



PRESS RELEASE  
15 November 2021

TATE ST IVES

## WINTER FESTIVAL RETURNS LAUNCHING TRIPLE BILL AT TATE ST IVES

TATE ST IVES ANNOUNCES THREE NEW COMMISSIONS AS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TAKE OVER THE GALLERY ONCE AGAIN

Winter Festival: Saturday 27 November (10am – 7pm) and Sunday 28 November 2021 (10.00 – 16.20)

£1 entry for each day. Free with Locals Pass / Under 18's

Timed tickets must be booked online before visiting

For public information call +44(0)1736 796226, visit [tate.org.uk/stives](https://tate.org.uk/stives) or follow [@TateStIves](https://twitter.com/TateStIves) #

St Ives will be starting the festive season early this weekend. Tate St Ives is launching a range of commissions and works during the Winter Festival when the local community take over the gallery with music and performance.

Three new installations are opening together - the 2021 Winter Light Commission: [AVIARY](#) by artist Sammy Lee; [KEMENETH](#) a new work by artist Adam James in collaboration with St Ives communities; and [ARTIST ROOMS: Sol LeWitt](#), a newly produced wall drawing in the iconic curved gallery.

After a two-year break due to Covid-19 restrictions, this normally annual community event will once again allow gallery visitors to enjoy the exhibitions alongside local choirs, pop-up talks, performance and film, all for a special entry fee of only £1 on each day. This year there will also be online experiences and free, outdoor, immersive 'augmented reality' (AR) encounters around St Ives.

Director of Tate St Ives Anne Barlow said: "I'm delighted that we have been able to bring back the Winter Festival this year, an event that has the local community at its core and allows some of the artist-led projects designed for, and in collaboration with, the communities of St Ives to be seen and celebrated by all. I'm grateful that The Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018 prize money continues to help these projects and events happen."

This year's Winter Festival special programme is for all ages, including new activities for families and young people. As always, at the heart of the festival are local people singing together in the galleries.

### WINTER FESTIVAL FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The launch of the three new commissions and the switch on of [AVIARY](#) will take place on Saturday 27 November with late-night opening until 7pm. The celebrations will continue into Sunday 28 November with a special entry fee of only £1 on each day.

During the day on Saturday and Sunday, the entrance loggia to the gallery will be filled with the voices of the [Cornwall Music Service Trust's](#) Youth Chamber Choir and local primary schools, usually regular performers at the Winter Festival, this year they have pre-recorded performances to share with us under the Directorship of Christine Judge. Visitors will hear the Youth Chamber Choir sing a selection of pieces, both sacred and secular, some seasonal and some less so, and be able to listen out for accompaniment on handbells played by the choir themselves. Primary school children from Mousehole, Trythall and Madron Daniel also share songs they are currently preparing for forthcoming performances, some of which have been composed in their music sessions.

When the sun goes down, visitors will experience the new Winter Light Commission [AVIARY](#) by artist Sammy Lee which projects flocks of computer-generated birds onto the domed ceiling of this entrance space, from 16.00.

Local choirs will also be performing together in the galleries across both days, creating a diverse catalogue of sound and presence, including:

- Levow an Bys (meaning 'World Voices' in Cornish). Directed by Pip Wright and based in Penzance, Levow an Bys enjoy singing beautiful harmony songs from around the world and closer to home. (Saturday 11.30)
- The St Ives Community Choir: Over the years they've raised many thousands of pounds for charities and gained popularity for their varied styles and genres across Cornwall and further afield. The choir is happy to sing together after a long period of lockdown and this will be the first of six performances leading up to Christmas Day. (Saturday 15.00)
- St Ives Combined Chapels' Carol Choir. It is a tradition, celebrated for many generations, for locally written carols to be sung around the town of St. Ives. These carols or 'curls' are sung in the English language but are known as Cornish Carols. Each chapel in the town once had its own Curl Choir but now they have combined to form the Combined Chapels' Cornish Carol Choir, popular with locals who celebrate this as part of their heritage. (Sunday 15.00)
- Cornwall Music Trust's Youth Chamber Choir and local primary schools (recorded) in the Loggia (Saturday and Sunday 10.00-15.30).

Returning for the first time since 2019 there will be pop up talks by Tate Staff in the gallery spaces, offering visitors tours of the [Petrit Halilaj: Very volcanic over this green feather](#) exhibition and new [Sol LeWitt](#) installation. There will also be:

- The first chance to explore the immersive installation *The Improbable Meeting if Two Fictive Solutions to a Shared Problem* by Adam James as part of *KEMENETH*.
- More from *KEMENETH* can be found beyond Tate St Ives. There's the opportunity to discover 'augmented reality' (AR) sculptures at two sites around St Ives using a free app [downloaded](#) to a smartphone. Artist Adam James and the Tate team will be at St Ives Orchard and Nature Reserve (home to *The Fiery Foraging Warriors*) between 10.30-12.00, and at The Island, St Ives (home to *The Inclusive Isolationist Society*) between 14.00-15.30 (weather dependent). Anyone can drop by for support in using the app, a chance to meet the artist and an informal introduction to this new AR work in the public realm.
- A short introduction to *AVIARY* by the artist Sammy Lee followed by questions (16.30-17.15 on Saturday).
- New performance piece by Alice Ellis-Bray *I am the Colour Wilhelmina saw you in* (Saturday 13.00 and 18.00; Sunday 11.00 and 13.00).
- A new, free family activities pack *Doodle Fest* with wintry doodle challenges to earn snowflake stamps – aimed at families but everyone is welcome to have a go.
- An opportunity to explore the [Modern Conversations](#) displays.
- The last chance to see [Jenkin, Wallis and Watt: From sea to screen](#) as part of Archive Lives, the Autumn film season. These archive and experimental films reveal the links between the sea and the screen in Cornwall. (This will be running all weekend but will be closed when the choirs are singing 11.15-12.15 and 14.45-15.45 on Saturday and 14.45-15.45 on Sunday).

You can also take part in a special [KEMENETH online](#) LARP (live action role play) workshop led by artist Adam James 14.00 – 17.30 Sunday. (Advance booking essential).

The Winter Festival on Saturday 27 and 28 November is free with a Locals Pass/Under 18's or just £1 entry for the day. Timed tickets must be booked online before visiting.

For public enquiries please visit <https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-st-ives/festival/winter-festival-2021>, call +44(0)1736 796226, or email [visiting@stives@tate.org.uk](mailto:visiting@stives@tate.org.uk)

For further press information, interviews and image requests please contact [helen.munro-berry@tate.org.uk](mailto:helen.munro-berry@tate.org.uk)

## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

### **Alice Ellis-Bray performance**

*I am the Colour Wilhelmina saw you in* is a new performance by artist Alice Ellis-Bray supported by the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust. Weaving between Wilhelmina Barns-Graham's life, the environments she responded to and human experience; the spoken word becomes a trance-like state to immerse you into a rhythmic portrayal of our interconnectedness with all things. Wilhelmina remembered people by their 'colours', the costume worn by Ellis-Bray has been made by abstract paintings to embrace personifying colour itself.

### **Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018**

Tate St Ives announced it will use the £100,000 Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018 prize money to develop a new community strategy with artists at its heart. The funds will support artist-led projects designed for, and in collaboration with, the communities of St Ives, alongside specially-commissioned public artworks in and around the gallery. The programme of works will deepen the gallery's longstanding commitment to local audiences, as well as honouring the unique history of St Ives as a place where artists put down roots.

### **St Ives Locals Pass**

Tate St Ives Locals Pass is only £5, available to all Cornwall residents offering them unlimited entry to [Tate St Ives](#) and the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden, including temporary exhibitions and the story of [Modern Art and St Ives](#), as well as a range of free events, including Late at Tate, Tate Create and Toddle Tate. Local people can simply come to the gallery with two forms of ID including proof of Cornish residency such as a utility bill or driving license and something with a signature such as a debit or credit card.