

Neulinge {Newcomers}
The Crypt Gallery, NW1 2BA

Opening night 19 April 5 - 9pm (with guest DJ Oliver Offord)

Exhibition continues 20 - 22 April 11am - 7pm

Guest curated by Georgina White-Aldworth from HEWING WITTARE

'Neulinge' is a show that will consider reciprocities and relationships between the practices of 10 Artists, **Annie Marie Akussah, Yihsin Chu, Chudamani Clowes, Marium M Habib, Aty Hadidi, Maryam Hina Hasnain, Yun Park, Divya Sharma, Monique Wan, and Samiya Younis**. Using paint on canvas, clay, textiles, wooden sculptures, film and projection, each artist has created works that have a very physical and bodily presence in the space of The Crypt Gallery. This collection of works, born out of the artist's hard labour, demonstrate a harmony of texture, scale and form.

'Neulinge' translates from German for newcomer. Germany is a country that has been seen as leading the EU in response to the migration crisis and in 2015 the country granted protection to the highest number of first time asylum applicants. In the UK today, newcomers arrive desperately needing help and protection, whilst current residents have lost confidence in a government whose focus is on what 'type' of exit from the EU they will negotiate rather than on everyday issues needing to be addressed.

Keeping with the zeitgeist, this exhibition gives a voice to 10 artists, all of whom are female with non-EU heritage and currently practicing in London. It celebrates the work of an underrepresented minority within the contemporary art scene. The 'Neulinge' artist looks for recognition whilst displacing the typical narratives within a minority art practice.

Looking at subjects of freedom, friction, adventure, commerce, shifting of identity, empires, foreign land, independence, hybrid culture, visual and verbal language each artist has started a new beginning in the UK, demonstrating in their work a consideration of customs from their previous lives and new, adopted cultures of their current home.

Arriving to the UK at different stages of their lives or of second generation migration, each artist explores the ideas of permanently or temporarily settling, the feeling of being an expatriate and moving to unfamiliar territory and discovering their new identity.

Annie Marie Akussah, London based artist originally from Ghana work explores inter-African migration, identity, belonging and the authenticity of travel documents. Using a dialogue with prints, transfers and found materials Akussah constructs artworks that ask the viewer to consider the life of an expatriate. **Taiwanese artist** Yihsin Chu, is inspired by sci-films, Chinese philosophy and dramatic weather. Using layers and strokes of colours she sees herself as witnessing her own landscapes, projecting herself into the atmospheric clouds, truly feeling the moisture and rain. Here Chu is perhaps more of a method artist than a classical painter. The Ethnographic archive and Victorian colonial shows of the past are dual points of reference for London based artist **Chudamani Clowes**. Originally from Sri Lanka Clowes moved to the UK 43 years ago, which is represented in the ceramic sculptures displayed in Neulinge. Each pot is a vessel of time, tackling issues of identity, migration, love and her own place in contemporary Britain. Two artists in this show are from Pakistan, the first being **Marium M Habib** who uses her own experiences growing up in a post colonial country, then moving to the US with her family. "Staying within the personal sphere frees me of the danger being presumptuous" Habib says in response to her feminist style. Working in paint, charcoal and pastels she depicts a narrative that explores the friction between her past and the present day. Iranian/British artist **Aty Hadidi** worked as a Graphic Designer and Art Director for twenty-one years before turning her hand to full time painting and sculpture. Working with subjects that are deeply rooted in the personal, she is constantly in flux with her body, considering her present life in the UK and leaving her heart in Iran. The second Pakistani artist in this show is **Maryam Hina Hasnain** who was raised in Karachi, and is currently completing a BA in Fine Arts at Goldsmiths University. She explores the friction between visual and verbal language through tactile textile installations, soundscapes and automatic text based drawings. Language and accessibility are running themes in her work and she has recently turned to focus on the third space present with being a bilingual artist.

Yun Kaylee Park is an artist originally from South Korea. She starts her practice with research into her subject before starting to paint. Currently her fascination has led her to study the colour black and the way it has featured throughout history, especially during the Victorian era. In Neulinge, Park will also present a new sculpture based on the concept of cryptocurrency Bitcoin using soap to represent the bubbles burst during its short life span. **Divya Sharma** is a London based artist from South India currently studying at Wimbledon College of Arts. Her practice is a conscious acknowledgement to the past while employing contemporary trends. Using a wide selection of mediums including photography, found materials, video, sculpture, painting and installations her intention is to break preconceived notions about gender, identity, religion and race. Chinese artist **Monique Wan** has a delicate approach to her work, investigating the cycle of growth and decay, alongside karma, fate, and her changing identity. She consciously creates artworks that reflect the limited time she has remaining in the UK, and her recent work 'On The Day' she is able to cherish and contextualise the days she

has left before inevitably moving back to Hong Kong. **Samiya Younis** currently studies at the Royal College of Art and uses her Pakistani heritage throughout her practice. Collecting postcolonial postage stamps she works with the memories they summon from her childhood when she received letters from Pakistan. Exploring the displacement of her own identity and cultural Younis works in a wide selection of mediums using paintings, drawings, performance, sound and sculpture.