

# STUDIO VOLTAIRE

## Studio Voltaire announces details of new public garden by artist Anthea Hamilton

Studio Voltaire has announced further details of an ambitious new commission, a public garden by artist Anthea Hamilton. The garden will open in October 2021, following completion of Studio Voltaire's £2.8 million capital project.

Forming a new entrance to Studio Voltaire's site, Hamilton's commission will transform a previously underused area to create a welcoming and generous garden for visitors, local residents, and the community of onsite studio artists. The garden will be the artist's first ever permanent commission and her first ever garden design.

Hamilton has applied design choices which might run counter to the codes and expectations of contemporary public spaces, or what we would anticipate from a contemporary arts organisation's architect-designed capital expansion. Evolving from her interest in a broad, indefinite South London vernacular, the materials she has selected – such as pebble mosaics, ironwork, brickwork and suburban crazy paving – feel domestic and immediately familiar. Combining organic surfaces with formal structures and tactile finishes, the garden's raised beds, pergola, seating areas, fountain and tiled walkway create a series of discrete but materially connected spaces.

This summer, Hamilton, who has been developing the scheme in conversation with gardeners, growers and writers, will begin the work of establishing planting throughout the garden. The enclosed space is reminiscent of a walled kitchen garden and similarly will combine edible plants, such as scented herbs, fruit trees and climbing vegetables, alongside ornamental flowers and shrubs. Subject to the varying growing cycles and life-spans of plants, the garden is a long-term and ongoing commitment that has been made with care and attention.

Hamilton has invited Nicholas Byrne to design a gate for the garden, forming a second entrance from the south. The gate further opens up the garden to our immediate neighbourhood and is also for studio artists to use outside public opening hours. The laser-cut gate is asymmetric, featuring an onion motif and a detail of a metal loop that repeats along walls on Nelson's Row, enlarged to fit the space of the opening.

Anthea Hamilton's commission is supported by:

outset.

With kind support from Dzek.

## Notes to editors

### Press contacts

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### Anthea Hamilton

Hamilton (b. 1978, London) is internationally recognised for her works combining sculptures, installation and performance. Incorporating references to art history, design, fashion and popular culture, her works are often unexpected in their use of humour, scale and subject matter. Nominated for the Turner Prize in 2016, Hamilton's large-scale solo exhibitions have included *The New Life*, Secession, Vienna (2018), *The Squash*, Tate Britain (2018), *Anthea Hamilton Reimagines Kettle's Yard*, The Hepworth Wakefield (2016) and *Lichen! Libido! Chastity!*, SculptureCenter in New York (2015). She was included in *May You Live In Interesting Times*, curated by Ralph Rugoff at the 58th Venice Biennale in 2019. Hamilton is represented by Thomas Dane Gallery and Kaufmann Repetto (Milan, New York).

### Nicholas Byrne

Byrne (b. 1979, Oldham) has exhibited widely, with solo exhibitions including *Fumes*, Federica Schiavo Gallery, Milan (2018); *LOVE, Cold Shower*, with Anthea Hamilton, Schinkel Pavilion, Berlin (2016); *Finish your sentence*, Vilma Gold, London (2015); and *Faces*, with Nora Schultz, dépendance, Brussels (2011). A major solo commission, *Divider*, was presented at Studio Voltaire in 2008.

### About Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts organisations. Its pioneering public programmes of exhibitions, participation projects, live events and offsite commissions have gained an international reputation.

The organisation has an outstanding track record of supporting artists at a pivotal stage in their careers, championing emerging and underrepresented practices and placing emphasis on risk-taking and experimentation. Many commissions are an artist's first solo exhibition in London or the UK.

Exhibiting artists have included Aaron Angell, Nairy Baghramian, Phyllida Barlow, Monster Chetwynd, Anne Collier, Nicole Eisenman, Sharon Hayes, Jamian Juliano-Villani, Nnena Kalu, Sanya Kantarovsky, Ella Kruglyanskaya, The Neo Naturists, Henrik Olesen, Paulina Olowaska, Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodger, Jo Spence, Cathy Wilkes and Rehana Zaman.

Studio Voltaire commissions a wide range of participatory and offsite projects working in collaboration with artists, local organisations, schools and community groups and provides a much-needed resource of affordable and accessible onsite artists' studios, supporting the development of diverse individual and collective practices, from recent graduates to internationally recognised practitioners.

Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

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Studio Voltaire Capital Project public funders:



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