

ICF
INTERNATIONAL
CURATORS
FORUM

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CURATORS
FORUM

2007:
52ND VENICE BIENNALE
DOCUMENTA XII
SCULPTURE PROJECTS MUENSTER 07
ISTANBUL BIENNIAL
LONDON SYMPOSIUM

FURTHER INFORMATION:
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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME
TO OUR
WORLD

You are now in the world of the International Curators Forum; a space to interrogate inter-cultural art, politics, and the role of the curator as a medium and interface between artists and audiences. This is a place where a new curatorial body will gather and identify itself before dispersing on a multiplicity of journeys. It is an open and organic peer-to-peer network designed to connect ideas that have originated across the world, offering professional development that is both globally and locally focused.

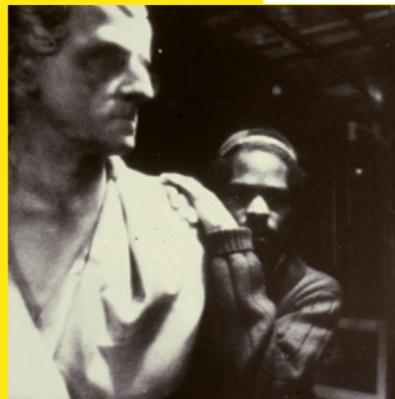
The International Curators Forum (ICF) aims to initiate and stimulate international discourse on the impact of diasporic cultures on the visual arts. In a world accelerated by economies of distribution the International Curators Forum inaugural programme is a critical response to the international topology of the visual arts. It is conceived and led by the artist and curator David A Bailey. As one of the foremost independent British curators, his direct experience of the visible absence of 'black bodies' at key international visual arts events is central to the motivation behind the decision to create the International Curators Forum.

The ICF will see the co-ordination and intervention of a critical mass of ethnically diverse British curators, cultural theorists and cultural leaders within the 52nd Venice Biennale, Documenta XII, sculpture projects muenster 07 and the Istanbul Biennial. This convergence of bodies is imagined in the context of this quadruplet of visual arts events that only occur once in a decade. It is, therefore, an auspicious moment in time to launch the ICF. As a forum it will seek to foster greater awareness, understanding and opportunities for partnerships and collaborations between diasporic curators and the visual arts establishment, as well as play a role in negotiating progression pathways for the new generation of leaders in visual arts. This will be a place to consider concepts and infrastructures that are responsive to contemporary issues of global discourse. Importantly, it will help us address the memory of Apartheid in which the exhibition, **Check List** will represent African contemporary art for the first time in the Artiglierie space of the Arsenale.

INTRODUCTION

DAVID A. BAILEY

'SELF PORTRAIT'
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



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It is with optimism and conviction that I welcome you to the International Curators Forum.

This project has been inspired by my journey as an independent curator working in England over the past twenty years. My aspiration is that we create a forum to address a number of pressing issues for contemporary curators. Most important for me is to highlight the discontinuity and absence of historical documents that acknowledge the significant curatorial presence of diasporic individuals, groups and organisations which have helped to re-define British art.

Over the last twenty-five years only a handful of under-resourced organisations and individuals have consistently taken a lead in this area. The time is now ripe to reflect upon existing curatorial initiatives and the 'blue sky' opportunities that can be developed for curatorial research and projects. In this context we will also consider what professional development and networking structures need to be examined and enhanced.

The International Curators Forum is a place to redress omissions and erased stories, and consider the relationship between arts activity (in all of its various guises) and curatorial practices. Of course the International Curators Forum should be and will be about profile, cultivation and strategic intervention. But, it must also allow established, mid career and most importantly emerging curators a substantial space for critical reflection, research, dialogue, experimentation and exchange. With continuing financial support the ICF will become part of a wider project that develops a strong infrastructure and sustains a progressive and engaging dialogue between British art and the international stage.

David A. Bailey

INTERNATIONAL CURATORS FORUM (ICF) INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM

PAN-EUROPEAN ENCOUNTERS

This is the first major gathering of international curators, writers, artists and critics at the Venice Biennale to discuss and explore the changing idea of identity and the diaspora in the 21st century.

The symposium will provide a necessary platform for a critical discussion about the changing nature of representation within an increasingly globalised cultural context. It will pose essential questions about the economies of exhibition, urbanisation and regeneration. It will also consider the international infra-structural developments necessary to nurture and sustain a more representative and culturally diverse professional ecology for the visual arts.

It's point of departure is an essay by Jacques Derrida on the future after Apartheid, and asks: Where are we now? What spectres haunt this scene in the year that South Africa exhibits, for the first time, as guests in the Italian Pavilion and Britain celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery Act?

'Nothing is delivered here in the present, nothing that would be presentable – only, in tomorrow's rear view mirror, the late, ultimate racism, the last of many.'

**Jacques Derrida 1983:
Racism's Last Word**

03

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

DAY ONE THURSDAY 7TH JUNE PAN EUROPEAN ENCOUNTERS

SALA CORTE ROOM HOTEL MONACO & GRAND CANAL SAN MARCO 1332

1.00PM

Welcome:

Symposium sponsors, Samenua Seshier Director decibel, Hilary Carty, Director Cultural Leadership Programme

1.10PM

Prologue:

Marco De Michelis
(*Dean of the University of Venice for the Arts*)

1.20PM

Keynote: The International Curators Forum - A 21st Century Renaissance Moment
David A. Bailey (*Curator*)

1.50PM

Panel discussion: A Black Aesthetic

Chair: Mike Phillips (*Independent Curator and Cross-cultural Consultant to Tate Britain*), Deborah Smith (*Curator*), Yu Yeon Kim (*Curator*), and David Adjaye (*Architect*)

2.20PM

Questions from the audience

2.40PM

Break

2.55PM

Keynote: An African Pavilion
Simon Njami (*Curator*) in conversation with Robert Storr - A South African Pavilion

3.25PM

Panel discussion: Curating Africa
Chair: Mariam Sharp (*Arts Council England*), Niru Ratman (*Director Store Gallery, London*), Ekow Eshun (*Director, Institute of Contemporary Arts, ICA, London*), Courtney J Martin (*Curator*), Thelma Golden (*Director, Studio Museum Harlem*), Paul Domela, (*Programme Director of Liverpool Biennial*)

3.45PM

Questions from the audience

4.00PM

End

5.30PM

Reception:
British Pavilion (courtesy of the British Council)

04

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

DAY TWO FRIDAY 8TH JUNE THE BLACK MOVING CUBE

SALA CORTE ROOM HOTEL MONACO & GRAND CANAL SAN MARCO 1332

2.00PM

Introduction:

The Black Moving Cube
David A Bailey (*Curator*)

4.30PM

Close

2.10PM

Keynote: Post Colonialism and The End of Empire
Gilane Tawadros (*Independent Curator*)

2.30PM

Panel Discussion: Post Colonialism and its Representations
Chair: Mark Waugh (*Writer and Curator*), Jacques Ranciere (*Theorist/Critic*), Jalal Toufic (*Artist*), Otolith Group: Anjalika Saga and Kodwo Eshun (*Artists*), John Akomfrah (*Artist*), Zineb Sidera (*Artist*)

3.00PM

Plienmuseum Presentation & Discussion:

Hosted by Mike Phillips (*Independent Curator and Cross-cultural Consultant to Tate Britain*)

3.45PM

In Conversation:

David Lammy (*Minister for Culture UK*) and Dr Augustus Casely-Hayford (*Executive Director Arts Strategy: Arts Council England*)

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SYMPOSIA CONTRIBUTORS

BERND BEHR
'HOUSE WITHOUT A DOOR'
PRODUCTION STILL
DVD, 2006
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



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Augustus Casely-Hayford

Born in London where he lives and works. Executive Director of Arts Strategy for Arts Council England, Augustus was previously Executive Director of inIVA. He led their successful capital campaign, restructured the organisation and raised substantial investment from commercial and public sector partners. Prior to that he instigated and then led the delivery of the immensely successful *Africa 05* initiative. *Africa 05* involved more than 150 cultural organisations, including the BBC, who undertook their largest ever cross-corporation support for an arts season. Augustus also led the British Museum's diversity programme, where he negotiated the first National Museum Directors' joint declaration on diversity.

Courtney Martin

Lives and works in New York. Courtney Martin is currently completing her doctorate in the history of art at Yale University. She most recently curated an exhibition of artists' books (2004-2005), which travelled to the Nathan Cummings Foundation in New York. It was included as part of the exhibition *History of Disappearance: Live Art from New York 1975-Present* at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, England. Prior to entering Yale, Courtney worked in the Media, Arts, and Culture Unit of the Ford Foundation in New York.

David Adjaye

Born in 1966 in Dar-Es-Salam, Tanzania. Lives and works in London, UK. David Adjaye is recognised as one of the leading architects of his generation in the UK. In the last year he has won important commissions in both Europe and the United States. The architectural community and the wider public have a high regard for his bespoke designs, ingenious use of materials and ability to sculpt light.

HAROLD OFFEH
'BEING MAMMY'
STILL FROM DVD
MIXED MEDIA INSTALLATION, 2004
COMMISSIONED BY PICTURE THIS
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



07

David A. Bailey

Born in London, lives and works in London, England. David A. Bailey is a photographer, writer, curator and lecturer. He is currently Senior Curator at Autograph APB and is curator of the *Black Moving Cube* season, *Remember Saro-Wiwa the Living Memorial* and the London segment of Channel 4's *Big Art Project*. His earlier work focused on issues relating to Black representations. He was actively involved in setting up Autograph: The Association of Black Photographers in 1988 and the Institute of International Visual Arts (inIVA) in 1994. From 1996 to 2002 he was Co-Director of the African and Asian Visual Artists Archive (AAVAA) based at the University of East London.

Deborah Smith

Lives and works in London. Deborah Smith was awarded the inaugural decibel senior curatorial fellowship in 2004 in recognition of her contributions to the visual arts. She is a curator working as a catalyst in the production and diffusion of contemporary art in a wide variety of contexts, exploring different strategies for collaboration and the presentation of cultural practices. Her key exhibitions include: *You don't know me but...* (1996-1998), *Metamorphosis* at the Liverpool Biennial (2002) *Navigating History* (2002-2005), and *Kerry James Marshall* (2003-2006).

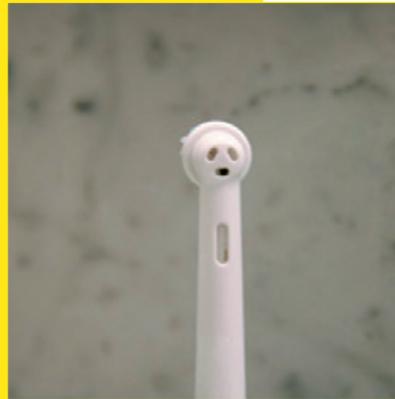
Ekow Eshun

Ghanaian-born, lives and works in London. Ekow Eshun is Artistic Director of ICA, as well as a freelance journalist for the Guardian and Observer newspapers. Ekow regularly appears on BBC television's arts and culture flagship programme *Late Review*. He was formerly editor of *Arena* magazine. His autobiography, *Black Gold of The Sun*, was published last year.

David Lammy, MP

Born London 1972. Lives and works in London. David Lammy is presently Minister for Culture. Prior to becoming a Government Minister, he was Vice Chair of the All-party Group on Rwanda and the Prevention of Genocide. He was also Vice Chair of the British-Caribbean All-party Group and a member of the All-party Group on Third World Debt.

ROSALIND NASHASHIBI
 'EYEBALLING'
 STILL FROM 16 MM FILM WITH SOUND
 COURTESY OF THE ARTIST,
 HARRIS LIEBERMAN, NEW YORK &
 DOGGERFISHER, EDINBURGH



Gilane Tawadros

Lives and works in London. Gilane Tawadros is a curator and writer. She curated the Brighton Photo Biennial in 2006. She was the founding Director of inIVA (Institute of International Visual Arts). Gilane has curated numerous exhibitions, most recently: *Veil* (New Art Gallery - Walsall, Bluecoat Art Gallery & Open Eye Gallery - Liverpool, Modern Art Oxford and Kulturehuset - Stockholm); *Fault Lines: Contemporary African Art and Shifting Landscapes* at the 50th Venice Biennale (2003), *Zarina Bhimji* (inIVA, 2004); *Sutapa Biswas* (2004); *David Adjaye* (inIVA, 2004); and *The Real Me* (ICA, 2005). As a writer and critic, Gilane Tawadros has written extensively on contemporary art, most recently she edited *Changing States: Contemporary Art and Ideas in an Era of Globalisation* (inIVA, 2004).

Jacques Rancière

Lives and works in Paris. Jacques Rancière (born 1940) is a French philosopher and Emeritus professor of Philosophy at the University of Paris-VIII (St. Denis). He came to prominence during the 1960's when he co-authored *Reading Capital*, with the Marxist philosopher Louis Althusser. His publications include; *Reading Capital* (1968), *The Nights of Labour: The Workers' Dream in Nineteenth-Century France* (1989), *The Ignorant Schoolmaster: Five Lessons in Intellectual Emancipation* (1991), *The Names of History: On the Poetics of Knowledge* (1994), *On the Shores of Politics* (1995), *Disagreement* (1998), *Short Voyages to the Land of the People* (2003) and *The Politics of Aesthetics: The distribution of the sensible* Tr. Gabriel Rockhill (2004).

HIRAKI SAWA
 'DWELLING'
 STILL FROM DVD, 2002
 COURTESY THE ARTIST &
 JAMES COHAN GALLERY, NEW YORK



Jalal Toufic

Born in Lebanon, he lives and works in Beirut. Jalal Toufic is a writer, film theorist, and video artist. He is the author of *Distracted* (2003), *Vampires: An Uneasy Essay on the Undead in Film* (2003), *Over-Sensitivity* (1996), *Forthcoming* (2000), and *Undying Love, or Love Dies* (2002). His videos and mixed media works have been presented in North America, Brazil, the Middle East and Europe, and most recently at the 16th International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) in a *Focus Jalal Toufic* program. He co-edited the special *Discourse* issue *Gilles Deleuze: A Reason to Believe in this World*, and edited the special *Discourse* issue *Middle Eastern Films Before Thy Gaze Returns to Thee* and *Mortals to Death*. Toufic has taught at the University of California at Berkeley, California Institute of the Arts, USC, and, in Amsterdam, DasArts and the Rijksakademie.

John Akomfrah

Lives and works in London. John Akomfrah is a film-maker who has won critical acclaim both in Britain and in the USA for his features and documentary work. His latest feature *Digitopia*, premiered this year at the Venice and Toronto festivals. In 1982 he helped found the *Black Audio Film Collective*, the seminal black film-making workshop, which for fifteen years produced a broad range of critically acclaimed work and won over thirty-five international awards. John Akomfrah came to prominence in 1986 when he directed *Handsworth Songs*, which explores the contours of race and civil disorder in 1980s Britain. The film won seven international awards including the BFI's Grierson Award for Best Documentary. In 1998 John directed the BFI Production title *Speak Like A Child*.

LYNETTE YIADOM- BOAKYE
'MAGRET DE CANARD'
2005



Mariam Sharp

Lives in Devon, England. Mariam is Head of Visual Arts and Literature at Arts Council England, South West. She has led the strategic development of the visual arts infrastructure for south west England - in the last three years seven capital projects have opened including major galleries, and artists studios. She works on creating a range of partnerships and was instrumental in creating the Bristol Visual Arts Consortium and brokering support for British Art Show 6 in Bristol last year. She has helped to create a number of networks and initiated Curatorial.net, a programme of international residencies and visits. She also has a role in developing national strategy and was part of the project group for *Turning Point: Arts Council England's 10 year strategy to develop the contemporary visual arts in England.*

Mark Waugh

Lives and works in Brighton England. Mark Waugh is a cultural remixer. Working in a variety of contexts, he draws on the marginal, ephemeral and disrupted spaces of aesthetics and culture to create strategic interventions in the cultural matmos. Mark has curated BBC and Arts Council England online commissions including; *The Power of Art* (2006); *Private View* (2005), and *Shooting Live Artists* (2002-04). His recent writings include: "*Its Very Trippy: Shock Locations and Dislocation*", for *Performance and Place* (2006); *We Love You* edited by Waugh and Frank (2004) and *Vivarium Journal of Art & Design Education* Volume 22 Issue 2 (May 2003). He has produced and directed numerous artistic projects including *Preset Softwar* (1998), and *die lieber Bausch no.1* (1997). He has also curated various symposia and festivals including *Transmutations* (1995), and *Pharmakon* (1993). He is author of the cult novel *Come*, published by Pulp Books. His new novel *Bubble Entendre* will be published by Bookworks in 2008.

DAVID MILES
'FOREST'
DETAIL
CARD & WIRE
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



Mike Phillips

Lives and works in London. Writer Mike Phillips was born in Georgetown, Guyana and grew up in London. He has been writing full-time since 1992. Best-known for his crime fiction, his most recent novel, *A Shadow of Myself* (2000), is the first in a trilogy set in Eastern Europe. Mike Phillips co-wrote *Windrush: The Irresistible Rise of Multi-Racial Britain* (1998) to accompany a BBC television series. His most recent book, *London Crossings: A Biography of Black Britain* (2001), is a series of interlinked essays and stories. Mike writes for the Guardian, and is cross-cultural curator at the Tate. He is also a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Niru Ratman

Born and works in London. Niru Ratman is Director of the constantly original Store Gallery in London and also works as a writer, critic and *Artrumour's* newsletter author. His writings have appeared in journals as diverse as *Face*, *i-D* and *Art Monthly*.

Otolith Group

Anjalika Sagar, born London, 1968. Kodwo Eshun, born London, 1967. Richard Couzins, born London, 1967. Current recipients of a Decibel Artist Award and curators of *The Ghosts of Songs: A Retrospective of the Black Audio Film Collective 1982-1998.*

Paul Domela

Born in Amsterdam, lives and works in Liverpool, England. Paul Domela is Programme Director of Liverpool Biennial and Deputy Chief Executive between 2001-2007. He has been responsible for international collaborations, such as *Walk On* for the Shanghai Biennale 06, and conversations and conferences including *Urban Ecologies*, *Manifesta Coffee Break* and *City Breaks: Art and Culture in Times of Expediency*. He is co-curator of *Site*, an exhibition project for Liverpool John Moores School of Art and Design, where he is also an advisor on postgraduate courses in art and cultural leadership. In 2004 he co-curated the Liverpool/Manchester section of *Shrinking Cities*, Berlin. Between 1992-1999 he organised the public programme of the Jan van Eyck Academy (The Netherlands), a research institute for design, theory and fine art.

CATHERINE LUCKTAYLOR
 'AQUA LUNA'
 PHOTO: WWW.LAMBIEBROTHERS.COM



Robert Storr

Robert Storr is an American curator, academic, critic, and painter. He was named Dean of the Yale School of Art for a five-year period beginning July 2006 and is the director of the Venice Biennial in 2007.

Thelma Golden

Lives and works in New York. Thelma Golden is the Director for Exhibitions and Programs at The Studio Museum in Harlem. Before her appointment she was the Special Projects Curator for Peter and Eileen Norton, contemporary art collectors and philanthropists based in Los Angeles, California. Prior to working with the Nortons, Golden was a curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. At the Whitney she was; Curator and Director of Branch Museums (1996-1999), Associate Curator (1993-1996) and Director and Exhibition Coordinator at the Whitney Museum at Phillip Morris (1991-1993).

Simon Njami

Born in the Cameroon, is a freelance curator living in Paris. He is co-founder and chief editor of *Revue Noire*, a publishing house and magazine dedicated to African contemporary art. Since 2001 Njami, whose assignments take him all over the world, has been Director of Photography at the African Photography Encounters in Bamako, Mali. *Africa Remix*, was shown in Düsseldorf, London and Paris. Apart from his work as curator Njami lectures and writes extensively on contemporary photography and art. Together with Fernando Alvim he is curator of, *Check List* an exhibition representing African art in Artiglierie space of the Arsenale featuring works from the; Sindika Dokolo African Collection of Contemporary Art (Luanda, Angola).

ZINEB SIDERA
 'SAPHIR'
 COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



Yu Yeon Kim

Born in South Korea and currently an independent curator based in New York City, USA and Seoul, Korea. Yu Yeon Kim has curated and been a commissioner of many distinguished international exhibitions of contemporary art. She was an international researcher for the 2004 Liverpool Biennial. She was also the commissioner and curator for the exhibition *Exotica Incognita* with Latin American artists at the 3rd Kwangju Biennale (2000) in South Korea and a principle curator of the 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, South Africa (1997-1998) where she curated *Transversions* at the Museum Africa. In 2001 she produced and curated the controversial exhibition *Translated Acts - Performance and Body Art from East Asia*, which was initially presented at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2001).

Zineb Sidera

Lives and works in London. Zineb Sidera's video installations and photographic work centre on displacement and exile. They draw on her own experience of being born in France to immigrant Algerian parents and moving to Britain. She has exhibited internationally and was featured in the 2006 British Art Show, and *Africa Remix* (2005). Her recent photographic and video project *Saphir* (2006) was shot in Algiers and looks at the influence of the Mediterranean sea (and France) through time. Forthcoming shows include: *Mother Tongue at Entre Fronteras/Between Borders*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Vigo Spain (9 February - 20 May), *Mother Tongue* at Global Feminisms, Brooklyn Museum, NY USA. (23 March - 1 July), *Saphir* at STILL LIFE: Art, Ecology and the Politics of Change, Sharjah Biennial 8, United Arab Emirate, *Autobiographical Patterns* at The Artist's Body.

ICF INAUGURAL MEMBERS

- :: Adelaide Bannerman (*Curator*)
- :: Alicia Campbell (*decibel Diversity Officer, Arts Council England - Yorkshire*)
- :: Atsuko Kikuchi (*Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts*)
- :: Axel Lapp (*Curator*)
- :: Catherine Lucktaylor (*Artist and Curator*)
- :: Cedar Lewisohn (*Curator and Writer*)
- :: Cheryl Gallagher (*decibel Diversity Officer, Arts Council England - North East*)
- :: Chris Burton (*decibel Diversity Officer, Arts Council England - South West*)
- :: Claire Summerfield (*decibel Diversity Officer, Arts Council England - East*)
- :: David A. Bailey (*Photographer, writer, curator & lecturer*)
- :: Deborah Chan (*Curator*)
- :: Edgar Schmitz (*Curator*)
- :: Ellie Stout (*decibel ICF Co-ordinator*)
- :: Esen Kaya (*Curator Customs House*)
- :: Eva McGovern (*Serpentine Gallery Inspire Fellow*)
- :: Gina Ha-Gorlin (*British Museum Inspire Fellow*)
- :: Harjeet Kaur (*British Council Inspire Fellow*)
- :: Jen Wu (*ICA Inspire Fellow*)
- :: Joanne Peters (*Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Arts Council England - South West*)
- :: John Sealey (*Curator and Filmmaker*)
- :: Jonah Albert (*National Gallery Fellow*)
- :: Juan Sebastian Ramirez (*Wysling Arts*)
- :: Kwong Lee (*Curator Castlefield Gallery*)
- :: Lina Dzuverovic (*Director Electra and decibel Senior Curatorial Fellow*)
- :: Mark Waugh (*Cultural Remixer*)
- :: Melanie Keen (*Curator*)
- :: Melanie Lenz (*Barbican Inspire Fellow*)
- :: Nike Jonah (*decibel Lead Officer for visual arts and performing arts*)
- :: Michael Forbes (*Curator, New Art Exchange*)
- :: Paul Purgas (*Arnolfini decibel Curatorial Fellow*)
- :: Qian Jing (*Forma decibel Curatorial Fellow*)
- :: Sally Lai (*Curator*)
- :: Samenua Seshar (*Director decibel*)
- :: Sara Raza (*Assistant Curator Tate*)
- :: Simon Grosspietsch (*Student/Curator*)
- :: Syra Miah (*Artist and Curator*)
- :: Shama Khanna (*Showroom decibel Curatorial Fellow*)
- :: Shamita Sharmacharja (*Whitechapel Gallery Inspire Fellow*)
- :: Sherman Mern Tat Sam (*Hayward Inspire Fellow*)
- :: Dr Sook-Kyung Lee (*Curatorial Fellow in Cultural Diversity at King's Lynn Arts Centre*)
- :: Tania Wilmer (*decibel Lead Officer for literature & communications*)
- :: Terry Adams (*decibel Head of Operations*)
- :: Tim Eastop (*Curator*)
- :: Yasmin Canvin (*Curator*)
- :: Yvette Mutumba (*Curator*)

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FORTHCOMING ICF PROJECTS

In addition to our symposia in Venice we have organised a series of mobilised dialogues through the opening days of Documenta XII and sculpture projects muenster 07. This will be followed by symposia at the Istanbul Biennial and London.

This is a once in a decade opportunity to visit Documenta and Munster consecutively and engage with their very different approaches to the aesthetics of display. We will offer our group of 30 curators an opportunity to connect with these extraordinary projects. This stage of our journey is focused on the mediation and ephemerality of ideas and is not structured as a symposium but rather as a vehicle for idea distribution and the accumulation of new values. Over the forthcoming weeks we intend to move the dialectic of the Forum forwards toward our next formal presentation, which will be at the Istanbul Biennial in September.

At the 10th International Istanbul Biennial, titled Not Only Possible, But Also Necessary - Optimism in the age of global war, we will consider the current discourse around architecture, cultural production and its reception. In this city, whose existence is predicated on trade and translations between faiths and cultures, we ask how can we remain optimistic about the role of art?

Later in the year we will be working with partners including inIVA and The National Gallery to host a symposium that collects and reflects on the nomadic trajectory of the International Curators Forum from Venice to Istanbul. We will explore the threads of dialogue that have mutated beyond recognition, as well as those ideas that have retained their shape but still need future attention. We will share our conclusions on the issue of race within the agendas of international curators and present out theories on how leading international institutions can participate in creating more open and inclusive spaces to re-imagine aesthetics and produce cultural experiences that are sensitive to their audiences.

To join our discussion visit:
www.internationalcuratorsforum.org.uk
www.nomadaesthetics.blogspot.com
www.myspace.com/icuratorsforum

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DECIBEL & CULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

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CREDITS

decibel

decibel is an Arts Council England initiative which works to support and raise the profile of artists of African, Asian* and Caribbean descent in England. Comprising a cross art-form programme of projects and events, decibel was launched in 2003 and is funded until 2008.

Diversity is one of the Arts Council's five ambitions for the arts and celebrating diversity is one of the priorities in Our Agenda for 2006-2008. The decibel initiative was launched in recognition that Black and minority ethnic (BME) artists and arts organisations are under-represented in the arts. By focusing on the work of BME artists we aspire to create a more level playing field.

*In this context Asian refers to the continent of Asia from Turkey in the West to Japan in the East

Cultural Leadership Programme

The Cultural Leadership Programme is a two-year investment funded by the UK Treasury department to support and promote excellence in leadership across the creative and cultural industries.

By developing a dynamic range of activities and opportunities, the Cultural Leadership Programme aims to nurture and develop world class, dynamic and diverse leaders for the 21st Century.

The programme will seek to make significant progress in enhancing the diversity of current and future leaders, with a particular focus on leaders from black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds.

To find out more about the Cultural Leadership Programme and the opportunities it offers log on to the website: www.culturalleadership.org.uk

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