

Charlotte Prodger: *SaF05*

Scotland + Venice 2019 official Collateral Event for the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

11 May – 24 November 2019

Preview: Thursday 9 May, 14:00-17:30

Screening times: 10.10, 11.00, 11.50, 12.40, 13.30, 14.20, 15.10, 16.00, 16.50

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:00 – 18:00

Arsenale Docks

S. Pietro, Castello, 40 30122

Venice, Italy

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Charlotte Prodger, *SaF05*, video still, 2019, courtesy of the Artist; Koppe Astner, Glasgow and Hollybush Gardens, London.

Venice, Tuesday 7 May 2019 – The Scotland + Venice partnership presents *SaF05*, a new single-channel video by 2018 Turner Prize-winning artist Charlotte Prodger for the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

This commission – the artist's most ambitious to date – is curated by **Linsey Young** with **Cove Park** and takes place from 11 May – 24 November 2019 at [Arsenale Docks](#) in the utilitarian workshop of a boatyard, repurposed for Prodger's installation.

Much of Prodger's work looks at subjectivity, self-determination and queerness. *SaF05* is the last in



a trilogy of videos that began with *Stonemollan Trail* (2015) and was followed by *BRIDGIT* (2016). This autobiographical cycle traces the accumulation of affinities, desires and losses that form a self as it moves forward in time. *SaF05* draws upon multiple sources – archival, scientific and diaristic – and combines footage from a number of geo-geographical locations (the Scottish Highlands, the Great Basin Desert, the Okavango Delta and the Ionian Islands).

SaF05 is named after a maned lioness that figures in the work as a cipher for queer attachment and desire. This animal is the last of several maned lionesses documented in the Okavango Delta and is only known to Prodger through a database of behaviours and camera-trap footage logged across several years. These indexes of *SaF05*'s existence are intersected with autobiographical fragments from Prodger's own life that fluctuate between proximity and distance. Her voiceover traces a chronology of intimate gestures and interpersonal connections from prepubescence to the present, inscribed with the incidental details of territorial delineation, sovereignty and land use. Central to these fluctuations is a tension between macro and micro, the experienced and the described.

Prodger's preoccupation with perspective, framing and the physicality of the camera as a sculptural device is expanded in *SaF05*. Film industry cameras, static camera traps, drones and small handheld devices such as Prodger's smart phone are each used for their inherent material properties. The effects and affects of these technologies are reverberated in the voiceover's references to optical devices, while vibrating frequencies – bagpipe drone, cicada mating call, battery alarm – form aural equivalences between animal and human, instrument and machine.

Optical, gestural and coded, *SaF05*'s changes in intensity network the personal and expansive with all their aggregate politics, forming a convergence of diagram and myth, chronology, landscape and identity.

The **preview event** will take place at the exhibition venue on **Thursday, 9 May**, from **14–17:30**. Robert Wilson, Chair of Creative Scotland, Alexia Holt, Associate Director of Cove Park, and Linsey Young will introduce the new commission and the work to which Scotland + Venice is deeply committed.

In a first Scotland + Venice, **Prodger's new work will tour across Scotland's west coast, highlands and islands** from 27 June to 21 November, at the same time as it is being presented to audiences in Venice.

The Dutch arts organisation, **If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part of Your Revolution**, who are supporting the production of Prodger's film, will lead on a subsequent **international tour** that will bring the work to the **Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam** and **Mercer Union Toronto in early 2020**.

Linsey Young, Curator for Scotland + Venice 2019, said: *"Having known Charlotte since 2012 and having had the opportunity to exhibit Stonemollan Trail and BRIDGIT with her it is a huge privilege to have had some involvement in the development and curation of the final film in the trilogy, her new commission for Venice, SaF05. Charlotte is an artist whose singular and compelling voice resonates with people throughout the world and I am thrilled to be sharing her uncompromising, expansive yet engaging work with the international communities of Venice and at home in Scotland where the work will tour the Highlands and Islands from June 2019. At a time of huge political change in the United*



Kingdom we are presenting on this most international of stages an artist who for me represents the best of modern Scotland, a bold, critical and politically engaged voice that speaks of the welcoming and forward thinking nature of our country."

Alexia Holt, Associate Director of Cove Park, said: *"Charlotte's first residency at Cove Park in 2010 came at a key moment in her career, following graduation from Glasgow School of Art's Master of Fine Art Course. We were delighted to welcome Charlotte back to Cove Park in the summer of 2018 as she began to develop her ideas for SaF05 and to have this opportunity to work with Linsey and the Scotland + Venice partners. We are particularly pleased to be leading on the Professional Development Programme and the Scottish Tour of SaF05, ensuring artists and audiences from across Scotland can take part in Scotland + Venice and see this outstanding new work at the same moment as audiences in Venice."*

Amanda Catto, Chair of the Scotland + Venice partnership, and Head of Visual Arts at Creative Scotland said: *"Charlotte Prodger is an artist who makes work of exceptional vision, rigour and integrity. It is a tremendous honour, and a pleasure, for the partners to be working with her on this most ambitious and remarkable exhibition – building on her significant work and achievements to date."*

"SaF05 is an absorbing, enduring and deeply affecting work that will resonate with audiences for some time to come. We are immensely excited to share this work with our international colleagues in Venice and to audiences back home through the Scottish tour."

"Scotland + Venice has been designed to give artists the opportunity to stage new work within this highly energetic and visible context – and to raise the profile of Scotland as an international centre of excellence for the visual arts."

The new single-channel video installation by Charlotte Prodger is commissioned and promoted on the occasion of the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, by Scotland + Venice – a partnership between Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland – with funding support from the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

Scotland + Venice presents **Charlotte Prodger, SaF05**

[Arsenale Docks, S. Pietro di Castello, 40, 30122](#)

Opening times: 11 May – 24 November 2019, Tuesday – Sunday, 10:00 – 18:00 (free entry)

Preview: Thursday, 9 May, 14–17:30

Vaporetto stops: Giardini, Arsenale or S. Pietro di Castello

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Media download centre: <https://scotlandandvenice.com/press/>



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Notes to Editors:

1. Charlotte Prodger's exhibition at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia is commissioned by **Scotland + Venice**, a partnership between Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland, with funding support from the National Lottery through Creative Scotland, curated by Linsey Young with Cove Park, and supported by the artist's production consultant, Mason Leaver-Yap, and Dutch arts organisation, If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want to Be Part of Your Revolution (IICD). Since 2003, Scotland + Venice commissions ambitious new work to be staged within the highly visible context of the Biennale in order to profile Scotland as an international centre of excellence for the visual arts. Scotland + Venice works in partnership with British Council and Arts Council of Wales to present the very best artistic and curatorial practice from the UK at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. Through the work presented, the partners seek to broaden international reach, strengthen professional networks, champion diversity and promote best practice in terms of accessibility and inclusion. For further information and to sign up for updates, please visit: www.scotlandandvenice.com / [@scotlandvenice](https://twitter.com/scotlandvenice) / [#scotlandvenice](https://www.facebook.com/scotlandandvenice) / www.facebook.com/scotlandandvenice
2. **Charlotte Prodger** was born in Bournemouth, UK in 1974. She studied at Goldsmiths, London and The Glasgow School of Art and lives and works in Glasgow. Winner of the 2018 Turner Prize, Prodger has also received the 2014 Margaret Tait Award and 2017 Paul Hamlyn Award. Selected solo exhibitions include: Turner Prize, Tate Britain, London (2018); *BRIDGIT/Stonemollan Trail*, Bergen Kunsthall; *Subtotal*, SculptureCenter, New York (2017); *BRIDGIT*, Hollybush Gardens, London; *Charlotte Prodger*, Kunstverein Düsseldorf (2016); *8004–8019*, Spike Island, Bristol; *Stonemollan Trail*, Temple Bar, Dublin (2015); *Nephatiti*, Glasgow International Director's Programme; *Markets* (with The Block), Chelsea Space, London (2014); *Percussion Biface 1-13*, Studio Voltaire, London; *COLON HYPHEN ASTERIX*, Intermedia CCA, Glasgow (2012); *Handclap/Punchhole*, Kendall Koppe, Glasgow (2011). Selected group exhibitions include: *Always Different, Always the Same: An Essay on Art and Systems*, Bunder Kunstmuseum, Chur; *ORGASMIC STREAMING ORGANIC GARDENING ELECTROCULTURE*, Chelsea Space, London (2018); *British Art Show 8* (2016); *Weight of Data*, Tate Britain, London; *An Interior that Remains an Exterior*, Künstlerhaus Graz (2015); *Frozen Lakes*, Artists Space, New York (2014). The Dutch arts organisation, If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part of Your Revolution, who are supporting the production of Prodger's film, will lead on a subsequent **international tour** that will bring the work to the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and Mercer Union Toronto in early 2020.
3. **Linsey Young** is a curator based in London and Glasgow. Having previously held curatorial positions at Inverleith House, Edinburgh, and The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Young is currently Curator Contemporary British Art at Tate, where she is lead curator of the Turner Prize, responsible for overseeing the project each time it is held in London. In addition, while at Tate she has co-curated Rachel Whiteread's mid-career retrospective and curated Pablo Bronstein and Anthea Hamilton's Duveen commissions. In 2013, Young founded the independent, not-for-profit project



YOUNG TEAM through which she has curated exhibitions and developed publications with artists such as: Sue Tompkins, Neal Jones, Jonathan Meese and Steven Campbell. Working with the artist Charlotte Prodger, Young is curator of Scotland + Venice 2019.

4. Located on the west coast of Scotland in Argyll and Bute, **Cove Park** runs an annual programme of creative development residencies for national and international artists, working in all art forms and at all stages in their careers. Cove Park's Visual Arts programme offers both residencies and commissions, produced and curated by Alexia Holt, enabling artists to develop new work in the context of an outstanding 50-acre rural site overlooking Loch Long. Prodger undertook her first residency at Cove Park in 2010, taking part in a residency programme designed to support early career visual artists, and returned again in the summer of 2018 to develop her first ideas for the Scotland + Venice commission. The organisation's award-winning Artists Centre, a purpose-built space for artists and visitors, opened in 2016 and made possible the development of Cove Park's innovative creative learning programme led by current and former residents. Cove Park was founded in 1999 by Eileen and Peter Jacobs and will celebrate 20 years of its residency programme in 2020. For further information please visit: <http://covepark.org>, and follow [@CovePark](#) and www.facebook.com/Cove-Park

5. **Prodger's new commission for Scotland + Venice will be touring to seven cinemas and art centres across Scotland's west coast, highlands and islands.** The UK premiere will screen at The Tower Digital Arts Centre in Helensburgh, Argyll & Bute, on Thursday 27 June 2019 and the tour will end in Aberdeen at Belmont Filmhouse on Thursday 21 November. Dates of the full Scottish tour:
 1. Thursday 27 June: The [Tower Digital Arts Centre](#), Helensburgh, Argyll & Bute
 2. Wednesday 3 July: [Glasgow Film Theatre](#)
 3. Thursday 25 July: [Campbeltown Picture House](#), Argyll & Bute
 4. Thursday 22 August: [Aros Community Cultural Centre](#), Skye
 5. Friday 27 September: [An Lanntair](#), Isle of Lewis
 6. Thursday 24 October: [Mareel](#) – Shetland Arts Centre, Shetland
 7. Thursday 21 November: [Belmont Filmhouse](#), Aberdeen

The UK premiere on Thursday 27 June at The Tower Digital Arts Centre will coincide with the launch of a limited edition print by Prodger. Each screening will include a short trailer documenting the project development made by Connolly Clark Film and will be followed by a talk with the curators and participants involved in the [Professional Development Programme](#).