



**York
Mediale
2018**

Art, meet the future.
27.09.18 - 06.10.18
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NEWS RELEASE

For release Tuesday 4 September 2018

York Mediale reveals full festival programme for 2018 - 10 days of contemporary art, presenting work by over 100 artists, with more than 20 world premiere pieces, including interactive installations, live performances, new music and much more

**Alexander Whitley / Beatrice Dillon / Addie Wagenknecht / Isaac Julien /
Ryoichi Kurokawa / Semiconductor / Matthew Plummer Fernandez /
Brandon Covington Sam-Sumana/ Suzanne Ciani / Just Jam/ Kamaal Williams /
Moses Boyd / Skinny Pelembe / Laura Cannell / Pearson Sound / Joy Orbison**

The full programme for the York's new media arts festival, York Mediale, has now been revealed, drawing artists and experts from all over the world to share their works and ideas. The inaugural festival will shine new light on this beautiful, historic city from 27 September to 6 October 2018, highlighting York's status as the UK's only UNESCO designated Creative City of Media Arts. Link to full programme [here](#).

Highlights of the York Mediale programme include:

- **Strange Stranger** – a world premiere installation in York's 15th century Guildhall, running 29 September to 5 October, preceded by a one-off live dance performance on Friday 28 September. Strange Stranger investigates the idea of presence and the right to be forgotten in the digital age. This immersive experience combines Alexander Whitley's choreography with a composition from DJ and electronic musician Beatrice Dillon. The movement of the visitors through a maze of light towers adds to a constantly evolving atmosphere of light and sound. Suitable for ages 8+ with free admission.
- **Just Jam presents Kamaal Williams and Moses Boyd Exodus Live** – York Theatre Royal, 27 September at 8.00pm. Groundbreaking and much heralded British jazz musicians Kamaal Williams and Moses Boyd, along with his celebrated Exodus live show, come together in the city for the very first time. They will kick off York Mediale 2018 in fine style, performing against a psychedelic backdrop of idiosyncratic images mixed from the internet and live streamed by pioneering visual artists Just Jam. This will be a remarkable audio-visual feast.
- **Laura Cannell and Jonathan Hering** – On 29 and 30 September at the National Centre for Early Music, these acclaimed musicians will perform the world premiere of a new commission for York Mediale, 'The Untuning of the Sky', over two evenings. The piece is inspired by the *Music of the Spheres* - an ancient astrological notion that the revolution of the planets generates a celestial harmony of incredible beauty which mortals cannot hear. In collaboration with visual artist **Laura Spark** they will bring the work to life through clefts of conjured light, projections and animation in a stunning, immersive experience.

- **Strata, Rock, Dust, Stars** - a landmark exhibition running from 28 September at York Art Gallery featuring moving image, new media and interactive artwork inspired by William Smith's ground-breaking geological map, Delineating Strata, the original of which is held by York Museums Trust. The work presented will form the most ambitious and large-scale media art exhibition that York has ever hosted. Curated by Mike Stubbs, Director of FACT, Liverpool, in partnership with York Museums Trust and York Mediale, the exhibition features works by artists Isaac Julien, Ryoichi Kurokawa, Agnes Meyer Brandis, Semiconductor, Phil Coy, Liz Orton and David Jacques, exhibited together for the first time.
- **The Pollinarium** – in the Artists Garden at York Art Gallery from 29 September to 6 October, spatial laboratory Loop.pH, present The Pollinarium, allowing visitors of all ages to step inside the spectacular domain of the humble bumble bee. Loop.pH are renowned for creating breath-taking and informative installations around the world with an ecological and environmental theme. The Pollinarium includes a plant pavilion, woven 'archelace' and an inflated dome of sound and light, providing visitors with an immersive, audio visual experience, presenting the world from the perspective of pollinating insects. Suitable for all ages. Free.
- **Token Homes** – a stunning 3D printed sculpture created by artist Matthew Plummer Fernandez, installed in King's Square from 27 September to 6 October. This newly commissioned work comprises hundreds of miniature 'homes' and reflects the ongoing tension between property as an investment asset and providing safe, affordable housing for the wider population. Free.
- **Still We Rise** – Newly commissioned art installations bringing together three international female, non-binary and femme-identifying artists to exhibit a series of provocative pieces, inspired by iconic Black American writer Maya Angelou's poem 'Still I Rise'. Commissioned by York Mediale in partnership with the British Council and UNESCO, these pieces will take the audience on a journey of discovery, exploring the inequalities inherent in the technologies that pervade our lives. Artists featured include Brandon Covington Sam-Sumana (USA), Neo Musangi (Kenya) and Ulunglie Magubane (Kenya). Free.
- **Continue: Videogames & Culture** - Leading practitioners in cross art form projects unite to exchange secrets and perspectives at the bleeding edge of multimedia storytelling and narrative. Produced by The British Games Institute, Pilot Theatre and York Mediale, this two-day melting pot of ideas features industry heavyweight speakers from the culture and gaming sectors, including writer and director Sam Barlow, Artist and Digital Curator Leila Johnston, Gob Squad's Sarah Thom and Journalist, Writer and Author Cara Ellison.
- **Stories of Solitude - Performance, Technology and Digital Overload** - Featuring prominent innovators and thought leaders in the field, this one-day symposium will explore the artistic, social and philosophical potential of being alone, as well as its many challenges, in an increasingly digital world. Co-curated by York Mediale and Dr. Eirini Nedelkopoulou, Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance at York St. John University, speakers include Dr. Zeena Feldman, Lecturer in Digital Culture at King's College, London, Natalie Kane, Curator of Digital Design at the V&A and interactive arts studio Invisible Flock.
- **Beatrice Dillon** - the renowned producer and DJ and Somerset House artist-in-residence will play live within choreographer Alexander Whitley's Strange, Stranger installation in York's historic Guild Hall. Dillon's futuristic sounds emerge from a self-confessed obsession with technology, giving new life to an eclectic palette of global influences. York Mediale is proud to set free this experimental and unpredictable artist in one of the city's finest historic venues.

Speaking about the full programme line up for York Mediale 2018, Creative Director Tom Higham said, "We are incredibly proud of the line-up of artists, performers and speakers involved in this inaugural York Mediale. The team have worked incredibly hard, alongside partners from across the globe, to deliver something exceptional for York, that is completely different to anything the city, and indeed the UK has ever seen before. The programme reflects a diverse range of events and experiences to appeal to everyone from dedicated fans of high end media art, to local families with children keen to experience something different and unexpected in the city; from fans of cutting edge jazz and electronic music to lovers of contemporary dance and theatre; for those that are fascinated by the potential of virtual reality and people already working at the cutting edge of technology in the arts and culture sector. We hope that people will take the plunge and have exciting new experiences in some unexpected places across this glorious city and enjoy what we have to offer."

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[IMAGES](#)

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Notes to editors

To request a copy of the printed programme for York Mediale, please contact Jay Commins on 01904 500698, email jay@pyperyork.co.uk

About York Mediale

York Mediale is a new international media arts festival which will explore the future of art, technology and everything in between. Artists of all kinds will use technologies and media to redefine and tell the stories of our cities, our landscapes and our lives. This biennial event will offer opportunities for collaboration between artists, curators, businesses and educators throughout 2018, culminating in a 10-day programme of exhibitions, performances, lectures, workshops and much more, from 27 September - 6 October 2018. These events will mark and celebrate York's status as the UK's first, and only, UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts.

Festival attendees can expect a full programme of exhibitions, installations, live performances, dance and music across the city, with headline performances planned in some of York's grand old spaces and some of the freshest new sounds in emerging music playing in lesser known spaces.

York Mediale is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) and is supported using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and Leeds City Region Enterprise

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Partnership. Partners in the realisation and delivery of the festival include City of York Council, Make It York, The University of York, York St John University, York Museums Trust, York Theatre Royal, Science City York, the Guild of Media Arts, along with many other supporters involved in media and arts in the city.