

PRESS RELEASE (*high res images attached*)

September 2015

Project AfterBirth:

21st century pregnancy, birth, and early parenthood in art.

30 international artists. One ground breaking new exhibition.

The triumph of new motherhood. Stillbirth. Full-time fatherhood. Teenage parenthood. Miscarriage. Parenting in a warzone. Bilingual speech development. Post-natal depression.

These are just some of the themes behind the 39 international works showcased as part of **Project AfterBirth**; the first ever international exhibition on the subject of early parenthood, of which the world premiere will launch at **White Moose gallery, North Devon**, this October.

Each of the 39 works in the exhibition – which spans across the visual, performance, literary, film and digital arts - were made in the 21st century and represent personal pregnancy, birth and new parenthood experiences of 30 international contemporary male and female artists. Due to the lingering taboo status of parenthood in the contemporary art world and its perceived inferiority as a subject, most of the works have never been shown publicly before.

At times hilarious and at times deeply moving, the exhibition stands to leave a lasting impression on parents, but will also resonate with anyone in terms of their own individual birth and childhood journeys. The exhibition is also a first in demonstrating the profound influence pregnancy, birth and new parenthood experiences can have on the practice of 21st century female and male artists.

Project AfterBirth is the brainchild of Exeter based artist/curator duo **Mila Oshin** & Kris Jager (a.k.a. **Joy Experiment**) whose own early parenthood experiences informed their new body of work *Passage*, published/released this autumn as a poetry collection and music album.

Mila Oshin said:

“The contrast between the representation of pregnancy, birth and new parenthood in the media and our actual lived experiences is starker than ever before, and plays a big part in the increasing sense of isolation felt by 21st century parents. By seeking out and publicly displaying

outstanding and highly personal contemporary works of art that reveal the many true faces of parenthood, we hope Project AfterBirth will make its mark in raising the profile of parenthood as we all really know it."

In spite of **Project AfterBirth's** tight parameters, an international open **Call For Artists** that took place this Spring resulted in more than 150 works from all over the world being submitted for consideration.

In addition to Mila Oshin and Kris Jager, Project AfterBirth's exhibition's selection panel members included **Martha Joy Rose (Museum of Motherhood, New York, USA)**, Helen Knowles (**Birth Rites Collection**, Manchester, UK), Francesca Pinto (The Photographer's Gallery, London, UK), and Stella Levy & Julie Gavin (**White Moose**, Devon, UK).

The **Project AfterBirth** exhibition premieres at **White Moose** gallery, North Devon, from 3rd October until 13th November 2015, with the aim to tour to a number of UK, European and USA art spaces and online platforms in 2016-19.

The 30 international artists that will exhibit work as part of **Project AfterBirth** are:

1. Alison O'Neill (UK)
2. Amanda West (USA)
3. Belinda Kochanowska (Australia)
4. Carole Evans (UK/Switzerland)
5. Chris Anthem (Lebanon/UK)
6. Clare Archibald (Scotland)
7. Courtney Kessel (USA)
8. Csilla Nagy (Hungary)
9. Danielle Hobbs (Australia)
10. Debbie Lee (UK)
11. Eti Wade (UK)
12. Geoffrey Harrison (UK)
13. Helen Sargeant (UK)
14. Hester Berry (UK)
15. Ione Rucquoi (UK)
16. Jana Kasalova (Czech Republic)
17. Jenny Lewis (UK)
18. Josie Beszant (UK)
19. Laura James Wray (UK/South Africa)

20. Lu Heintz (USA)
21. Madison Omahne (USA)
22. Magda Stawarska Beavan (UK/Poland)
23. Marilyn Kyle (UK)
24. Rachel Fallon (Ireland)
25. Rocio Saenz (Mexico)
26. Ruth Gray (UK)
27. Sasha Waters Freyer (USA)
28. Sarah Sudhoff (USA)
29. Tareg Morris (UK)
30. Trish Morrissey (UK/Ireland)

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Exhibition: Project AfterBirth: 21st century visions on early parenthood

Gallery: White Moose

Dates: Sat 3 Oct 2015 – Fri 13 Nov 2015

Times: Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 5 pm

Entry: FREE

Location: White Moose, Moose Hall, Trinity Street, Barnstaple EX32 8HX

T: 01271 379872, E: info@whitemoose.co.uk, W: <http://www.whitemoose.co.uk>

SPECIAL EVENTS: Artist talks, workshops and other activities aimed at various age groups are planned to take place throughout Project AfterBirth's exhibition at White Moose this Autumn. Please click **HERE** for more details.

For all **PRESS ENQUIRIES** please email projectafterbirth@lionartprojects.co.uk

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Project AfterBirth's 2015 programme is delivered with generous support from:



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For more information, please visit: www.projectafterbirth.com