

CCA DERRY~LONDONDERRY

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Alberta Whittle: *between a whisper and a cry* film still (2019)

ART NIGHT at CCA Derry~Londonderry in CCA Project Space, Tuesday 6 July–Saturday 17 July 2021

CCA Derry~Londonderry will be a part of [Art Night 2021](#)'s programme in hosting a series of films by Alberta Whittle. Following on from Alberta's digital residency [Creating Dangerously](#) in May 2021, we are showing *Creating dangerously (we-I insist!)*; a series of three films online and in the gallery space at 10–12 Artillery Street during the month of July 2021. Booking for this event is essential and can be done through our [online shop](#). The full run time of the three films is 68 minutes.

A screening programme of works in physical spaces by Alberta Whittle also takes place for Art Night, from 18 June to 18 July. At [Platform 2](#) – a new project space at Abergavenny train station in Wales – there will be a screening programme of works in partnership with Peak. This will be the first programme of works to be shown at Peak's new location on the train station platform. A parallel screening programme will also take place concurrently at

KLA ART produced by [32° East](#) in Uganda on 15 July and at CCA Derry~Londonderry, from 6–17 July.

*After a devastating eighteen months of socio-political catastrophe, **Creating dangerously (we-I insist!)** speculates on the optics of protest, channels of refusal, as well as the desire for pleasure and softness...Researched and produced as urgent meditations on freedom, this trilogy of films attempts to straddle a sense of looking back and looking forward whilst still being immersed in both epidemiological and political strife.*

– Alberta Whittle

business as usual: hostile environment (a REMIX) (2021) explores the ways in which political and ecological climates shape one another. Dispersed across three interconnected sites along Glasgow's Forth and Clyde Canal, the work utilises the physical canal infrastructure as both a literal and poetic route through which to reflect on the role of waterways in the voluntary and involuntary movement of people. Through creating a movable and mutating encounter, the project highlights the dual nature of the environment, as a set of conditions capable of both hostility and nurture. *business as usual: hostile environment* was produced for Glasgow International and is informed by collective thinking, making and discussion with women from the Maryhill Integration Network's Joyous Choir.

HOLDING THE LINE: a refrain in two parts (2021) is Alberta Whittle's newly commissioned film for Art Night. Taking the voice of the River Thames as a starting point, and working with science fiction writer Ama Josephine Budge, Whittle's new film will look at colonial histories and police brutality to consider our relationship to current ecological and political climates. *Holding the Line* also looks to imagined futures, offering time and space for healing and reset.

RESET (2020) explores timely questions relating to personal healing and the cultivation of hope in hostile environments, such as the present global pandemic or colonialism. Filmed across Barbados, Cuba, South Africa and the United Kingdom, *RESET* is informed by the writings of queer theorist, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, interweaving gothic imagery, fears of contagion, xenophobia and the ensuing moral panic that often follows such anxieties. *RESET*, which was co-produced and co-commissioned by Forma and Frieze, is an urgent political film that strikes the balance between grief and reflection, empathy and desire.

Alberta Whittle has been commissioned to represent Scotland at the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia – with an exhibition of new work curated by Glasgow International and commissioned by the Scotland + Venice Partnership (Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, Architecture and Design Scotland and the Scottish Government). The commission is being realised in a partnership with Art Night and others yet to be announced.

ARTIST BIO

[Alberta](#) was awarded a [Turner Bursary](#), the [Frieze Artist Award](#) and a [Henry Moore Foundation Artist Award](#) in 2020. Alberta is a Research Associate at The University of Johannesburg. She was a RAW Academie Fellow at RAW Material in Dakar in 2018 and is the [Margaret Tait Award winner for 2018/9](#).

Her creative practice is motivated by the desire to manifest self-compassion and collective care as key methods in battling anti-blackness. She choreographs interactive installations, using film, sculpture and performance as site-specific artworks in public and private spaces.

Alberta has exhibited and performed in various solo and group shows, including at Grand Union (2020), Eastside Projects (2020), DCA (2019), GoMA, Glasgow (2019), Pig Rock Bothy at the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh (2019), 13th Havana Biennale, Cuba (2019), The Tyburn Gallery, London (2019), The City Arts Centre, Edinburgh (2019), The Showroom, London (2018), National Art Gallery of the Bahamas (2018), RAW Material, Dakar (2018), FADA Gallery, Johannesburg (2018), the Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg (2017), FRAMER FRAMED, Amsterdam (2015), Goethe On Main, Johannesburg (2015), at the Johannesburg Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale, Venice (2015), and BOZAR, Brussels (2014), amongst others.

Her work has been acquired for the UK National Collections, The Scottish National Gallery Collections, Glasgow Museums Collections and The Contemporary Art Research Collection at Edinburgh College of Art amongst other private collections.

Over 2021, Alberta will be sharing new work as part of Art Night London, British Art Show 9, Liverpool Biennial, *business as usual : hostile environment* at Glasgow Sculpture Studios and *Right of Admission* at the University of Johannesburg.

Alberta's writing has been published in MAP magazine, *Visual Culture in Britain*, *Visual Studies*, *Art South Africa* and *Critical Arts Academic Journal*.

ART NIGHT

ENDS

Centre for Contemporary Art Derry~Londonderry

10–12 Artillery Street

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ccadld.org

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Opening times:

Tuesday–Saturday

noon–6pm

Free admission

About CCA Derry~Londonderry:

CCA is a publicly funded space within the historic city walls of Derry~Londonderry. CCA creates opportunities for audiences to experience ambitious, experimental and engaging art and for emerging artists to develop successful careers. CCA fosters a wide range of artistic, curatorial and critical practices through five programme streams: research and production, exhibition-making, public programmes, publishing and residencies.

CCA is a member of [Plus Tate](#):

Plus Tate is a network, which comprises 35 cultural institutions – including the Tate galleries – that have strong artistic vision, a focus on contemporary art, outstanding public programming and a commitment to local community engagement through art. Plus Tate aims to support the development of the visual arts across the UK.

Safety:

CCA has a range of safety measures to ensure staff and visitors can enjoy exhibitions with the knowledge that every precaution is taken. This includes hand sanitisers at entrances and exits, track and trace, screens and heightened cleaning schedules. All who are able to wear a mask are invited to do so and a dedicated isolation room is available in the event of the onset of symptoms.

For further information and additional press images please contact:

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CCA is supported by:

