

ICA

13 September 2016

The ICA announces Belinda Zhawi as new 2016–2017 Associate Poet



Image: Belinda Zhawi © Amaal Said

The ICA is delighted to announce Belinda Zhawi as the new Associate Poet from Autumn 2016 to Spring 2017. Following the Associate Artist programme that includes NTS, PAN, JUST JAM and 6a Architects, Zhawi will take over from previous Associate Poets, Sophie Collins and Kayo Chingonyi, and devise a programme of talks, poetry readings and performances to take place at the ICA throughout the coming year. As a response to the growing intersection between art and poetry today, the Associate Poet programme continues the heritage of engagement with language and poetry prevalent throughout the ICA's 70 year history. Four of the ICA's founders – Geoffrey Grigson, E. L. T. Mesens, Roland Penrose and Herbert Read – were poets; a particular interest which was reflected in the ICA's programme in the early stages of its history.

Belinda Zhawi, commented: *"As a Black African migrant woman writer living in London I'm interested in exploring hidden and marginalised narratives that are part of what makes London. It will*

be an interesting year of exploring ideas around home, displacement and migration through art, workshops, talks and discussions. This will be a chance to see what poetry and spoken word can contribute to all this unpacking.

Belinda Zhawi is a Zimbabwean born writer and educator who lives and works in London. Her work mostly focuses on memories of living in rural and urban Zimbabwe. She has performed across the UK in numerous venues, festivals and events including at Africa Writes, Bestival, TATE with her work published in the anthologies *Liminal Animals* and *Casagrande: Rain Of Poems*. In 2013, Zhawi featured on Channel 4's Random Acts and has also co-founded the monthly poetry night, *BORN::FREE*. Zhawi was recently shortlisted for 2015/16 Young Poet Laureate's London role.

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The ICA is a membership organisation with Day Membership set at just £1 to visit exhibitions during gallery opening hours. No Day Membership is charged on Tuesdays.

Full Annual Membership available from £30
Students and under-26s can join Annual Membership from £10
Further information on Annual and Day Membership can be found [here](#).

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Editor's notes

About the ICA

Founded in 1946, the ICA seeks to embrace the urgency surrounding contemporary art and culture. Continually looking forward, the ICA lays claim to an extraordinary legacy, being home to the Independent Group, as well as playing a pivotal role in the development of Pop Art, Op Art and Brutalist Architecture. It charted the course of Punk, Performance, Independent Cinema and Young British Art, while showcasing numerous international artists, from Yoko Ono to Gerhard Richter. The ICA has always supported interdisciplinary practice, encouraging artists to experiment and explore unresolved ideas. Comprising film screenings, exhibitions, talks and events, the ICA Programme can be experienced at our base on The Mall, via our website and social media, or as 'Off-Site' projects at alternative venues, nationally and internationally. ica.org.uk

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Supported using public funding by

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