

**CHISENHALE GALLERY**

**chisenholez**

**'MERGING THE LAYERS'**

**6 JUNE 2019**

## PROGRAMME NOTES

*ChisenhaleHz* present *Merging the Layers*, an evening of audio and moving image works exploring themes of access, agency and distribution in response to Mandy El-Sayegh's new commission, *Cite Your Sources* (2019).

*ChisenhaleHz* is a collective of young people who meet regularly at Chisenhale Gallery. Using ideas and themes raised through the gallery's 2019 *Commissions Programme*, the group present a series of public events throughout the year. Following the first meeting, the group collectively decided on the name *ChisenhaleHz*, which reflects the multiple frequencies and voices brought together in the group.

El-Sayegh's exhibition brings together principle elements from an ongoing series of works to explore themes relating to representation, abstraction and subjectivity. Comprising painting, drawing, print and sculpture, *Cite Your Sources* addresses the process of constructing meaning through the production and circulation of images and materials.

Informed by a discussion with El-Sayegh around the hierarchy of art forms, *ChisenhaleHz* further explore ideas of distribution, agency and access through a film programme and performative reading. Included are films by Hito Steyerl, Mahdi Fleifel and artist collective Soda\_Jerk. The evening also includes a performance by Polina Paniak, a member of *ChisenhaleHz*. Drawing on El-Sayegh's approach to layering, the programme takes the use of newsreels, newspaper cutouts and archival footage.

The event is programmed in association with *First Thursdays*, when galleries across East London stay open until 9pm on the first Thursday of each month.

*ChisenhaleHz* are: Francis Carmody, Dita Hashi, Lena Lewis King, Jude O'Shaughnessy, Polina Paniak, Bianca Rawlinson, Leda Sadotti and Ramune Valanciute.

## PROGRAMME

*The Was* (2016, 14') by Soda\_Jerk & The Avalanches

*The Was* is part experimental film, part music video, part concept album, fusing a selection of cinema's most iconic moments with the sampladelic music of The Avalanches.

*Lovely Andrea* (2007, 30') by Hito Steyerl

Hito Steyerl's *Lovely Andrea* examines the ways in which images circulate beyond their original purposes and accumulate fictional meaning. By detailing the artist's search for a photograph of herself as a bondage model in the 1980s Steyerl explores work as bondage and bondage as work.

*20 Handshakes for Freedom* (2013, 3') by Mahdi Fleifel

In Fleifel's *20 Handshakes for Freedom* two national leaders reach out and shake hands, while a third one watches. This historic moment with Yasser Arafat, Yitzhak Rabin, and Bill Clinton is repeated 20 times. The work includes a voice-over by Edward Said expressing his outrage at the Oslo Peace Accord, which was settled by this handshake, with unfused witt of countless shattered hopes.

Performative reading by Polina Paniak, member of *ChisenhaleHz*.

Paniak's performance extends on the themes of *Merging the Layers*, exploring the relationship between distribution and ownership. Sourcing an article by *Noodleremover.news*, a Russian website which establishes a clear red line between journalism and propaganda, *ChisenhaleHz* situate this performance within the wider cultural context of 'fake news' and its agency in society.

**CHISENHALE GALLERY**

64 Chisenhale Road, London, E3 5QZ  
+44 (0)20 8981 4518  
[www.chisenhale.org.uk](http://www.chisenhale.org.uk)

Registered Charity no. 1026175

**Current exhibition: Mandy El-Sayegh**  
**12 April – 9 June 2019**

**Opening hours:**

Wednesday to Sunday, 12 - 6pm

Thursday 6 June, 12 - 9 pm



Supported using public funding by

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*ChisenhaleHz*, Chisenhale Gallery's programme for young people is supported by the #iwill Programme