

# SITE GALLERY

**Press Release / Monday 20 January 2020**

**SITE GALLERY PRESENTS POINTS OF RUPTURE – THE FIRST SOLO SHOW BY WELSH ARTIST PHOEBE DAVIES.**



***Spiral Holds # 2* Phoebe Davies.**

**[Watch the trailer.](#)**

- Press Preview at Site Gallery – Thursday 20 February 2020, 4.30pm
- Public Preview at Site Gallery – Thursday 20 February 2020, 6 – 8pm
- Exhibition dates: 21 February – 17 May 2020

*Points of Rupture*, opens at Site Gallery, Sheffield on Friday 21 February 2020. The exhibition explores tactility, training and the recovery of athletes engaged in contact sports. Based on research with coaches, athletes and medics, this new body of work by Phoebe Davies looks at the physicality and personal narratives of occupying communal and competitive spaces.

The exhibition takes its points of departure from Davies' ongoing recovery from a ligament rupture whilst playing basketball parallel to her work with a group of teenage female wrestlers, training in a local club on the outskirts of Oslo. A new moving image work documents day-to-day routines at the club, alongside combative and compassionate exchanges. Accompanying the film are a multichannel soundscape and installation

employing sports aesthetics, agility drills, plays and structures. This expansive sound work considers the limits of stamina, rest and physical and mental exhaustion.

Phoebe Davies often finds herself referencing and exploring collaborative models of working across different social and cultural sectors, be that strategies from methods of organic farming, feminist organising or speculative fiction. For the last year, a key focus of her practice has been working within community sports settings, researching athletic methodologies, coaching and rehabilitation.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an expansive public programme of talks, workshops and screenings to introduce people to working with sound, advocate for and introduce women to the benefits of contact-based sports, host discussions around barriers to sports access and connect with live performance in the gallery.

### **Program Highlights:**

- Group listening session with Synaptic Island, a DJ collective for female, non-binary and trans identifying people (Thursday 12 March, 6pm)
- Introductory wrestling workshops led by two-time Female Freestyle Wrestling World Champion Ine Barlie and Norwegian Champion Sofia Aak (Saturday 28 March)
- Movement workshop led by artist duo Bhebhe&Davies exploring physicality and performance for camera. (Saturday 2 May, 11am)

This body of work began during an international residency programme at Praksis and has been supported by The Arts Council, Jerwood Arts, PRS Foundation, OCA Norway, Dana Høegh and Gerflor.

### **ENDS**

For more information, images or interviews please contact Kirsty Young at Site Gallery on [kirsty.young@sitegallery.org](mailto:kirsty.young@sitegallery.org) / 0114 281 2077

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### **Listings**

Site Gallery

1 - 5 Brown Street,

Sheffield

S1 2BS

Opening hours

Monday – Wednesday: 11 - 6

Thursday: 11 – 8

Friday – Saturday: 11 - 6

Sunday: 11 – 4

Entry price: Free

### **Notes to editors**

Phoebe Davies is a Welsh artist and researcher based at Somerset House Studios, London. Her practice investigates how people perceive their social framework, often working with and in response to individuals and communities, generating work through collaboration, collective action and DIT (Do It Together) strategies.

Her outcomes are often project dependent, including constructed social spaces, live performances, video, audio and print works. Through her work Davies often finds herself referencing and exploring collaborative models of working across different social and cultural sectors, drawing on methodologies from feminisms, organic farming and athleticism.

Recent projects have led her to work with sex educators, secondary school students, elderly care home residents, sports teams and DJs as well as art spaces and institutions, including Portland Institute of Contemporary Art (OR, USA), Tate Modern (London), Wellcome Collection (London), Chapter Arts Centre (Cardiff), steirischer herbst (Graz), Kunstnernes Hus (Oslo) and British Council Connect ZA (Johannesburg). In

2015 she was awarded the British Council's Social Practice Fellowship for the International Cultural Exchange USA Program in partnership with Portland State University.

She currently co-facilitates two research groups, Synaptic Island, a London-based womxn and non-binary sound collective and Art is Action, a UK-based social practice research group.

### **About Site Gallery**

Led by Co-Directors Judith Harry and Sharna Jackson, Site Gallery Sheffield's contemporary art space specialising in new media, moving image and performance. Pioneering emerging art practices and ideas, Site works in partnership with local, regional and international collaborators to nurture artistic talent and support the development of contemporary art.

It is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation with revenue funding from Sheffield City Council. Over the last few years it has presented solo projects by artists including established artists such as Mike Kelley (USA), Jeremy Deller (UK), Sophie Calle (Fr) and UK first with Eva and Franco Mattes (It) and Pilvi Takala (FN). The Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded Society of Explorers runs throughout the year supporting young people in the city to make unique connections with artists and gain new skills and learning. In 2015, Site Gallery presented its new commissioned work in over 40 cities in 20 countries including Sydney, Beijing, Thessaloniki and Basel.

[www.sitegallery.org](http://www.sitegallery.org)