

UNFOLD

# Unfold: Art in the City of Tomorrow

## **Unfold: Art in the City of Tomorrow**

2nd - 8th Oct. 2017

Church Street,

London NW8 8EH

Unfold is a collaboration between four young Londoners: female art-entrepreneurs who are shaping a more open art world. We believe in supporting artists, connecting people and encouraging new art-buyers.

We will transform Church Street in Central London into an immersive experience celebrating emerging artists. We'll take you behind the scenes and introduce you to artists, curators and some exciting thinkers and disrupters. Join us on this journey through a working artist's studio and two innovative exhibition spaces with talks and workshops.



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Artists tell a million stories of the city.

Everywhere you turn there is Art: from public sculptures in surprising places to murals in underground stations, from the smallest artist-led show in someone's garage to the grand heights of the contemporary art museum. Art offers us the opportunity to rest our minds: to delight our eyes, to engage our sense of touch, to discover something new. The fabric of the city embraces it all, but how often do we truly immerse ourselves in what surrounds us every day?

In curating UNFOLD, we have selected artists who inspire us, who we believe tell the stories that will inspire others too. Who will encourage you to immerse yourself in the art that is all around you.

We explore the role of the city as stimulus: many of the UNFOLD artists simply wouldn't

be artists if they didn't live in a city. Matthieu Venot and Jenny Woods took to the pavements of Brest and Brooklyn, as self-taught photographers, exploring and learning the skills of photography as they walked the streets. Lakwena, who created our glorious windows, has an aesthetic that was shaped by her formative years in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and London. Chelle Sappleton finds the freedom to play, to experiment with her artistic practice, enabled by the support of a like-minded collective of urban women.

But, just as the city inspires talented artists, so too does it restrict them. With rising rents and galleries closing daily, artists need new art-buyers in order to survive.

An artist such as Danielle Krysa, also known as art-blogger The Jealous Curator, is vital precisely because of the immediacy of her work: both her whimsical

collages and her blog show a side of the art-world which is playful, fun and unintimidating. This is seconded by Alexandra Lethbridge, who tells magical tales woven with both real and imagined narratives.

We could not curate artistic tales of the modern city without also looking at the dark side: the emptiness, the loneliness, the fragmentation. The overwhelming nature of city life that forces some to seek solace outside the city itself. Aigli Andritsopoulou lives in Athens but finds her greatest inspiration in the quiet and calm of the Greek islands. Will Thomson has spent his whole life in London but paints fragments that he glimpses through an open door at home, or his studio, or a section of the Barbican. The specific is rendered universal. Yuki Shima captures the emptiness, the harshness of a city at night, where the sky is never dark, and the only companions are foxes.

But this dark side is only one aspect of the modern city. As with so much, narratives are conflicting and nothing is entirely light or dark.

In Chloe Early's work the float rings could symbolise happy childhood summers at the beach, but also life-rings helping those drowning at sea - a recent and dark symbol of the refugee crisis in Europe.

There is probably no city in the world built without the contributions of immigrants and we cannot curate a show about art in the modern city without including their stories. We tell these stories through the eyes of Adelaide Damoah and Xiaowen Zhu. Adelaide's compelling performances and mixed media work tell her own story of her role within her family, and within British colonial history; while Xiaowen's multimedia installation of a second generation immigrant running his father's silk shop in

Los Angeles tells a quiet tale of a disappearing world.

We examine some of the ways the modern city will be powered forward: powered by years, decades, centuries of history. Layers of stories. Entire worlds hidden under the ground beneath our feet.

Robi Walters and Lawrence Calver create unique work from found objects: the beautiful work they create from what is left-over and discarded make us look afresh at the wastefulness that exists all around us. David aiu Servan-Schreiber's piece inspires us to protect our planet, the stitches holding together the core of the earth, forming a metaphor which speaks of our human role in creating the world of tomorrow.

And women! Seen through Camilla Bliss' proud spearheads, we cannot deny the stories of women in the modern city, rising. Jasmine Pradissitto

represents a new everywoman - a mother who studied physics by day and fine art by night.

Art can power a city forward, but only if we take time to truly appreciate it, and only if we all, collectively, work together to help artists thrive. This is the heart of UNFOLD. We have chosen our artists because we believe they have a talent that deserves to be seen and celebrated, and stories that need to be told.

We believe in the artists of Unfold. We believe in their work. We believe in their unique stories.

We hope you enjoy the exhibition.

Kitty Dinshaw & Liezel Strauss,  
Subject Matter

# Unfold: The Windows

Our glorious windows have been created by acclaimed visual artist Lakwena.

Lakwena's iconic, kaleidoscopic work is informed by the use of decoration as a means of communication. As a form of expression within a political world, Lakwena explores how the use of adornment in worship and myth-making translates into contemporary popular culture.

Central to her practice are words, used as both images and anchors of meaning, borrowing from the techniques and conventions of traditional sign-writing and contemporary graphic design.

With an aesthetic that draws upon her formative years in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and her native London, Lakwena has created epic outdoor murals in diverse cities from Miami to London, creating bold messages of hope in urban landscapes.



# Unfold: Gallery Space

The **Unfold: Gallery Space** is a quiet, mobile-free space where you can completely immerse yourselves in our artists' work.

We've curated the works in this space to inspire and delight you - and we hope some of them will make you smile.

We're also going to ask you to tell us something about yourself....



## **Aigli Andritsopoulou (b. 1989, Athens)**

Aigli Andritsopoulou's artistic practice centres around photography series that explore the notion of unity in experience.

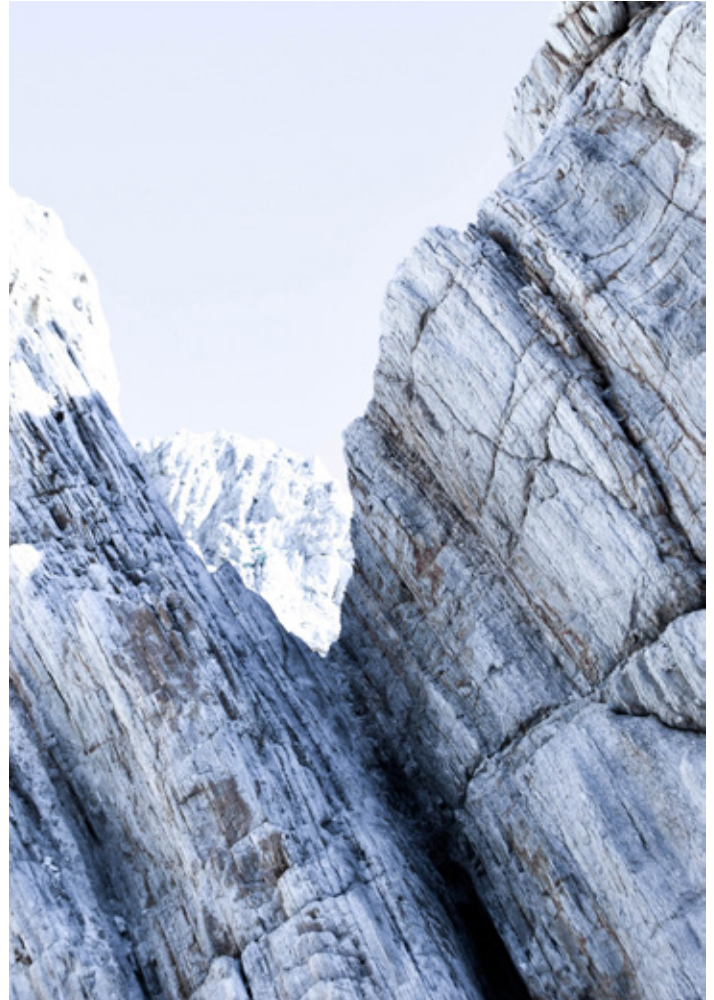
She creates an "Other Topos", a space of on-going process, where fragments of the past encounter elements of the present to create a unifying force, the vivid promise of the future. This "Other Topos" encompasses her study of origins, primeval mysticism, western philosophical tradition and an analysis of the contemporary transformation of the global socio-political context.

### **As If the Moon | 3 (2017)**

110 x 160 cm

Edition of 5

Archival pigment print, matte aluminium,  
wooden frame





# Chloe Early

## **Chloe Early** **(b. 1980, London)**

Chloe Early paints post-apocalyptic prospects laden with themes of redemption and hope: starved landscapes flourishing under flowers, dark urban ruins teeming with light.

She works in oils on aluminium panels, with her colour-saturated mini-narratives combining the splendour of Renaissance and Romantic painting with the rawness of contemporary life; examining the sensitive and personal aspects of conflict, ambition and entropy in an opulent, cinematic style.

### **Tribe (2017)**

183 x 152 cm  
Oil on aluminium panel



# Alexandra Lethbridge

## Alexandra Lethbridge (b. 1987, Hong Kong)

Alexandra Lethbridge is a photographer who uses found photographs, archival imagery and constructed images of her own making as the basis of her research-based practice.

Drawing upon a range of references and source material, she combines scientific theories with fictional constructed images, bringing them together as a form of storytelling.

Approaching image making in a playful and experimental way, her practice deliberately mixes fact and fiction to create expanded views of the subject matter she explores.

### (Mis)Direction (2016)

164 x 135 cm

Edition of 8 plus 1 artist's proof

Vinyl Wallpaper Print



## **Jasmine Pradissitto (b. 1966, Somerset)**

Jasmine Pradissitto's Quantum Sculptures in light embrace the dual world of the physicist and artist.

Described as 'holograms you can touch', she uses everyday, throw-away transparent plastics inspired by geometry and natural forms, which she melts and draws out into new shapes before then lighting them.

Her artistic process is based on specific scientific and engineering processes. Through reflection and refraction, colour takes on a material, physical form that changes as you move around it.

### **Hands To Heaven (2017)**

55 x 30 x 23 cm  
Plastic, light



## David aiu Servan-Schreiber (b. 1989, Neuilly)

David aiu Servan-Schreiber traces his journey to faith through his observation of the planets.

Symbols of Christian Orthodox iconology, astrolatry and alchemy combine in his art to express and give meaning to that which even contemporary science cannot justify or explain.

Presenting a variety of anonymous planets against coloured backgrounds, the London-based French artist pays a tribute to the celestial elements which ignited faith in him as an adolescent and continue to guide his reflections as a painter today.

### Stitches (2017)

104 x 122 cm

Oil and gold leaf applied on wooden panel



## **Will Thomson (b. 1992, London)**

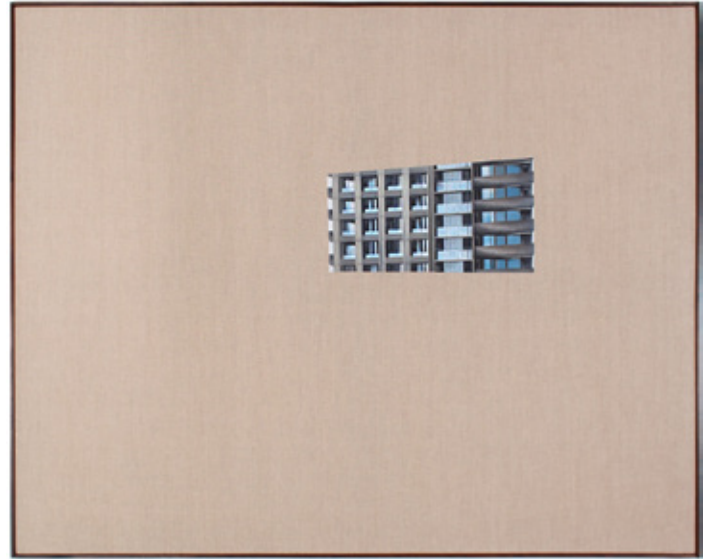
Will Thomson's work reproduces the 'magic' of the reveal of a photographic print in developing fluid. His practice is a reaction to how we look at, see and remember things.

Will has always been fascinated by the immediacy of the photographic process. The concept of the photographic reveal, classically associated with the dark room, film and photography, is transferred to other mediums through his practice.

Focusing on notions of emergence and reflection, Will gives the power of finality to his viewer. It is in the very action of viewing that the audience renders the work complete.

### **View From Michael Craig-Martin's Window (2014)**

124 x 154 cm  
Oil on canvas



## **Matthieu Venot (b. 1979, Brest)**

Matthieu Venot is a rising star in the French photographic world.

His career subverts the traditional trajectory because he initially found fame on Instagram (@legrandbazar) with his playful and stylish images of his hometown of Brest. Since then, his work has matured as an artist, he has been featured in several exhibitions, and he has left Instagram far behind.

Although he is an architectural photographer, his aim is not to create large oppressive images but instead to give the day-to-day urban fabric that surrounds him a freshness and unexpected quality.

### **Dunkerque: Untitled XVI (2017)**

120 x 120 cm

Archival pigment print, matte aluminium,  
wooden frame





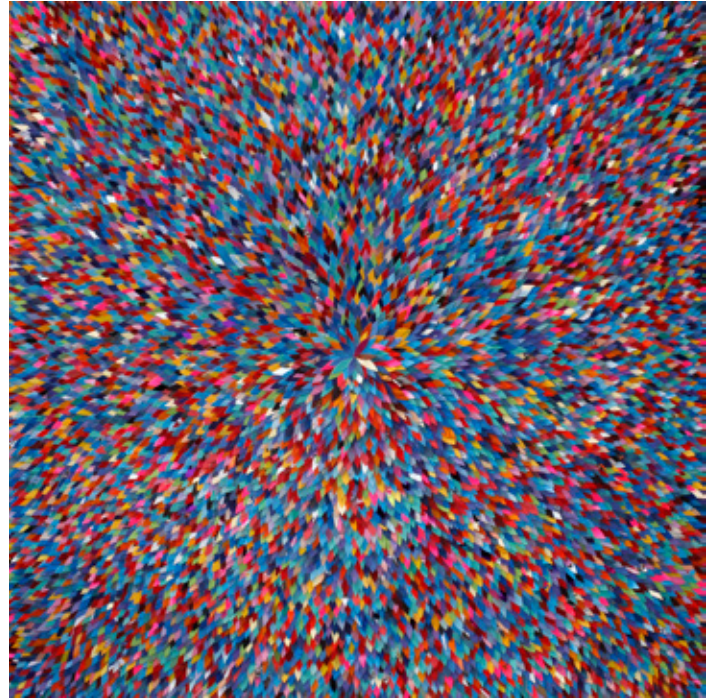
## **Robi Walters (b. 1973, London)**

Robi Walters's exuberant collages and paintings are filled with vibrant bursts of colour.

To create his mixed-media pieces, he uses unusual materials, such as discarded paper, card and packaging from household items. He arranges these fragments into lotus-like forms that relate to his interest in meditation, an act he practices every morning as a way of constantly striving to generate a positive force for change.

### **Time Space Transmat (2017)**

122 x 122 cm  
Recycled card, spray, glue and plywood



## **Xiaowen Zhu** **(b. 1986, Shanghai)**

Xiaowen Zhu is an artist, filmmaker and writer.

Described as a visual poet, social critic, and aesthetic researcher, she uses film, photography, performance, installation and mixed media as platforms to communicate the complex experience of being a diasporic person and to wrestle with the notion of a disembodied identity.

### **Oriental Silk (2015)**

Single channel film  
Edition of 5

4 film stills  
Each an edition of 5





# Unfold: Project Space

The **Unfold: Project Space** is a real departure point for the art-world, as the art will be exhibited in an immersive home environment.

You can spend time in the space with a cup of coffee, a good book, or a magazine - just take some time to really relax.

We're going to ask you to switch off your phone, unwind and breathe...



## **Camilla Bliss** **(b. 1989, London)**

Camilla Bliss is a multidisciplinary artist who often engages the viewers in a playful and dynamic environment through her work.

She regularly draws inspiration from pre-existing narratives from different cultural histories of the past, alongside the movement and actions of people in our modern world – the tracks that we leave and the rituals we create. Whether these movements can be physically seen or not, it is the presence of a feeling that is important. This is reflected in her sculptures through the marks made by the hand and the use of raw materials.

### **Spear Heads (2016)**

15 x 15 x 218 cm  
Mixed Media

*Photo: Trent McMinn*



## **Lawrence Calver (b. 1992, Suffolk)**

Lawrence Calver's practice involves the use of textiles to explore themes and aesthetics of contemporary fine art. An array of textiles and re-purposed domestic fabrics are exposed to a range of rigorous processes such as bleaching, dyeing, painting and staining, as well as a process of embroidery, stitching and sewing.

Lawrence's role resembles that of an art director; rather than creating something new, there is deliberate action to celebrate what is already there. The search for materials is an active part of his practice which leads to investigations into the functional and aesthetic traits of the materials he uses.

### **Down the Line (2017)**

74 x 74 cm  
Henna, dye on linen



# Adelaide Damoah

## **Adelaide Damoah (b. 1976, London)**

Adelaide Damoah's practice involves mixed-media collages and performance art.

She expresses herself using her body as a printing tool, leaving a physical mark, while simultaneously using automatic writing through and around the impressions she has left. The writing takes the form of streams of consciousness and happenings, interspersed with words and proverbs from the languages of her Ghanaian parents. It is art, and it is also a labour of love.

### **You Should Learn to Speak the Language (2017)**

61 x 91 cm  
Oil and mixed media on canvas



## **Danielle Krysa (b. 1973, Vancouver)**

Danielle Krysa might be better known as The Jealous Curator, the well-known art-blogger. The blog started in 2009, and since then, Danielle has celebrated a different contemporary artist every day. The Jealous Curator blog was at the forefront of the online art movement and to this day the blog and associated Instagram account occupy a vital place in attempts to demystify the art-world.

Danielle began making collages after starting the blog, and every collage tells a story she invents while making the work. Whimsical, gentle and enchanting, these are pieces to bring a smile to your face: which is exactly how the artist would like it.

**“she wondered how many more of  
donald’s tantrums she’d have to watch  
before this shit show was finally over.”  
(2016)**

19 x 23 cm

Found image, gouache on watercolor paper



## **Lakwena Maciver (b. 1986, London)**

Lakwena's iconic, kaleidoscopic work is informed by the use of decoration as a means of communication. As a form of expression within a political world, Lakwena explores how the use of adornment in worship and myth-making translates into contemporary popular culture.

Central to her practice are words, used as both images and anchors of meaning, borrowing from the techniques and conventions of traditional sign-writing and contemporary graphic design.

With an aesthetic that draws upon her formative years in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and her native London, Lakwena creates both murals and paintings, which convey bold messages of hope in our urban landscapes.

We are delighted that in addition to showing her work with Unfold, that Lakwena has agreed to create our gorgeous windows.

### **The Future's Gold (2017)**

90 x 120 cm  
Wood, vinyl and paint





## **Cherelle Sappleton (b. 1984, London)**

Cherelle Sappleton is a visual artist, who initially started out with a performative practice before combining this with an interest in image-making.

Her collages combine her interest in feminist agendas and experimental theatre, utilising abstraction and surrealist aesthetics. Her work uses the black female body as a starting point to explore and respond to issues relating to representation, agency and sensation: the outcome of a strategy to circumvent the restrictions of representation and reach a place of non fixity - a space where one can resist categorisation and to which one can escape.

### **Untitled (2013)**

22 x 30 cm  
Collage on paper



## **Yuki Shima (b. 1980, Sapporo)**

The movement and flow in Yuki's work comes from a considered rejection of the still images he learnt to create as a student in Japan; where painting and drawing are regarded as the highest form of art.

Now living in London, and inspired by the drama of filmmaking, his work mixes several contemporary art forms such as graffiti, photography, and performance art.

### **Wellington Terrace (2003)**

70 x 96 cm

Edition of 5 with one artist's proof

Archival pigment print on Hahnemuehle fine art photo rag, wooden frame





# Jenny Woods

## **Jenny Woods (b. 1992, Florida)**

Jenny Woods is from a rising generation of self-taught photographers. Throughout her childhood in rural America, her camera was her best friend.

Now resident in Brooklyn, and in her early twenties, her work evokes her own life: the turmoil of a small town girl fighting to make it in the city.

### **Drunk Universe (2014)**

80 x 120 cm  
Archival pigment print, matte aluminium,  
wooden frame



## **Subject Matter**

Subject Matter was born in Tokyo in 2011 when Co-Founder Liezel Strauss started My Japan, a crowd-sourced photographic initiative to raise funds for victims of the Fukushima disaster. Inspired by how people responded to photography, Liezel realised that it was a great way to introduce new buyers and collectors to the world of art, which can otherwise seem intimidating and exclusive. Since its inception, Subject Matter has hosted a number of exhibitions globally, including an annual collaboration with the Royal College of Art. The Subject Matter team believe passionately in a more inclusive art-world, and specifically, in helping artists to thrive.

[subjectmatterart.com](http://subjectmatterart.com)

## **MTArt**

MTArt is the first artist agency in the world. MTArt promotes a select group of up-and-coming, visual artists. Artists are chosen on innovative techniques, inspiring content and strong vision. MTArt partially covers their studio and production costs, sell their works, implements cultural partnerships and offers press exposure. This is how the agency accelerates their artistic reputation. MTArt artists are freer to concentrate on advancing their visibility and success.

[marinetanguyart.com](http://marinetanguyart.com)

## **Predella House**

The founder of Predella House, Katrina Aleksa, has an infectious passion for all things art. She has provided Fine Art consultation and brokered Fine Art deals for a number of years. To complement her career as an art dealer, she founded Predella House in 2015 - an institute committed to the support of artists and encouraging new buyers in contemporary art. As well as supporting Tate patrons, Katrina is a co-founder of Association of Women in the Arts (AWITA) - a non-profit networking group established to advance the careers of women in the visual arts, and to promote change in the cultural landscape.

[predellahouse.com](http://predellahouse.com)

