

For immediate release

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Horniman appoints Marie Smith as digital artist in residence

Marie Smith, a London-based neurodivergent visual artist, is the new digital artist in residence at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London.

Marie's six-month residency at the Horniman will run concurrently with another at the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) in Bangalore, as part of a joint project.

At the Horniman, Marie will research and explore three elements – people, soil and trees – in the Horniman's Nature Trail, Gardens and collections. She will be documenting her residency and sharing her experiences on her [website](#), ahead of a digital exhibition hosted by the Horniman in autumn 2023.

At MAP, Adira Thekkuveetil, an artist, researcher and designer whose practice is grounded in research within historical documents, literature and visual material, will produce work to be featured in a digital exhibition this autumn, hosted by MAP.

The joint residencies, in partnership with curator and expert in photography Zelda Cheatle, will encourage the exchange of knowledge and practice between the two organisations and the resident artists.

Peronel Craddock, Head of Content at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'We're delighted to welcome Marie Smith as digital artist in residence at the Horniman. We're excited to see how the perspective Marie can bring to our collections and green spaces will inspire people to love and appreciate the nature around us, and provoke reflection on our place within the natural world.'

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

- **Marie Smith** is a neurodivergent visual artist and writer born, living, and working in London. Smith graduated in 2017 with a MA in History in Art with Photography at Birkbeck, University of London. Being a neurodivergent woman with dyspraxia and anxiety has informed how she navigates the world. Marie's practice incorporates digital and analogue photography alongside text as a form of visual language that addresses identity, nature, sustainability, mental health, and well-being. Marie utilises low-toxic plant, food, or herb-based developers to process her analogue film. Due to this methodology not being transferable to developing colour film, Marie now only works with black and white and camera-less film processes. Marie is a member of Women Photograph and an Associate Lecturer at Kingston University, Goldsmiths - University of London, and London College of Communication. marieesmith.com
- **Adira Thekkuveetil** is an artist whose work investigates photography's entanglements with contemporary sociopolitical consciousness, especially in an urban context. She draws from family histories, archives and her own practice as a photographer to explore the lines that seemingly separate fact from fiction. Adira was a finalist for the Serendipity-Arles Grant in Lens Based Practices in 2021. Currently, she is the Course Director of Aesthetics, Criticism and Theory at Jnanapravaha Mumbai. She lives between Kolkata and Trivandrum. As a digital Artist in Residence with MAP, Adira will play with ideas of 'suggestions' and 'edits' as tools of engagement with the MAP collection. Focusing primarily on the extensive photography archive that the Museum holds, Adira will look closely at details in the photographs beyond their obvious subjects, draw connections with other objects and artworks in the museum's collection, and propose playful ways to edit, amend and add to their official information to see what forms 'enrichment' can take.
- **MAP** is custodian to a growing collection of over 60,000 artworks that take viewers on a comprehensive journey of Indian art and culture. Predominantly from South Asia and dating from the 10th century to the present, the collection includes paintings, sculptures, textiles, photographs and more. Housed in a state-of-the-art building, in the heart of Bengaluru's museum district, which opened to the public in February 2023, MAP is divided into five storeys, including art galleries, an auditorium, a library, a multimedia gallery, a technology centre, a sculpture courtyard, a learning centre, a specialised research and conservation facility, a gift store, a café, a member's lounge and a terrace fine-dining restaurant. Launched in 2020, MAP's digital museum has worked on innovative ways of connecting with audiences across the world. The digital museum offers curated online exhibitions, along with programming elements such as artist talks, panel discussions, workshops for children, masterclasses and so on. MAP's core aim with the digital museum is to actively work at reaching and captivating new audiences, especially those who have had no previous exposure to the arts. map-india.org
- **Zelda Cheatle** is an expert in photography, a curator, editor, lecturer and consultant. She began a gallery career at the Photographers Gallery in London before opening the Zelda Cheatle Gallery in 1989, exhibiting both internationally renowned photographers and young and emerging artists. Since then, Zelda has established the Photography Fund, collecting historically-significant photography works, and curating major exhibitions and symposium. She is a curator and consultant on multiple projects and also lectures, most recently at the University of Westminster and the London Metropolitan University. In 2021 Zelda received the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Photography from the Royal Photographic Society. And in 2022 was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Arts University Bournemouth. zeldacheatle.com
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** has won [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium, alongside a World Gallery of anthropology and a flexible arts and exhibition space, The Studio. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound

garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk

- **Coronavirus impact: Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations are more needed than ever. horniman.ac.uk/support-us/
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman’s environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman’s manifesto commitments and progress so far at horniman.ac.uk/climate.