

PRESS RELEASE

The New
Art Gallery
Walsall

Keith Piper
Jet Black Futures
14 January – 24 April 2022

Preview: Thursday 13 January, 6-8pm



Keith Piper, *Surveillance: Tagging the Other* 1991, mixed media installation with 4 video monitors, video projection, sound. Presented by the Contemporary Art Society through the Rapid Response Fund, 2020. Courtesy the artist.

We are delighted to present a major solo exhibition by artist Keith Piper featuring brand new works. Piper's creative practice responds to specific social and political issues, historic relationships and geographical sites. He was a founder member of the highly influential BLK Art Group and continues to create visually compelling and thought-provoking works of art. *Jet Black Futures* explores "issues of 'race', speculative futurism and technology, in the age of anxiety".

In Search of Four Horses is an epic four screen video installation based around an exploration of the myth, metaphor and symbolism of the story of The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The central character is journalist Cassandra who conducts a series of interviews investigating our hopes, fears and anxieties for the future. Her character is based on Cassandra from Greek mythology, who was given the power to predict the future. However, a cruel twist was added in that she would always be met with disbelief, scepticism and mistrust. Her research resonates with current debates around climate change, environmental degradation and social and economic inequalities.

The themes and issues addressed by Piper through this work are further elaborated in a series of banners.

The exhibition also includes the installation *Surveillance: Tagging the Other* (1991). This work was created in response to issues arising in the run-up to the instigation of the European Union in 1992. The four monitors, installed in a row, show the artist's head being a target of surveillance and control. His body is scrutinised in terms of ethnicity, gender, citizenship and appearance. The soundtrack features fragments of news reports related to the rise of racist attacks, anti-Semitism and right-wing tendencies across Europe. Although it was made over thirty years ago, the work remains hauntingly pertinent today.

Piper's powerful immersive installations are characteristically underpinned by rigorous research, collaboration and captivating storytelling.

A publication will accompany the exhibition with essays by Keith Piper and Anjalie Dalal-Clayton. It is published with partners Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Middlesex University London with support from the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

Note to Editors

For further information and press images, please contact

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About The New Art Gallery Walsall

The New Art Gallery Walsall presents, collects and interprets historic, modern and contemporary art in innovative and challenging ways, welcoming visitors from all over the globe as well as their immediate locality. The New Art Gallery Walsall is funded by revenue support from Walsall Council and Arts Council England.

For opening hours, visitors are advised to check with the gallery before visiting thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk | 01922 654400 | info@thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk



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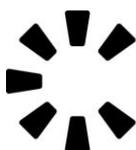


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