

Press Release: 13th July 2018

Embargoed till 16th July 2018



14th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival
Thursday 20 September - Sunday 23 September 2018

Programme Preview Announcement

Announcing the first film programmes, exhibitions & new commissions of Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 2018, including the first UK profile of Philippine collective Los Otros, the first major UK presentation of films from Sky Hopinka and new commissions from Lucy Clout, Luke Fowler & Chris Watson.

One of the UK's leading and most vibrant festivals for New Cinema and Artists' Moving Image, [Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival](#) (BFMAF) attracts filmmakers, artists and audiences from around the world. As well as cinema screenings the Festival hosts exhibitions, seminars and live performances.

The Festival is based in Berwick-upon-Tweed, a historic walled town at the English border with Scotland and on the North Sea. This distinctive location inspires programming and is a key part of what makes the Festival so special.

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival is supported by Arts Council England through its National Portfolio programme.

FILMMAKERS IN FOCUS: Los Otros

Los Otros is the Manila-based home of filmmakers Shireen Seno and John Torres. A studio, film laboratory, library and platform for live events, [Los Otros](#) is one of the most invigorating forces in Philippines cinema today.

Shireen Seno and John Torres will be in Berwick to share a retrospective of their films and participate in the Berwick New Cinema Seminar.

Shireen Seno

BFMAF and [Tate Modern](#) are collaborating to present the UK premiere of Shireen Seno's second feature film *Nervous Translation*.

Described by the [New Yorker](#) as: 'among the best recent evocations of a child's life and thought... It renders the political personal in a way that should leave many socially minded filmmakers agape with envy.'

Receiving great critical acclaim since its world premiere, *Nervous Translation* has won awards at International Film Festival Rotterdam, The Filipino Academy of Movie Arts, and Shanghai International Film Festival.

John Torres

Writing for [Cinema Scope](#), Max Nelson says: 'John Torres has the sensibility of a romantic poet, the mode of address of a personal essayist, and an anthropologist's curious, lingering, critical eye.'

One of the most vital figures in New Philippines Cinema, John Torres has been lauded with retrospectives in Vienna, Bangkok and Singapore International Film Festivals.

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 2018 will mark his first major presentation in the UK. Torres' film [People Power Bombshell: The Diary of Vietnam Rose](#) received its UK premiere at Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 2017.

Propositions: Sky Hopinka

Launching *Propositions*, a new Festival strand for 2018, is the first major UK presentation of work by US artist [Sky Hopinka](#). Hopinka won the 2017 [Berwick New Cinema Award](#) for his film *Dislocation Blues*, a work focusing on the demonstrations at Standing Rock Indian Reservation. The jury described Hopinka's film as 'witness and a participant to centuries of struggle. An imperfect document of renewed hope, it performs the complexity of memory; a rite of passage both deeply personal and vital, for the promise of community.'

Sky Hopinka, who is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, has been a featured artist in the 2017

Whitney Biennial, the 2018 Flaherty Seminar and in a solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in 2017.

Alongside his presentation Hopinka will join the jury for the 2018 Berwick New Cinema Award. The competition features UK, European and World premieres of resolutely contemporary films that transgress restraints of genre, capital and expectation. A drive towards liveness and agency provides a critical framework for selections.

Artist in Residence: Lucy Clout

Berwick Visual Arts and Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival Artist in Residence Lucy Clout will present a new body of work developed over her six-month residency in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

The resulting exhibition will explore themes of loneliness, intimacy and kinship, which are plotted and recreated through the lens of technology and pop culture. Considering notions of pleasure, production and reproduction, Clout will create ceramics and sculptural objects that will be activated within and alongside her new video work.

Lucy Clout's previous exhibitions and screenings include Raven Row, Tate Britain and Anthology Film Archives, New York (2017); Limoncello (2016); Jerwood Space, CCA, Glasgow (2015). She was the recipient of the 2015 Jerwood/Film and Video Umbrella award. Her videos are distributed by [LUX](#).

New Commission: Luke Fowler

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival will present a new commission and first collaboration between Turner Prize-nominated artist [Luke Fowler](#) and acclaimed musician and sound recordist [Chris Watson](#). It is a study in film and sound of two fortified cities; Berwick in the North-East of England and Pamplona in the Navarre region of the North of Spain.

Over centuries, Berwick and Pamplona—both disputed territories—developed some of the most elaborate Elizabethan and Mediaeval defensive structures in Europe. Filmed over several seasons, this new work will reflect on this context by meditating on both the history and practice of listening.

Luke Fowler is an artist, filmmaker and musician based in Glasgow. His recent exhibitions and film screenings include Nasher Sculpture Center,

Dallas; Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland; Harvard Film Archive, Doc-Lisboa and FICUNAM International Film Festival, Mexico City.

The new film will premiere at BFMAF 2018 with a live soundtrack by Chris Watson. Watson is an acclaimed musician and sound recordist known for his wildlife field recordings featured in David Attenborough's series *Blue Planet*, *Frozen Planet* and *Life of Birds*, and as a founder of pivotal experimental groups Cabaret Voltaire and The Hafler Trio.

The commission is supported by LUMA Foundation and OUTSET Scotland.

2018 Festival Design

BFMAF is delighted to be working again with Glasgow-based illustrator [Emer Tumilty](#) and designer [Matthew Walkerdine](#). Look out for their work across posters, banners and the Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 2018 catalogue, available free to all BFMAF visitors.

Emer Tumilty is an artist and illustrator from Northern Ireland, now based in Glasgow. Previous clients include Atlantic Records, Radiophrenia, and Glasgow City Council.

Also based in Glasgow, Matthew Walkerdine is a Graphic Designer and Lecturer. He's the co-founder of [Good Press Gallery](#) and a member of the band, [Vital Idles](#).

ENDS

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival

Festival Director: Peter Taylor

Festival Manager: Diana Stevenson

Associate Programmers: Letitia Calin, Ben Pointeker, Herb Shellenberger, Becca Voelcker and Hamish Young

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Notes to editors:

1. Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival takes place from Thursday 20 – Sunday 23 September 2018

It is one of the UK's leading festivals for new cinema and artists' moving image.

Based in England's most northerly town, BFMAF is a dynamic forum where fresh artistic voices develop and audiences hungry for complex and challenging art are nurtured.

2. Festival passes are currently on sale from bfmaf.org.
Full Festival Passes: £35
Full Pass with Accommodation: £95
Professional Accreditation can be applied for [here](#)
3. The full Festival programme will be announced by Friday 24 August 2018
4. Shireen Seno is an artist and filmmaker whose work addresses memory, history, and image-making, often in relation to the idea of home. She was born to a Filipino family in Japan, where she spent most of her childhood. Her work has been exhibited at Manila Contemporary, the Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore. She started out in film shooting stills for Lav Diaz before going on to direct her first feature-length film, *Big Boy* (2012), shot entirely on Super 8. It premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, was the opening film of Hors Pistes Tokyo, organized by the Centre Pompidou, and has screened in festivals including Jeonju, Edinburgh, New Horizons, 3 Continents, as well as Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the German Historical Museum, among others. *Big Boy* won the prize for Best First Film at the Festival de Cine Lima Independiente
5. John Torres is an independent film director, producer, writer, and musician from Manila. He has made four feature films and over a dozen short films. His films have been executed with modest means:

very small budgets with the help of modest grants, cheap equipment, expired film stock.

He has had retrospectives at Vennale in 2013, the 4th Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Cosquin in Argentina in 2014, and The Japan Foundation, Bangkok.

His feature film awards include the Dragons & Tigers Award for Young Cinema at the Vancouver International Film Festival, NETPAC and FIPRESCI critics awards at the Singapore International Film Festival, Grand Jury Prize in Cinemanila International Film Festival and Jury Special mentions at Bangkok International Festival and Festival de Cine Lima Independiente in 2013.

6. Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival is supported by Arts Council England through its National Portfolio programme. Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. Arts Council England support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. www.artscouncil.org.uk