



Fotografiska
Berlin

Joanna Dudley

WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS

Press Preview:	16 May 2024, 11:00
Sneak Peek:	16 May 2024
Opening Party:	17 May 2024, 20:00 – 04:00
Runtime:	17 May – 15 Sep 2024

On 17 May 2024, Fotografiska will open *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS*, an empowering seven-screen video installation that reminds you of your power to rise against expectations. At the heart of installation lies a transformative narrative: six girls aged eight to 16 take ownership of their own future in contrast to the traditional path laid out for them. Each one challenges the fate of women in renowned operatic arias, where instead of facing a tragic end, you witness Dido, Tosca, Madame Butterfly, Salome, Brünnhilde and Suor Angelica conquer. With the powerful use of sound, you are immersed in a blend of renowned operatic arias and the triumphant voices of the girls themselves.

The artist herself, Joanna Dudley, takes on the role of the chieftan who encourages the girls and teenagers to take autonomy over their own voices. At the same time, she represents the forces they must overcome; channelling notorious speeches of male dictators and leaders, such as Joseph Goebbels and Benito Mussolini, transforming them into a feminist war cry.

With their movements, the girls imitate colonial imperialistic portraits, but with a notable twist. Gone are the opulent depictions of powerful white men. Instead, you'll find young girls, adorned in their own regalia, asserting their own power.

“We have the power to decide who and what we want to become,” says Dudley. “Through *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS*, these girls reclaim the power to choose their own fate.”

These young girls combined are the leaders, the army, the chorus, the pack, the collective and the future voice. In this way, Dudley gives space to unheard voices and challenges you to consider how your present is constructed for you.

www.fotografiska.com/berlin

www.joannadudley.com



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JOANNA DUDLEY

Having collaborated extensively with William Kentridge for the past 10 years, Dudley's artistry has graced iconic spaces such as TATE Modern, Carnegie Hall, and the Metropolitan Opera. Her multifaceted talents as a director, performer, and singer converge in works that defy convention and challenge preconceived ideas.

In her collaboration with Kentridge and composer Philip Miller, Dudley features prominently as a singer and performer in productions such as *Refuse the Hour* and *Paper Music*. Kentridge also invited Dudley to create a solo role in his production of *Lulu* for the Metropolitan Opera, which underscores her status as a visionary artist at the forefront of contemporary performance.

Together with Kentridge, Dudley co-created and performed *The Guided Tour of the Exhibition: for Soprano and Handbag*, an exploration of narrative and identity showcased at the Foreign Affairs Festival and the Martin Gropius Bau. Her versatility as a performer shines through in roles such as Kaiser Wilhelm II in *The Head and the Load*, commissioned by TATE Modern and Catherine Meyburgh, which showcases Dudley's ability to inhabit characters with depth and nuance.

Dudley's collaborative spirit extends to luminaries such as Seiji Ozawa, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Heiner Goebbels, and Thomas Ostermeier, enriching her artistic journey with diverse influences and perspectives. From Carnegie Hall to the Avignon Festival, from the Vienna Opera to the TATE Turbine Hall, Dudley's performances resonate with audiences worldwide.

CREDITS VIDEO INSTALLATION

WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS

an operatic video installation for an army of six girls and one chieftain

Creation and Sound Composition by Joanna Dudley

Collaborator & Projection Design by Catherine Meyburgh

Set and Installation Design by Rufus Didwizus

Costume Design by Janosch Mallwitz

Performers and Co-creators Beatrix Juno Dudley, Tabatha Howard, Kittu Hoyne, Esmé Olive Mcgrath, Ruth Alice McIlleron and Mpho Takane with Joanna Dudley

Sound Design & Final Mix by Adam Howard

Digital Colouring by C.A. Van Aswegen

WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS would like to thank our Funding Archangel Brenda R. Potter

“The title is based on that of Henry Darger’s painting *We Will Slam Them With Our Wings* © 2020 Kiyoko Lerner / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York”



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CONTRIBUTORS

Catherine Meyburgh works in film as director and editor, and in theater and opera as projection designer. She has collaborated with William Kentridge for over 20 years.

Rufus Didwizus is a Berlin set designer and has among others worked for Schaubuehne and Deutsche Ballet.

Janosch Mallwitz has worked as head of design for Prada and Dior.

CREDITS EXHIBITION

The exhibition is curated by Marina Paulenka, Director of Exhibitions, Fotografiska Berlin

PRESS PREVIEW

On Thursday, 16 May 2024, at 11:00, the press preview for *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS* and *Andy Warhol: After the Party* will take place. The exhibitions open simultaneously and run until 15 September 2024.

Marina Paulenka, Director of Exhibitions, and the curator of the Andy Warhol exhibition, Thomas Schäfer, will be present, along with Joanna Dudley. Please RSVP to immanuel.ayx@fotografiska.com.

OPENING PARTY

On Friday, 17 May 2024, 20:00 – 04:00, we are inviting you to our Opening Party of the exhibitions *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS* and *Andy Warhol: After the Party*, inspired by Andy Warhol's world. Highlights include a SOULMATES ballroom with contemporary dance performances by The Way Collective, late-night access to our new Andy Warhol and Joanna Dudley exhibitions, and DJ sets to keep you dancing until the early morning. Regular admission is 15€, or 10€ per person for groups of 6 or more. Check out the complete line-up: <https://berlin.fotografiska.com/en/events/andy-warhol-opening-party>

PERFORMATIVE INTRODUCTION & ARTIST TALK

On Thursday, 30 May 2024, at 18:30, you will experience a site-specific performance by Joanna Dudley, during which she will present her work. This performative introduction will lead into an artist talk with Marina Paulenka, Director of Exhibitions. The discussion about *WE WILL SLAM YOU WITH OUR WINGS* will be enhanced by videos documenting the installation's filming in Italy, Australia, and South Africa. Admission is 8€, with a reduced rate of 4€. Ticket holders for the exhibition on 30 May 2024, will receive free entry to the performance and the artist talk.



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INSTAGRAM

#WeWillSlamYou

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Opening hours: daily from 10:00 to 23:00

PRESS

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