

Telescope Observation Workshop with Melanie King

Wednesday 10 July, 8:30-9:30pm (weather permitting)
Rootstein Hopkins Parade Ground (meeting in front of Chelsea Space)



Moon Images by Bow Arts Moon Gazing Workshop with Melanie King, October 2018. © Melanie King

Taking place during the opening week of the exhibition ***OBSERVER: John Latham and the Distant Perspective*** at Chelsea Space, we are excited to have artist and curator **Melanie King** hosting a telescope lunar observation workshop. While introducing her practice and knowledge on spacial photography, King will show participants how to use the telescope, and invite them to explore the evening sky, as well as the particularities of the moon. Participants are encouraged to bring their cameras to experiment.

The workshop is free and it is open to everybody, booking essential due to limited numbers: [booking link](#).

This event is weather permitting and confirmation will be emailed to ticket holders on the day of the event.

Melanie King is an artist and curator with a specific focus on astronomy. She is co-Director of super/collider, Lumen Studios and the London Alternative Photography Collective. She is a lecturer on the MA programme at the Royal College of Art, and on the BA Photography course at University of West London. Melanie is a part time doctoral student at the Royal College of Art. She is also a UAL alumni, having graduated from Central Saint Martins in 2013, where she completed the MA Art and Science course.

She is interested in the relationship between starlight, photography and materiality. Her main body of photographs "*Ancient Light*" comprises of a series of analogue photographic negatives and prints of star-scapes, as well as a series of images created using telescopes and observatories around the world. Alongside this body of work, Melanie has produced 16mm films of the Moon and photographic etchings created using meteorite-imbued ink, milled at the Royal School of Mines. The purpose of her research is to demonstrate the intimate connection between celestial objects (sun, moon, stars), photographic material and the natural world.

Her practice-based research has taken her on a journey far and wide, including collaborative projects with the UCLO Observatory in London, Kielder Observatory on the border of England and Scotland, the Laboratory for Dark Matter Research in Boulby, UK and the EU Commission in Ispra, Italy. Melanie has participated in residencies in Iceland, Italy, Spain, Ireland, the Lake District (UK) and Cornwall (UK). For her research, she has also analysed analogue astronomical specimens within the UCL Space History Archive and the Royal Astronomical Society in London. Further afield, Melanie has visited the Mount Wilson Observatory, Carnegie Archives and Hale Solar Laboratory in California, USA as well as the European Space Agency in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Melanie's solo exhibitions include Leeds Art University and the Blyth Gallery, Imperial College London. She has exhibited in group shows at The Photographers' Gallery, Argentea Gallery, Guest Projects, Space Studios and the Sidney Cooper Gallery. Melanie has also exhibited in a wide range of international galleries, such as the Hasselblad Foundation, Sweden, Unseen Amsterdam, the Williamson Gallery in Los Angeles and CAS Gallery in Japan. She also organises participatory workshops in relation to her practice. She has developed workshops for Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Whitechapel Gallery, The Photographers' Gallery, The Courtauld Institute, Metal Peterborough, the Institute of Physics, East Street Arts, Kosmica: Mexico, SALT Festival: Norway, Photofusion and the Art Academy.

This event is part of the public programme curated by MA Curating and Collections, Chelsea College of Arts, UAL, to coincide with the exhibition *OBSERVER: John Latham and the Distant Perspective*, Chelsea Space, 6 – 26 July, 2019.