

This Week 16th - 22nd November

16 November 2015 | Ryan Ormonde | This Week



Image credit: André Hemer

Image credit: Thomas Laird

An abstract art exhibition celebrating the 'asemic' or 'non-meaning' opens this week, setting the tone. It's not that the events of the week ahead are meaningless; it's just that they remind us that 'meaning' isn't always the end point. Here are experimental films, an epic jazz poem, tantric practices and good old yarns. The meaning is up to you...

The Langston Hughes Project at The Barbican

A leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes was a pioneer of jazz poetry. As part of its contribution to the London Jazz Festival, the Barbican present the European premiere of a live performance of Hughes' late masterpiece *Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz*, unperformed while Hughes was still alive. Rapper Ice-T will narrate the 12-part poem, which reflects and plays out the social and artistic struggles of the 1960s. Musical director and trumpet-player Ron McCurdy and his quartet provide the music and there are visuals incorporating the works of Hughes' contemporaries Aaron Douglas, Romare Bearden, Meta Warrick Fuller, Richmond Barthe, Palmer Hayden and Jacob Lawrence. The Barbican has programmed a set of films to go with the jazzy vibe.

For more information and to book tickets, [see website](#).

Film London Jarman Award at Whitechapel Gallery

A dream-like, lyrical portrait of a tenement block, Andrea Luka Zimmerman's *Estate: A Reverie* is one of the art films nominated for the Jarman Award this year. Zimmerman brings two artists featured in the film – musician Olivia Chaney and poet Stephen Watts – to perform at the Whitechapel Gallery this weekend, where all six nominated films will be screened. Fellow nominees Adam Chodzko, Seamus Harahan, Gail Pickering, Alia Syed and Bedwyr Williams will also be in attendance to talk about their films, some of them performing as well. The award is supported by Channel 4 who will commission new work from some of the filmmakers for its Random Acts arts strand.

For more information and to book tickets, [see website](#).

Asemic at Kristin Hjellegjerde

Kristin Hjellegjerde has brought together three artists for free exhibition *Asemic*, opening on

Friday. André Hemer merges digital imagery with thickly applied paint to create bold abstract works. James Alec Hardy extracts and loops images in his big, sculptural installations, pieced together from redundant technology. Hiroshi Tachibana's practice is a process of erasure, tracing found photographs and drawings before transferring them to canvas and 'muting' them until they become unreadable. As Hjellegjerde puts it, *Asemic* features work 'speaking at once in loaded sentences and not at all'.

For more information and to book tickets, [see website](#).

Tibet's Secret Temple at Wellcome Collection

The Lukhang Temple in Lhasa, Tibet, also known as the 'Temple to the Serpent Spirits' is the basis for an exhibition at Wellcome Collection, opening on Thursday: *Tibet's Secret Temple*. Once used exclusively by Dalai Lamas, the secrets of the temple are now being opened up to the wider world – and to scientific enquiry. Photographer Thomas Laird has recreated the building's instructive murals as digital artworks and David Bickerstaff has created a film installation. There are over 120 objects on display, all of which pertain in some way to the temple and its tantric arts. If that all sounds a bit New-Agey, the final room of the exhibition applies scientific methods to these ancient and sacred practices.

For more information and to book tickets, [see website](#).

Natural Born Storytellers

Meditative calm is all well and good, but for the other side of the coin, why not listen to people talking about their breakdowns? Be it a brain flip or a faulty car battery, life doesn't always run smoothly. On Wednesday in Camden, a line-up of raconteurs will be sharing their defective stories for the latest Natural Born Storytellers night. Breakdown survivors Kate Walton, Michael Kossew, Rachel Sambrooks, Sarit Gafan, Nathan Baker and Ashwini Agrawal will be passing round the conch at the Camden Head pub and Michael Kossew will be making sure the night itself runs smoothly.

For more information and to book tickets, [see website](#).
