DRAF

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DRAF APPOINTS FATOS ÜSTEK AS DIRECTOR TO CURATE NEW UK-WIDE CONTEMPORARY ART PROGRAMME



Fatoş Üstek. Photo: Josh Meeks-Rayvon Williams, 2016. Courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, London.

- **FATOS ÜSTEK JOINS DRAF IN MARCH 2018 TO LEAD AMBITIOUS UK-WIDE PROGRAMME OF EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES**
- **APPOINTMENT FOLLOWS CURATOR'S INTERNATIONAL SUCCESSES INCLUDING ART NIGHT AND FIG-2**
- **NEW DIRECTOR TO CURATE 11TH DRAF EVENING OF PERFORMANCES ON TUES 2 OCT 2018 AT KOKO, LONDON**
- **DRAF ANNOUNCES 2018 PROGRAMME INCLUDING EXHIBITION AT MOSTYN WALES AND CURATORS' SERIES #11 BY VICTOR WANG王宗孚**

DRAF (DAVID ROBERTS ART FOUNDATION)
+44 (0)20 7383 3004
WWW.DAVIDROBERTSARTFOUNDATION.COM
INFO@DAVIDROBERTSARTFOUNDATION.COM
OFFICE: 115 MARE STREET, LONDON E8 4RU
REGISTERED CHARITY NO.: 1119738

DRAF APPOINTS FATOS ÜSTEK AS DIRECTOR

"We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Fatoş Üstek as the new Director of DRAF. Fatoş is widely respected for her vision, knowledge and flair and brings UK and international expertise to the position. She will lead DRAF into a new era, building an exciting programme to bring the Foundation to a wider audience." David and Indre Roberts, DRAF

DRAF (David Roberts Art Foundation) has appointed independent curator Fatoş Üstek to lead its celebrated programme of exhibitions and performances. Üstek will oversee the expansion of the Foundation's presence in London and the development of new initiatives across the UK.

In October 2018, Üstek will curate the eleventh edition of DRAF's Evening of Performances. The popular annual event will return to KOKO, London, bringing live works by internationally renowned and emerging artists to over 1,500 visitors during the week of Frieze London.

"DRAF is one of the most dynamic arts organisations in London today, renowned for its innovative programme. I am honoured to lead and advance its remarkable commitment to art and artists. I am excited to build on DRAF's values as we start another chapter of engaging artistic and critical agency." Fatoş Üstek, DRAF

Since its foundation in 2007, DRAF has regularly reimagined its programme, testing new models of producing and sharing contemporary practices. The Foundation has collaborated with over 1,000 artists to produce exhibitions, commissions and performances. Following the sale of its Camden gallery space in 2017, where it welcomed over 100,000 visitors, DRAF announced plans to significantly expand its programme beyond London, with the aim of reaching new and broader audiences. The appointment of Üstek as Director is an important step towards realising this ambitious vision.

"DRAF is entering a new phase of expansion and exploration. The Foundation will generate projects across the UK, alongside its activities in London. DRAF will investigate fresh ways of supporting art and showcasing artistic positions. We will heighten the significance of collaboration and cross-learning through our programme, initiating a wide spectrum of meaningful relationships nationwide and internationally." Fatoş Üstek, DRAF

Üstek was born in Turkey, and lives and works in London. Prior to joining DRAF, she worked internationally as an independent curator and writer. In 2017, Üstek was selected for The Evening Standard's Progress 1000 for her original programme for Art Night, a festival of live commissions by 11 artists in public spaces across East London in collaboration with Whitechapel Gallery. In 2015, Üstek oversaw fig-2, a marathon series of 50 week-long exhibitions in ICA Studio, London. In 2014, she was Associate Curator for the 10th Gwanjiu Biennial.

In 2018, DRAF will present its first off-site partnerships within this new structure. *She sees the shadows* is an exhibition collaboration with MOSTYN, Llandudno, Wales' foremost contemporary art centre. Works from the David Roberts Collection selected by Olivia Leahy (DRAF) and Adam Carr (MOSTYN) evoke alternative qualities and narratives in familiar objects. For DRAF's eleventh Curators' Series, London and Shanghai based curator Victor Wang 王宗孚 will present the *Institute of Asian Performance Art*, looking at performance movements in 1960s and 70s in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China through a focused exhibition and a series of classes at partner venues around the UK.

2018 AT DRAF

DRAF + MOSTYN
She sees the shadows
13 Jul – 4 Nov 2018
A group exhibition at MOSTYN, Llandudno, with works from the David Roberts Collection. The exhibition will explore shifts in perception of objects and materials from contemporary daily life, inviting viewers to see alternative qualities in familiar items. Curated by Olivia Leahy (DRAF) and Adam Carr (MOSTYN).



Magali Reus, *Parking (Legs At Eye Level)*, 2014. Courtesy the artist. David Roberts Collection.

Curators' Series #11. Institute of Asian Performance Art
Sept – Oct 2018
Guest curator Victor Wang 王宗孚 launches a speculative institute for performance art from Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan in 1960s–70s. A London case study exhibition will present works by Jiro Takumatsu, Minoru Hirata and Kim Ku Lim. UK-wide classes will discuss lived experiences with international figures including Teching Hseih, Yumiko Chiba and Reiko Tomii. Curated by Victor Wang 王宗孚, with Sandra Pusterhofer (DRAF).



Minoru Hirata, *Hi Red Center's 'Dropping Event', at Ikenobō Kaikan*, 1964
© Minoru Hirata / Courtesy of Taka Ishii Gallery Photography / Film

An Evening of Performances at KOKO
Tues 2 Oct 2018

DRAF's celebrated annual event returns to present live works by international stars and emerging artists. Over 1,500 guests are expected at London's legendary historic music hall during the week of Frieze London. Curated by Fatoş Üstek (DRAF).



DRAF Evening of Performances at KOKO, 2017. Photo: Max Colson

Further projects and information at www.davidrobertsartfoundation.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

FATOS ÜSTEK (b. 1980, Ankara, Turkey) was appointed Director of DRAF (David Roberts Art Foundation) in March 2018.

Previously, Üstek worked as an independent curator and writer based in London, curating, writing and teaching internationally. Projects include miart Talks 2018, Milan (with Joao Ribas); Art Night 2017, East London, in collaboration with Whitechapel Gallery; fig-2, 50 projects in 50 weeks, 2015, at ICA Studio, London; and the 10th Gwanjiu Biennale, South Korea, 2014. She has realised projects at DRAF, London, Kunstfabrik, Berlin and Tent, Rotterdam. She was nominated for the 2016 Gerrit Lansing Independent Curatorial Vision Award.

Üstek has initiated two UK-wide schemes to support acquisitions of new works by public institutions. Art Night Legacy launched in 2017 (in partnership with The Art Fund, Contemporary Art Society and Outset Young Production Circle); and fig-futures in 2018 (in partnership with Outset and The Art Fund). By 2019, the schemes will have facilitated 19 works by 22 artists joining seven different public collections across the UK including Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool; Norwich Castle Museum; The Gallery at De Montfort University, Leicester; The Box, Plymouth; Leeds Art Gallery; the British Council Collection and the Arts Council Collection.

Üstek has sat on juries including Rise Art 2018, Celeste Prize 2017 and Arte Laguna Art Prize 2017. She is founding member of Association of Women in the Arts (AWITA); a Trustee of Art Night, Advisory Board member for Block Universe, and a member of the Association of International Art Critics and Independent Curators International UK. She frequently lectures and teaches at universities including European Institute of Design, Venice, Goldsmiths College, London, Royal College of Arts, London, Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, and recently Rupert, Vilnius. She writes extensively on contemporary art, and has contributed to international magazines and publications.

Üstek holds an M.A. Contemporary Art Theory from Goldsmiths College London, as well as degrees in Mathematics and Film Studies from Boğazici University, Istanbul.

DRAF (DAVID ROBERTS ART FOUNDATION) is an independent, non-profit organisation for contemporary art. Since it was founded in 2007, DRAF has welcomed over 100,000 visitors to international programmes including exhibitions, commissions, performances and discussions. To date, DRAF has partnered with over 100 museums, institutions, and not for profit organisations and collaborated with over 1,000 artists.

In Autumn 2017, DRAF celebrated its 10th anniversary with exciting plans to significantly expand the programme beyond its London base. In 2018, DRAF launched an ambitious UK-wide programme enabled by an endowment of funds raised from the sale of the exhibition space in Camden.

David Roberts Art Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1119738). It is proudly supported by the Edinburgh House Estates group of companies.

Started in the mid 1990s, the David Roberts Collection currently comprises over 2,000 works. It focuses on contemporary art but also includes some modern works. It is not focused on a specific medium, generation or geographical area. The Collection is an evolving archive of forms and concepts. Works from the Collection are regularly exhibited by DRAF (David Roberts Art Foundation) and internationally within exhibitions at other institutions.

www.davidrobertsartfoundation.com

DRAF

MOSTYN presents international art and culture of our time, activating people's lives through exhibitions, cultural programmes and commercial activities. Situated in the coastal town of Llandudno, it is Wales' foremost contemporary gallery and visual arts centre, serving as a place to form and share new perspectives through artistic/curatorial practice and audience engagement.

MOSTYN is part of the Plus TATE, the UK-wide contemporary visual art network. MOSTYN (Mostyn Gallery Limited) is a registered charity in England and Wales (number: 507842) and receives financial support from the Arts Council of Wales.

www.mostyn.org

MOSTYN

VICTOR WANG 王宗孚 is a curator and researcher based between Shanghai and London. Recent exhibitions include the first presentation in the UK of Shanghai-based artist Xu Zhen's *XUZHEN Supermarket* (2007/2017) and the group exhibition *Zhongguo 2185* at Sadie Coles HQ, London; the first institutional solo exhibition in China by Estonian artist Katja Novitskova at the Cc Foundation Shanghai (2017); co-curator of *Rehearsals from the Korean Avant-Garde Performance Archive* (2017), which saw the first re-staged performances by influential Korean artist Lee Kun-Yong in the United Kingdom; *Neïl Beloufa: Soft(a)ware* (2016), the first institutional solo exhibition in China by French-Algerian artist Neïl Beloufa at the chi k11 art museum, Shanghai; *Jac Leirner: Borders Are Drawn By Hand* (2016), a solo presentation by Brazilian artist Jac Leirner at the Museum of Contemporary Art (Pavilion), Shanghai; co-curator of *Ensemble sin órganos* (2016), the Centre for Contemporary Art Wifredo Lam, Havana; and *Inside China – L'Intérieur du Géant* (Shanghai Station, 2015), a collaborative exhibition between Palais de Tokyo, Paris and the K11 Art Foundation. He has worked on curatorial teams for the Twelfth Havana Biennial (2015) and the Vancouver Pavilion at the 9th Shanghai Biennale (2012); and in 2016 he was awarded the AICA Incentive Prize for Young Critics by the International Association of Art Critics (AICA).

Wang has organized projects at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, such as *Restaging Exhibitions: Reconsidering Art History and Exhibition Making* (2014); *A Return to Pre-Modernity* (2014); *Man, Machine and Images in Motion* (2014); and has written for art periodicals such as Artforum, Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art, and was a Guest Editor of LEAP Magazine. Wang holds an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London, and is a graduate from the 7th Gwangju Biennale International Curator Course, Gwangju.

Wang will curate the first solo exhibition in China by British artist Michael Dean at ShanghART Gallery, Shanghai, in March of 2018.

www.viktorwang.com

DRAF CURATORS' SERIES (2009 – ongoing) supports independent curators by commissioning special research-based exhibitions. The Series presents diverse fields of knowledge, methodologies and practices. Each year, DRAF invites an individual, duo or organisation to curate an original exhibition.

Previous guest curators have included Cylena Simonds (UK), Raimundas Malasauskas (Lithuania), Mihnea Mircan (Romania), Mathieu Copeland (UK), Simone Menegoi & Chris Sharp (Italy and US), Pablo Leon de la Barra (Mexico), Vivian Ziherl (Australia) & Natasha Ginwala (India), Christine Eyene (France/Cameroon), Arcadia Missa (London) and Kunsthalle Lissabon (Portugal).

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CONTACT Rachel Cass rachel@davidrobertsartfoundation.com or +44 (0) 207 383 3004 for press information or high-res images, or to arrange interviews or visits.