

Dec / Jan / Feb
2016/17

Bluecoat

CELEBRATING
300 YEARS

1717
2017

UnEarthing the Banker's Bones

Liverpool's
centre
for the
contemporary
arts

CELEBRATING
300 YEARS

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2017

Welcome to 2017 and a special year for Bluecoat: our 300th birthday. The oldest building in both Liverpool city centre and the city's UNESCO World Heritage Site, we're also the UK's first arts centre. We're celebrating this with a year-round programme of exhibitions and events rediscovering the building's heritage, as well as presenting some of today's most exciting new art, dance, music and literature.

Bluecoat has a long and distinguished history of presenting contemporary art. Monet was shown here in 1908 and was followed in 1911 by a ground-breaking Post-Impressionist exhibition, featuring works by artists such as Picasso and Matisse. The building's future as a centre for the arts was secured in 1927 with its purchase by the Bluecoat Society of Arts, whose custodianship we continue to this day.

On 4 February we launch 300 days of celebration, during which we will tell the story of the building – its early 18th-century origins and connections to Liverpool's maritime mercantile culture, and its transition from charity school to arts centre. Follow us on social media to see daily facts we will be releasing about this colourful history.

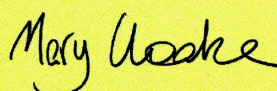
At the same time, we open *Public View*, a special exhibition that brings together artworks by many artists we have supported over the past five decades. Bluecoat is thriving as Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts because of the vision of its founding artists and supporters, and the imagination and inventiveness of artists from Britain and around the world who have contributed to it ever since.

Accompanying the gallery exhibitions will be a series of displays across the year, taking place as part of *My Bluecoat*, which will tell our 300 year history. With support from Heritage Lottery Fund, *My Bluecoat* is a collaboration with Liverpool Record Office and the Blue Coat School, which originally occupied the building before moving to its present home in Wavertree. There will be plenty of opportunities to join in this heritage project, and we want to hear your own Bluecoat stories.

In February we also introduce our Sociologist-in-Residence, Dr Paul Jones from the University of Liverpool, who will be with us throughout 2017. He will be looking at how Bluecoat engages with the city and the role of art in civic life, opening up debates about art, architecture and society for all to participate in.

Our Artistic Director Bryan Biggs, has drawn on his long involvement with and knowledge of Bluecoat to curate the programme for 2017. We hope it will highlight to people the impact of our work over time. Above all we would like to pay tribute to the support of the people of Liverpool which has enabled Bluecoat to be at the very heart of Liverpool's cultural life for many decades: we look forward to developing and enriching our engagement with the city through 2017 - and beyond.

Mary Cloake
Chief Executive



Exhibitions

and Related Events

Continues until Sun 22 Jan 2017

Keith Piper: *Unearthing the Banker's Bones*

Renowned British artist Keith Piper's solo exhibition premieres a major new three-screen video installation, *Unearthing the Banker's Bones*. The work uses the perspective of a fictional future to address contemporary concerns about race and class. The artist draws on extracts of apocalyptic fiction by writers such as Octavia Butler and Mary Shelley, building his own narrative of social and economic collapse.

Piper's seminal interactive work *Robot Bodies* (1998) investigates the robot, android and cyborg as metaphorical carriers of contemporary anxieties around racial difference, and has been updated and re-programmed for the exhibition. The exhibition is completed by a new series of digital prints and paintings on unstretched canvas that refer to 19th century history painting, and imagine how this genre might be addressed today.

The exhibition, organised in partnership with Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), continues Bluecoat's long-term relationship with Piper, which began three decades ago with *Black Skin Bluecoat* (1985). The new work, *Unearthing the Banker's Bones*, is a 70th anniversary commission for the Arts Council Collection with Bluecoat and Iniva.

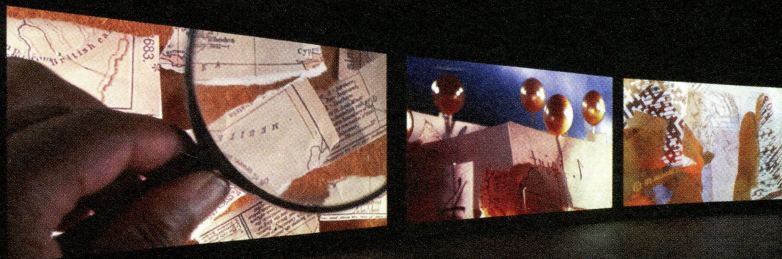
Sat 21 Jan, 2pm

Post-Apocalyptic Landscapes, Post-Human Futures

Bluecoat and University of Liverpool's Science Fiction Hub present a programme of discussions and readings inspired by *Keith Piper: Unearthing the Banker's Bones*. The event explores the enduring appeal of post-apocalyptic landscapes in visual art, literature and cinema. Featuring University of Liverpool English PhD candidate **Beata Gubacsi** and University of Liverpool English lecturer

Dr Will Slocombe.

Tickets £5/£4



iniva

Institute of
International
Visual Arts

Arts Council
Collection

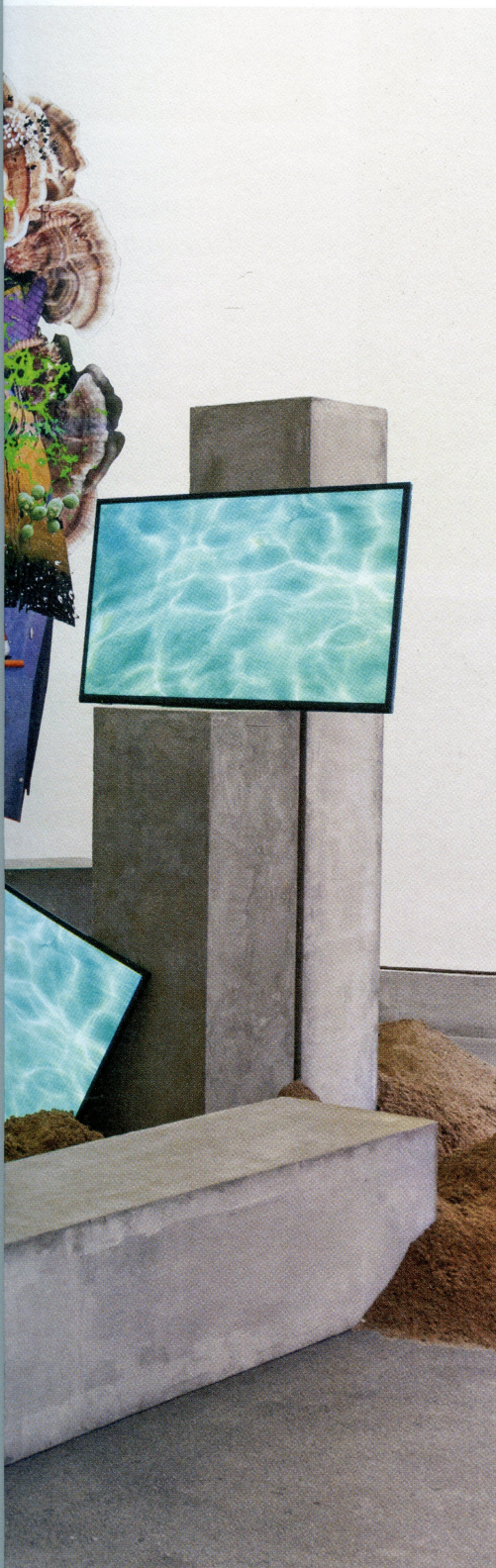
The Elephant Trust

Continues until Sun 22 Jan 2017

Adham Faramawy: *Janus Collapse* (the juice box edition)

Discover the work of Adham Faramawy in an immersive video installation created for Bluecoat's first floor gallery. For this solo project, the artist continues his interest in identity and how it is constructed in the 21st century. Taking the language of advertising as a starting point - its promises and ultimate failure to deliver - he pushes its seductive brilliance to slime and slipperiness. Shot as live action, with layers of special effects, Faramawy's film work is presented as an installation in which screens rest on piles of sand, while images of rubbish - the afterlife of products - explode across the walls.





Sat 26 Nov 2016 – Sun 15 Jan 2017

Auto Agents

Curated by the **AaA collective**, a group with learning disabilities, this exhibition of new commissioned works explores what it means to be independent by making your own decisions. It reflects the collective's personal experience of the limited choice and control many learning disabled people face. The exhibition features large scale interactive work by **James Harper**, paintings by **Alaena Turner** and a limited edition book by **Mark Simmonds**.

Mon 9 Jan 11am - 4pm

Workshop: Do Feel Think Curate

Reflecting on *Auto Agents*, this workshop explores collective and collaborative ways of working, taking the **AaA collective's** approach as a starting point. Shifting models of curating exhibitions as a collaborative process are explored, and **James Harper's** video lecture *Can't Touch This* (2016) will be screened.

Tickets: £3/£2

Thu 12 Jan 6pm

Useful Knowledge: What Do You Use Books For?

Designer **Mark Simmonds** presents a performance lecture based on his publication *Book*, commissioned for *Auto Agents*.

Tickets: £3/£2



James Harper working with curators on his commission. Courtesy Jade French

28 Jan – 9 Apr 2017

Art at the Heart of Bluecoat

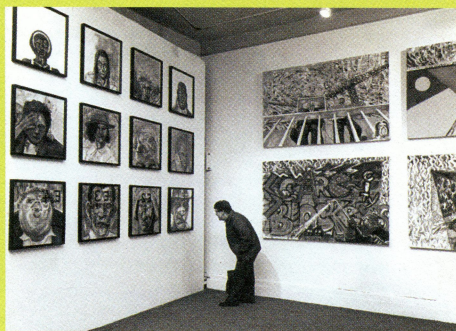
This exhibition explores the central role of art at Bluecoat, which started over a century ago, through key personalities, exhibitions and organisations that found a home here, contributing to the unique history of the UK's oldest arts centre. This is the first in a year-long series of heritage exhibitions that tell the building's 300-year story, including its origins in 18th century philanthropy, a school for architects, home for radical exhibitions and bohemian cabaret, and the development of an artistic community.



Julia Carter Preston in her studio. © The Times



Artist Clement McAleer in his Bluecoat studio. Photo by Meg Robbis



John Hyatt, *Connections* exhibition at Bluecoat, 1986

4 Feb - 23 Apr 2017

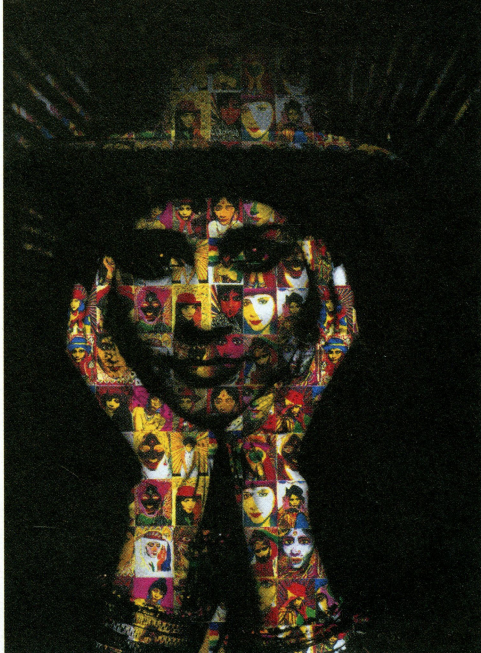
Public View

From the Post-Impressionists in 1911, to showcases of the next generation of artists like the recent *Bloomberg New Contemporaries*, Bluecoat has developed a reputation as an important regional venue for new art. For over a century our gallery has helped launch many artists' careers, initiated and hosted significant UK and international touring exhibitions, and been at the forefront of new developments in the visual arts, while nurturing the local artists' community.

Public View brings together works by 100 artists who have previously exhibited at Bluecoat. The exhibition includes a wide range of work, including paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures and videos. Many of these have previously been exhibited in the gallery, some have been re-made especially for the show, and others are completely new.

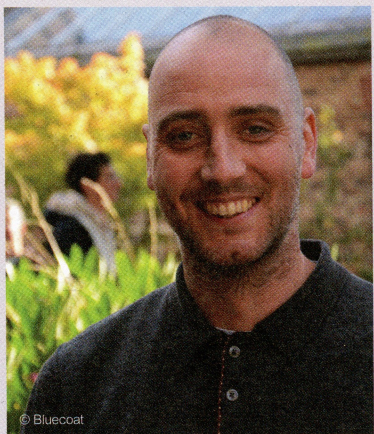
Artists include: **John Akomfrah, Jeremy Deller, Bill Drummond, Nina Edge, Leo Fitzmaurice, Lubaina Himid, Mark Leckey** and **Yoko Ono**.

Also 4 Feb - 18 Mar, Bluecoat Display Centre presents *Stalwarts*, an exhibition of new collections by ceramic artists who have a long-standing relationship with the venue.



Chila Burman *Auto-Portrait 1995-2016* © The Artist

Events



Bluecoat Sociologist in Residence 2017

Throughout 2017, **Dr Paul Jones** of University of Liverpool will be our resident sociologist. The residency, focusing on architecture, culture and society, will investigate the ways both Bluecoat and the University connect with the city's social life.

Wed 8 Feb 6.30pm

Dr Paul Jones: Inaugural Talk

Dr Paul Jones' inaugural lecture introduces the innovative space created by his residency, its implications for how art in the city is understood, and the public nature of academic sociology. The event also includes contributions from **Professor Janet Beer**, Vice-Chancellor of University of Liverpool and **Professor Les Back** (Goldsmiths, University of London). Free, booking required

31 Jan – 30 May Every Tuesday, 10-11am Cities: a course in urban sociology

Led by Dr Paul Jones, this course introduces theories and themes concerning urban development and social life, looking at how cities develop and how they shape the lives of their inhabitants. Free, booking required



Courtesy: Comma Press

Wed 7 Dec 7pm

Comma Press presents *Science into Fiction*

This event focuses on *Thought X: Fictions and Hypotheticals*, Comma Press' latest anthology of commissioned stories exploring thought experiments through pairing scientists and writers. Speakers include Comma Press editor **Ra Page** and science fiction authors **Sara Maitland** and **Sarah Schofield**.

Tickets £4/£3

Thu 8 Dec 8 – 11pm The EVP Sessions #3

Ecstatic music on the cusp of technology and ritual from avant-garde electronic music producer **Aisha Devi**; poet/theatre-maker **Inua Ellams**' haunting spoken word performance with sound artist **Ain Bailey**; new work from game designer and theatre-maker **Hannah Nicklin**. Award-winning poet and spiritualist raconteur **Ross Sutherland** plays host with a newly commissioned series of videos inspired by conspiracy theories. Tickets £7/£5

Thu 15 Dec 7.30pm
Kristina Warren Trio

Liverpool-based electroacoustic composer and improvising vocalist Kristina Warren is joined by Canadian guitarist **Amy Brandon**. Irish contemporary classical composer **Ailis Ní Riain** is on piano.

Tickets £5/£4

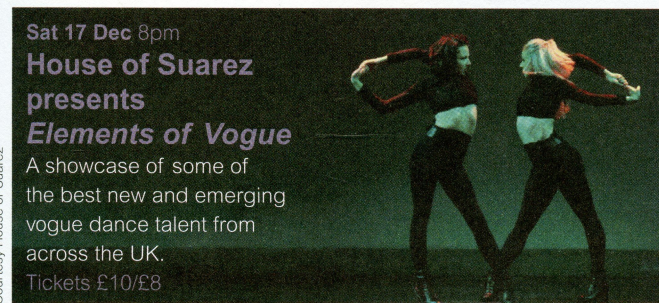


Courtesy Verso

Sat 17 Dec 8pm
House of Suarez
presents
Elements of Vogue

A showcase of some of the best new and emerging vogue dance talent from across the UK.

Tickets £10/£8

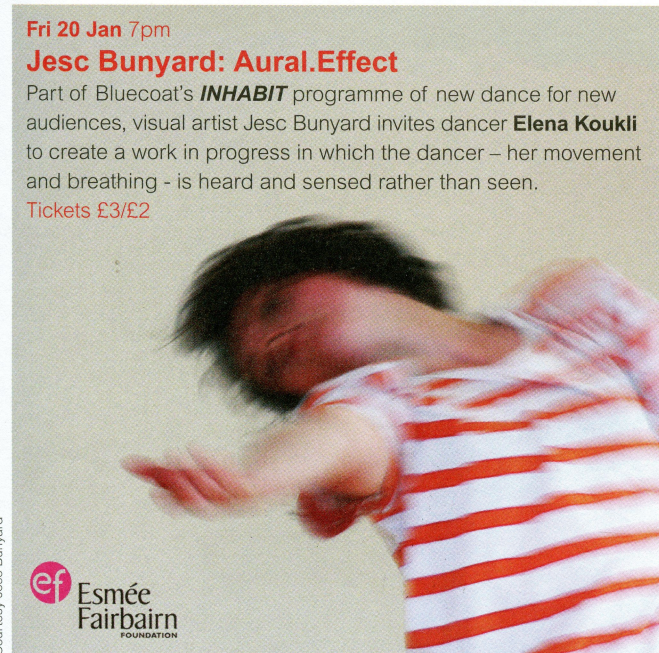


Courtesy House of Suarez

Fri 20 Jan 7pm
Jesc Bunyard: Aural.Effect

Part of Bluecoat's **INHABIT** programme of new dance for new audiences, visual artist Jesc Bunyard invites dancer **Elena Koukli** to create a work in progress in which the dancer – her movement and breathing – is heard and sensed rather than seen.

Tickets £3/£2



Courtesy House of Suarez

ef Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION



Courtesy Verso

Wed 25 Jan 7pm
Verso and Queen of the Track present Sheila Rowbotham

Join Sheila Rowbotham as she discusses her new publication *Rebel Crossings: New Women, Free Lovers and Radicals in Britain and the United States*, a transatlantic story of radical pioneers at the turn of the 20th century. Rowbotham is an acclaimed historian of feminism and radical social movements, and a seminal figure in the women's liberation movement in Britain.

Tickets £4/£3



Courtesy The Three Johns

Thu 9 Feb Doors open 7.30pm
The Three Johns

Post-punk John Peel favourites The Three Johns, formed in 1981 in Leeds, comprise guitarist **Jon Langford** (co-founder of The Mekons), vocalist **John Hyatt** and bassist **Phillip 'John' Brennan**, augmented by a drum machine. Reuniting for one week only, they play Bluecoat to celebrate the opening of our *Public View* exhibition, which includes work by Hyatt.

Tickets £7/£5

Sun 12 Feb 2pm
Valentines Walk

This literary walk celebrates Liverpool's literature of love and the places and people that have inspired writers to immortalise their love affairs in poetry and prose.

Tickets £5/£3

For further information or to book tickets
visit www.thebluecoat.org.uk or telephone 0151 702 5324



Christmas lunch

Enjoy a delicious three course festive lunch in our beautiful upstairs bistro, made with the finest local produce. Full menu and booking details available on our website or call 0151 702 5324.

Fri 16 and Sat 17 Dec 10am - 5pm

Big Christmas Shopping Weekend

Visit our eclectic shops on the last shopping weekend before Christmas and pick up the perfect stocking filler, unique gift or vintage treasure. Get in the Christmas spirit with live music, festive food and drink offers, and family friendly crafts 1-4pm on Saturday.

Every Saturday 1 - 4pm

Explore

Drop in for regular artist-led activities inspired by our exhibitions. Suitable for children of all ages, Explore is the perfect weekend pit-stop. Join us on Sat 4 Feb for a special Explore inspired by Bluecoat's history.

Free, drop in

Fairs

10am - 6pm. Free

16/17 Dec
Record & Book Fairs

13/14 Jan & 10/11 Feb
Book Fair



Print

Learn something new with our printmaking workshops. Join us for beginners' workshops, special masterclasses, or contact us to request a customised course or event. Visit our website for full listings and to book.

THE SNOWFLAKE TRAIL

LIVERPOOL
CITY CENTRE

THISLIVERPOOL.COM/CHRISTMAS
#SNOWFLAKETRAIL



AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S SNOWFLAKE TRAIL, JOIN US IN THE BLUECOAT COURTYARD TO PLAY THE ILLUMAPHONIUM; A GIANT MUSIC-MAKING SCULPTURE MADE OF OVER 200 ILLUMINATED CHIME BARS CREATED BY MUSICIAN AND INVENTOR MICHAEL DAVIS.

Snowflake Trail story author Lisa Bower will be hosting a series of storytelling sessions on 3 Dec. For further information visit www.thebluecoat.org.uk



this liverpool
company

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OPEN CULTURE

ONE PARICAL CITY
LIVERPOOL

Diary

Dec / Jan / Feb
2016/17

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Monthly, Wed	The Gathering - meeting & improv session for musicians	Web
Monthly, Thu	Talking Poetry - listen and discuss recordings of poetry readings	Web

Our Core Funders



Liverpool
City Council



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Opening Hours

Building

& Espresso cafe:
Mon – Sat 9am – 6pm
Sun 11am – 6pm
Bluecoat is closed
Christmas Day,
Boxing Day and
New Year's Day

Gallery:

Mon – Sat 10am – 6pm
Sun 11am – 6pm

Upstairs Bistro:

Mon – Sat
11.30am – 4pm
Sun closed

Tickets & Information

Telephone:

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info@thebluecoat.org.uk

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Liverpool, L1 3BX

Find us online at:

👉 thebluecoat.org.uk
📘 fb.com/thebluecoat

🐦 @thebluecoat
📺 @the_bluecoat

For changes to our opening hours between Sat 24 Dec - Mon 2 Jan please see our website