

**PRESS RELEASE**

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[www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

**3-Phase**

**Larry Achiampong/ Mark Essen/ Nicola Singh**

**8 November – 10 December 2017, Jerwood Space, London**



*Larry Achiampong, Relic 0, 4K, Video [still], 2017. Co-commissioned By Southbank Centre | Hayward Gallery & Jerwood Charitable Foundation.*

Three new bodies of work by artists **Larry Achiampong, Mark Essen** and **Nicola Singh** will be presented at Jerwood Space, London (8 November – 10 December 2017). This group exhibition is the first of three exhibition moments showcasing work by the artists over an 18 month period; it will be followed by a group exhibition at WORKPLACE (28 April – 9 June 2018) , and a solo show for each artist at Eastside Projects in the Autumn of 2018. The exhibition offers a supported opportunity and critical platform for the artists to engage with three national organisations over an extended period during which time they will experiment and realise ambitious, compelling ideas.

The selected artists, each at pivotal moments in their careers, have demonstrated a commitment to challenging and pushing the boundaries of traditional modes of exhibition making. Inherent to their respective bodies of work are a strong research-base and pertinent social narratives, which surface through sculpture, performance and technology.

**Larry Achiampong** will present *Testimony for the Relic Travellers' Alliance* (2017), a mixed media installation comprised of *Relic O*, a single channel video, and *PAN AFRICAN FLAG FOR THE RELIC TRAVELLERS' ALLIANCE* (2017), an appliqué flag.

*Relic O*, co-commissioned by Jerwood Charitable Foundation & Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, is part of the artist's ongoing, multi-disciplinary project, *Relic Traveller*. In this speculative project, the title character appears in different landscapes, uncovering fragments that bear witness to colonial history. *Relic O*, which is the prelude to subsequent videos in the series, moves between different landscapes and focusses on specific architectures of colonialism. The narration, which accompanies a soundtrack by Achiampong, offers a recreation on history and empire. *PAN AFRICAN FLAG FOR THE RELIC TRAVELLERS' ALLIANCE* was commissioned by, and is currently hung on top of Somerset House. The presentation at Jerwood Space allows the viewer to appreciate the appliqué technique and consider the various messages communicated through the flag's design.

The 54 stars represent the 54 countries of Africa; the colour green reflects its land; the colour black its people and the colour red is a reminder of the struggles the continent has endured. The field of yellow gold presents a new day and prosperity.

On 9 December (7 - 8pm), Larry Achiampong will present *Voyage of The Relic Traveller* - a new performance with Shiraz Bayjoo, combining multichannel visuals and a live soundtrack of remixed audio and spoken word.

**Mark Essen** will present *'tis 'ard to be a god*, a multifaceted installation comprised of three separate works: a re-fashioned set of ancient Greek water clocks; a table of alternative currencies and defaced coins, and an aquaponics tower.

Considering ideas past and present, this work gestures towards Degrowth – a political, economic and social movement based on ecological economics. By incorporating hydroponics into the work, Essen is suggesting that agriculture can be used as a form of resilience, readdressing the balance of power between local communities and multinational food production. Overall, this complex installation is concerned with society's values and how they may be reconfigured through different frameworks: politics, economics and ecology. A short essay *Ideological Warfare in the "Age of Clay"* accompanies the work written by Àngels Miralda an independent curator, writer, and Associate Director at House of Egnon, Berlin.

On 27 November (7.30 – 8.30pm), Jason Hickel, anthropologist at London School of Economics, will give an introductory talk on Degrowth and the potential for downscaling both production and consumption.

**Nicola Singh** has expanded on her ideas of exhibition making through the prism of performance. The project began with a workshop that explored visual and textual languages through movement, with artists Deborah Bower, Tess Denman-Cleaver, Naomi Garriock and Kate Sweeney.

The artist developed these initial ideas into a large-scale textile work, an audio recording, a series of performative props and a live performance that will take place within the gallery. After the live event, an audio recording of the performance will become a soundscape for the exhibition. These elements suggest an atmosphere, an attitude or ointment towards the organisation of language around the female body and voice.

On 16 November (7.30 - 8.30pm), Nicola Singh will present a performance work with Jenny Moore and Harriet Plewis – a result of two afternoon rehearsals. For these, the performers met inside Singh's installation to improvise, react and respond to the space, and to each other.

3-Phase is a unique development initiative led by [Jerwood Charitable Foundation](#), through its gallery programme [Jerwood Visual Arts](#); [Eastside Projects](#), Birmingham and [WORKPLACE](#), Gateshead.

The selection was made by an independent panel comprising: Kelly Best, Artist and 2015 3-Phase exhibitor; Paul Moss, Co-Director, WORKPLACE; Gavin Wade, Director, Eastside Projects and Sarah Williams, Head of Programme, Jerwood Visual Arts. Artists were selected based on the quality and potential of their work and the developmental impact the opportunity is likely to have upon their practice.

3-Phase was first launched in 2015 through the Jerwood Encounters series, working with artists Kelly Best and Georgie Grace. It is an innovative model, which aims to identify artistic potential from across the Midlands, the North, and the rest of the UK, allowing for a UK wide peer group to form. This unique collaboration highlights the benefits of artists and organisations working together as part of a national dialogue; constructing a space of encounter between the thinking of selected artists and supporting arts organisations around the developing bodies of work.

For further details about the Jerwood Visual Arts programme, please visit: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org) or follow Jerwood Visual Arts on Twitter and Instagram: @JerwoodJVA.

#### Exhibition Information:

Title: 3-Phase: Larry Achiampong/ Mark Essen/ Nicola Singh  
 Dates: 8 November – 10 December 2017  
 Address: Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN  
 Opening Times: Mon-Fri from 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun from 10am-3pm  
 Admission: Free  
 Nearest Tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough  
 Website: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)  
 Twitter/Instagram: @JerwoodJVA #3Phase

For all enquiries please contact project managers, Parker Harris:  
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#### Notes to editors

##### Artist biographies

**Larry Achiampong** is a London based artist. He is influenced by connections between the digital age and communal and personal histories. He completed his BA in Mixed Media Fine Art University of Westminster in 2005, followed by an MA in Sculpture at The Slade School of Fine Art in 2008. He has since exhibited and performed at venues nationally and internationally including Tate Modern, the British Film Institute, Somerset House, The British Library, Iniva, The Showroom, Fabrica, Dolph Projects, Modern Art Oxford, The Logan Centre (Chicago, USA), ICI/Savvy Contemporary (Berlin, Germany) and The Photography Centre (Lectore, France). [www.larryachiampong.co.uk](http://www.larryachiampong.co.uk)

**Mark Essen** is a Birmingham based artist. He graduated with a BA in Fine Art from Birmingham City University (2007) before completing his MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art (2012). He has exhibited at Cass Sculpture Park, Lychee One Gallery, Tate St Ives, Studio Leigh and curated shows at Division of Labour. He has been invited onto residency programmes led by a range of arts organisations including Wysing Arts Centre, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Doremifasolasido at Florence Art Centre, South London Infinity Projects. In 2017, he will open Modern Clay, Birmingham – a socially engaged ceramics studio aiming to

remove the boundaries between fine and applied arts and crafts. [www.markessen.org](http://www.markessen.org)

**Nicola Singh** is a Newcastle based artist. Her practice is rooted in performance and is made in response to contexts of location and place, encounter and dialogue, feelings and chance. Recent projects include a solo show at BALTIC 39, Newcastle and a performance for LUX and LUX Scotland at Glasgow Film Theatre. Nicola has recently completed a practice-based PhD in Fine Art at Northumbria University. [www.nicolasingh.co.uk](http://www.nicolasingh.co.uk)

## Events

Jerwood Visual Arts will host a series of evening events to accompany the exhibition. All events are free - advanced booking is required. For more information, please visit the website: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/events](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/events)

**Thursday 16 November 7.30–8.30pm**

**Performance by Nicola Singh, Jenny Moore and Harriet Plewis**

A performance by Nicola Singh, Jenny Moore and Harriet Plewis, in which they present the result of two afternoon rehearsals. For these, the performers met inside Singh's installation to improvise, react and respond to the space, and to each other. The performance speaks back to the initial, collective moments of making that begun Singh's project – a workshop with women artists that explored the organisation of language around the female body and voice.

**Monday 27 November 7–8.30pm**

**How to Avert the Apocalypse: Ecological Overshoot and the Degrowth Imperative**

Jason Hickel, anthropologist at London School of Economics, gives an introductory talk on Degrowth, a social, political and economic movement that advocates for the downscaling of production and consumption.

**Saturday 9 December 7–8pm**

**Voyage of the Relic Traveller**

Voyage of The Relic Traveller is a new performance by Larry Achiampong with Shiraz Bayjoo. directly linked with Achiampong's Afrofuturist project *Relic Traveller*, the performance simultaneously combines multichannel visuals depicting historical, present and future colonial narratives accompanied by an intense, beat-driven live soundtrack of remixed audio and spoken word.

## Project Credit

**3-Phase** is a partnership between Jerwood Charitable Foundation, WORKPLACE and Eastside Projects.

3-Phase is a new model for working in partnership to support the development of early career artist's work over a sustained period of time. The three artists are selected to develop a new series of work with the curatorial assistance of each organisation, which will tour to each partner location. The project was first launched in 2015 through the Jerwood Encounters series, working with artists Kelly Best and Georgie Grace.

[www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/exhibitions/jerwood-encounters-3-phase/](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/exhibitions/jerwood-encounters-3-phase/)

**Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts.

[www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)

**Jerwood Visual Arts** is a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing, taking place online, in London and across the UK. We advocate for the best possible conditions for the making of art by providing well-resourced opportunities for artists, supported by our staff team and established artists, writers, critics and curators who have a significant national or international profile. [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

**Eastside Projects** makes art public. It is an artist-run multiverse, commissioning, producing and presenting experimental art practices and demonstrating ways in which art may be useful as part of society. Eastside Projects provides vital infrastructure, supports best practice and works to expand the role of the artist-run space. Alongside imagining, testing and modeling a free public gallery, it is increasingly engaged in an expanded range of public activities – it devises public art strategies, serves as a commissioning agent, produces national public art programmes and creates structures to support artists locally, nationally and internationally. Established in 2008, Eastside Projects is a Not for Profit Company and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, in partnership with Birmingham City University. [eastsideprojects.org](http://eastsideprojects.org)

**WORKPLACE** is a contemporary art gallery founded in Gateshead in the North of England in 2002, and with a gallery in Mayfair, London since 2013. Originally situated far from any of the UK's major cultural centres, the Gallery has worked intensely over the past decade to access the international artworld. With the objective of working with artists to achieve critical acclaim, WORKPLACE has become an important and integral part of the UK's cultural landscape through a respected programme of exhibitions, taking part in the leading international art fairs, and long-term partnerships with highly esteemed international artists and galleries. Growing out of an artist-led Northern English art scene, WORKPLACE aims to combine a progressive, countercultural spirit with an independent D.I.Y. attitude, connecting to a new generation of artists, collectors and curators worldwide.

**WORKPLACE GATESHEAD** opened in 2005 at 34 Ellison Street, Gateshead – part of Trinity Square Shopping Centre particularly noted for its iconic Brutalist car park which featured as a key location in the 1971 cult British gangster film 'Get Carter' starring Michael Caine. Since the complex was demolished in 2008, WORKPLACE Gateshead has been located at The Old Post Office in Gateshead – a 19th Century Grade 2 listed building built upon the site of the important 18th century British artist, engraver, and naturalist Thomas Bewick's studio and residence. [WORKPLACEgallery.co.uk](http://WORKPLACEgallery.co.uk)