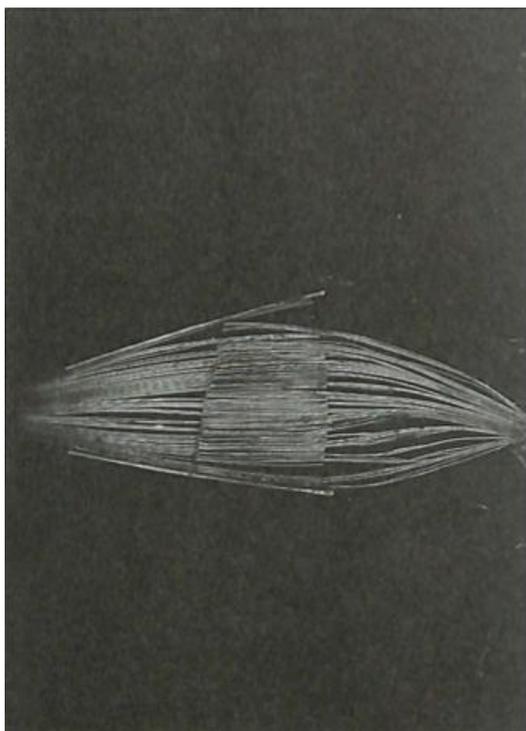


John Latham:
Now Forget Everything You Ever Knew

Preview on Zoom: Thursday 1 October 2020, 4pm BST – Sign up via www.chelseaspace.org
Exhibition continues: www.chelseaspace.org



John Latham, photocopy of two books, undated. © John Latham Foundation

This autumn, **Chelsea Space** is delighted to present **John Latham: Now Forget Everything You Ever Knew**, an online exhibition that starts from an untitled, undated poem written by John Latham. This exhibition is a collaboration between **MA Curating and Collections** (Chelsea College of Arts, UAL) and **Flat Time House** (a London landmark that was declared a Living Sculpture in 2003). The show stems from extensive research of John Latham's archival material supervised by Flat Time House Director and Curator Gareth Bell-Jones.

Latham's elusive text speaks to a process of unlearning, through an exploration of language that attempts to interrogate received knowledge. In correspondence with such ideas, **Ifeanyi Awachie**, **Anna Barham** and **Noa Latham** have been invited to respond to John Latham's writing through the lens of poetics, time and politics.

The exhibition, *John Latham: Now Forget Everything You Ever Knew* presents the poem's archival document in an interactive pdf format. Through distinct hyperlinked words and punctuation ('became', '-', 'different') across the text, viewers will be directed to contributions by the invited participants.

Curator **Ifeanyi Awachie** will present on the political significance of the ambiguous poem. Known for her enthusiasm for progressive Black and African representation through storytelling and programming, she has drawn on some rich associations as she references music, theory and fiction within her audio recording. As the author of *Noit 4 - Reflections* (2018), a journal that elaborates on Latham's life and ideas, his son and professor in philosophy at University of Calgary, **Noa Latham**, will expound on the temporal and philosophical implications of his father's words in relation to the artist's time-based concepts. The artist **Anna Barham**, whose practice revolves around language, punctuation and interpretation, will expand on the poem's linguistic relevance. Having worked with Latham's archive in the past, she has contributed *Now Forget Next to Get*, a scoring of the versions of Latham's untitled poem produced during her 'live production reading group' event at Flat Time House in 2017, in which she undertook experimentation on reshaping language.

Through this methodology the exhibition considers the ways in which language contributes to the dismantling of certain received knowledge, and how the politics of forgetting might be instructive for anti-racist discourse and wide-spread practices of decolonisation; to consolidate and recontextualise our histories; to embrace our intuition as Incidental Persons. Coined by Latham, the 'Incidental Person' is able to critically reflect from a distance and respond to social and political situations through their intuition. The curatorial approach is based on a careful consideration of the artist's ideas and works throughout his years. *John Latham: Now Forget Everything You Ever Knew* marks the second time John Latham, a pioneer of British conceptual art, is the focus of an exhibition at Chelsea Space.

John Latham (1921-2006) was a British conceptual artist and Chelsea College of Arts graduate (1947-1951). With a career spanning more than fifty years, he made significant contributions to contemporary art, blending science, art and philosophy. Latham has had numerous international exhibitions at institutions including the Serpentine Galleries, London, UK (2017); Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland (1973); Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, Germany (1975); P.S.1. Contemporary Art Center, New York, NY, USA (2006). Latham's work is in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York and Tate Gallery, London. He was the subject of a solo show at Tate Britain in London (2005).

This exhibition was made possible by the support of the Director and trustees of Flat Time House.

Flat Time House (FTHo) was the studio home of John Latham (1921-2006), recognised as one of the most significant and influential British post-war artists. In 2003, Latham declared the house a living sculpture, naming it FTHo after his theory of time, 'Flat Time'. Until his death, Latham opened his door to anyone interested in thinking about art. It is in this spirit that Flat Time House opened in 2008 as a gallery with a programme of exhibitions and events exploring the artist's practice, his theoretical ideas and their continued relevance. It also provides a centre for alternative learning, which includes the John Latham Archive, an artist's residency space, and the academic journal NOIT.

Curated by:

Asya Gurevich, Bilal Akkouche, Carolina Fontes, Celina Loh, Cara Salmon, Conor Smyth, Elisavet Logotheti, Han Yan, Jiaying Gao, Hao Long, Junyu Lu, Jiachuan Wang, Jiashu Zou, Lei Gu, Ni Gu, Ola Talib, Pei-Yu Wu, Qianjing Yuan, Ruiying Wang, Sara-Ann Barber, Shin-Hung Liu, Samuel Marshall, Shu Zhang, Weirui Liu, Yannis Lo, Yige Hu, Zehui Gao, Zhe Wu

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Gareth Bell-Jones, Mary Vettise, Sarah Millet, Flat Time House

Lynton Talbot

Dr David Dibosa

Dr Joanna Melvin

Donald Smith, Gaia Giacomelli, Dr Karen Di Franco, Clare Mitten, Chelsea Space

Gustavo Grandal Montero

Ends

Publication: Each exhibition at Chelsea Space is accompanied by a publication, published by Chelsea Space, available here: <http://www.chelseaspace.org/publication.html>.

'How to curate an exhibition around John Latham during a pandemic' illustrates the comprehensive curatorial process and research around this exhibition across a weekly journal format. In this publication, the curatorial team showcases the importance of language and communication as they present fragmented evidence of their liaison across multiple platforms, from WhatsApp and Microsoft Teams to Google Suite. Considering Latham's theories in relation to the team's modes of communication, the publication functions as a comment on the unprecedented situation that we have all been confronting over the past several months, and doubles as a manual from a young collective of curators.

Press Information: For further information, images or to discuss interviews please contact:
Gaia Giacomelli at Chelsea Space via email info@chelseaspace.org or tel: 020 7514 6983

Notes to Editors

- **Images and further information** are available upon request.
- **About: Chelsea Space** is a public exhibiting space, sited on the Millbank campus of Chelsea College of Arts, UAL, where invited art and design professionals are encouraged to work on experimental curatorial projects. See: www.chelseaspace.org
- **Please refer to the gallery as Chelsea Space at Chelsea College of Arts.**
- In copy please refer to **Chelsea Space** and not 'The Chelsea space.'
- **Gallery opening times:** Tues - Fri: 11:00 – 17:00, or by appointment – **please note that the gallery is currently closed to the public in light of the current health emergency.** For updates please refer to our website.

- **Private view:** Thursday 1 October 2020, 4pm BST – this event will take place online, please see www.chelseaspace.org for further information
- **Admission Free**
- **Chelsea College of Arts, UAL** is one of the world's leading art and design institutions.
- Located at Millbank, next door to Tate Britain, Chelsea specialises in Fine Art, Graphic Design and Interior and Textiles Design. Since its origins in the 19th century, the College has produced many of the greatest names in the arts, including: Quentin Blake (illustrator and author), Ralph Fiennes (film and stage actor), Anish Kapoor (sculptor), Steve McQueen (artist), Chris Ofili (artist), Alan Rickman (film and stage actor), Alexei Sayle (comedian) and Gavin Turk (sculptor).

Operating at the heart of the world's creative capital, University of the Arts London is a vibrant international centre for innovative teaching and research in arts, design, fashion, communication and the performing arts. The University is made up of six Colleges: Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, Chelsea College of Arts, London College of Communication, London College of Fashion and Wimbledon College of Arts. Renowned names in the cultural and creative sectors produced by the University include 12 Turner prize winners and over half of all nominees, 10 out of 17 fashion designers named British Designer of the Year, more than half of the designers showcased in London Fashion Week and 12 out of 30 winners of the Jerwood Photography Award.