacturing; and the Intelligent Mobility Design Centre, supported Hyundai Kia, to lead the research agenda at the intersection of people, mobility and technology. The RCA runs joint programmes with Imperial College London and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

[www.rca.ac.uk](http://www.rca.ac.uk)

### Curating Contemporary Art MA

Established over 25 years ago the MA Curating Contemporary Art (CCA) programme is recognised as an international leader in curatorial education and training and for its commitment to collaborative group project-based work that integrates theory and practice throughout the curriculum. The CCA programme approaches the field critically, theoretically and through best practice in commissioning, curating and programming with London-based and international arts organisations and spaces. These partnerships ensure that the knowledge and understanding of these practices is grounded in the context of public audiences, urbanisation and the digital. CCA is part of the RCA's School of Arts and Humanities, led by Professor Victoria Walsh. This year's graduate project course has been led by Kelly Large with project tutors, Rebecca Heald and Shama Khanna. For information about related events and joining the CCA programme visit: [www.rca.ac.uk/cca](http://www.rca.ac.uk/cca) For more information about RCA Open Days visit:

[www.rca.ac.uk/open-days](http://www.rca.ac.uk/open-days)



Royal College of Art Graduate Exhibition 2019



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