

KAHOON I/II :

## Do the Twist

SET. 76–89 Alscot Rd, London SE1 3AW

Exhibition open 10 May – 30 May 2019

Private view Thursday 9th May 2019, 6-8pm

Artists Public Talk & Screening: Tuesday 21st May, @ The Peckham Pelican, 7-9pm



Shonagh Short and Maria de la O Garrido, *Do The Twist*, curated by  
Dr Alexandra Bickley Trott and Roland Fischer-Vousden.

Oxford Brookes University and SET Centre present *KAHOON I/II: DO THE TWIST*, the first round of Kahoon Projects, a discursive platform that examines working-class identity in the 21st century through contemporary art practice. Kahoon Projects consists of a series of collaborative, interdisciplinary residencies in which, for one month, two artists are paired to develop a conversation and create new work about social class. *DO THE TWIST* is the product of this first conversation with artists Shonagh Short and Maria de la O Garrido.

During the residency, Shonagh and Maria have explored their experiences of the class system through different facets of abstract space, including spatial metaphor and colour. The exhibition envisions this space as a site of resistance to confront critical questions around social class and mobility; capital in all its forms; and belonging. It takes the form of an immersive installation, a playful invitation to navigate a conceptual realm as a metaphor for social structures that “organise and qualify socially as rise or decline, entry (inclusion) or exit (exclusion), bringing together or distancing in relation to a central and valued site” – *Bourdieu*

*DO THE TWIST* refers to those small but symbolic subversive acts that chip away at the system from within, temporarily reconfiguring the terrain. The Twist is a dance, a strategy, an unexpected narrative development, a tool of emancipatory potential, an interruption, a transgression, an instruction: “let’s do the twist until we tear the house down”.

**About the artists**

SHONAGH SHORT is a socially engaged artist based in the North West of England working predominantly with marginalised communities in a social housing context. Her work *Care Instructions* explored the language of dirt as used to 'other' people and place, particularly working-class women and the council estate and its relationship to the politics of care. Shonagh has been an artist in residence on the Limehurst estate in Oldham since 2016, creating a Friendly Society for the arts, culture and creativity with over 400 members. She describes her approach as process-led, ethnographic and based on common values and reciprocal exchange. In 2018 Shonagh completed an MFA at the University of Central Lancashire under the supervision of In Certain Places, a curatorial partnership exploring the meanings and production of place through art-led research.

MARIA DE LA O GARRIDO a visual artist who works across digital image, sculpture, collage, and video. She was born and raised in Spain and moved to England in 2010, where she completed her MA Photography at Central Saint Martins in 2016. Through her practice and research, Maria tries to describe her experience of immersion/participation in the Spectacle/System and its ultimate failure to involve all within its network of meaning and relations – there is always that exceeds it (yellow). In this failure, the Spectacle/System can be a tool of emancipatory potential and not only the totality of our alienation within it. Her work is the process of this re-negotiation with the Spectacle/System, creating new connections and exposing the ruptures which themselves are its symbolic consistency. Its internal antagonism provides us with the tools to construct new languages, subjectivities and sites of resistance.

**About Kahoon Projects**

Kahoon Projects exemplifies Oxford Brookes University and SET's commitment to supporting emerging artists from diverse backgrounds. This project aims to give them the opportunity to expand and strengthen their vision and practice. This first round of Kahoon Projects has welcomed Michael Dean (Turner Prize nominee 2016), and Nick Lee (Lecturer at Royal Holloway University of London, and co-director of the Peckham Pelican) in mentoring roles. The newly formed Working Class Artist Network (aka WANK Collective) has also taken an active role in this first round of conversations.

Kahoon Projects borrows its name from the painter Robert Colquhoun (1914-1962) and foregrounds Dr Alexandra Bickley Trott's research on contemporary artists from working-class backgrounds (*The Working-Class Avant-Garde*, OLH Special Collection, forthcoming). Kahoon Projects serves as an entry point to consider how issues of class continue to affect artists working today.

The exhibitions are intertwined with a programme of performances, workshops and public talks.

**About SET**

SET is an artist-led charity that repurposes disused spaces into affordable artist studios, exhibition and performance spaces with a focus on the community local to each SET Centre. SET offers some of the cheapest studio spaces in London and functions as a platform for new and underrepresented practices, curating an expansive programme of experimental arts and educational projects. It was founded in 2016 by writer Roland Fischer-Vousden, artist Joshua Field and musician Oliver Tobin (appears on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-46617572>)

**Visitor Information:**

Admission: Free

Opening Times: Tuesday–Sunday 12pm–6pm

SET. 76–89 Alscot Rd, Bermondsey, London SE1 3AW

Nearest Underground Stations: Bermondsey.

E [info@setspace.uk](mailto:info@setspace.uk) | W <http://www.setspace.uk/>

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