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EDGE 88

01 837 5294



EDGE of an ERA

4th February 2019

St James Church, Clerkenwell London

Edge of an Era is a project which looks at series of seminal performance art events that took place in the late 1980s, through artistic commissions, archival digitisation, workshops in London and the North and a public event celebrating the 30th anniversary of EDGE88.

In the late 1980s, Performance Magazine (1979-1992) started presenting some of the first site specific performance art events in the UK, including Art in Danger, At the Edge and Last Sweat of Youth at the Diorama and Air Gallery. This culminated in EDGE 88, one of London's first site-specific performance/installation festivals which was attended by artists such as Helena Goldwater, who was at the start of her career. Thirty years later, Helena Goldwater and Rob La Frenais, (former editor of Performance Magazine and Director of EDGE 88) in collaboration with the Live Art Development Agency (LADA) are revisiting this and other 1980s performance art events, connecting influential artists from the 1980s with current generations.

The project will shed light on underrepresented histories which have had a significant influence on current art practice and will respond to the current embrace of performance art in the mainstream.

Activities
Five new commissions were offered to contemporary artists, following an open call. These new works will respond to archival material from the Edge events. The commissions will be presented online,

drawing connections between the 80s and now. A public event will showcase the commissions, present artist talks and screen newly digitized archival materials. The event will be held in one of the original locations of EDGE88 to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Sign up to our newsletter to be kept updated.

Digitization of documentation and archival materials will include: EDGE 88/89; Art in Danger (85-86), At the Edge (87), Last Sweat of Youth (88); and The Last Weekend (89) at Allenheads.

Two public workshops at the Live Art Development Agency Study Room in London and Allenheads Contemporary Arts in Hexham. Sign up to our newsletter to be kept updated.

The project will be contextualised by interviews with key artists and curators from the 1980s including Anne Bean, Stuart Brisley, Chrissie Iles (curator at the Whitney, NY), Tracey Warr (writer and director of EDGE89) and Jon Bewley (Projects UK)

A new website featuring the commissions, interviews and selected digitised video materials will also be created and launched in December 2018.

Programme

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of EDGE 88 we are holding a special event in one of the original locations of this seminal performance art festival, St James's Church, Clerkenwell in London.

Thirty years after EDGE 88, Helena Goldwater and Rob La Frenais (former editor of Performance Magazine and Director of EDGE 88), in collaboration with the Live Art Development Agency (LADA), are revisiting this and other 1980s performance art events in Edge of an Era, a series of activities connecting influential artists from the 1980s with current generations.

Edge of an Era will shed light on underrepresented performance art histories that have had a significant influence on current art practice. This first phase of the project has involved five new artistic commissions, archival digitisation and workshops in London and Northumberland.

4 February Programme:

5.30pm - Walking Tour

A walking tour of the street and sites of EDGE 88 in Clerkenwell will depart from St James's church at 5.30pm. The tour will last for one hour and be led by Rob La Frenais (original curator of EDGE 88).

Spaces are limited and booking for this is essential. Please note that there is a separate booking form for the walking tour and the event.

The walking tour is now fully booked. Join the waitlist here.

7pm - Presentations, Screenings and Performances

The event will include introductions from Helena Goldwater, Rob La Frenais and Alex Eisenberg (LADA), the launch of the project website, as well as dialogues, screenings and presentations from some of the original EDGE 88 artists (full list of artists to be announced soon).

Across the evening we will also present a series of specially commissioned new works by artists who have responded to the archive that we have been collating as part of Edge of an Era.

The Edge of an Era commissioned artists are:

Robin Bale who is responding to BLED EDGE (EDGE 88) by Alastair MacLennan.

Zvikomborero Mutyambizi who is looking at Mona Hatoum's Reflections on Value (EDGE 88) and Hidden from Prying Eyes (At the Edge, 1987).

Something Other (Maddy Costa, Diana Damian Martin and Mary Paterson) who will explore the notion of correspondence with feminist practices from the late 80s.

Adam Patterson who will make a performative video work in search of Isaac Julien's Looking for Langston (EDGE 89).

Morgan Quaintance who is making a moving image work pitched between documentary and abstraction, comprising of newly shot footage and archival materials relating to the Bow Gamelan Ensemble's work emanating from At the Edge (1987).

1988 Map



1988 Works

A - Peter ZEGFELD - PERFORMANCE - THE GALLERY

B - Roberto TARONI - PORTRAIT DE L'ARTISTE EN SALTIMBANQUE

A - Peter ZEGFELD - PERFORMANCE - THE GALLERY

B - Roberto TARONI - PORTRAIT DE L'ARTISTE EN SALTIMBANQUE

A - Peter ZEGFELD - PERFORMANCE - THE GALLERY

B - Roberto TARONI - PORTRAIT DE L'ARTISTE EN SALTIMBANQUE

A - Peter ZEGFELD - PERFORMANCE - THE

GALLERY

B - Roberto TARONI - PORTRAIT DE L'ARTISTE EN SALTIMBANQUE

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B - Roberto TARONI - PORTRAIT DE L'ARTISTE

EN SALTIMBANQUE

A - Peter ZEGFELD - PERFORMANCE - THE GALLERY

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A - Peter ZEGFELD - PERFORMANCE - THE

Further Info about original event

In the late 1980s, Performance Magazine (1979-1992) started presenting some of the first site specific performance art events in the UK, including Art in Danger, At the Edge and Last Sweat of Youth at the Diorama and Air Gallery.

Current Partners



ual: central saint martins

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Art Fund



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Future Project: EDGE of an ERA 2019/20

A planned project for 2019/2020 will consist of major intergenerational commissions with artists who participated in EDGE 88/89; Art in Danger (85-86), At the Edge (87), Last Sweat of Youth (88); and The Last Weekend (91).

Alongside this an exhibition format is being developed which will enable interaction with archival materials through workshops, conversations and live performances.

We are currently fundraising and looking for partnership for this next phase and welcome support for these future activities.

Please contact us at:
alex@thisisliveart.co.uk

Credits

Edge of an Era is curated by Helena Goldwater and Rob La Frenais, Alex Eisenberg and Live Art Development Agency.

It is produced in partnership with Artsadmin and Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, supported using public funding by Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants with additional activities made possible through the Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Grant from Art Fund.