

Ikon appoints new curator: Melanie Pocock



Melanie Pocock. Photograph by Ken Cheong.

Ikon is delighted to announce the appointment of Melanie Pocock as Curator.

Pocock is a curator and writer with over 10 years' experience in Europe and Asia, and moves to Ikon from her previous position as Assistant Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (ICA). There she organised more than sixty exhibitions with local and international artists since her arrival in 2014.

During her term at the ICA, Pocock curated *Dissolving Margins* (2018–19), *Native Revisions* (2017) and *Countershadows (tactics in evasion)* (2014), a trilogy of exhibitions exploring paradoxical aesthetics in contemporary art. With ICA Director Bala Starr, she also led curatorial collaborations with the Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, Palais de Tokyo and the Singapore Biennale. Her essays, articles and reviews have been published in *Art-Agenda*, *ArtAsiaPacific*, *Eyeline*, *Frieze*, *Kaleidoscope*, *LEAP*, *Ocula*, *The Financial Times*, *divan | Journal of Accounts*, *Journal of Curatorial Studies* and *Third Text*. In 2014, she edited and co-wrote the first monograph on the work of Malaysian artist

Shooshie Sulaiman, published by Kerber Verlag. Prior to joining the ICA, Pocock held curatorial positions at Modern Art Oxford and Art Scene China. She holds an MA (Distinction) in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London.

I'm thrilled to be joining Ikon at this time. I've long been inspired by the internationalism of Ikon's programme and the depth of its work with local communities. For decades, Ikon's artist-centric approach, from career-changing solo exhibitions to pioneering off-site projects, have set its programme apart. I look forward to developing Ikon's artistic programme with Director Jonathan Watkins and the gallery's exceptional team. Melanie Pocock

Ikon's curatorial team is led by Director Jonathan Watkins:

Ikon is delighted to welcome Melanie Pocock as our new Curator. She brings a wealth of experience that fits well with our programme overall, complementing and refreshing our engagement with the international art world. In turn we look forward to introducing Melanie to the cultural life of Birmingham with its increasingly dynamic artistic community. Her adventurous spirit suits Ikon perfectly.

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Rebecca Small or Laura Jaunzems on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or l.jaunzems@ikon-gallery.org

Social Media - Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery
Links: ikon-gallery.org

Note to Editors:

1. Ocula interviewed Melanie Pocock in January 2019:
<https://ocula.com/magazine/insights/melanie-pocock-in-conversation/>
2. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling

visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. ikon-gallery.org

3. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
4. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. ACE support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, ACE will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. artscouncil.org.uk