

ROSA-JOHAN UDDOH SHE IS STILL ALIVE!

October 2022 - October 2023

Launch: Sunday 23 October 2022 at 3pm

Southwark Park Galleries // Lake and Dilston Galleries & The Bower

Launching during Black History Month and exhibited for a full year, Southwark Park Galleries and The Bower have co-commissioned artist Rosa-Johan Uddoh to create a new public artwork celebrating the life and work of Southwark resident Una Marson (1905-65).

Marson was a British-Jamaican activist, radio producer, presenter and poet renowned for her pioneering anti-colonial, anti-racist, feminist and pan-African activism and the first Black radio producer at the BBC in 1942. Uddoh will create works inspired by Marson for our public flagpoles in Southwark Park and Brunswick Park; the latter being where Marson is also commemorated by a blue plaque.

The flags will feature the quote: 'I hope you remember a girl by the name of Una Marson... she is still alive!', which is taken from Marson's letter requesting a reference for her time at the BBC that she sent years after her employers aided her forced deportation to Jamaica.

The collaboration between Southwark Park Galleries and The Bower is a continuation of Uddoh's previous sound piece *Una's Voice* exhibited at The Bower earlier this year, which draws on the legacy of Marson's BBC radio programme *Caribbean Voices* that broadcast Caribbean writing. Made with current Southwark residents from the Caribbean diaspora, Uddoh's sound work re-visits and re-presents Marson's poetry, interwoven with her own writing, and draws upon Bajan poet Kamau Brathwaite's key text *History of the Voice* (1984), which asserted that the Caribbean voice is not an English dialect but a distinct nation language.

The unveiling of the flags will be marked by a launch event at Southwark Park Galleries on Sunday 23 October at 3pm. Uddoh will introduce her artwork and discuss this inspirational historical figure. QR codes will enable park visitors to scan and hear the sound work *Una's Voice*.

She is still alive! is the third annual flag commissioned by Southwark Park Galleries honouring Black History Month and has been supported by Southwark Council's Black History Month Grant and Arts Council England.

This project has been initiated between The Bower and Southwark Park Galleries as part of a wider collaboration called the Park Visual Arts Network. These organisations provide a rare creative and civic offer where contemporary art and culture is firmly embedded in the everyday life of park users and our neighbours.

NOTES TO EDITOR

ARTIST BIO

Rosa-Johan Uddoh (b. 1993, Croydon) is an interdisciplinary artist working towards radical self-love. She is inspired by Black feminist practice and writing.

Recent solo presentations include: *Practice Makes Perfect*, Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-sea (2021); *She is still alive!*, Destiny's, Oslo (2020); *Studies for Impartiality*, Jupiter Woods, London (2019); *Sphinx at the Crystal Palace*, Black Tower Projects, London (2019). Group exhibitions include: *Brand New Heavies*, Pioneer Works, New York, USA (2021); *Learning by Doing*, 68 Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark (2019); *New Contemporaries*, South London Gallery, London and Liverpool School of Art & Design (2018); and *Black Blossoms*, The Royal Standard, Liverpool (2017). She has screened work at East London Cable's *TV Dinners E03* at Tate Modern (2019).

Uddoh is a lecturer in Performance at Central Saint Martins. She has been shortlisted for the Jarman Award 2022 for her film making practice. She was a finalist for Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2021. Uddoh was the Liverpool Biennial and John Moores University Fellow 2018-2019 and was the Stuart Hall Library Resident for 2020. She was a Sarabande: Lee Alexander McQueen Scholar.

ABOUT SOUTHWARK PARK GALLERIES

Southwark Park Galleries is a contemporary arts organisation delivering exhibitions, public engagement and learning programmes across two galleries in the heart of Southwark Park in North-East Southwark, London.

We present exhibitions of national significance that remain relevant to our local community. We foster creative career development by providing excellent opportunities for artists at a crucial point in their career to significantly transcend their practice. We support them to breakthrough the barriers of convention, take risks and to make their most ambitious work to date.

Central to our mission is our commitment to offer local people of all ages and from a range of economic, social, cultural and historical backgrounds excellent creative experiences. We wish to continually inspire everyone to celebrate their own cultures through creative participation.

ABOUT THE BOWER

The Bower is a gallery, publication studio and cafe, occupying a former park keepers hut and public toilet in Brunswick Park. The artistic programme is driven by a commitment to collaboration, feminist and sociopolitical practice. The Bower is a non-profit organisation which relies on earned income from the cafe, project grants and donations to deliver a programme which responds to the context of the building and the park locality.

LISTING DETAILS

Southwark Park Galleries, 1 Park Approach, Southwark Park, London SE16 2UA
The Bower, Brunswick Park, London SE5 7RH

Website: www.southwarkparkgalleries.org | Instagram: @southwarkparkgalleries
Twitter: @SPark_Galleries | Facebook: @SouthwarkParkGalleries

TRANSPORT

Southwark Park Galleries is well connected via 3 different tube/rail lines, with 4 stations at each corner of Southwark Park, and many bus routes. We are 2 stops from London Bridge.

Jubilee Line to Canada Water and Bermondsey

Overground Line to Canada Water and Surrey Quays

National Rail to South Bermondsey

Bus routes: 1, 47, 188, 199, 225, 381, 395, P12, C10

Up to 4 hours free parking within Southwark Park

For further press information, please contact

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