

KISSING DOESN'T KILL: GREED AND INDIFFERENCE DO.



CORPORATE GREED, GOVERNMENT INACTION, AND PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE MAKE AIDS A POLITICAL CRISIS.



Jim C. Nedd, *Fiesta En Guacherna*, Auto Italia, 2020

## About Auto Italia

Auto Italia is a non-profit contemporary art institution dedicated to researching, producing and exhibiting work on the intersections of queer studies and social change.

We support artists to develop critical discourse, active research and experimental projects through major new commissions and process driven participation projects.

This work is presented through exhibitions, performance and live work, artist-led participation events, international touring projects and creative learning activities for children and young people.

## Our role within the visual arts

Over the past seven years, Auto Italia has been driven into a new phase of its history: departing from its origin as a grassroots, artist-led project space, it has been transformed into a successful and resilient institution with an international track record for championing new, global discourses in contemporary art.

Our programme is issues-led. We champion artists work that is deeply political in both content and form with a focus on queer-feminist practices, and global political perspectives arising through grassroots activism and community organising. This programming has secured international recognition as a bellwether for influential trends and ideas in visual art, and in fostering the early expansion and dissemination of radical ideas before they enter the mainstream.

Learning and research underpins all of our activities. We provide a unique context for artists and audiences to explore expanded ideas of community, identity and belonging, and play a sector leadership role in an international network of organisations foregrounding new approaches to artist-led institution building.

We are situated at the heart of a residential neighbourhood in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and are committed to developing our civic role. We are active in facilitating local networks and partnerships that create new ways for audiences to engage with visual art and which support young people to take active empowered roles investigating contemporary issues on identity.

Auto Italia has been a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England since 2012, and has renewed this status until 2026.



Ingrid Pollard, *Poems by Maya Angelou*, Auto Italia, 2020

## History of Auto Italia

Auto Italia was founded in 2007 by a group of artists who were living, working and commissioning exhibitions from a squatted car garage in Peckham, South London.

During its first ten years, the gallery operated from a series of donated buildings across the city – large-scale warehouses, industrial buildings and commercial units – using the sites to produce major commissions with a generation of early-career artists, activists and researchers who have gone onto become household names in art and academia.

Developed against the backdrop of government austerity, this work foregrounded innovative new research on digital culture, group work, self-organisation and community activism.

Its early collaborators include Ed Atkins, Franco 'Bifo' Berardi, James Bridle, Hannah Black, Frederico Campagna, Benedict Drew, Mark Fisher, April Greiman, Huw Lemmey, Dean Kissick, Kathy Knoble, Yuri Pattison, Eddie Peake, Heather Phillipson, Ben Vickers, and others.

This daring, experimental ethos continues to lead Auto Italia today. Over the past seven years, our programme has supported early-career artists to produce headline new commissions exploring innovative identity discourses, and survey exhibitions by under-represented mid-career artists whose archives trace key conflicts in culture and society.

Collaborators include CFGNY, Elysia Crampton Chuquimia, Gran Fury, Invernomuto and Jim C. Nedd, Ashley Holmes, Tarek Lakrissi, Metahaven, Shaun Motsi, Sands Murray-Wassink, NTU (Nolan Oswald Dennis, Tabita Rezaire, Bogosi Sekhukhuni), Christelle Oyiri, Ingrid Pollard, Josiane M.H. Pozi, Jill Posener, Sin Wai Kin, Terre Thaemlitz, Natasha Tontey, and others.

## Partnership working

Resource sharing and partnership working with local, national and international partners is central to all of our activities.

Our exhibitions are often co-produced with museums and institutions. Recent and upcoming collaborators include Haus der Kunst, Munich; Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève; Cemeti Institute for Art and Society, Yogyakarta; Stroom Den Haag, The Hague; If I Can't Dance, Amsterdam; Edinburgh Arts Festival; Western Front, Vancouver; Firstdraft in Sydney and Nubuke Foundation in Accra, and others.

Our learning activities are produced through co-design partnership networks with local education stakeholders, including local government, third and voluntary sector organisations and secondary schools.



CFGNY, *Collecting Dissonance*, Auto Italia, 2021

## Job description

### 1. Artistic programme

The Director is responsible for developing Auto Italia's vision and policy, and for continuing to grow the gallery's track record as an organisation at the forefront of new discourse and practice in contemporary art.

- Takes overall responsibility for the artistic vision and policy, leading on the development of artistic projects for the gallery, website and external venues and institutions as contracted, supported by the Curator: Exhibitions and Events.
- Leads on the relationships with artists for the programme, continuing to grow the creative network around the organisation, and acting as mentor and support for artists to enable them to produce ambitious and experimental work.

- Delegates and approves fundraising and administrative activities delivered by the Curator: Exhibitions & Events, Curator: Community and Engagement and Project Assistant.
- Responsible for the successful delivery of Auto Italia's education and learning programmes, overseeing the Curator: Community and Engagement's planning and delivery of work, and establishing and maintaining local partnerships, funders and stakeholders.
- Initiates, maintains and develops key commissioning and funding partnerships, at regional, national and international levels, ensuring Auto Italia meets its proposed funding agreements with Arts Council England and other stakeholders.
- Responsible for maintaining and building national and international partnerships for touring and collaborating on commissions.
- Keeps abreast of artistic scenes and new emerging discourse internationally, identifying areas of development for the organisation.

### 2. Governance

The Director is the strategic leader of the organisation, the first point of contact with the charity's legal directors, the Board of Trustees, and the head of the organisation's staff team.

#### Board of Trustees:

- Ensures that the organisation maintains a Board of Trustees that is professional, appropriately skilled and reflects the diversity of UK society and Auto Italia's audiences.
- Engages Trustees' guidance and strategic support on areas relevant to their particular skill sets, as well as enthusing the board with the programme and ensuring their support across advocacy, fundraising, organisational and staff development.

#### Stakeholders and partnerships:

- Key contact for the gallery's relationship with Arts Council England with support from the Trustees, in particular the Chair and Vice Chair.



Young Artist Programme workshop participants with *Gran Fury, Read My Lips*, 2018

- Lead contact for the gallery's partnership with landlord Acme Studios with support from the Trustees.
- Manages the Curators' engagement with local, national and international partners across all of the gallery's artistic activities.

#### **Human resources:**

- Develop and manage the operating plan for the gallery's staff resource, allocating budget adequately in order to realise projects to the highest quality.
- Responsible for reviewing staff performance and supports staff members in their professional development, devising policies and procedures for staff training, mentoring, and well-being.
- Leads on matters related to Health and Safety, ensuring policies and procedures are up to date and staff are aware of protocols.

- Ensures that the staff are professional, appropriately skilled and reflects the diversity of UK society and Auto Italia's audiences.
- Lead on Auto Italia's commitment to its Equality and Diversity Policy, monitoring progress.

#### **3. Finance and income generation**

The Director leads on the development and implementation of income generation, taking an active and creative approach to developing income streams, with support from the staff and Trustees.

#### **Development and fundraising:**

- Leads on developing funder relationships and partnerships for Arts Council England, Lottery grants, international arts councils, trusts and foundations, local authority funding, co-commissioning partnerships and donors with support from the staff and Trustees.
- Responsible for devising and implementing a clear fundraising strategy for the gallery's development, with support of the Curators.
- Establishes annual and project specific fundraising targets across all departments, in consultation with the Chair of Trustees.
- Responsible for generating accurate, well executed bids for private and public sector partners for artistic and operational activities.
- Delegates income generation tasks across the team, including editing and signing off bids that have been drafted by the Curators.
- Secures new donations and maintains existing relationships with donors working with the support of the Board of Trustees.
- Responsible for maintaining and developing relationships with cultural institutions and galleries internationally for co-production partnerships on new artistic work.
- Responsible for monitoring, analysing and reporting on fundraising performance in close dialogue with the Board of Trustees.



Shaun Motsi, *Masters*, 2023

#### Finance and budget:

- Responsible for financial management of the organisation, working with the Board of Trustees to forecast and allocate the organisation's annual budget and to monitor and manage income and expenditure.
- Act as Company Secretary for the Charity.
- Generates and submits all reporting materials needed for the Charity Commission, Companies House and Arts Council England under the supervision of the Board of Trustees.

#### 4. Communications

The Director is responsible for leading the development of Auto Italia's brand and its dissemination across communication channels, including social media and media platforms.

- Lead on audience development strategy for physical and digital audiences, overseeing the delivery of engagement activities delivered by the Curator: Community and Engagement.
- Lead on the effective promotion and communication of Auto Italia's programme, overseeing and approving strategy for social media, website and digital communications, and media relations.
- Lead on developing networks of press organisations, editors and writers to encourage wide coverage of the organisation's activities.
- Represent the company publicly as an ambassador to writers and press, maintaining a healthy presence within the contemporary arts publishing community.

#### 5. Other Responsibilities

- Actively participate in Auto Italia's local, national and international community communicating a positive image of the gallery.
- Plans and executes any capital projects relating to Auto Italia.

### Terms of employment

<b>Role title:</b>	Director
<b>Employer:</b>	Auto Italia, 44 Bonner Road, London E2 9JS
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Chair of the Board of Trustees
<b>Responsible for:</b>	Curator: Exhibition and Events, Curator: Community and Engagement, Project Assistant
<b>Hours of work:</b>	Full Time, Monday to Friday, 10am – 6pm, hybrid working [60% office and 40% home/elsewhere]
<b>Contract</b>	Permanent contract
<b>Salary</b>	£43,000 per annum
<b>Annual leave</b>	28 days plus bank holidays
<b>Pension</b>	Contributions are 3% of salary from employer and 5% from the employee



Metahaven and Deterritorial Support Group, *Void Mystique DNA*, 2013

## Person specification

### 1. Essential skills and attributes

- A degree or post-graduate qualification in Art History, Fine Art or Curatorial Studies, or equivalent experience.
- The ability to define and deliver a dynamic vision for Auto Italia rooted in its historic commitment to experimental, innovative and original work on the intersections of queer studies and social change.
- Dynamic curatorial vision to support challenging, risk-taking work.
- Experience of working in a leadership role with a curatorial focus.
- Extensive experience of commissioning ambitious artists' projects across varied formats and developing audiences for artists' work.
- Experience of mentoring artists, supporting them to successfully develop new works from project inception to realisation.

- Specialist knowledge of contemporary art with a strong understanding of the local and international contemporary art community.
- Comprehensive understanding of the publicly funded arts sector and its policies, trends and procedures in the UK and internationally.
- A demonstrable track record of securing funding from diverse sources, particularly Arts Council England, grants from national and international trusts and foundations, and donations from individuals.
- An established network of contacts in the UK and internationally including patrons, collectors, gallerists, artists and curators.
- Experience forming and maintaining partnerships with museums and institutions to commission and tour works nationally and globally.
- Sound grasp and experience of financial and business planning.
- An inclusive and positive leadership style with a proven ability to motivate, supervise and develop a staff team, supporting them to manage and deliver a varied and demanding workload.
- Adept at working with teams with excellent ability to collaborate, multi-task, delegate and prioritise to achieve ambitious goals.
- Experience of working collaboratively and the ability to forge mutually respectful, effective working relationships with diverse personalities.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with an ability to negotiate and navigate complex relationships with authority as an ambassador for the Gallery.
- A strong awareness of issues related to equality and cultural diversity, with a dedicated commitment to Equal Opportunities.

### 2. Desirable skills and attributes

- Experience of working in an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, or organisation funded by an equivalent funding body.
- Experience of leading and fundraising for capital projects.
- Experience of devising and delivering communication strategies, including social media, press and media and branding activities.

## Diversity and inclusion

Auto Italia is committed to reflecting the diversity of our artists and audiences throughout our organisation and its workforce.

We encourage applications from candidates from all backgrounds, and are dedicated to having a team bringing together individuals with diverse skills, experiences and abilities. We particularly welcome applications from candidates from Black Indigenous Person Of Colour (BIPoC), Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI), and Disabled groups that are currently under represented within senior leadership roles in contemporary art.

## How to apply

To make an application for the Director post please an application on a single PDF that is no longer than 4 pages that includes:

- A current CV;
- Cover letter outlining your suitability for the role and addressing the person specification requirements.

Applications must be submitted by 4 March 2024 at 10am GMT via [jobs@autoitaliasoutheast.org](mailto:jobs@autoitaliasoutheast.org). You must also complete the **Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form** linked here. Applications that do not follow this format will not be considered.

We are able to offer a limited number of phone conversations with either the Chair of Trustees or outgoing Director if you wish to ask questions about the role. To request this please specify who you wish to speak to in an email via [jobs@autoitaliasoutheast.org](mailto:jobs@autoitaliasoutheast.org).





# The Guardian

## Where have all the art punks gone?

Every generation of artists has defined itself by rebellion. So where are the Generation Y revolutionaries? Our writer enters a world of corporate hijacks, Instagram breakdowns and fake frat parties

# TimeOut

## Here and queer

# FRIEZE

## Make AIDS Visible: Gran Fury's Provoking Billboards

An exhibition at Auto Italia, London, shows the artist group's belief in the potential of visual language to infiltrate public discourse



# ARTFORUM

FILM

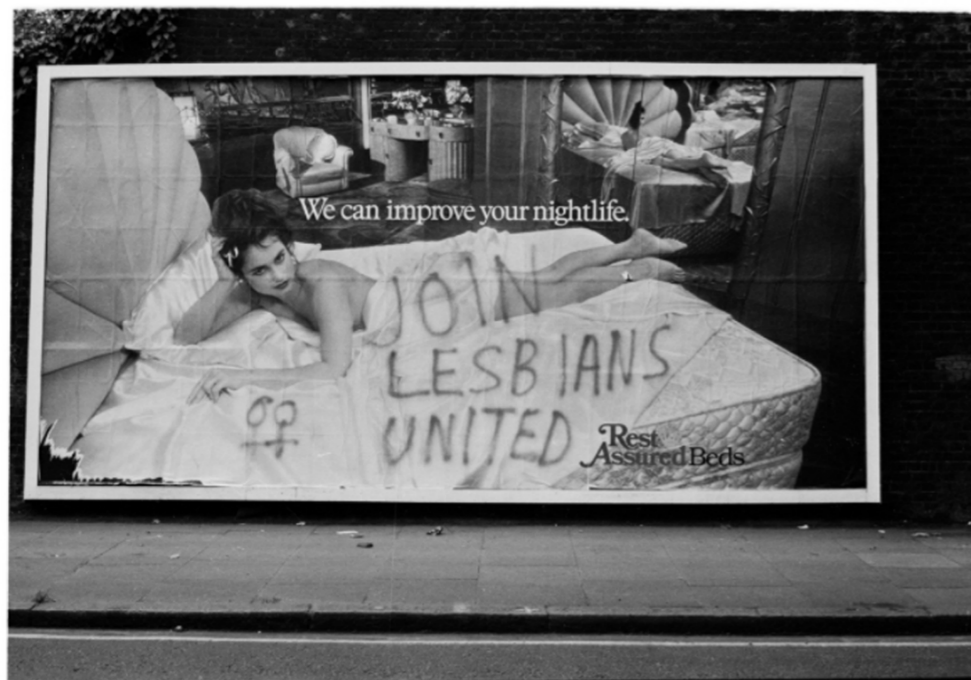
## BABY DON'T HURT ME

Eliel Jones on Alexa Karolinski and Ingo Niermann's Army of Love

# i-D

## Hot Moment is the lesbian photography exhibition you need to see

Exhibiting the work of Tessa Boffin, Ingrid Pollard and Jill Posener, Auto Italia's new show proves that queer identity is as political as it is personal.



# ART Monthly

# LOVE AIDS RIOTS

## CHRIS MCCORMACK ON ART, ACTIVISM AND AIDS

The recent surge of interest in 1980s AIDS activists, such as ACT UP, General Idea and Gran Fury, shows how art can effect real change. Looking back also reveals how narrow current definitions of healthcare are and encourages us to agitate for a more diverse future.

# ARTFORUM

## CRITICS' PICKS

"PICÓ: Un parlante de Africa en America"

AUTO ITALIA

# FRIEZE

## Behind the Scenes of Colombia's Street Parties

At Auto Italia, London, a film by Invernomuto and Jim C. Nedd traces the history of Afro-Colombian sound systems

## Who we are

Auto Italia's activities are led by a diverse, growing workforce who are supported by a dedicated Board of Trustees composed of specialists working in artistic, financial, management and communications roles.

### Board of Trustees:

Amida Deen (Youth Member), Undergraduate Student, UCL

Bo Escritt (Vice Chair), Partner, Counterculture LLP

Sunil Gupta, Artist

Matt Leitch (Treasurer), Group Financial Controller, VIA Outlets

Beatrice Pembroke, Director of Culture, Kings College London

Eleanor Pinfield (Chair), Head of Art on the Underground, TFL

Ben Vickers, Technologist, writer and publisher

### Staff team:

Bediah Al-Fadly, Front of House Assistant

Milda Batakyte, Curator: Exhibitions and Events

Edward Gillman, Director

Khadija Cecile Niang, Front of House Assistant

Rachel Routledge, Curator: Community and Engagement

Katherine Sung, Front of House Assistant

Sylke van der Heiden, Front of House Assistant

Tze Yan Clara Wong, Project Assistant

### Contact information:

For general queries please contact us by phone +44 (0) 20 8983 4115  
or via email at [info@autoitaliasoutheast.org](mailto:info@autoitaliasoutheast.org).

