

PRESS RELEASE



Alexandre da Cunha, *Amazons (Painting VIII)*, 2015, beach towel, fabric dye, linen

Alexandre da Cunha: Duplex **6 August – 25 September 2021**

Press Day: Thursday 5 August 2021

Brighton CCA is pleased to present *Duplex* an exhibition of new works by Brazilian artist Alexandre da Cunha curated in collaboration with Jenni Lomax. This is the artist's first solo presentation in a UK public institution for 10 years.

Duplex is an articulation of da Cunha's engagement with cultures of consumption, reuse, materiality and art history. Central to da Cunha's practice is the ready-made and specifically, how perceptions of objects are affected by culture, history, and the results of labour. Da Cunha's complex and subtle process of transforming materials and images create encounters with everyday objects that disentangle the instinctive responses inherent to particular materials, endowing the works with alternative modes of understanding; so cotton becomes marble, mops become tapestry, construction tools become mysterious relics and mundane objects echo art historical precedents. The result is a vibrant dialogue about the history and function of symbols and material in society, from park benches and umbrellas to cement mixers and beach towels.



The presentation echoes the form of a processional route through the galleries, so visitors encounter objects and motifs presented and revisited much as the artist approaches objects and materials in his work. In this respect the exhibition speaks to its location; resonating with connections to a familiar past. Visible from the gallery windows is Brighton's North Gate, a stone arch built for the royal procession to pass through at the opening of the Brighton Pavilion, while each year the Brighton Pride march – the largest in country – also passes in front of the gallery windows. *Duplex* engages with these histories as movements through time and culture of the city; reappropriating old signifiers and embracing a more contingent, yet confident present.

In June, as a precursor to *Duplex*, da Cunha will launch Brighton CCA's inaugural Summer Commission, with a public artwork that will be on display until August. This will be the first artwork in a series of annual temporary public commissions by invited artists to be held each summer.

Duplex is supported by the Brazilian Embassy, London

Talks

Alexandre da Cunha in Conversation with Brighton CCA Artistic Director, Ben Roberts to talk about his summer commission

Monday 24 May

Live streamed from 4-6pm GMT

For more information please visit:

Alexandre da Cunha in Conversation with Jenni Lomax about *Duplex* and recent works

Friday 6 August

4-6pm, Brighton CCA

Please [click here](#) to book your slot

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

For press enquires please contact: Haniya Bhatti, haniyabhatti@gmail.com

Alexandre da Cunha

Alexandre da Cunha is a Brazilian-born artist (1969) who lives and works in São Paulo and London. He received his MA from the Chelsea College of Art, London, England in 2000 and also studied at the Royal College of Art, London, England, 1999. He is represented by Thomas Dane Gallery. Recent solo exhibitions include *Laissez Faire*, Camden Arts Centre, London, England 2009, *Dublê*, CCSP – Centro Cultural São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil 2011, *Kentucky Pied de Poule*, CRG Gallery, New York, USA 2012, *Plaza Project*, MCA – Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA 2015, *Everyday Poetics*, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA 2017. His work is held in a major public collections including the TATE, Zabłudowicz Collection, Ellipse Foundation Contemporary Art Collection, Centro de Arte Contemporânea de Inhotim Brazil and Laumeier Sculpture Park USA. Art on the Underground have commissioned artist Alexandre da Cunha to create a permanent artwork



A new centre for
contemporary arts at
the University of Brighton

for the Northern Line Extension. Da Cunha's work will be installed at the new Underground station at Battersea Power Station, due to open in autumn 2021.

Brighton CCA

Launched in 2019, Brighton CCA, a part of the University of Brighton, is a centre for contemporary arts, free and open to all, hosting world class exhibitions, projects, commissions and research by emerging and established artists through experimentation and collaboration with the local and wider community. Responsive to our context within an art school, our focus is on supporting the development of artists' practice and practice based research; nurturing cross disciplinary dialogue and placing the resources of the University at the disposal of artists and audiences. The ethos of the organisation speaks to the value of practical research, learning through making and creating a democratic space for culture.

Visitor information

Brighton CCA
University of Brighton
58–67 Grand Parade
Brighton BN2 0JY

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Saturday:
12 – 5pm

Closed
Sunday, Monday & Bank Holidays

Admission Free

www.brightoncca.art
@brightoncca



University of Brighton