



Press Release



NEW COMMISSION:

***No Ordinary Protest*, Mikhail Karikis (2018)**

Exhibitions:

Whitechapel Gallery, London, 18 August 2018 - 6 January 2019

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Summer 2019

Combining sound, performance and unscripted debates, Mikhail Karikis' new moving-image commission takes its cue from the short story *The Iron Woman* (1993) by the poet and author, Ted Hughes. In the story, children are the first to hear an eerie, supernatural noise, which is an emanation of the collective pain of creatures affected by the pollution of the planet. Angered by the complicity and complacency of adults, children take matters into their own hands, infiltrating factories and demanding immediate action against the impending ecological catastrophe.

Karikis adopts this children's story as an ecofeminist parable and as a lesson in the power of sound to effect physical, psychological and socio-political transformation. He introduced the book to a class of 7-year-old students from Mayflower Primary School in East London whom he asked to reflect on the environmental themes of the story and to imagine the noise that assisted the book's heroes in their protest.

Karikis engaged with the children throughout their school year and created a video in which the kids oscillate between the real and the imagined. As they gather to debate, the children discover a commonly shared sense of justice and responsibility towards the environment and other creatures. Revelling in the shape-shifting properties of sound, they begin to sense its potential as an agent of change. Improvising with toys, vocalisations and musical instruments, they conduct cymatic experiments, whereby a particular noise or utterance takes on its own unique visual form. The resulting cymatics images resemble mysterious abstract landscapes coming into being and dissolving apart – omens of the turbulent ecological future the children may come to inherit. From this shifting, unstable terrain, the kids emerge as luminous masked agitators confronting and closing in on the viewer. Becoming more than the sum of its parts, Karikis' new project evokes the irresistible power of emergent, collective action.

Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art and Whitechapel Gallery, London.

Notes to editor:

FVU Press Contact

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Press Images

Available to download [here](#). All images should be credited: Mikhail Karikis, *No Ordinary Protest* (2018) Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art and Whitechapel Gallery, London.

More information

fvu.co.uk/projects/no-ordinary-protest



Mikhail Karikis is a Greek/British artist based in London and Lisbon. His work embraces moving image, sound and other media to create immersive audio-visual installations and performances which emerge from his long-standing investigation of the voice as a sculptural material and a socio-political agent. He often collaborates with communities and his works highlight alternative modes of human existence, solidarity and action.

Shortlisted for the 2016 Film London Jarman Award, UK, and the 2015 Daiwa Art Prize, UK-JP, Karikis' work is exhibited widely in museums and international biennials including, *Ear to the Ground*, New Orleans Museum of Art, USA (2018-2019); *State of the Union*, Ian Potter Museum of Art, AU, (2018); Artists' Film International, touring sixteen countries (2017-2018); British Art Show 8, UK (2015-2017); *Remembering the Future*, Tate Liverpool, UK (2017); Kochi-Muziris Biennale, (2016) IN; Steirischer Herbst, AT (2015); *Art in the Age of Energy and Raw Material*, Witte de With, NL (2015); 19th Biennale of Sydney, AU (2014); Mediacity Seoul/SeMA Biennale, Seoul, KR (2014); *Inside*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR (2014-2015); *Assembly*, TATE Britain, London, UK (2014); 2nd Aichi Triennale, Nagoya, JP (2013); Videonale 14, Bonn, DE (2013); Manifesta 9, Ghenk, BE (2012); and Danish Pavilion 54th Venice Biennale, IT (2011).

Solo exhibitions include *The Chalk Factory*, Aarhus European Capital of Culture 2017, DK (2017), *Love Is the Institution of Revolution*, Casino Luxembourg Forum d'art Contemporain, LU (2017) and *Children of Unquiet*, Villa Romana Florence, IT (2014). Upcoming solo exhibitions will be presented at Mori Art Museum, JP, Turku Art Museum, FI, De la Warr Pavilion, UK, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, IT.

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions.

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Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, part of Teesside University, is moving forward with a vision of itself as a "useful museum." It is an institution with a social function that contributes to change through the repurposing of art as a tool. It focuses on civic engagement, treating the gallery as a public resource based on use value. Its users and constituent groups shape its meaning, and with them it fosters citizenship through education and community development. mima.art

For over a century the **Whitechapel Gallery** has premiered world-class artists from modern masters to contemporaries. The Gallery is renowned for showcasing emerging and established female artists and has presented major solo exhibitions of Barbara Hepworth (1955), Eva Hesse (1979), Frida Kahlo (1982), Nan Goldin (2002), Sophie Calle (2009), Gillian Wearing (2012) and Sarah Lucas (2013). The Gallery is a touchstone for modern and contemporary art internationally, plays a central role in London's cultural landscape and is pivotal to the continued growth of the world's most vibrant contemporary art quarter.

www.whitechapelgallery.org



Whitechapel Gallery



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