

Deptford X

Artist

Weekender



18th - 20th October
Creekside Discovery Centre

Deptford X Artist Weekender is a new programme of artist films, drawings, installations, sculpture, sound art, mix-media textiles, prints and printmaking workshops by 11 inspiring Deptford-based artists. It is selected from an open call by a panel consisting of Lewisham based artists Barbara Majek and Roman Aspeek Bloor, Creekside Discovery Centre's Patricia Borecka and Deptford X's Kwong Lee, with support from DX's Board.

The Weekender is part of Deptford X's new initiatives exploring how we can further support artists and engage audiences alongside its established festival which is being trialled as a biennial to open up space for programmes at other times.

The Weekender reflects the diverse creative practitioners that are connected to Deptford and celebrates their international cultural perspectives.

The artists are Beth Blandford, Nicholas Carn, Yu-Ting Chung & Philippe Malaussene, Gail Dickerson, Andrew Finch, Usva Inei, Juliana Kasumu, Bea Macdonald & Yasmine Betioui, and Palvinder Nangla.

Venue partner: Creekside Discovery Centre, 14 Creekside, London SE8 4SA.

Dates and opening times:

Friday 18 October 2024, 6 to 9pm Open Preview

Saturday 19 October, 11am to 6pm

Sunday 20 October, 11am to 6pm

About the work and the artists:

Beth Blandford - *Resources for Rewilding*

Beth's illustrations narrate stories of rewilding, in its broadest sense of being a progressive form of conservation. With each illustration situated in and around

Deptford, she looks at how rewilding as a philosophy has shaped and continues to shape its community, green spaces and education environments. She visualises the tools necessary for rewilding, portraying them as "community suits" inspired by the wading suits used at Creekside Discovery Centre. Beth invites the viewer to reflect on the tools they and others need to rewild spaces important to them, to imagine and draw what those tools might look like.

Beth is a Welsh multi-disciplinary illustrator based in Deptford. She uses embodied methods of illustration interwoven with the use of digital tools to investigate embodied space. A growing interest in Beth's work is the Welsh concept of *cynefin*: the historic, cultural, and social place which has shaped and continues to shape the community which inhabits it. Her film 'Set in Slate?' investigated perceptions of Cardiff's contemporary identity through the context of its public art and won the Celtic Film Award at the FOCUS Wales festival in 2023. Beth originally studied literature before completing her MA in Illustration at Camberwell in 2022.

www.blandoodles.com

Nicholas Carn - *The Creek Speaks*

The Creek Speaks is an immersive sound installation housed within a section of gas piping on the site of Creekside Discovery Centre. The work is a real-time auditory assemblage of field recording fragments from around the Creek and under water, gathered from excursions with hydrophone microphones. Natural and industrial sounds interact with modular algorithms which are triggered and modulated by movements. The mix of the background ambience, the shape of the pipe and the modular composition creates a certain site-specific resonance, which invites contemplations and conversations. The sound work is intended to evoke reflection and deeper connection to place.

Nicholas is an interdisciplinary artist from Bristol, based in Deptford since 2010. He's created site specific installations, immersive films and AV performances in places including Bangkok, Germany, Poland and Czechia. Previous works have included an experimental film bringing machines back to life in an abandoned factory and an audiovisual triptych exploring secret networks in an underground reservoir. His practice integrates experimental real-time AV processes, often layered with some aesthetics from narrative fiction or documentary to create transformative works. Incorporating ideas influenced by exploring the hidden relationships between science, history,

memory and place, he continues to build on his immersive practice with virtual production, new media installations and film-making.

www.nicholascarn.art

Yu-Ting Chung & Philippe Malaussene - *Creekers*

Creekers is a sculptural installation made on site at Creekside Discovery Centre. It consists of an organic mural hand-crafted on a wattle & daub, boat-like structure. This collaboration of an artist and landscape architect draws inspiration from the interplay of Deptford's industrial past with the natural world that surrounds it. The work references Deptford's vast naval history and Deptford Creek's role as the 'undertone' of local life. The artists envision this scene with their imagined 'creekers' and the inherent mobility of their identity, sending plants and animals to the other side, with their humble wish to preserve hope into the future.

Yu-Ting is a Deptford-based visual artist and curator with a fine art background. She seeks collective transformation within the value of individual life held in the contemporary context of diaspora. Her work spans murals, paintings and multimedia projects, exploring imagery and cultural boundaries inspired by Buddhist concepts, particularly emptiness. During the Deptford X Festival 2023, she and Philippe co-curated and participated in the 'Hua De Hua Hua' group exhibition, which was inspired by garden crafting techniques and challenged cultural and spatial boundaries. She hopes these aspirations can shine through the 'Creekers'.

www.tingchzy.net

Philippe is a gardener, an artist at heart, and a landscape architect by profession. Having lived in Greenwich and Deptford for many years, he has developed a deep affection for the Creek. To him, it is a wild, life-filled space that almost rebels against the soulless residential developments around it. The Creek—its animals, plants and people—has inspired him since his university days, and still does today. With the piece 'Creekers,' he hopes to make a part of its hidden life more visible.

[@philippe_malaussene](https://www.instagram.com/philippe_malaussene)

Gail Dickerson – *Complexity of Layers*

This artwork is an exploration of the layers of London, made from the ground down to the chalk layer and all that flows into the creek with the constant deposition of sediment from layers of geological strata. Referencing the human layers of mapping and planning above and below ground, the work gradually spreads across the floor, as if caught by the tide as the river flows from its

source, like flotsam and jetsam. This installation is a meeting point on a journey, captured and caught still for a moment in a room as a collection of rocks, rocks ground to dust, as liquid held still on paper and as thought fragments.

Gail is a London-based artist who studied painting at the Royal College of Art. Her art practice involves the exploration of art, geology and the community within the context of the everyday and the use of modern industrialised materials. Her explorations involve the texture of materials, experiences, and layering of human concepts of mapping and planning. A recent project 'Core Sample' focused on the geological and human layers of London and the area of Elephant and Castle. Another current project 'Exposure Temporary' uses geological samples from deep excavations along the Thames. Gail has exhibited in multiple solo and group shows nationally and internationally.

www.gaildickerson.com

Andrew Finch - *The Love Below*

The Love Below is a film which explores the South East London waterways and their dwellers. Coursing below street level, the River Quaggy and River Ravensbourne run 17km through London's South Eastern boroughs, largely unseen. The film follows those who have ventured into these hidden waterways in search of meaning below their embankment walls and depths. With a nod to the ecological future of the rivers as well as the spatial opportunity to roam invisibly, the film presents a meandering journey of early-2000s cultural homage, graffiti culture, train networks, urban fishing, folklore and the unbridled joy of wandering off the city's beaten track.

Directed by Andrew Finch and scored by experimental musician Rory Salter, founder of Infant Tree Records.

Andrew is a filmmaker, writer and curator. His practice explores subcultures and the memories, mythologies and counterculture narratives of space through mapping spaces and individuals in their often-forgotten pasts in British history, and placing the artist as an unseen subject at the heart of his work. By challenging their inherent nostalgia and celebrating them, he investigates how esoteric and underground cultures have utilised technology as a means of representation through documentary and archive films. His work has been shown at the South London Gallery, hARTSlane Gallery, Satellite Store, Phoenix Gallery, Photo Book Café, Humber Street Gallery, Doomed Gallery, Hello Koral, and featured on The Face, The Evening Standard and Elephant Magazine.

www.linktr.ee/andrewfinch

Usva Inei - *Rebuilding and Reclaiming Roots*

Rebuilding and Reclaiming Roots is a communal print-making workshop, during which participants learn how to create hand-printed relief patterns onto fabric. The artist invites participants to be inspired by traditional textiles and patterns from various cultures, bringing together their own cultural backgrounds and Deptford's rich multicultural heritage. Out of the created prints, we will build up a large quilt-like installation showcasing and celebrating diverse local culture. The workshop is accessible, inclusive and suitable to all ages. Drop-in during Sunday 20 October, 11am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3pm.

Usva is a non-binary artist and art educator who works through various forms of printmaking, such as linocut and etching onto paper and fabric. Stemming from their lived experiences as a queer Russian immigrant, Usva reimagines and reclaims traditional Slavic patterns by bringing in elements of anti-war and pro-LGBTQ+ protest. Usva's art practice is strongly linked to working with communities - they regularly run art workshops for groups of all ages with the aim of fostering reflection, interaction and learning. They are specifically interested in the role of traditions and cultural heritage in how migrants understand themselves and their communities.

www.usvainei.com

Juliana Kasumu - *Adura Baba Mi*

Adura Baba Mi is a raw and intimate portrait of the lives of a Nigerian family. Through poignant interviews with her parents, filmmaker Juliana unveils the complexities of their relationship, shaped by their deep religious faith and cultural heritage. As her father, a prominent figure in the Celestial Church of Christ, recounts his journey and the impact of his beliefs on their family, we witness the delicate balance between love, devotion, and the challenges that arise when faith and personal desires collide.

Juliana is an artist and filmmaker, working across moving-image, photography and installation. Her practice is focussed on meditations regarding community, collective memory, language and transcultural identities, often chronicling the intimate, non-linear narratives concerning contemporary life.

www.julianakasumu.com

Bea Macdonald & Yasmine Betioui - *Walk, until there it is*

This body of work, shot entirely on analogue film (16mm and super 8), has culminated over the last two years, threading time and the artists' respective

geographies – London and Paris. These works examine how poetic use of personal archives can open a space for imagination, through directly engaging with social histories and the presence or loss of collective memory and experience.

Lemon With No Siblings by Bea Macdonald

An intimate portrait of the artist's grandmother, bringing us close to the details, sounds and textures of their exchanges after 10 years apart.

Memory Garden by Yasmine Betioui

A recurring dream. The seasons slip away like the serpent which eats its own tail.

Iris by Bea Macdonald

This short film captures off guard moments on Deptford High Street as conversations reveal moments of dreams and intimacy.

Mouskater by Yasmine Betioui

A choreography of discarded lottery tickets and the repetitive rhythms of various Parisian PMU's (betting shops). As if by chance, we meet Mostefa, a regular who doesn't believe in luck.

Murmuration by Bea Macdonald

A modern-day ghost story set in a block of flats in South London. At night, birds bring a young woman messages from the deceased.

Bea is a London based artist filmmaker. Her work threads between documentary and poetry, and reflects on memory, time, myth and histories. She uses dreamlike 16mm visuals to evoke the sensory and interrogate the unspoken. She has received commissions from Deptford X and Sinema Transtopia, and has exhibited at Open City Documentary Festival, Tape Collective and Aesthetica amongst others. Her work with analogue film has led to collaborations as a Director of Photography (DOP). This includes for The Archive: Queer Nigerians which won best short film at London Film Festival. Other DOP works have been shown at the ICA, Barbican Centre, IDFA and BFI.

www.beamacdonald.com

Yasmine is a British-Moroccan filmmaker currently based in Paris. Her work plays on the imagination within identity and memory, using oral storytelling as a frame for experiencing undocumented histories and folklore, resulting in

works that bring together realism and fiction. She works predominantly with analogue film - incorporating animated elements and using everyday observational drawings and ephemera to investigate how memory and identity are in a constant state of call-and-response within cities.

[@yassminebtioui](#)

Palvinder Nangla - *Unlocking Emotions*

Over the Weekender, the artist aims to create a series of 12 embroidery works, investigating the collective and individual impact of trauma - both on the body and within communities. Referencing Deptford during the Blitz, Palvinder explores how war trauma lingers in communities and built environments, contrasting aerial bomber perspectives with lived experiences on the ground. Visitors will be invited to engage in discussion about collective trauma and healing, and their legacies. Influenced by Kundalini philosophy, the embroidery will symbolically link Deptford's geography with bodily energy, merging physical and metaphysical healing aspects through stitchwork reminiscent of spinal cords.

Rooted in mixed-media textiles, **Palvinder's** practice reflects upon his heritage, offering a profound exploration of his evolving identity. His intricate embroidery fulfils a meditative, restorative function that speaks to his experience as a participant and practitioner of art therapy. Introduced to this medium in childhood, Palvinder's embroidery has evolved to incorporate sequins, beads, gemstones and toy figures. Initially inspired by Western high fashion and Punjabi textile traditions, his recent work explores an abstract visual language rooted in medical imagery. The work here is a dialogue with his artistic and philosophical interest in the elements and particularly in this instance, air and earth.

www.palvindernangla.com

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ENGLAND**

Thank you to our venue:



Deptford X, Lewisham Arthouse, Lewisham Way, London, SE14
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www.deptfordx.org

