



THE INDIA CLUB

FRICTION

17–20 MAY 2018

**Hotel Strand Continental, 143 Strand,
London WC2R 1JA** (next to Somerset House)

Private View: Wednesday 16 May, 7–11pm

**Thursday 17 to Saturday 19th May, 10am–10pm
Sunday 20th May, 10am–6pm**

The fourth iteration of the India Club exhibition by the London-based artist collective *Specular Assembly* takes as its starting point the word *friction*.

The theme is interpreted through different frameworks, varying from site-specific exploration of the space and history of the Club – currently under threat of re-development*, to more universal readings of friction through capitalism, surveillance, the body, conflict, the sensual and precarity. Utilising media from photography to installation, sculpture and artist books, the show will take over the two rooms of the India Club located on the first floor of the building.

The exhibition features work by five of the collective's members as well as by two invited guest artists, Eliza Tamo and Richard Galpin.

Specular Assembly is a London-based artist collective with a focus on site-specific exhibitions. The collective was formed in 2014 by Ben Cave, Leon Chew, Christopher Down, Will Jennings, Katja Mayer, Lee Milne and Minna Pöllänen.

The Hotel Strand Continental sits between Somerset House and Waterloo Bridge. An unassuming door off The Strand leads to The India Club bar and restaurant, founded in 1946 by V.K. Krishna Menon, the first Indian High Commissioner to the UK. The building was a hub for political activity and its rich history is still apparent in the distinctive interiors, which have changed little since its opening.

The exhibition is part of **Photo London's** satellite programme.

*<https://life.spectator.co.uk/2017/10/save-the-india-club/>

Please see overleaf for **talks** programme ↓

Artists:

Ben Cave

Leon Chew

Richard Galpin

Will Jennings


Katja Mayer

Minna Pöllänen

Eliza Tamo

For further information:
specularassembly@gmail.com

 @SpecAssembly

 @specularassembly

 Specular Assembly

www.specularassembly.com



Taiteen edistämiskeskus
Centret för konstfrämjande
Arts Promotion Centre Finland

TALKS

All talks take place at the venue.

Friday 18th May, 6pm

**London's Developing Frictions
with Anna Minton**

A conversation about the repercussions of the changing face of London's built environment and how it is affecting all of us who live here. With neoliberal political and economic forces critically affecting the city and how it works, there are numerous community led actions seeking to disrupt, with new models of city-making that works against the smooth processes of capital and development to build a new London for all.

Saturday 19th May, 2pm

**India's Oppositional Frictions
with Guy Mannes-Abbott**

In Gujarat, Eastern India, precarious tribal communities developed a Green Economic Zone to counter the frictionless machinery of Special Economic Zones, formed top-down by government and business and often to the detriment of the existing people. What lessons are there for a London over-run by the Opportunity Area vehicle of demolition and community displacement as witnessed across London, including Elephant and Castle's Heygate Estate?

Sunday 20th May, 2pm

Specular Assembly artist talk

Artist from the collective will discuss the exhibition, their relationship to the venue and its history and how the four years of this site-specific relationship has affected their working processes.

BIOGRAPHIES

Specular Assembly

Specular Assembly is a London-based artist collective with a focus on site-specific exhibitions. The collective was formed in 2014 by Ben Cave, Leon Chew, Christopher Down, Will Jennings, Katja Mayer, Lee Milne and Minna Pöllänen.
www.specularassembly.com

Richard Galpin

Richard Galpin's work is concerned with urban growth and transformation. His 2D and 3D works are dynamic visual observations of urban development, with an emphasis on the apparatus of construction sites, urban infrastructure and the surfaces of the city. The work is underpinned by early conceptual works and writing around the theme of erasure. These themes find echo in later works relating to the preservation or erasure of traces of history in cities during processes of redevelopment.
www.richardgalpin.co.uk

Eliza Tamo

Eliza Tamo is a London based artist working predominantly with photography. She holds an MA in Photography from the London College of Communication. Her work has been exhibited at the T3 Photo Festival Tokyo, Athens Photo, The Photographers' Gallery in London and the Benaki Museum in Athens amongst others.
www.elizatamo.com

Anna Minton

Anna is a journalist, author and academic. She is a regular contributor to The Guardian, and a frequent broadcaster and conference speaker, is Chair of Trustees of Lambeth & Southwark MIND and a director of the recently relaunched Left Book Club. Since 2013, Anna has been a Reader in Architecture at The University of East London, where she is Programme Leader of the MRes programme, *Reading the Neoliberal City*. She has authored two acclaimed books, *Ground Control: Fear and Happiness in the Twenty-First Century City* (2012) and *Big Capital: who is London for?* (2017).
www.annaminton.com

Guy Mannes-Abbott

Guy Mannes-Abbott is a London-based writer whose work often performs in visual art contexts, including his acclaimed *In Ramallah, Running* (2012), a text for e-flux journal's *Supercommunity* (Venice Biennale 2015) and a series for *End Note(s)* (Rotterdam 2015). He contributed to *The Gulf: High Culture, Hard Labour* (New York 2015), participated in *Moderation[s]* at Witte de With (Rotterdam 2013) and collaborated with CAMP on *The Country of the Blind, and Other Stories* (Folkestone 2011). He once taught theory at the AA School of Architecture, London, and his cultural criticism is widely published.
www.notesfromafruitstore.net