



**ART NIGHT TO TAKE PLACE IN WALTHAMSTOW AS PART OF THE FIRST MAYOR'S LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE AWARD IN JUNE 2019, WITH FURTHER ACTIVITY PLANNED IN KING'S CROSS**

**PLUS, HELEN NISBET ANNOUNCED AS THE FESTIVAL'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR 2019 AND 2020 EDITIONS**

30 October 2018, London, UK: Art Night, London's largest free contemporary art festival, will run in June 2019 in two core locations: Walthamstow and King's Cross. The fourth edition will be taking place in extraordinary and unusual public spaces from 6.00pm into the early hours of Sunday.

Ahead of next year's festival, the Art Night team is delighted to announce the appointment of Helen Nisbet as the festival's Artistic Director, driving forward the curation of the annual nocturnal celebration for both 2019 and 2020 editions. Previous editions of Art Night have been curated in collaboration with cultural institutions and leading curators such as Kathy Noble and the Institute of Contemporary Art (2016); Fatoş Üstek with the Whitechapel Gallery (2017); and Hayward Gallery Director Ralph Rugoff in 2018.

Art Night 2019 will centre on the first London Borough of Culture – Waltham Forest. Inspired by the music of local 90's band East 17 and the area's rich social and political cultures, the 2019 festival will celebrate hope, love, and the future. The fourth edition of the festival will explore the distinct identity, culture and architecture of Waltham Forest, highlighting the area's expansive market culture through a series of new commissions along and around Walthamstow High Street – Europe's longest outdoor market – and other local landmarks. Additional activations will take place in King's Cross - London's dynamic transport and culture hub - encouraging audiences to enter the Art Night trail via the 24-hour Night Tube on the Victoria Line.

Art Night Open - which offers local galleries, organisations, independent artists and curators the opportunity to take part in the festival - invites applicants to submit a proposal via the 2019 Open Call, details of which will be shared later this year.

**Helen Nisbet, Artistic Director of Art Night, said:**

"I'm very happy to join Art Night at such a pivotal point in the Festival's development, collaborating with the first ever London Borough of Culture. I'm inspired by the ideas, and artist-centred approach of previous curators and excited to work with the Art Night team in 2019 and 2020 to build on their success. I can't wait to bring national and international artists in contact with the architecture and people of Walthamstow and King's Cross next year."

**Ksenia Zemtsova and Philippine Nguyen, Co-Founders of Art Night, said:**

"As part of Art Night's mission to widen audiences for contemporary arts, we're delighted to work with the first ever winner of the London Borough of Culture Award to share the festival with communities in Greater London. Art Night is passionate about shining a light on the city's extraordinary locations, secret venues and public places, and we look forward to exploring off-the-beaten-track venues in Walthamstow and King's Cross in 2019. We're equally delighted to welcome Helen to our team and look forward to seeing how the next two editions of Art Night evolve as the festival enters a new phase in its fourth year."

Today's announcement comes as the first London Borough of Culture announces its full programme, of which Art Night is a part of.

**Speaking about the programme, Cllr Clare Coghill, Leader, Waltham Forest Council, said:**

“As the first London Borough of Culture, Waltham Forest stands shoulder to shoulder with the Mayor of London’s vision and commitment to the transformative power of culture. It is not an optional add-on, an afterthought, or something nice to have; investment in culture is essential to ensure that everybody in Waltham Forest enjoys a great quality of life. The imaginative programme we announce today will shine a light on the stories and cultural heritage of our borough. It will create a platform that is not only for the people, but by the people, blurring the line between residents and artists for the benefit of everyone in this community. Welcome to the Forest!”

Helen Nisbet was Curatorial Fellow at Cubitt Gallery from January 2017 - June 2018. She is a member of the Arts Council Collection Acquisitions Committee, and has previously worked with organisations including Open Source, Creative Time, Contemporary Art Society, and the Arts Council Collection for their 70th anniversary.

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For press enquiries, please contact:

Megan McCann  
**Communications & Development Manager**  
megan@artnight.london

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

Art Night 2018 welcomed 70,000 visitors across the weekend at over 50 venues throughout South Bank, Vauxhall and Nine Elms.

#### **ART NIGHT**

Art Night is London’s largest free contemporary art festival, transforming the city annually for one unforgettable night. Each year, Art Night invites a leading cultural institution or curator to explore the history, culture and architecture of a different part of London, inspiring a series of new commissions, one off events and premieres by international and local artists from all stages of their careers. Alongside this, the Art Night Open programme offers local galleries, organisations, independent artists and curators the opportunity to take part in the festival - responding to the curatorial themes and cultural trail. Art Night contributes to the UK’s art sector through its Legacy programme, which delivers co-commissions, acquisitions for public collections and prolonged display periods - enabling broader audiences to enjoy the programme, year-round. The festival was conceived and is organised by UNLTD London, and founded by Ksenia Zemtsova and Philippine Nguyen.

Visit: <http://artnight.london> Twitter: @ARTNIGHTLDN, Instagram: @ARTNIGHTLDN,

Facebook Art Night | Art Night is administrated by ArtCity Nights, a registered charity no 1164449.

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## **WALTHAM FOREST LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2019**

Waltham Forest is the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture. The award, the flagship programme in his culture strategy, was a major new initiative launched by Sadiq to put culture at the heart of London's communities. More than 15,000 people backed Waltham Forest's bid, which aims to inspire 85% of households to participate in the cultural year, engage every school in the area in arts and culture, and to attract over half a million new visitors to the borough.

The year will explore the themes 'Radicals', 'Makers' and 'Fellowship' in a collaboration between local residents, artists and creatives creating a once in a life time celebration of the place we call 'home'. Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 will shine a light on the character, diversity and cultures of the borough, the things we have in common and the things that make us different, a year-long celebration of the real cultures of London by the people who live here.

Find out more and explore the programme at [wfculture19.co.uk](http://wfculture19.co.uk). Follow them on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @WFCulture19 #WFCulture19