

New Contemporaries



Image courtesy Kiera Blakey

Press Release

New Contemporaries announces its new Director June 2023

New Contemporaries is delighted to announce the appointment of Kiera Blakey as its new Director. Kiera is a curator currently based at the Institute of Contemporary Arts where she has worked closely with the Director to reimagine a new vision for the organisation.

Prior to the ICA, Kiera held curatorial positions at Camden Art Centre, Nottingham Contemporary and Art on the Underground where she curated international programmes that centre artists and audiences, with a specific focus on how we improve the conditions, structures and thus access in contemporary art. Kiera is a trustee at Daily Life Ltd and a mentor at Metroland Cultures, and is curating a major new sculpture park at Compton Verney in Warwickshire planned to open in 2024.

“I am thrilled to be joining New Contemporaries having long admired its dedication to emerging artists across the country. I am grateful to have been entrusted to steward the organisation’s next chapter and am looking forward to working with the team and board to build on its great legacy and collectively imagine new possibilities for artists.” — Kiera Blakey.

“Kiera’s deep passion for supporting early career artists and sensitive leadership make her the ideal candidate to lead New Contemporaries at a formative moment as we prepare for our 75th anniversary in 2024. As we enter this new chapter, we’re excited by Kiera’s vision and exemplary track record as a change maker ensuring New Contemporaries maintains continued relevance to our artists and communities.” — New Contemporaries Board of Trustees.

She takes up her new role from August.

Notes to Editors

Press contacts:

Claire Rocha da Cruz
rochacommunications@mail.com

Edward Longville
edward@newcontemporaries.org.uk

About New Contemporaries

Since its foundation in 1949, New Contemporaries has been dedicated to supporting early career professional experience to recently graduating artists in the UK. Following a revised organisational structure and name change in 1988 (from Young Contemporaries to New Contemporaries) the organisation has expanded its support and services to new career artists.

Each year New Contemporaries works with a group of selectors, composed of artists and its alumni, for the annual survey exhibition, selected from a pool of applications, gathered through a nation-wide open call to all artists in higher education and alternative schooling. The group exhibitions composed of shortlisted artists take place in and outside London, organised in collaboration with different institutional partners.

Today New Contemporaries delivers mentoring programmes, national and international opportunities and peer-to-peer learning. Through partnerships with national collections, New Contemporaries provides a platform for artists to be acquired at an early phase in their careers. Since 2014, New Contemporaries has developed a range of studio bursaries to further support the artists and aiming to make their practices sustainable in the long term.

New Contemporaries is an Arts Council of England National Portfolio Organisation. Bloomberg Philanthropies is the title sponsor of the annual exhibitions since 2001. New Contemporaries receives further support from The Bridget Riley Art Foundation, national trusts and foundations and international agencies.

Contact

Telephone: 020 7033 1990

General email: info@newcontemporaries.org.uk

Address: New Contemporaries, Rich Mix, 35, 47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA

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newcontemporaries.org.uk

@newcontemps