



art + activism

queer and feminist visibilities

Ama Josephine Budge

Tia Campbell

Giulia Casalini

Sarah Corbett

Nadine Davis

Antke Engel

Diana Georgiou

Theo Gordon

Selina Robertson

Friday 27 April 2018

UCL Institute of
Advanced Studies



Organised by qUCL in
collaboration with UCL Gender
and Feminism Network

www.ucl.ac.uk/lgbtq-research

Schedule

10.15 Registration + Coffee

10.30 Welcome by Bob Mills, Director of qUCL

10.45 **(In)visibilities** Chair: Bob Mills

The Cost of Being Seen — BBZ (Tia Campbell & Nadine Davis)

Thinking Laterally: Women with HIV/AIDS, Invisibility & Missing Siblings in Queer Theory — Theo Gordon

12.00 **Futures** Chair: Gabriella Nugent, UCL History of Art

Rupturous Desires: Queer Bodies Are Made from Mountains II
– Ama Josephine Budge

Queer Visual Activism as Caring for Conflicts: Articulations of a Desire to Live the Future as Potentiality — Antke Engel

13.15 LUNCH

14.30 **Craft + Activism** Chair: Sarah Wade, UCL History of Art

The Pros & Cons of Craftivism – Sarah Corbett

15.15 TEA

15.45 **Curation** Chair: Elizabeth Went, UCL History of Art

DES!RE(-ing) Intersectional Visibility: Curating LGBTQ+ Cultural, Critical & Bodily Histories on Screen – Selina Robertson
[incorporating screening of *Des!re*, dir. Campbell X, 2017]

Sexing the Canon: Queer-Feminist Curatorial Strategies —
CUNTemporary (Giulia Casalini & Diana Georgiou)

17.00 Roundtable discussion

17.30 DRINKS

About the speakers



Ama Josephine Budge is a science fiction & fantasy/art writer, organiser, and aspiring pleasure activist. She works across the arts, postcolonial academia and tantric-influenced breath work to manifest black, queer and gender-fluid futures. Budge is co-founder of black queer art and club night The Batty Mama, convener of the bi-annual anti-conference I/Mages of Tomorrow, graduate of the Urban Tantra® Professionals Training Programme and founder of tantric-inspired breathwork practice Self Love & Ecstasy (a.k.a SLAE). Ama has a background in performance art with a BA in Contemporary Performance Practice from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, MA in Postcolonial Culture and Global Policy from Goldsmiths University and is currently working on a PhD proposal exploring queer modes of climate colonialism resistance, through erotic pleasure knowledges in Ghana and Kenya. She was a writer, curator and co-editor-in-Chief of HYSTERIA feminist collective and print periodical until June 2016. She worked with Autograph ABP's the Missing Chapter Collective, and later as a researcher and editorial assistant. Ama has been interviewed by Vice and Dazed Digital, written for The Independent, Aperture (forthcoming), Red Pepper, The Bookseller, Skin Deep and Consented Magazine amongst other subversive publications.



BBZ (Bold Brazen Zamis OR Babes) is an exhibition / tun up centring femme identity and eradicating misogyny for queer womxn, trans folk and non-binary people of colour. Providing a platform exploring a plethora of mediums primarily within Visual Arts while interrupting accessibility issues within arts institutions.



Giulia Casalini is an independent curator based in London. She is the co-director of CUNTemporary, as well as the founder of Archivio Queer Italia, the first platform for queer arts, theory and activism in Italy. She has been nominated Live Art Associate UK for her on-going commitment to showcasing performance art, and in 2017 she was awarded a producer residency at the Live Art Development Agency.

Diana Georgiou is a writer, curator and co-director of CUNTemporary. Her doctoral research in the Visual Cultures department at Goldsmiths University of London focuses on the relationship between auto/biographical art-writing and feminist discourses on subjectivity.

CUNTemporary / Arts Feminism Queer is a non-profit organisation that works with individuals and groups that explore feminist and queer art practices and theories. The organisation provides a monthly calendar of queer-feminist events taking place in London and they curate talks, screenings, exhibitions, performances and club nights with the participation of a multidisciplinary and international group of artists, performers and theorists.

About the speakers



Sarah Corbett is an award-winning campaigner. She grew up in a low-income area of the UK into an activist family and has worked as a professional for 10 years most recently with Oxfam GB. She started doing craftivism (craft + activism) in 2008 as a reaction to traditional aggressive or quick forms of activism. Due to demand Sarah set up the global and award-winning Craftivist Collective in 2009 which now has thousands of supporters across the world taking part in her craftivism projects. Corbett is one of the leading spokespeople in the craftivism movement (with media across the world including French TV & Italian TV) contributing to books and regularly gives talks & lectures around the world including Bauhaus University and Beckmans in Stockholm. Sarah works with art institutions such as V&A & Tate as well as a consultant for charities such as Save the Children & Unicef. She has collaborated with cult jewellers Tatty Devine & Secret Cinema amongst others. Sarah also sells products and exhibits her own craftivism work around the world. Her books include *A Little Book of Craftivism* (2013) and *How To Be A Craftivist: The Art of Gentle Protest* (2017).



Theo Gordon has recently completed his PhD in Art History at the Courtauld Institute of Art, titled 'Sex and Violence: A New Psychoanalysis of Art of the American AIDS Crisis'. He has taught courses in methodology and gender and sexuality in Art History at UCL and the Courtauld, and has presented his research at major conferences such as 'ACT UP: Thirty Years Fighting AIDS' at the University of York last June. He has a chapter on Melanie Klein and images of people with AIDS in the forthcoming publication *Psychoanalysis and the Humanities in the Twenty-First Century*, as part of the *Beyond the Couch* series from Routledge. His research covers cultural and theoretical developments in the 1980s and 1990s in the United States in the context of the international HIV/AIDS pandemic, with a particular focus on the intersections of psychoanalytic feminism, AIDS activism and queer theory in artistic practices. He is currently working toward a postdoctoral project on global histories of women and queer peoples with HIV at the intersection of art and public health.



Antke Engel is director of the Institute for Queer Theory in Berlin, a site where academic debate meets up with activism and artistic practices (www.queer-institut.de). She holds a PhD in philosophy and works as an independent scholar in the fields of queer theory, poststructuralist philosophy and visual cultural studies.



Selina Robertson is a freelance film programmer and writer. In 2007 she co-founded Club des Femmes, a queer feminist film curatorial collective with Sarah Wood, the collective includes Campbell X and So Mayer. She is a PhD candidate at Birkbeck researching the curatorial activist histories of London's 80s feminist film collectives.

Cover image: Mette Sterre, performance at Queen Mary University of London, 2017. Photo by Loredana Denicola. Courtesy Arts Feminism Queer.