



***Being and Appearing***  
May 2017 - May 2018

**Featuring:**  
Leonor Serrano Rivas  
Beatriz Olabarrieta  
Edwin Pickstone  
Louisa Fairclough & Richard Glover  
Rebecca Birch  
Romany Dear

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**A year-long programme of contemporary visual art at the Swiss Church in London**

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'In this world which we enter, appearing from a nowhere, and from which we disappear into a nowhere, *Being and Appearing* coincide... Nothing and nobody exists in this world whose very being does not presuppose a spectator. In other words, nothing that is, insofar as it appears, exists in the singular; everything that is is meant to be perceived by somebody... Plurality is the law of the earth'.

*Hannah Arendt, The Life of the Mind, 1978*

In 2017, the Swiss Church in London will host its first year-long curated programme of contemporary visual art. It aims to support artists to develop new work in response to the architecture or socio-historical context of the Church, and in doing so, further the dialogue between art and faith established by the Church's cultural programming over the past six years.

The Swiss Church was founded by a group of Swiss citizens living in London 250 years ago. The programme takes advantage of this context to address current debates surrounding immigration, public space, propaganda, mental health and community protest.

*Being and Appearing* takes its title from German-American political theorist Hannah Arendt's conception of the space of appearing: a temporary space formed when actors meet to

discuss matters of public concern. Focusing on site-specific live art practices, the programme considers the church as a public space in which communities meet, debate and then disband. The selected projects return performance to a place of worship — in Ancient Greece for example, temples were used for both theatre and religion — as well as referencing the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, celebrated in 2017.

*Being and Appearing* is curated by Kirsty White.

Further details will be announced shortly. To keep updated please follow the programme on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SwissChurchArt/>.

The **Swiss Church in London** is a beautiful Grade II listed building set in the heart of London's vibrant Covent Garden. As a church, it is rooted in the Swiss reformation, welcoming people from all paths of life and from all church traditions or none. It is an ecumenical congregation gathered from across London, and many of its parishioners are migrants from Switzerland.

The Swiss Church in London  
79 Endell Street, London WC2H 9DY  
<http://swisschurchlondon.org.uk>



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