

PRESS RELEASE

ARTS CATALYST ANNOUNCES KING'S CROSS GAS WORKSHOP, AN INSTALLATION AND RESIDENCY WITH ARTIST TOM JAMES

3 – 30 NOVEMBER 2018



What will the people of King's Cross do once the future starts to unravel? How will they live once the sea levels rise, the economy collapses and Russia turns off the gas? Where will they work? How will they heat their beans?

For the month of November, artist Tom James will be in residence at Arts Catalyst, building an anaerobic digester in the gallery, and turning the centre into a temporary, low-tech, off-grid gas works. As part of this residency, Tom will be running a free, hands-on public workshop on Saturday 10 November, teaching people how to build their own digester.

Anaerobic digesters are simple machines designed to turn food waste into methane gas, which can then be used to cook or heat water. They can be made from everyday materials found in DIY shops, salvaged from skips outside houses, or reclaimed from landfill. Tom will be available every Thursday throughout the residency, to introduce people to the digester, talk through their fears for the future, and make them a cup of tea (dependent on methane levels).

King's Cross Gas Workshop aims to explore narratives of a past, present and future King's Cross, encompassing on one hand its industrial history as a site of gas production, marked by its iconic gas holders (now luxury flats), and on the other, a possible future for collective, bottom-up energy production, in the context of the environmental and economic collapse that seems to be just round the corner.

The residency is part of Tom's ongoing research project *A Future Manual* – a self-published, DIY guide to surviving and thriving in the uncertain world that awaits us. Informed by existing, experimental bottom-up infrastructures at Camley Street Natural Park and Calthorpe Project, King's Cross Gas Workshop aims to share real skills with people, whilst at the same time creating space for a conversation about what climate change means, and what we can and should be doing about it.

INFORMATION

Public opening hours:

3 – 30 November, Thursdays and Fridays, 12 – 6pm.

Free entry, everyone welcome!

The artist will be present to show visitors how to use the anaerobic digester on Thursdays.

Visitors are invited to bring along any food waste they would like to feed the digester with!

Press enquiries and image requests:

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Notes to Editors:

Tom James is a writer and artist who creates projects and publications that aim to change the way people think about the structures, places and ideas around them. Recent work includes *The Clearing*, a year-long collaboration with Alex Hartley to create a vision of the future in the grounds of Compton Verney, in Warwickshire; and *New, New England House*, an attempt to regenerate a publicly-owned factory in Brighton from the inside out, as part of the utopian regeneration agency *Spacemakers*. Tom's projects have been featured across the British press, whilst his cult fanzine, *Ga*, is part of the permanent collection of the V&A.

Arts Catalyst Arts Catalyst is a nonprofit contemporary arts organisation that commissions and produces transdisciplinary art and research, activating new ideas, conversations and transformative experiences across science and culture and engaging people in a dynamic response to our changing world. In its 24 years, Arts Catalyst has commissioned more than 160 artists' projects, including major new works by Tomás Saraceno, Aleksandra Mir, Critical Art Ensemble, Jan Fabre and the Otolith Group, and produced numerous exhibitions, events, performances and publications, collaborating with major arts, science and academic organisations. The Arts Catalyst Centre in King's Cross, London, is a hub for Arts Catalyst's work, nationally and internationally, where it can develop new projects and co-inquiries connecting local interests with wider planetary issues.