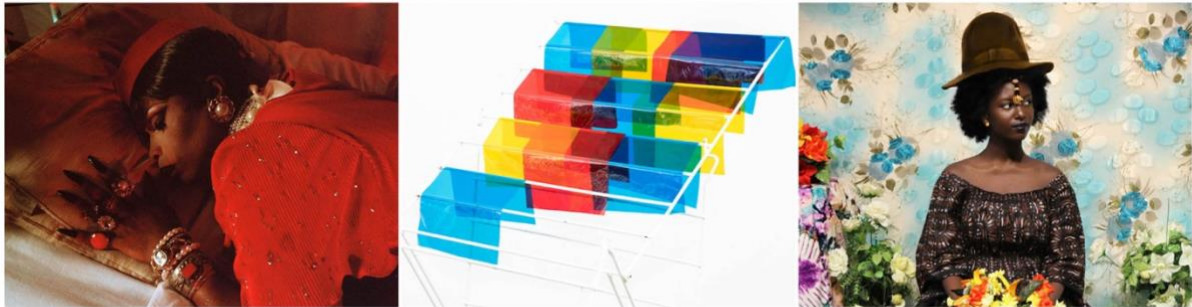


# FUTURE NOW 2021: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SECTOR



Images: 1. Detail, Inyanga yeNkanga, 2020. Archival ink-jet print 60 x 80 cm Edition of 20 + 3 AP Photographer: Nic Hartell © Athi-Patra Ruga. Image courtesy of Athi-Patra Ruga and WHATIFTHEWORLD. 2. Ignacio Barrios. 3. Atong Atem, Morayo (2015). Printed 2019, from the Studio series (2015). Digital type C print, ed. 6/10 84.1 x 56.1 cm (image) 104.1 x 65.4 cm irreg. (sheet). National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. Purchased, Victorian Foundation for Living Australian Artists, 2019 © Atong Atem.

**Future Now contributes to conversations about representation and inclusivity, inviting leading artists and curators to discuss how we can decolonise the industry.**

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**NGV Melbourne and MCA Australia** are two of the most-visited galleries in Australia, welcoming millions of visitors each year. Over the last 18 months, both galleries have grappled with Covid-related restrictions, balancing international Triennials with exhibitions of local artists. Through the lens of their expansive collections, **Rachel Kent, Chief Curator at MCA, and Susan van Wyk, Senior Curator, Photography at NGV**, discuss the diversity of Australian art today, examining the responsibility of the gallery as a platform, and their goals to explore complex cultural perspectives on geography, history and belonging. The session takes place at the **Future Now Symposium, Friday 30 April, 09.30-10.30 BST**.

**On Saturday 1 May, Athi-Patra Ruga** walks viewers through his critically acclaimed body of work (10.00-11.00). An engaging discussion, held with **WHATIFTHEWORLD's gallery manager and independent culture writer, Lindsey Raymond**, will focus on Ruga's use of avatars as a way to parody and critique the existing political and social status quo. Meanwhile, Future Now asks further questions about how the arts can make real change in international relations so that we can develop a more inclusive and representative cultural sector at home and worldwide. **Skinder Hundal MBE, Director of British Council**, speaks about addressing cultural relations in an era of seismic shifts. (11.30-12.30).

Later on, audiences can hear from an interdisciplinary artist and scholar whose works combine observations on **hip-hop, fine art and popular culture**. **Fahamu Pecou's** paintings – held in international collections including the **Smithsonian National Museum of African American Art, Seattle Art Museum and The High Museum of Art** – address concerns around representations of Black men and their impact on the reading and performance of Black masculinity. Pecou delivers a re-thinking on painting – how the canvas can be used to engage with stereotypes as a critical intervention on our understanding of Black identity (14.30-15.30).

**For press queries:** contact Associate Editor, Kate Simpson, [kate@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto:kate@aestheticamagazine.com)

**For queries related to the Aesthetica Art Prize:** contact [art-prize@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto:art-prize@aestheticamagazine.com)

# FUTURE NOW

AESTHETICA SYMPOSIUM

The Future Now Symposium runs live 28 April-1 May. All sessions are available On Demand until 31 May. Tickets are priced between £20 and £50, from a 24-hour festival login to a month of content, with access to 100 films, 1:1 portfolio reviews with industry experts and advice sessions with Arts Council England.

## Key information for editors:

- **The Future Now Symposium is an exploration of 21<sup>st</sup> century culture through the mechanism of art, live streamed events run 28 April – 1 May. On Demand sessions are available 2-31 May.**
- This four-day virtual event brings together key institutions, galleries, publications and artists for live-streamed discussions surrounding the most pressing issues from today's creative industries. Future Now is a platform for idea generation, with imaginative debates, panel discussions, career advice and cultural engagement.
- **Future Now finds a new home in an accessible online space for 2021.**
- **All ticketholders can also stream an expansive programme of 100 ground-breaking independent films** across Dance, Experimental, Documentary and Artists' Film.
- **Our platform can be accessed on computers, smart TVs, smart phones and all tablet devices.** There is no requirement to pre-register for sessions as they will be live streamed.
- **Tickets are £20 for a 24-hour log-in, £40 for a four-day log-in and £50 for the full one-month access.**
- **Representatives at Future Now 2021 include:** Aesthetica, Architizer, Arts Council England, Apollo Magazine, The Armory Show, Athi-Patra Ruga, Bieke Depoorter, Bill Posters, British Journal of Photography, British Council, Chisenhale Gallery, Creative Review, Creative United, Fahamu Pecou, Fondazione Prada, Frieze, Gagosian, George Byrne, Gonçalo Fonseca, Guggenheim Museum, Gulnara Samoilova, High Museum of Art, Ian Volner, Jerwood Arts, ICA Boston, International Center of Photography, Jakob Kudsk Steensen, Leica Oskar Barnack Award, London Art Fair, London College of Communication, Luca Locatelli, The Lumen Prize, Maïmouna Guerresi, Magnum Photos, MASS MoCA, Museum of Modern Art, MCA Australia, New Museum, NGV Melbourne, Serpentine Galleries, Shirin Neshat, Tales of Us, Tate, V&A, Wasps Studios, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair.
- **Future Now 2021 offers 1:1 Portfolio Reviews** across the four days, with representatives from **the V&A, British Journal of Photography, Fabrica, Aesthetica, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Serpentine Galleries, Moniker Art Fair Artangel and Gazelli Art House, as well as a number of independent artists. Pre-booking online.**
- **Arts Council England are also offering a series of 1:1 Advice Sessions. Pre-booking essential online.**
- **The Future Now Symposium coincides with the 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize.** The 2021 shortlisted artists include: Monica Alcazar-Duarte, Andrew Leventis, Chris Combs, James Tapscott, Alice Duncan and Cesar & Lois Collective, Carlos David, Seb Agnew, Kitoko Diva, Christiane Zschommler, Henny Burnett, and Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard. David Brandy, Shan Wu, Cathryn Shilling, Dirk Hardy, Juliana Kasumu, Gabriel Hensche and Erwin Redl.
- **The 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition** runs 28 May - 28 September at York Art Gallery, UK.

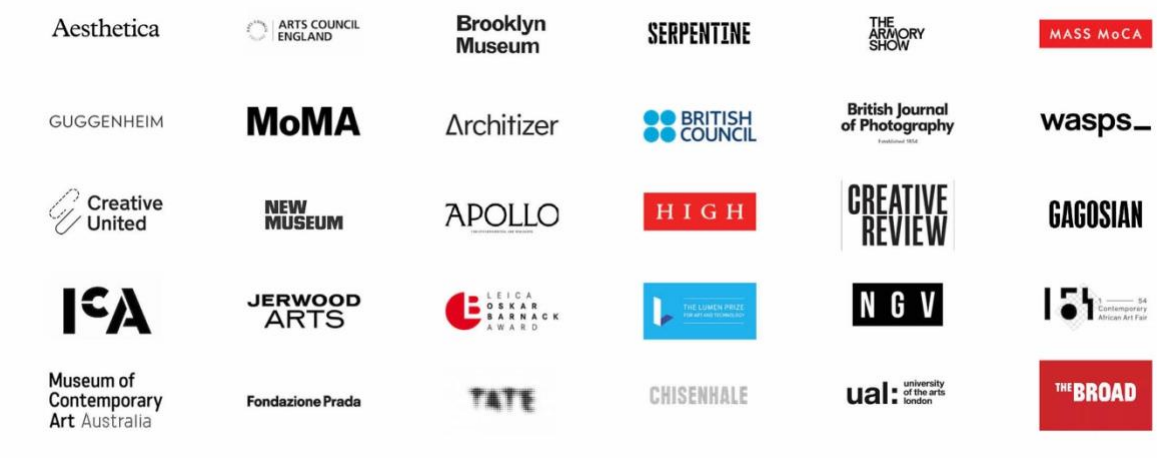
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AESTHETICA SYMPOSIUM



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