

Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

CHELSEA MANNING TO BE HONOURED AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS DINNER MARKING HER FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN THE UK

ICA presents Q&A with Chelsea Manning

1 October, 2pm, at the Royal Institution, London, W1S 4BS

The Annual Friends of The Institute of Contemporary Arts Dinner in honour of Chelsea Manning

1 October, 8pm, at The Institute of Contemporary Arts
(by invitation only)

On Monday 1 October, the Institute of Contemporary Arts will hold their Annual Friends of the Institute of Contemporary Arts Dinner, in honour of American activist Chelsea Manning.

This invite-only event will be preceded by a public Q&A hosted by the ICA at the Royal Institution, in which Chelsea Manning will address the rise of artificial intelligence; the state of the data economy and the role of algorithms and AI in public policy; the role of digital technologies in creating more transparency and democracy, from Panama Papers to Snowden, but also undermining democracy, like Cambridge Analytica; and her role in supporting J20 defendants and as advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

This is the second Friends' Dinner, established in 2017 by the ICA's new Director Stefan Kalmár to pay tribute to a global public figure aligning with the historic mission as well as the current work of the Institute.

Stefan Kalmár says: The ICA has, for 70 years, worked consistently to expand our idea of contemporary artistic practice. Recent exhibitions such as *Counter Investigations* by Forensic Architecture, the upcoming survey exhibition by Metahaven, the premiere of Laura Poitras' Academy Award winning documentary *Citizenfour* and accompanying Q&A with Edward Snowden all represent vital artistic engagements with some of the most pressing issues of our time. Honouring Chelsea Manning in today's media and political landscape will, I hope, show that the power of an individual can change the world through bravery, courage, determination and vision. We could not be happier to welcome Chelsea to London and to the Institute of Contemporary Arts.'

Chelsea E. Manning is a technologist and network security expert. She speaks on the social, technological and economic ramifications of Artificial Intelligence, and on the practical applications of machine learning. She is a vocal advocate for government transparency and queer and transgender rights. Manning worked as an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense, where she

disclosed classified documents to the public that revealed human rights abuses and corruption connected to the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Upon being sentenced to 35 years for leaking government documents, an unprecedented amount of time for whistleblowers, she publicly identified as a trans woman and asserted her legal rights to medical therapy. After serving seven years in military prison, President Barack Obama commuted her sentence to time served. She was released in 2017.

Notes to editors:

The Friends of the Institute of Contemporary Arts are individuals who support the work of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, to deliver its internationally acclaimed programme of art, film, music and live arts and to help it to maintain its position as one of most innovative arts centres in the world.

The ICA's Autumn Programme includes an exhibition by mercurial Amsterdam artists, designers, filmmakers Metahaven (3 October – 6 January). Metahaven have addressed the interoperations of information networks, platform infrastructure and political systems. Signalling a renewed commitment to experimental theatre and performance, the ICA stages the first UK commission by leading American theatre director Richard Maxwell (28 September – 13 October).

For further information and images please contact:

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