

September 2019 – July 2020

# Exhibitions



**DCA**<sup>20</sup>

Dundee Contemporary Arts



**#helloDCA**

**CREATIVE COURSES**

**WITH PRINTMAKING**

**EXPERTS**

# welcome

At DCA we understand contemporary art as a beautifully fluid concept: a dynamic combination of materials, methods, concepts and subjects that challenge traditional boundaries and defy easy definition. Our exhibitions over the coming months wallow in this fluidity, bringing a hugely eclectic mix of artworks and ideas to Dundee for the very first time.

This autumn we are delighted to be working with Barbadian-Scottish artist **Alberta Whittle** on her largest solo exhibition to date, inviting the artist to fill both galleries at DCA with voices that speak back and forth across the Atlantic, between Scottish and Caribbean shores. The spaces Whittle crafts, both figuratively and physically, are warm, welcoming, intimate zones of contact where bodies come together to better understand the past, to reconfigure the present, and to actively work towards a more healing, nurturing future. With new installations blending film, sculpture and performance, this show will reflect on ideas of memory, weather and colonial histories, laying out a new visual and oral language that questions accepted Western constructs of society today.

Following this, we are developing a major international group project invoking the spirit of American writer Ursula K. Le Guin and considering the contemporary relevance of some of the ideas contained within her 1969 feminist sci-fi novel *The Left Hand of Darkness*. Our exhibition **Seized by the Left Hand** will draw together artists from countries including Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, USA, Mexico, Colombia, Qatar and Singapore to explore ideas of gender, sexuality, language, power and empire. We are also excited to be commissioning new work by writers, poets and musicians as part of this project opening in December and taking us through to the early spring of 2020.

Next April we will be launching a new show by Scottish artist **Douglas Gordon**. Centring on his symphonic film installation *k.364*, this project follows two musicians of Polish-Jewish origin returning to the landscapes their parents fled in 1939. Projected visually across multiple screens and brought to life audibly through a richly layered sound installation, Gordon charts an emotional voyage through recent European history in this work, creating a powerful portrait of two people attempting to better understand their past.

These forthcoming exhibitions all stretch time in different ways, whether through delving deep into humanity's past, or reaching speculatively and hopefully into imagined alternative realities and undefined futures. You're warmly invited to join us on any number of these journeys over the coming months.

## **Eoin Dara** **Head of Exhibitions**

Keep up to date with the very latest from DCA by visiting [www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk) or by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. We love seeing your photos and comments about each exhibition at DCA: share them with us using **#helloDCA**, or the exhibition hashtags you'll find in this brochure.



# How Flexible Can We Make the Mouth

## Alberta Whittle

Sat 14 September – Sun 24 November 2019

Open daily 10:00 – 18:00 Open late Thu 20:00

Admission Free

#AlbertaWhittle

This exhibition marks Barbadian-Scottish artist Alberta Whittle's first major solo exhibition in a UK institution, drawing together new and recent artworks in film, sculpture, print, installation and performance to reflect on memory, trauma, weather and tensions between the land and sea.

Whittle's interdisciplinary practice develops a visual, oral and textual language that questions accepted Western constructs of history and society. This work is undertaken with an acute understanding of how formal historical records produced by privileged white men have always sought to replace more ancient and informal ways of comprehending the past. The artist's wider research questions the authority of postcolonial power, its implications and its legacy.

Whittle's work often considers conditions in the afterlife of slavery where the racialised black body can become suspended in a state of stress that directly impacts upon physical, mental and emotional health. Within her work, the artist connects these ideas of black oppression with meditations on survival; championing the idea of healing as self-liberation.

*How Flexible Can We Make the Mouth* refers to Whittle's current preoccupation with healing, writing, breath and orality. Writing has always been an integral part of her practice, and the texts she produces are meant to be read aloud, to be heard as well as seen. She also works rhythmically in relation to writing and reading, particularly looking at punctuation marks as visual signifiers of shifts in breath and breathing. Looking at the relationship between historical written testimonies and ancestral knowledge shared through oral traditions, the artist will be using video and performance to create direct encounters with audiences, encouraging mutual empathy, learning, and understanding.

### About the artist:

Alberta Whittle (b.1980, Bridgetown, Barbados) lives and works in Glasgow. Her practice-led research involves performance, writing, digital collage and video installation.

Whittle received her MFA from Glasgow School of Art in 2011 and she is a PhD candidate at Edinburgh College of Art. Whittle was the 2018 recipient of The Margaret Tait Award.

Whittle's work has been exhibited in various solo and group shows within institutions including the 13th Havana Biennial, Cuba (2019); GoMA, Glasgow (2019); The City Arts Centre, Edinburgh (2019); The Showroom, London (2018); National Art Gallery of the Bahamas (2018); RAW Material, Dakar (2018); FADA Gallery, Johannesburg (2018); The Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg (2017); FRAMER FRAMED, Amsterdam (2015); Goethe On Main, Johannesburg (2015); at The Johannesburg Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale, Venice (2015); and BOZAR, Brussels (2014). Several of Whittle's digital prints were recently purchased by the Contemporary Art Research Collection at Edinburgh College of Art.

Image: Alberta Whittle, *Between a Whisper and a Cry*, 2019. Image courtesy of the artist.

DISCOVERY  
FILM FESTIVAL



WINNER OF THE HUGO AND NEBULA AWARDS  
FOR BEST SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL OF THE YEAR

URSULA K.  
LE GUIN



THE  
LEFT HAND  
OF DARKNESS

"[A] science fiction masterpiece." *Newsweek*

# Seized by the Left Hand

Sophia Al-Maria | Andrew Black | CAConrad | Harry Josephine Giles | Emma Wolf-Haugh  
Isaac Julien | Huw Lemmey | Flora Moscovici | Quinie | Abel Rodríguez | Tuesday Smillie  
Manuel Solano | Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa | Ming Wong

**Sat 14 December 2019 – Sun 22 March 2020**

Open daily 10:00 – 18:00 Open late Thu 20:00

Admission Free

#SeizedbytheLeftHand

This international group exhibition takes as its starting point the ideas contained within American writer Ursula K. Le Guin's 1969 novel *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

Written 50 years ago, this masterpiece of feminist science fiction is set on an icy planet called 'Gethen' (which translates to 'Winter') whose inhabitants shift and change gender continuously throughout their lives. We as readers are told the story of Gethen from a human perspective through the eyes of protagonist Genly Ai, an envoy sent to the planet to attempt to convince Gethenian governments to join an interplanetary trade coalition.

The book had a profound impact on the sci-fi genre at the time of its publication and remains hugely relevant to the world around us today, posing serious and challenging questions about gender, sexuality, the environment, language, communication, power and empire.

Using *The Left Hand of Darkness* as a lodestar of sorts, and invoking Le Guin's generous spirit in thinking through the possibility of an exhibition inspired by her writing, we are drawing together a community of different artistic voices from all over the world to fill our galleries across the winter. Presenting work by Sophia Al-Maria, Andrew Black, CAConrad, Harry Josephine Giles, Emma Wolf-Haugh, Isaac Julien, Huw Lemmey, Flora Moscovici, Quinie, Abel Rodríguez, Tuesday Smillie, Manuel Solano, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa and Ming Wong, the exhibition aims to explore some of the questions and ideas thrown up by Le Guin half a century ago that are still urgently being debated in contemporary society.

This multifaceted project, co-curated with Kim McAleese (Programme Director of Grand Union, Birmingham), will combine painting, drawing, sculpture, installation and film, with performance, poetry and writing.

*Seized by the Left Hand* seeks to champion artists, performers and writers who, much like Le Guin was, are engaged in the vital act of radical imagining: crafting alternative spaces and worlds that hint at ways in which we all might better live, love and care for one another.

Image: Tuesday Smillie, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, 2010, 2015. Image courtesy of the artist.



# k.364

## Douglas Gordon

**Sat 11 April – Sun 19 July 2020**

Open daily 10:00 – 18:00 Open late Thu 20:00

Admission Free

#DouglasGordon

Douglas Gordon is a Scottish artist who creates work that questions the complexities of memory and perception, both from an individual and collective position. This exhibition focuses on his major film installation *k.364* and marks the premiere of this work in a public gallery in the UK.

*k.364* features two Israeli musicians of Polish descent (Avri Levitan and Roi Shiloah) traveling to Poland from Berlin by train. Shown on multiple screens and with layered audio, the film follows the two men through a desolate landscape in a country whose tragic and violent history is barely resolved for them.

Gordon films the musicians on this personal journey, isolating intimate moments when their passionate love of music seems to move between them. Leaving Berlin, they first travel through Poznań, home of the celebrated Amadeus Chamber Orchestra. The journey concludes with the musicians' performance, at the Warsaw Philharmonic concert hall, of Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat major* (also known as Mozart's *Köchel Composition k.364*, from which the title of this piece is derived).

This work is an intimate document of the relationship between individuals and the power of music, against the subtly drawn backdrop of a dark and unresolved social history.

### About the artist:

Douglas Gordon (b.1966, Glasgow, Scotland) lives and works in Berlin, Glasgow and Paris. His practice encompasses video and film, installation, sculpture, photography, and text.

Through his work, Gordon investigates human conditions like memory and the passage of time, as well as universal dualities such as life and death, good and evil, right and wrong.

Gordon's work has been exhibited globally in major solo exhibitions including the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin (1999), Tate Liverpool (2000), MOCA in Los Angeles (2001 and 2012), Hayward Gallery in London (2002), National Gallery of Scotland (2006), Museum of Modern Art in New York (2006), Tate Britain in London (2010), Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2013), as well as in Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris (2014). His film works have been invited to the Festival de Cannes, Toronto International Film Festival, Venice Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, BFI London Film Festival, Festival del Film Locarno and New York Film Festival, among many others. Gordon received the 1996 Turner Prize.

Image: Installation view *k.364*, Gagosian, London ©Studio, Studio lost but found/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019. Photo by Studio lost but found/Frederik Pedersen. Image courtesy of Studio lost but found, Berlin and Gagosian, London.



## Gallery Events

For every exhibition in DCA Galleries we programme a series of talks and events, from artist Q&As to live performances and talks from writers and academics whose work relates to our exhibitions. Please keep an eye on our website or ask one of our friendly Visitor Assistants for the most up to date information.

### Exhibition Preview & Meet the Artist

Be among the first to see new shows as they open at these popular events. Advance booking is essential for Meet the Artist where you'll hear directly from our artists and/or curatorial team, before getting the chance to explore the show. Exhibition Previews follow these events from 19:00 – 21:00 and do not require booking.

### Gallery Tours

For each exhibition we hold daily tours at 11:00 and 15:00, seven days a week (unless there is another event in the gallery). These are free, drop-in tours in which our friendly and knowledgeable Visitor Assistants will show you around the exhibition.

### Artists' Choice Screenings

Whenever possible, we invite the artists in our programme to select films to screen in our cinemas to accompany their exhibition. To hear about upcoming screenings, please visit our website, sign up to receive exhibition emails or check with our Box Office.

### Curator's Tours

Join Eoin Dara, Head of Exhibitions at DCA, for a guided tour through our gallery spaces on a selected date during each exhibition. Free, but advance booking is required. See our website for further details.

### See Think Make Do Open Weekend

**Sat 7 & Sun 8 December, 10:00 – 18:00**

Join DCA Learning team for a special open weekend and display as part of our DCA20 birthday celebrations. Be a Visual Detective, get creative with our artists, find out more about the groups we work with, and enjoy having a go at art, craft, print, film and animation. This event is free and drop-in, see our website for more details.



More events will be announced for each exhibition: visit [www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk) for further information, and sign up to receive regular email updates. Or if you prefer, give Box Office a call on 01382 432444.



## Young Visitors, Families and Groups

We provide a range of free and ticketed activities for children and families to accompany every exhibition that aim to help you to engage with the works on show in the galleries and offer simple and enjoyable learning experiences.

Children under 12-years-old must be accompanied at all times unless otherwise stated.

### Family Art Labs

These workshops offer a chance for all of the family to get stuck in with in-depth creative activities led by our team of artists. Activities are inspired by the exhibitions or exhibiting artists. You can stay as long as you like or leave when you need to, these workshops are designed to be flexible.

There's no ticket, just come along at the start time. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Family Art Labs happen on selected Saturdays and run 13:00 – 15:00 – please see our website for further details.

### School & Community Group Visits

Get in touch at [learning@dca.org.uk](mailto:learning@dca.org.uk) and we'll be happy to arrange a tour or workshop to suit.

### Create Space

Free and open daily 10:00 – 18:00 during exhibitions, unless being used for a workshop.

DCA Create Space is a comfy imaginative space for younger visitors and families to have a go at DIY art activities inspired by our exhibitions, browse the art library or just relax on the sofas and enjoy the view.

Do phone in advance if you are making a special trip or bringing a group to visit to check that the room will be free. Please note: children must be accompanied at all times in Create Space.

### Creative Courses for 11+ years

We offer courses in art and print techniques, photography, digital skills, craft making and portfolio development, all led by professional artists. Check our website or pick up a Get Creative leaflet for more information.

*We are grateful to The Northwood Trust, Al Maktoum College Community Fund and The Hugh Fraser Foundation for their support of our family learning programme.*

Go to [www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk) for dates, details and to book.



As well as feeding back on the current exhibition in our galleries, we'd love for you to share your memories from the last 20 years of DCA on our #helloDCA20 board.

**DCA Galleries are open:**

**Mon – Sun: 10:00 – 18:00**

**Open late Thu: 10:00 – 20:00**

**Daily Exhibition Tours: Join our friendly Visitor Assistants at the gallery entrance for a free guided tour at 11:00 or 15:00**

**DCA Box Office is open daily from 10:00 until 20:00**

## Access

DCA welcomes everyone and we are committed to making our programme and facilities accessible. Large print copies of all DCA print materials are available from Box Office. Guide Dogs are welcome in our galleries.

If you have any questions regarding accessibility, please call us on: 01382 432444.



Whilst every effort is taken to ensure the information within this guide is accurate mistakes do happen. DCA reserves the right to make changes to the programme as necessary.

DCA reserves the right to refuse admission.

*We are grateful to the Garfield Weston Foundation for their support.*

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**DUNDEE**  
ONE CITY, MANY DISCOVERIES