



Press Release

RitaGT: Unearthing

YSP exclusive online event

International Women's Day: 8 March 2021, 6pm UK time

Tune in at youtube.com/YSPsculpture

"Unearthing reminds us of the necessary tribute to all the women caught up in male colonial expansion, forced to leave their homes, the singers who worked in the fields for a lifetime, who brought songs, who went and did not return." RitaGT

YSP will exclusively broadcast a new commission by the Portuguese artist RitaGT online to mark International Women's Day on 8 March. The artist has choreographed a choral and movement performance for 25 women - singers from the folk choral Cantadeiras do Vale do Neiva and the dancers Piny and Isa Santos - set in an installation she has created in Fábrica de Louça, an abandoned ceramics factory in her hometown of Viana do Castelo, in the north of Portugal.

Unearthing has evolved from a research residency at YSP in 2018 and is supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Viana do Castelo Municipality. The project embodies RitaGT's exploration of post-colonial histories, the place of women and the global connection to the earth through clay and ceramics. The work is an act of acknowledgment, of unearthing, the overlooked history of the many women who had to relocate around the world during the colonial era. The choral element of the work, sang in Portuguese, reflects the traditional songs and chants of the region, which travelled with the women across the world.

Ceramics, like song, are symbols of Portuguese history. As part of the sphere of domestic and rural work, of the earth, they are projected at the centre of the production and ideological circulation of work with gender and feminist concerns. YSP's Head of Curatorial Programme, Helen Pheby, says:

"We are privileged to be working with RitaGT to mark International Women's Day with her new commission in 2021, a year in which YSP's programme is dominated by female artists. We are very grateful to Rita for sharing this important and poignant new work with our local to global audiences through our digital, public, space."

Unearthing is reflective of RitaGT's commitment to creating situations of contemplation and remembrance. She states: "At the centre of all discourses and power relations, whether imperialist, gender or social, there is always an incredible ability to forget, an incredible factory of forgetfulness. The task of artists, writers and thinkers is to analyse this process of early forgetfulness and to remind us of it."

The commission is part of YSP's female-led programme this year also featuring Joana Vasconcelos, Rachel Kneebone, Annie Morris and the launch of *Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women since 1945*, an exhibition of work by women curated by the Arts Council Collection from their holdings.



RitaGT, *Unearthing*, 2021 (preparing the space)
Photos © Raquel Rocha

Press enquiries

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Download images at yvsp.org.uk/media

Listings information

RitaGT: Unearthing

Monday 8 March 2021, 6pm to 6.30pm UK time

Tune in online at youtube.com/YSPsculpture

The performance will then be available to watch again from 9 March 2021 on yvsp.org.uk/events/ritagt-unearting

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38

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Open seven days a week, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Booking essential, via yvsp.org.uk

Notes to editors

About RitaGT

RitaGT is an artist who lives and works between Luanda, Angola and Viana do Castelo, Portugal. Her work focuses on themes of memory, identity and the importance of human rights. The artist uses imagery, words and performance to investigate and experiment with material and conceptual ideas. Drawing from her experiences of living in many different countries, her practice explores the historical points of view of many cultures and colonial symbolism is recurrent in her work.

RitaGT was born in Porto in 1980. She gained a BA in Communication Design from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Porto, concluded the Advanced Course in Visual Arts at Maumaus School of Visual Arts in Lisbon and attended the MA programme in Fine Arts from Malmö Art Academy – Lund University in Malmö, Sweden. Solo exhibitions include, Nano Gallery, Lisbon (2019); Decoratives Arts Museum, Viana do Castelo (2019); Special projects, ARCO, Lisbon (2019); Gallery Belo-Galsterer, Lisbon (2019); Movart, Luanda (2018); Rua das Gaivotas 6, Lisbon (2018); 50 Golborne Gallery, London (2018); Gallery Belo-Galsterer, Lisbon (2017); Patch, Porto (2017); Museu do Chiado, Lisbon (2015/16); Instituto Camões, Luanda (2014); UNAP, Luanda (2012); Bienal de Viana do Castelo (2010); Empty Cube, Lisbon (2009); Gallery Reflexus, Porto (2009); and PêSSEGOpráSEMANA, Porto (2007).

ritagt.info | @rita.gt

Project funders:



About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

YSP mounts a world-class, year-round temporary exhibitions programme including some of the world's leading artists across 500 acres of 18th century-designed landscape and six indoor galleries. Recent highlights include projects by Giuseppe Penone, Chiharu Shiota, Tony Cragg, KAWS, Bill Viola, Fiona Banner, Ai Weiwei, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Amar Kanwar, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Joan Miró, Shirin Neshat and Joana Vasconcelos. There are around 100 works on display across the estate, which include significant sculptures by Phyllida Barlow, Katrina Palmer, Ai Weiwei, Roger Hiorns, Sean Scully, Elisabeth Frink and Niki de Saint Phalle. Attracting around 500,000 visitors every year prior to the pandemic, YSP's driving purpose for over 40 years has been to encourage, nurture and sustain interest in and debate around contemporary art and sculpture, especially with those not typically familiar with art participation. YSP enables open access to art, situations and ideas, and continues to re-evaluate and expand the approach to considering art's role and relevance in society. Supporting 40,000 people each year through YSP's learning programme, this innovative work develops ability, confidence and life aspiration in participants. Founded in 1977, YSP is an independent charitable trust and registered museum.

Creative Case for Diversity

Yorkshire Sculpture Park was founded in 1977 to enable fairer cultural access and opportunity and we are committed to being part of change towards a fairer world. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and are proactive in our programme, policies and behaviours to address inequalities locally, nationally and internationally. We recognise that economic, social and cultural disadvantage is complex and intersectional and shape our activity accordingly. Diversity and equality are crucial to the arts because they release the true potential of our nation's artistic talent – from every background. At YSP, we support Arts Council England's mission – great art and culture for everyone. We share ACE's commitment to promote and embed diversity in our workforce and cultural programme. This is called the 'Creative Case for Diversity'.

YSP's core work is made possible by investment from Arts Council England, Wakefield Council, Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, and Sakurako and William Fisher through the Sakana Foundation. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014.



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