



STUART HALL  
FOUNDATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 28 November 2017

### SQUIRREL NATION AWARDED THE SECOND STUART HALL LIBRARY ARTIST'S RESIDENCY

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) and the Stuart Hall Foundation are delighted to announce that collective Squirrel Nation has been awarded the second Stuart Hall Library Artist's Residency, a funded opportunity that builds on Professor Stuart Hall's unique contribution to intellectual and cultural life.

Selected through a hugely popular open call, the collective Squirrel Nation will be in residence at Iniva's Stuart Hall Library from February to April 2018. The three members of the collective – filmmaker Erinma Ochu, visual artist Caroline Ward and curator Bianca Manu – will explore the evolution of diasporic identities and how a sense of belonging or isolation is shaped in the context of cultural and social locations, and technology.

Taking the archival material as a starting point, Squirrel Nation will use social media and modern technologies to develop a forward-looking approach to explore how individual experiences of diasporic communities today relate to the experiences of previous generations. By finding cultural 'touchpoints' between the generations, Squirrel Nation will create an artistic intervention to rethink the politics of blackness, diversity and inclusion.

The Stuart Hall Library Artist's Residency is an annual funded opportunity established in partnership between Iniva and the Stuart Hall Foundation. Building on the distinct connections between both organisations, the three-month residency allows a visual artist the space to think about some of the key themes related to the work of Iniva and the Foundation, including: the language of the diaspora, culture, identity and archiving.

*For more information, please contact:*

*Ilze Rieba, Stuart Hall Foundation: [ilze@stuarthallfoundation.org](mailto:ilze@stuarthallfoundation.org)*

*Simina Neagu, Iniva : [sneagu@iniva.org](mailto:sneagu@iniva.org)*

**@Iniva\_arts**

**[facebook.com/InstituteofInternationalVisualArts](https://www.facebook.com/InstituteofInternationalVisualArts)**

## Notes to Editors

### About Squirrel Nation

Squirrel Nation is an international collective comprised of visual artists, writers, designers, sound artists, scientists and curators who create experimental works across a range of settings. The core members are filmmaker Erinma Ochu, visual artist Caroline Ward and curator, Bianca Manu.

Caroline Ward is a deaf visual artist and experience designer, trained originally in fine art and film. She is interested in intersectionality and the crossovers between nature-culture and technology. She has innovated future experiences at BBC and as Digital Associate for The Space. She is currently studying at The Royal College of Art.

Erinma Ochu is a filmmaker and writer, originally trained as a neuroscientist. She's interested in the afterlives of creative practice and what remains from creating or experiencing intersectional work. She recently held a Jerwood fellowship with Manchester International Festival, attached to Yael Bartana's *What if Women Ruled the World*. She teaches at The University of Salford.

Bianca Ama Manu is a curator and producer invested in exploring socio-political, environmental, new media and identity matters. Working between London, UK and Accra, Ghana, past work includes the Wellcome Collection and The Netherlands Embassy, Ghana. Her current role is as curator for Nubuke Foundation, an arts foundation in Accra.

**Website:** [squirrelnation.co.uk](http://squirrelnation.co.uk)

### About Iniva

Iniva is an evolving, radical visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects the social and political impact of globalisation. With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for our work, we collaborate with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. We engage a wide audience, particularly young people, in discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, class and gender.

Through our programme we work predominantly with British-born and British-based visual artists of African and Asian descent supporting them at different stages in their careers. We offer residencies, commission new work and promote existing practices enabling ambition and artist development. By cultivating innovative thinking, we are committed to disseminating research across a wide cultural spectrum and geographical network. Our ambition is to build a greater body of knowledge around each of the artists with whom we work to ensure the legacy of their practices for future generations of researchers and audiences.

Founded in 1994, under the leadership of renowned academic Professor Stuart Hall, Iniva is a non-profit organisation based in East London. It has established itself as a pioneering arts organisation in the artistic environment in the UK and beyond. Iniva has worked with internationally renowned artists and curators early in their careers including David A Bailey, Sonia Boyce, Sheela Gowda, NS Harsha, Isaac Julien, Steve McQueen, Chris Ofili, Yinka Shonibare, Kobena Mercer, Okwui Enwezor, and Guy Brett.

Iniva is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation. Iniva is also supported by Cockayne Grants for the Arts, a donor-advised fund of the London Community Foundation.

**Website:** [www.iniva.org](http://www.iniva.org)

## About the Stuart Hall Foundation

The Stuart Hall Foundation is inspired by the life and work of the eminent scholar and Jamaican born British intellectual Professor Stuart Hall. The Foundation seeks to support a new generation of creative thinkers and provoke original thinking, debate and research, illuminating connections between politics, culture and society. Diversity, social justice and access were central to Professor Stuart Hall's work in education and the arts and are embedded in the Foundation's values, programme and approach.

The Foundation is committed to building on the legacy of Professor Stuart Hall by attending to the urgent political, social and cultural questions of our time; articulating the 'apparently unsayable' and shifting the terms of the debate 'so that something else can come through'. The Foundation is developing a distinctive and unique programme which creates opportunities for those people whose ideas, works and agendas may not otherwise have a platform or support.

The Foundation's programme of activities in the UK and abroad include the Stuart Hall Scholarships and Fellowships, the Stuart Hall Library Artist's Residency, commissions and a public programme of debates, talks, film screenings, exhibitions and seminars.

Stuart Hall Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales. Charity number: 1159343. Stuart Hall Foundation is supported by individual donors, trusts and foundations (Garfield Weston Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy and Hollick Family Charitable Trust).

**Website:** [www.stuarthallfoundation.org](http://www.stuarthallfoundation.org)