

ARTS CATALYST

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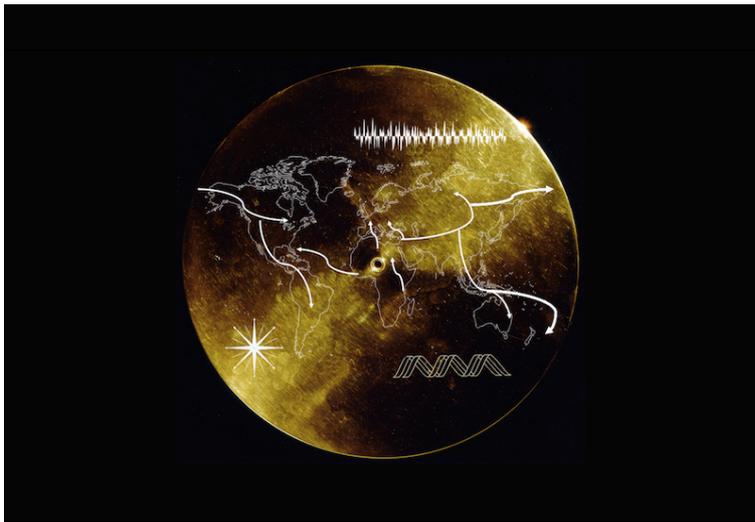
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PRESS RELEASE

Dreamed Native Ancestry (DNA)

23 November 2017 – 27 January 2018

Preview: Wednesday 22 November 2017, 6:30 – 9pm



Mission//Misplaced Memory

(Gary Stewart, Trevor Mathison, Zaynab Bunsie)

Arts Catalyst presents *Dreamed Native Ancestry (DNA)* by artist group **Mission//Misplaced Memory**, an installation and programme critically addressing and re-thinking contemporary issues around race, migration, biopolitics and culture, through an Afrofuturist science fiction narrative and deep history perspective.

THE MISSION

The Mission crew has travelled back from the future. There, the human population is dying out due to a quest for genetic homogeneity, which has led to a weakened and disease-prone human race. Cultural accumulation has ceased and humanity's knowledge growth, technological advancement and story-making capabilities have come to a standstill. Future humanity is on the brink of extinction. The Mission crew is tasked to travel through time, collecting samples, stories and knowledge from the cultural and genetic richness of humanity's past – particularly at points of concentrated migration and cultural exchange – to deposit in a vast human memory vault that will re-seed the human race of the future.

London – King's Cross – 2017 has been identified as one key centre of migration and culture in human history, with the crew set to land their Mission Ship here at the Arts Catalyst Centre in November

2017. Visitors are invited on board to join discussions, retrieve their own memories of ancestry and migration, and to contribute to a physical and sonic data bank of stories and memory.

THE SETTING

Dreamed Native Ancestry (DNA) inhabits an imagined scenario, drawing on Afrofuturist philosophies, to explore and celebrate the stories, experiences and knowledge of migrants and their families and diaspora peoples through a lens of technoculture and science fiction. The name of the installation playfully challenges the shifting of identity from the biographical narrative and social context to the authoritative, seemingly concrete answers given by modern biometrics, such as ancestry DNA tests, to complex questions of who we are and where we come from.

During an 8-week residency, the Mission artists will bring together the diverse King's Cross community with artists, scientists and experts to re-think urgent contemporary issues around race, migration and culture and their public perception. An interactive installation will collect and share ancestry stories and memories of migration through sound recordings, images, physical artefacts, films, music, performances and discussions.

A programme of live performances and talks taking place on Saturday afternoons will accompany the exhibition. Each week, Arts Catalyst will bring together artists, scientists and experts from various fields to discuss and share current knowledge and ideas around migration, race, culture and innovation. Confirmed contributors to this multi-layered inquiry include **Barby Asante, Ayesha Hameed, Jacob V Joyce, Larry Achiampong** and **David Blandy, Professor Bobbie Farsides** and **Professor Mark Thomas**. Talks will be followed by live sound performances by artists **Dubmorphology**. Taking migrant memories, stories and wisdom collected by a team of 'data thieves' as their source material, performances will see them analysed and 'remixed' into futuristic sonic and visual projections.

Concept and narrative by **Gaylene Gould**. Installation design by **Nina Shen Poblete** with the artist-curator team.

Curated by Arts Catalyst's Artistic Director, **Nicola Triscott**, *Dreamed Native Ancestry (DNA)* is the first part of Arts Catalyst's long-term curatorial research programme *Radical Ancestry*, which explores deep histories of human migration and contemporary biopolitics of race.

EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

23 November 2017 – 27 January 2018,
Thursday – Saturday, 12 – 6pm
(closed 21 – 30 Dec 2017)

Free admission

Every day we are open, 12-6pm: Memory gathering with the Data Thieves

EVENTS

Conversations, workshops and live performances accompany the exhibition. Each week, artists, scientists and experts from various fields will discuss and share knowledge and ideas around migration, race, culture, biopolitics and innovation. Live sound performances by Dubmorphology will 'remix' migrant memories, stories and wisdom into futuristic sonic and visual projections.

Mission//Misplaced Memory artists in-conversation

+ Dubmorphology performance with special guest Aniruddha Das (Asian Dub Foundation)

Saturday 25 November, 3 – 5:30pm

Free, booking recommended

***Going Back to Get It, a conversational memory practice ritual* – women only workshop with artist Barby Asante**

Thursday 30 November, 6 – 8pm

Free, booking essential

***Going Back to Get It, a conversational memory practice ritual* – open workshop with artist Barby Asante**

+ Dubmorphology performance

Saturday 2 December, 3 – 5:30pm

Free, booking recommended

***Trust Me, I'm an Artist: DNA Ancestry Testing* with Larry Achiampong and David Blandy**

Thursday 7 December, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Tickets £5, booking essential

Enacting Citizenship Across Generations, a conversation with Dr Umut Erel

+ Dubmorphology performance

Saturday 9 December, 3 – 5:30pm

Free, booking recommended

Conversation with Bisan Abu Eiseh on mobility and confinement

+ Dubmorphology performance

Saturday 6 January, 3 – 5:30pm

Free, booking recommended

Conversation with Professor Mark Thomas and Gaylene Gould on deep histories of migration and cultural progress

+ Dubmorphology performance

Saturday 13 January, 3 – 5:30pm

Free, booking recommended

Conversation with Ayesha Hameed on biometrics and the biopolitics of identity

+ Dubmorphology performance

Saturday 20 January, 3 – 5:30pm

Free, booking recommended

Music and Migration event

+ Dubmorphology performance

Saturday 27 January 2018, 3 – 5:30pm

Dreamed Native Ancestry (DNA) is generously supported by Arts Council England and the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

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For further information, images or interviews please contact:
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Notes to Editors:

1) **Arts Catalyst** is one of the UK's most distinctive arts organisations, distinguished by ambitious art commissions and its unique take on art-science practice. The organisation is funded by Arts Council England as part of its National Portfolio. Over 23 years, it has commissioned more than 140 UK and international artists' projects, often at pivotal moments in artists' careers, including major projects by Tomas Saraceno, Aleksandra Mir, Agnes Meyer-Brandis, Carey Young, Jan Fabre and the Otolith Group. Arts Catalyst works with artists and scientists to create artworks and generate new ideas exploring science and its role in society and culture: from the nature of air to environmental change, interspecies communication to the future of the moon. It aims to give audiences distinctive, thought-provoking experiences and to play a leading role in the dialogue around interdisciplinary artistic practice. The organisation collaborates with world-class galleries, museums, universities, arts organisations, science institutions and research centres. www.artscatalyst.org

2) **Mission//Misplaced Memory** was founded in 2014 by writer and artist Gaylene Gould (writetalklisten) with artists and experimental sonic musicians Gary Stewart and Trevor Mathison (Dubmorphology). It is a site-specific, Afrofuturist-inspired project that uses research, performance, sound and visual installation to explore the ways personal and collective memory shape one another. Its first Mission Ship landing was at Tate Britain in 2015 with subsequent Missions at The Tate Modern, the V&A Museum of Childhood and Selfridges. <http://www.misplacedmemory.com/>

3) **Dubmorphology** is an interdisciplinary artist and research group comprising Trevor Mathison, a founding member of Black Audio Film Collective, and Gary Stewart. Through experimental approaches to sound art, live cinema and installations Dubmorphology blurs the boundaries between the sonic, visual and performative. Responding directly to specific sites and buildings, their practice is distinguished by an ongoing investigation into the unique spaces emerging in museums, art galleries and public spaces formed by the shifting intersections between audiences, authorship and participation. Recent exhibitions, biennials, laboratories and performances include Uprising, Bogota; Multiplicidade, Rio de Janeiro; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Art Dubai, Madinat Jumeirah; Taipei Biennial; W.E.B. Dubois Institute, Cambridge; Afterimage, Bristol; and dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Nyege Nyege 2016. <http://dubmorphology.tumblr.com/>

4) **writetalklisten**

Founded by writer, artist, coach and consultant Gaylene Gould, an now helmed by Zaynab Bunsie, writetalklisten creates art and media projects that connect people, ideas and communities. Under Gould, the company has co-produced seven Mission//Misplaced Memory projects. Other recent projects include a sonic installation at Tate, an in-conversation with *Moonlight* film director Barry Jenkins, and involvement in the professional development network Underground Railroad. <https://www.writetalklisten.com/>