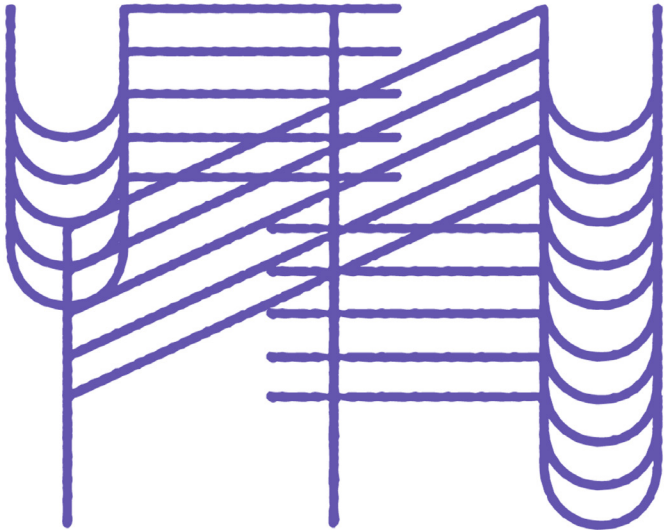


# Institute of Contemporary Arts

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## FUTURERITUAL



18 – 29 May 2022

**FUTURERITUAL** is an artist-led research project that considers the use of ritual in contemporary queer and performance cultures. **FUTURERITUAL** is convened by artist Joseph Morgan Schofield and this iteration features contributions by Benjamin Sebastian, Charlie Ashwell, Daniella Valz Gen, Es Morgan, Soojin Chang, Rubiane Maia and Teo Ala-Ruona.

Identifying performance art as a potent contemporary modality for ritual, the project represents a plurality of responses to the question: how can the technology of ritual be deployed in the manifestation of alternative futures?

Running from 18 – 29 May, **FUTURERITUAL** investigates memory, sex, time, collaboration, ecology, power, alienation, intimacy and belonging. The body remains at the heart of each work, immediate and autonomous. Identity, however, is destabilised and diffused towards the imagination of other ways of being.

The live programme features four newly commissioned performance artworks, a workshop exploring queer kinship and collaboration, and 'Divinatory Strategies', a three-part sonic essay.

'The fog of the here-and-now is ossifying. Contemporary culture is characterised by states of anxiety, alienation and exile. Breaking with these states requires a series of temporal manoeuvres. Ritual is an apt symbolic technology for this work, for ritual is a way of entering time and rendering it habitable through communion.'

– Joseph Morgan Schofield

## Programme

18 May, 7–10pm

### **Benjamin Sebastian: 3 Reflections<sup>2</sup>**

A newly commissioned live installation unfolding over three hours – a constellation of mirrors, reflecting aspects of the body, time & spaces Sebastian inhabits.

20 May, 11am–4:30pm

### **Joseph Morgan Schofield and Es Morgan: Summoning**

*Summoning* is a free workshop for pairs and partners, exploring the construction of selfhood through kinship, facilitated by artists Es Morgan and Joseph Morgan Schofield.

21 May, 8–9pm

### **Soojin Chang: Heavenly Shower of Bank Notes**

An experimental ritual performance, made in collaboration with Georgie (Rei-n) Lo, which oscillates between a fighting ring, feast, and transaction.

26 May, 8pm–9:30pm

### **Joseph Morgan Schofield: with bare feet touching the sky I yearn**

Underpinned by a deep sense of longing that is about both loss and desire, with bare feet touching the sky I yearn calls to a trans\* futurity which is wilder and more raw than the ossified present.

29 May, 4–6pm

### **Rubiane Maia: Every Time I Trace The Horizon, My Hands Catch Fire [Book-Performance, Chapter III]**

A new iteration of Rubiane Maia's 'Book-Performances', in which autobiographical texts, drawn from processes of Automatic Writing and Psychography, are spoken by collaborator Tiffany Auttrianna Ward, guiding Rubiane's performance actions.

## Online

20 May, 27 May, 3 June

### **Divinatory Strategies**

'Divinatory Strategies' is a three part sonic essay exploring the entanglements of ritual with queer futurity, healing and performance. The essay is available online, and features the contributions of Charlie Ashwell, Daniella Vaz Gen, Es Morgan, Joseph Morgan Schofield, Soojin Chang and Rubiane Maia.

## Bios

**Joseph Morgan Schofield** uses performance, moving image, writing and curation to create 'queer ritual action' which explores desire, grief, ecology and the wilding of queer and trans\* futurity. Their practice is relational, emerging through encounters between the sweating, wanting, sensate non-binary body and a host of human/other-than agents. They have engaged with the South Pennine Moors as muse and collaborator for a number of years, and also work responsively to other sites and contexts on different time scales.

**Charlie Ashwell** is a dance artist working with choreography, writing, and dramaturgy. Having graduated from London Contemporary Dance School in 2009, they performed with Seke Chimutengwende & Friends, Dog Kennel Hill Project, Janine Harrington, Florence Peake and English National Opera, among others. They have worked as dramaturg with Seke Chimutengwende, Es Morgan and Greg Wohead, alongside teaching technique, improvisation and choreography at the University of Roehampton. Charlie completed a Masters of Research in Choreography and Performance in 2014, going on to make solo work 'Banishing Dance' and duet 'spells' with Es Morgan. Their ongoing research explores the notion of 'Choreography as an Occult Practice', engaging the hidden, the spectral, the magical and the prophetic in dance performance.

**Daniella Valz Gen** is a poet, artist and card reader. Their work explores the interstices between languages, cultures and value systems with an emphasis on embodiment and ritual, through the mediums of performance, installation, conversation and text. Valz Gen is the author of the poetry collection *Subversive Economies* (PSS 2018). Their prose has been published in various art and literary journals such as *Lish*, *SALT Magazine*, *Paperwork Magazine* and *The Happy Hypocrite* amongst others. They're currently developing the next stage of their project (be)longing, a series of immersive elemental rituals. Valz Gen has been focusing the last two years on integrating their oracular practice with their art and poetry. They run monthly gatherings exploring poetics in relation to the symbolism of Tarot cards within the container of Sacred Song Tarot.

**Es Morgan** creates performances as containers for language and movement, which co-exist on their own terms, without hierarchy or resolution. Made for theatres, clubs, galleries, and film, these works emerge in response to an array of interests: queer and post-work futures, poetry, tarot and far-left politics; funnelled through their shifting experiences of transness, intimacy, desire and longing.

**Soojin Chang** works in a process of trance, dissociation, feedback, and self-recognition to create performances that dissolve personhood and objecthood through animist methodologies. Their works take the form of video, live performance, ritual practice, and field research. Using her body as technology to transmute in/visibility, Chang's practice negotiates contemporary ethics, colonial inheritance, and queer, interspecies reliance. Current and recent interventions include: *Dog Eggs* at Asia Culture Center, Gwangju (2022); *BXBY* (2022) commissioned for the Jerwood/FVU Awards 2022; *a heifer would be needed for*

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*the sacrifice* at Tramway for *Take Me Somewhere* (2021); *State of Possession* at ICA London and CCA Glasgow (2019); *Death Ritual* at Sa Sa Art Projects, Phnom Penh (2019); and *Hair Eggs* at MoMA PS1 (2018).

**Rubiane Maia** is a Brazilian visual artist based between Folkestone, UK and Vitoria, Brazil. She completed a degree in Visual Arts and a Master's degree in Institutional Psychology at Federal University of Espírito Santo, Brazil. Her artwork is an hybrid practice across performance, video, installation and writing, occasionally flirting with drawing, painting and collage. Since 2018 she has been working on the creation of an ongoing project called 'Book-Performance', composed of a series of actions devised in response to specific autobiographical texts particularly influenced by personal experiences of racism and misogyny. Currently, she is part of the international collective 'Speculative Landscapes' a group of four women which, since 2020, has been working on systemic questions about what else institutions can be, when shaped not from stories violence, segmentation and extractions in the territories.

**Teo Ala-Ruona** is a Helsinki-based performance artist. Their work focuses on speculative and somatic fiction and body horror in forms of performances, texts and sound installations. They explore topics of sex, queer ecology, toxicity and gender, and look for ways to re-define language and narratives telling about pleasure and intimacy on a toxic Earth. By often using their own body as a site for various speculative stories to take place, they experiment on how through fiction they can transform themselves, as well as the perspectives from which others look at their body. Ala-Ruona's work has recently been shown in Baltic Circle Festival (Helsinki), XS-festival (Turku), Nocturnal Unrest Festival (Frankfurt), Bangkok Biennial (Bangkok) and Gas Gallery and Human Resources (Los Angeles).

**Benjamin Sebastian** is a trans-disciplinary artist-curator based in London, whose practice spans curating, installation, writing, image making, sculpture, moving image, new media and performance.