

Artist-in-Residence: July 2016 - June 2017

## Melanie Manchot

'The Choirs', 2017/2018, were performative events that culminated the artist's residency with the University's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. The artist engaged with post doc researchers from diverse disciplines through a series of seminars she termed 'cross talks' which explored the future of friendship, shelter and community in the context of the North West Cambridge Development and in relation to current socio-political climates. The cross talks were observed by a group of translators from different practices including slam poetry, drama, clowning and paganism. The four translators in turn devised four scores which were performed by a clown choir, a drama choir, a rap choir and a pagan choir. Each of these choirs was formed specifically for the project and consisted of new residents of Eddington, people from the university and the wider community. In January 2018, the four choirs came together to perform a unique event which was one of the first to be held at the Storey's Field Centre whilst also welcoming some of the first residents of Eddington.

Melanie Manchot is a London based visual artist who works with photography, film and video as a performative and participatory practice. Her projects often explore specific sites, public spaces or particular communities in order to locate notions of individual and collective identities. The mutability of subjectivity as well as the agency of the camera in creating a set of relations are key interests within Manchot's on-going enquiry into personhood and its representations.

The practice operates on the threshold of choreography and observation, of documentary modes and staged scenarios or performances - working with an economy of gestures to articulate relations orchestrated by and around the camera.

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