



# HOUSE BIENNIAL PARTNERS WITH PHOTOWORKS AND BRIGHTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB TO CREATE NEW ART WORK TO GO ON SHOW IN THE CITY THIS AUTUMN

*Crossover Point* is a community project led by artist Becky Warnock for HOUSE Biennial, working with a diverse group of participants from Brighton Table Tennis Club to explore stories, memories and the ideas that connect us.

Starting from the stories found within Brighton Museum & Art Gallery's Willett Collection of Popular Pottery, such as the Devil/Pope stirrup cup, and the Museum's collection of Regency caricatures, the project considers ideas around the HOUSE Biennial theme of Excess and the polarities that having too much or too little can foster.

The project culminates in two exhibitions of work, at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery and ONCA. A moving image work by Becky is exhibited within the Willett Gallery at the museum, and the participant's work is exhibited in a special exhibition at ONCA - complete with a table tennis table for visitor participation!

The project is a partnership between HOUSE Biennial, Brighton Table Tennis Club and Photoworks, supported by the Royal Pavilion & Museums and ONCA. It is sponsored by Brighton Pier Group and the Rotary Club of Brighton, with photographic printing sponsored by Spectrum.

Brighton Table Tennis Club works with people of all ages, especially young people, to improve health, celebrate diversity and build a strong community. It runs sessions for young people of all ages and backgrounds, those aged 50+, adults with learning disabilities and children in care. It is the UK's first Club of Sanctuary - welcoming Refugees & Asylum Seekers.



The Willett Collection is catalogued into a variety of themes covering all aspects of British life, including the political, social and cultural. The project explores some of the Collection's themes such as history, sport and pastimes, with a series of workshops, activities and discussions, sharing stories, playing with caricature and inviting the representation of personal narratives, across cultures and backgrounds.





Crossover Point will culminate in a moving image collaborative work, screened in the Willett Collection Room at Brighton Museum. Accompanying this piece, an installation of photographs, collage and drawings from Brighton Table Tennis Club participants produced during the project will be displayed at ONCA Gallery. The exhibitions along with the rest of HOUSE Biennial across the city of Brighton and Hove, open on 30 September. The ONCA exhibition opens on 11 October and runs until 25 October

A starting point for the BTTC participants, The Willett Collection of Popular Pottery, also acts as an inspiration for HOUSE Biennial Invited Artist Laura Ford, who is creating a new intervention piece within the Willett Collection, as well creating new work making connections with other of the Museum's collections. Her work, *A King's Appetite* is a new sculptural installation taking inspiration from the Royal Pavilion & Museums collection of caricatures by James Gillray and George Cruikshank, satirizing aspects of the life of the Prince Regent (later to become King George IV).

Becky Warnock will hold an *In Conversation* with members of the Brighton Table Tennis Club at ONCA Gallery, 19 October, 6pm. During this event, audience members will be invited to engage with the themes and conversations that shaped the project. Entry is free.

Image credits from top, Brighton Table Tennis Club by Kathryn Martin. Stirrup Cup in Willett Collection at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, by Becky Warnock

### **TO EDITORS:**

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

A press preview for all HOUSE Biennial commissions will take place on September 29.

# **Listings details:**

#### **Crossover Point**

The Willett Collection Room

Brighton Museum & Art Gallery

Royal Pavilion Gardens Brighton BN1 1EE

30 September-5 November 201. Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays Free to Brighton & Hove residents and RPM members.

#### **Crossover Point**

ONCA Gallery 14 St George's Place

Brighton BN1 4GB

11 – 25 October 2017 (note: this does not end on November 5 with the rest of HOUSE Biennial)

Wednesday – Saturday 12.00 – 6pm. Sunday 12-4pm.

Free entry

#### **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

# **Brighton Table Tennis Club**

The club was founded in February 2007 by Tim Holtam and Harry McCarney, two ex-international table tennis players. They wanted to share their enthusiasm for the sport with amateurs and disadvantaged young people throughout the city. They started with two broken tables and over ten years it has grown into an umbrella organisation hosting 100 tables across Brighton.

The club was declared the UK's first Club of Sanctuary in 2016, welcoming Refugees and Asylum Seekers and has become one of the most important community outreach projects in Brighton and beyond.

Its disability programme was founded in December 2013 and in September 2015, the club moved to its now permanent address, the former site of St John the Baptist Primary School, The Fitzherbert's Centre in Upper Bedford Street, Brighton. brightontabletennisclub.co.uk

# **Becky Warnock**

Becky Warnock is a London based artist working across photography, film and theatre, using participatory practice to create innovative, community engaged art powering social change. She is passionate about social justice and using the arts as a platform to stimulate dialogue and exchange.

#### Laura Ford

Born in Cardiff 1961, Laura Ford studied at Bath Academy of Art from 1978-82 and at Chelsea School of Art from 1982-83. At 21 she was the youngest participant in 'The Sculpture Show' at the Hayward and Serpentine galleries. She was included in the British Art Show 5 in 2000, and represented Wales in the 51st Venice Biennale in 2005. Selected solo shows include Camden Arts Centre, Arnolfini, Bristol, The Royal Scottish Academy and Turner Contemporary, Margate, touring to the Economist Plaza in 2007. She has permanent public works of sculpture installed outside the Chancellor's office in Stockholm, at the Bundesbank in Frankfurt, in the grounds of hospitals in Heidelberg and Southmeads Bristol and outside the British Consulate in Ottawa.

Laura Ford's work is represented in a number of public collections including; Tate, The Victoria and Albert Museum, Government Art Collection, Potteries Museum, National Museums and Gallery of Wales, Museum of Modern Art, University of Iowa, Arts Council of Great Britain, Contemporary Art Society, Unilever plc, Penguin Books, Oldham Art Gallery, The New Art Gallery Walsall, The Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, The Meijier Gardens, Grand Rapids USA and The Gateway Foundation, St. Louis, as well as numerous private collections.

#### **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.

#### **Royal Pavilion and Museums**

Brighton Museum & Art Gallery is one of Britain's oldest public museums. Located in the Royal Pavilion Estate at the heart of the city's cultural quarter, its collections showcase arts and crafts from across the world and history from Ancient Egypt to modern Brighton. brightonmuseums.org.uk

#### **Photoworks**

Photoworks is a national development agency for photography. The programme includes commissions, new writing, participation and exceptional projects including the national Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, Photoworks Annual and Brighton Photo Biennial. Photoworks' aim is to connect outstanding artists with audiences and to champion talent and ambition. Based at the University of Brighton, Photoworks is a registered charity and a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England. <a href="mailto:photoworks.org.uk">photoworks.org.uk</a>

#### Spectrum

With over 20 years experience of high quality printing and mounting for some of the most discerning photographers and artists Spectrum has built a reputation for quality, reliability and excellent customer service.

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