

THERME ART

Press Release

Therme Art Wellbeing Culture Forum Returns for 2021

Event series begins with an exploration of art's transformative potential



Experiencing to Reconnect participants (left to right): Torkwase Dyson, Tino Sehgal, Es Devlin and Hans Ulrich Obrist

For Immediate Release

Berlin, 7 April 2021

“Experiencing to Reconnect” Wellbeing Culture Forum

Date: 14 April 2021

Moderation: Hans Ulrich Obrist

Panel: Es Devlin, Torkwase Dyson, Tino Sehgal

Host: Hans Ulrich Obrist

Therme Art is proud to announce the start of the 2021 Wellbeing Culture Forum with a special discussion presented in partnership with Serpentine. Moderated by Serpentine's Artistic Director Hans Ulrich Obrist, *Experiencing to Reconnect: The Transformative Potential of Art* considers the innovative and transformative power of art and creativity in the midst of crisis. The event will be available to stream on Therme Art and Dezeen channels from Wednesday 14 April.

Joining the conversation is artist and designer Es Devlin, along with artists Torkwase Dyson and Tino Sehgal. While working in different media and registers, all explore questions of shared space, creating 'experiences that reveal capabilities' (Dyson) and new points of connection rooted in a renewed awareness of our symbiotic relationship to each other and our natural world.

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Located in the heart of London, Serpentine has championed new and expanded forms of engagement with art and architecture since its foundation in 1970. Speaking of the collaboration with Therme Art, Artistic Director Hans Ulrich Obrist said:

“We always look to artists to reimagine our futures with clarity and energy. Discussions like this help expand our thinking and engage our audiences for these vital topics. We are so grateful to Therme for bringing us together and to Es Devlin, Tino Sehgal, and Torkwase Dyson for joining this urgent conversation.”

Like the Wellbeing Culture Forum more broadly, Experiencing to Reconnect is a direct response to current events. Over recent years, we have witnessed the growing visibility of artistic projects founded on shared experience and exchange. However, the pandemic and its accompanying social and cultural upheavals have highlighted their urgency, revealing, as Devlin puts it, ‘the scale of which we see, and the scale we don’t see.’

In the current moment of isolation and quarantine, reconnection through shared experience has become a widely felt need. Gathering actors who are helping to define and expand the increasingly influential field of experiential art, Experiencing to Reconnect explores how art can generate reconnection, counter a ‘dominance of rationality’ (Sehgal) and help us navigate this crisis and the next. The event follows on from Therme Art’s recent strategic investment in the innovative art initiative Superblue to further realise immersive art experiences that foster social awareness, exchange, and impact.

The Wellbeing Culture Forum is an interdisciplinary talks programme of virtual and mixed-reality events running since spring 2020.

Experiencing to Reconnect will be available to stream at Therme Art and Dezeen channels from Wednesday 14 April.

Streaming channels:

Therme Art

Website: therme.art/events

YouTube: [Therme Art](#)

Facebook: [@ThermeArtProgram](#)

Instagram: [@thermeartprogram](#)

Dezeen

Website: www.dezeen.com

Serpentine Galleries

Twitter: [@SerpentineUK](#)

Instagram: [@serpentineuk](#)

Facebook: [@SerpentineGalleries](#)

YouTube: [@SerpentineGalleries](#)

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Additional Information

Wellbeing Culture Forum

The Wellbeing Culture Forum is a series of discussions in virtual environments in response to the present pandemic. Gathering experts from diverse fields, the series will foster the necessary collaboration and knowledge transfer to realise a vision of the city and its cultural activity in symbiosis with the natural world, generating a holistic approach towards the health of humanity. The Wellbeing Culture Forum hosts diverse conversations designed to create 'insights for action,' culminating in the creation of a Wellbeing Manifesto. This will be made freely available worldwide, for individuals and organisations to implement and influence positive cultural change.

Therme Art

Therme Art is a global cultural initiative dedicated to supporting Therme Group's mission of promoting wellbeing for all. Collaborating with artists, creatives, and leading experts across various fields, along with a network of like-minded cultural institutions, Therme Art focuses on harnessing artistic expression to develop cultural experiences that inspire transformation. Through art projects, a transdisciplinary programme of talks, and community engagement, Therme Art proposes a holistic approach to wellbeing culture that aims to create a lasting positive impact.

Therme Art has supported the Serpentine Pavilions, the Frieze Art & Architecture Conference, the British Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, and Design Miami. Its art and talks programmes have featured artists including Francis Kéré, Sumayya Vally, Junya Ishigami, Frida Escobedo, teamLab, Arthur Mamou-Mani, DRIFT, and Jeppe Hein.

Further information: therme.art

Therme Group

Therme Group is a leading global wellbeing provider designing, constructing, and operating the world's largest wellbeing facilities. Its contemporary urban development proposition incorporates environmental concepts to re-integrate nature into everyday life. Therme Group's facilities combine its innovative sustainable technologies with human-oriented design. Drawing upon the tradition of ancient thermal baths, which were designed to be healing, social, and egalitarian settings, Therme Group builds environments that nurture the mind and body for visitors of all ages and demographics, creating healthy and resilient communities.

Further information: thermegroup.com

Serpentine Galleries

The Serpentine Galleries is a non-profit art institution that enables the widest audiences to experience free art, architecture, and ideas all year round. Its exhibition, education, and live programs bring over 200 emerging and celebrated artists into collaboration each year on projects that bridge the international worlds of art, science, and technology and address some of the most urgent questions today.

Further information: <https://www.serpentinegalleries.org>

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Biographies

Es Devlin, Artist and Designer

Es Devlin is known for creating large-scale sculptures and performance spaces that combine light, music and language, including Memory Palace in 2019, which mapped shifts in human perspective over 73 millennia, and the reflective labyrinthine self-portrait MirrorMaze in 2016.

Her work in collective, AI-generated poetry has been seen at the Serpentine Gallery, V&A and Barbican and is now informing her design for the UK Pavilion for the World Expo 2021.

She collaborated with theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli on a collective reading of his seminal work on the nature of time and has conceived stage sculptures with Beyoncé, Billie Eilish, The Weeknd and U2 as well as two decades of opera, drama and dance worldwide.

Torkwase Dyson, Artist

Torkwase Dyson describes herself as a painter working across multiple mediums to explore the continuity between ecology, infrastructure, and architecture.

Examining built environments as well as the history and future of black spatial liberation strategies, Dyson's abstract works grapple with the ways in which space is perceived and negotiated, particularly by black and brown bodies. Solo exhibitions of Dyson's work have been presented at the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery at Columbia University GSAPP, New York; the Houghton Gallery at Cooper Union, New York; the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Chicago; Bennington College VAPA Usdan Gallery, Vermont; Colby College Museum of Art, Franconia Sculpture Park, Maine; Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Philadelphia; Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, and Davidson Contemporary, New York. Group exhibitions include Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC; Between the Waters at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Plumb Line: Charles White and the Contemporary at the California African American Museum, as well as the 2019 Sharjah Biennial. Dyson is a recipient of the Anonymous Was A Woman Award, the Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize, the Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant, Nancy Graves Grant for Visual Artists, The Lunder Institute of American Art Fellowship, Spelman College Art Fellowship, Brooklyn Arts Council grant, Yale University Barry Cohen Scholarship, the Yale University Paul Harper Residency at Vermont Studio Center, Culture Push Fellowship for Utopian Practices, FSP/Jerome Fellowship and Yaddo.

Dyson's work has also been supported by the Eyebeam Art and Technology Center, The Laundromat Project, the Green Festival of New York, Obsidian Arts and Public funds of the City of Minneapolis, Mural Arts Program of Philadelphia, The Kitchen, and Dorchester Projects in Chicago. Torkwase Dyson lives in New York and is represented by Pace.

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries

Hans Ulrich Obrist (b. 1968 in Zurich, CH) is Artistic Director of the Serpentine Galleries in London. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Since his first show "World Soup" (The Kitchen Show) in 1991 he has curated more than 300 shows.

In 2011 Obrist received the CCS Bard Award for Curatorial Excellence, in 2015 he was awarded the International Folkwang Prize, and in 2018 he was presented with the Award for Excellence in the Arts by the Appraisers Association

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of America. Obrist has lectured internationally at academic and art institutions, and is contributing editor to several magazines and journals.

Tino Sehgal, Artist

Renowned as one of the most important artists of his generation, Tino Sehgal's critical acclaim derives from his radical artistic practice that takes the form of 'constructed situations': live encounters between visitors and those enacting the work. Their ephemeral beauty rests in the fleeting specificity of the encounter, where players often engage the visitors with their active participation in constructing the piece. Sehgal's abandoning of material production in favor of lived experience is nevertheless achieved with a sensitivity to classical considerations of form, composition and space, grounded not only in the history of dance but also western traditions of sculpture and installation.

His work has been the subject of several solo exhibitions, recently at the Odawara Art Foundation, Japan (2019); Officine Grandi Riparazioni, Turin (2018); V-A-C Foundation, Moscow, Russia (2017); Fondation Beyeler, Switzerland (2017); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2016); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2015); Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2015); Pinacoteca, Sao Paulo and CCBB, Rio de Janeiro (2014); Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2013); Tate Modern, London (2012); and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010), among others.

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