



PRESS RELEASE

20 March 2020

NEW ONLINE PERFORMANCE BY FAUSTIN LINYEKULA RELEASED ON TATE'S CHANNELS

Tate today released an exclusive online-only performance by Faustin Linyekula, one of many ways people can still access art through Tate's digital channels.

The Congolese choreographer and dance artist was due to perform in the Tanks at Tate Modern from 20 to 29 March 2020. His work was among those programmed for this year's *BMW Tate Live Exhibition: Our Bodies, Our Archives*, alongside other performances by Okwui Okpokwasili and Tanya Lukin Linklater. These were cancelled when Tate's four sites closed due to the coronavirus, but Linyekula and those of his collaborators who could make it to London in the circumstances worked with Tate to stage a one-off, site-specific work, performed to camera in the empty Tanks. Now available to watch on [tate.org.uk](https://www.tate.org.uk) for free, *My Body, My Archive* is a performance re-invented for the particular situation of this exhibition and its closure to the public. The performance combines carefully selected segments of his works *Sur les traces de Dinozord* 2006, *Statue of Loss* 2014, *Batanaba* 2017 and *Congo* 2019.

In this autobiographical performance, Linyekula questions ancient knowledge stored in the body against the relatively short written history found in books. Companions – a number of his fellow dancers, actors and musicians - accompany him in this journey, helping him to tell stories and reactivate collective and personal memories. Linyekula imagines his own artistic journey in terms of the circle and asserts that archives of the body cannot be experienced alone. In the current climate, his work, which explores themes of connection, community and fragility of the body, has added poignancy and resonance.

While Tate galleries remain closed, visitors can still experience great art on Tate's website and social media. A booklet, including newly commissioned interviews with Linyekula, Okwopasili and Lukin Linklater, can be downloaded from the [BMW Tate Live Exhibition web page](#). Other content on [tate.org.uk](https://www.tate.org.uk) includes artist interviews, in which viewers can step inside the studios of artists such as [David Hockney](#) and [Billie Zane](#) and hear what inspires them, detailed looks at artworks in the [Tate collection](#), and [podcasts](#) introducing listeners to art and artists through themes such as protest, hip-hop and love.

Detailed exhibition guides are available to download for free on exhibition web pages, including the recently opened [Aubrey Beardsley](#) and [Andy Warhol](#) exhibitions, and everyone can explore the online collection which includes 78,000 artworks, 4,000 artists and 22,000 archive items. Social media users can continue to discover art shared across Tate's [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) channels daily, and previous issues of [Tate Etc](#) can be found online for free, including features and interviews with some of the leading artists working today. Children also have free access to quizzes and activities via [Tate Kids](#) and can even submit their own artwork for other online viewers to see.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Faustin Linkyekula
My Body, My Archive
Performance and Installation
South Tank and Transformers
Created, written and performed by Faustin Linkyekula
Performers
Franck Moka, Ornella Mamba, Heru Shabaka-RA, Michel Kiyombo
Sound and video installation
Franck Moka
Music
Franck Moka
Heru Shabaka-ra
Production Coordinator
Virginie Dupray

FAUSTIN LINYEKULA

Faustin Linkyekula was born in 1974 in Ubundu, in former Zaire, now called the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2001, Linkyekula established Studios Kabako in Kinshasa, a centre for multidisciplinary practice and performance. Linkyekula and Studios Kabako relocated to Kisangani in 2006 where they foster debuts of young artists as well as work with the local Lubunga communities in education, sustainability and the environment.

BMW TATE LIVE EXHIBITION: OUR BODIES, OUR ARCHIVES

From 20-29 March artists Faustin Linkyekula, Okwui Okpokwasili and Tanya Lukin Linklater were due to take part in the BMW Tate Live Exhibition: Our Bodies, Our Archives. These artists, who each use the body in different ways to explore history, inheritance and storytelling, were scheduled to create ten days of live performances and site-specific installations for Tate Modern's underground Tanks. The exhibition was cancelled on Monday 16 March following advice from Public Health England.

ABOUT BMW TATE LIVE

BMW Tate Live is a major international partnership between BMW and Tate, which foregrounds the pivotal role of live experimentation in art history and today. The programme has now featured over 55 artists including both emerging and more familiar figures from across the world. It began in 2012 with the world's first performance programme created for live online broadcast, and later evolved into an ongoing series of public performances in and around Tate Modern. As performance took on an ever-greater role in Tate Modern's vision for the museum, the first annual BMW Tate Live Exhibition was opened in the Tanks in 2017. For further information, please visit tate.org.uk/bmwatelive

ABOUT BMW'S CULTURAL COMMITMENT

For almost 50 years now, the BMW Group has initiated and engaged in over 100 cultural cooperations worldwide. The company places the main focus of its long-term commitment on contemporary and modern art, classical music and jazz as well as architecture and design. In 1972, three large-scale paintings were created by the artist Gerhard Richter specifically for the foyer of the BMW Group's Munich headquarters. Since then, artists such as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Daniel Barenboim, Jonas Kaufmann and architect Zaha Hadid have co-operated with BMW. In 2016 and 2017, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari created the next two vehicles for the BMW Art Car Collection. Besides co-initiatives, such as BMW Tate Live, the BMW Art Journey and the "Opera for All" concerts in Berlin, Munich, Moscow and London, the company also partners with leading museums and art fairs as well as orchestras and opera houses around the world. The BMW Group champions absolute creative freedom in all its cultural activities – as this initiative is as essential for producing groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business. For BMW press requests contact Doris Fleischer, BMW Group Cultural Engagement, mobile: +49 151 601 27806 or email Doris.Fleischer@bmw.de



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