

HOUSE Biennial and Outside In announce 2017 commissions

- Anthony Stevens and Andrew Omoding have been selected to create new works to go on display for HOUSE Biennial at Phoenix Brighton this Autumn.
- New, handmade works by both artists will be shown, including intricate textile collages made with recycled and repurposed fabric, responding to the HOUSE Biennial theme of 'Excess'.

[HOUSE Biennial](#), Brighton & Hove's contemporary visual arts commissioning festival, takes place from 30 September to 5 November 2017 and HOUSE will once again be partnering with Outside In to present newly commissioned artwork created for the Biennial.

Two artists this year, Anthony Stevens (Brighton) and Andrew Omoding (London), have been selected from Outside In's network of over 2500 artists to produce new artworks inspired by the theme of 'Excess' and the work of HOUSE Biennial invited artist Laura Ford.



Anthony Stevens is a self-taught artist whose work is about expressing personal experiences and processing the consequences. His characterful hand embroidered textile collages draw out satirical observations around human behaviour and our underlying motivations. The act of making itself is mindful and important process in making the work. Stevens' work shares personal stories alongside more widely known fables that explore excess and its implications found in mythology, historical events as much as contemporary societal values and consumerist

trends. This includes how the need to be loved has been manipulated into a desire to overconsume.

Ugandan born **Andrew Omoding's** work is largely autobiographical. His mixed media creations include sculptures, books and costumes made from left-over and scrap materials he finds. Omoding selects a variety of found materials to weave, wrap, sew, thread and construct new objects. An intuitive process, the works are created as his stories evolve. Whilst making, the artist simultaneously sings, performs and shares his works through storytelling. Andrew will be present in the gallery at selected times throughout the exhibition to share wider stories on the works exhibited - details to follow.

Anthony Stevens commented, "This is the first time that I have had the opportunity to have a large designated block of time to just create, and it's a great honour that it is for an event in the city that I have called home for the last decade. I have been a fan of Andrew's work since I came across his work in 2015 and I am excited to meet Andrew and his beautiful creations. So, with all that excitement in mind, it is time to get to work!"

Andrew Omoding said, "I'm happy. People will come and see my work in the exhibition. They will be happy. They will dance and sing. People will come together."

Celia Davies, HOUSE Biennial curator added, "Both artists have been selected for the commission as they share an intuitive approach to working with mixed media and textiles. In relation to the theme of Excess, both artists make use of discarded and unwanted materials and repurpose them to create intriguing and thought-provoking objects that share personal stories and new perspectives".

Outside In provides a platform for artists who see themselves as facing barriers to the art world for reasons including health, disability, social circumstance or isolation. The collaboration between HOUSE Biennial and Outside In is a continuation of a fruitful working relationship initiated during HOUSE's previous May festival slot, where the two organisations co-commissioned artists including Thompson Hall in 2016.

These HOUSE Biennial and Outside In co-commissions are in partnership with Phoenix Brighton and supported by Chichester Decorative Fine Arts Society.

HOUSE Biennial Director, Judy Stevens, said: "HOUSE is delighted to be co-commissioning Anthony Stevens and Andrew Omoding with partners Outside In. The continuing development of our partnership with Outside In, providing commissioning opportunities for artists currently excluded from the art world mainstream, is an integral and key element of our new Biennial."

Marc Steene, Director, Outside In, said: "Outside In is thrilled to be working with HOUSE again and to be able to present Anthony Stevens and Andrew Omoding within the HOUSE Biennial

Commissions. This is an important career changing opportunity for the artists involved and I am sure will both excite and challenge audiences.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

For press enquiries for the exhibitions and for HOUSE and HOUSE Biennial – Nicola Jeffs:
nicolajeffspr@gmail.com / 07794694754

A press preview will take place on September 29. More details to be announced and travel from London will be offered.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Antony Stevens and Andrew Omoding
Phoenix Brighton
10-14 Waterloo Place, Brighton, BN2 9NB
11am – 5pm
closed : Monday & Tuesday
phoenixbrighton.org/events/house-at-phoenix-brighton

Anthony Stevens

Anthony Stevens is a UK based self-taught artist. He uses his work as a form of therapy and self expression.

When not producing art, he also works as a Peer Support Specialist and engages in Buddhist culture and peace activities. Primarily, his work is about expressing and processing trauma and its after effects. His work is heavily influenced by his practice of Nichiren Buddhism and chanting 'Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo', especially the concept of 'Nothing is wasted'.

This has become manifest by his choosing to work primarily with scrap fabrics. By choosing to do this, he is forced to look creatively and perceive potential in what may seem to be useless and beyond repair.

This is in direct correlation with how he strives to perceive his life and his experiences. As with life, it is sometimes a painstaking and frustrating process, but ultimately he feels joy and satisfaction with the result. Learn more here:

outsidein.org.uk/anthony-stevens

Andrew Omoding

Andrew Omoding creates autobiographical 3D work reflecting on his life and experiences: growing up in Uganda, leaving his homeland and moving to London at the age of 12, living in London and being part of a large and loving family.

Each artwork begins with Andrew exploring his immediate surroundings and looking for source materials. From there ideas evolve quickly and with a tacit knowledge about how each piece should be presented and experienced.

Andrew joined ActionSpace (actionspace.org) in 2010. In 2015 he took part in a 6-month residency as part of the learning programme for Craftspace and Outside In's "Radical Craft" touring exhibition. During his time in the studio, Andrew was joined by Trevor Marchand, Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology, SOAS who documented his observations in a catalogue article and film. Learn more [here:actionspace.org/andrew-omoding-shares-work-created-during-craftspace-project](http://actionspace.org/andrew-omoding-shares-work-created-during-craftspace-project)

Recently, Andrew has begun sharing his skills and abilities by co-leading workshops for children and young people with learning disabilities at Camden Arts Centre in London. He is a natural teacher; patient, sensitive and always concerned that everyone is happy.

HOUSE Biennial

Conceived in 2008 by Directors Judy Stevens and Chris Lord, HOUSE is a contemporary visual arts festival that began in part as a response to the limited space in the city for presenting contemporary art. HOUSE is curated by Celia Davies and commissions an internationally regarded Invited Artist and selects for commission a range of artists at varying career stages. Inherent to HOUSE is a potential to experience new ideas and different ways of thinking within the artistic process. Previous years' Invited Artists have been Gillian Wearing (2016), Nathan Coley (2015), Yinka Shonibare MBE (2014), Mariele Neudecker (2013) and David Batchelor (2012). In 2017 HOUSE will move to October as HOUSE Biennial and the lead artist is Laura Ford.housebiennial.art

Outside In

Outside In is an award winning charity working to create a fairer and more inclusive art world. Through its exhibitions, active online community and professional training programmes Outside In provides a platform for artists who find it difficult to access the art world for reasons including health, disability, isolation or social circumstance. To date, through its dedicated website, exhibitions and accompanying events programme, Outside In has engaged more than 5,000 artists and over a quarter of a million audience members and has held over 50 exhibitions nationally and internationally.

Starting as part of the respected Learning and Community Programme at Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, Outside In is now an independent charity. Outside In's prolific expansion has been made possible through funding from numerous trusts and foundations including; the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Roddick Foundation, The George Dannatt Trust and private donors. In 2017 the charity joined Arts Council England's National Portfolio. Outsidein.org.uk

Celia Davies

Celia Davies is Director of Photoworks, a national development agency for photography and visual culture based in Brighton UK, producing major cultural projects including the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, Brighton Photo Biennial and Photoworks Annual. Experienced in developing artist's commissions for nearly two decades, Celia has been Curator for HOUSE since 2008 and was previously Head of Exhibitions at De La Warr Pavilion, 2002-9.

Phoenix Brighton is the largest artist-led arts organisation in the South East of England. It runs a gallery, 100+ artist studios, arts courses and events.

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