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Spike Island

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Lubaina Himid nominated for the 2017 Turner Prize for her trio of exhibitions at Spike Island, Modern Art Oxford and Nottingham Contemporary



We are delighted to announce that Lubaina Himid is nominated for the Turner Prize 2017 for her widely-acclaimed trio of shows: the solo exhibitions *Navigation Charts* at Spike Island, *Invisible Strategies* at Modern Art Oxford, and her participation in the group exhibition *The Place is Here* at Nottingham Contemporary.

Known primarily as a painter, Himid has made significant contributions as a curator, archivist and writer focused on the experience of the black diaspora in Britain over the past 30 years. She was a member of the Black Arts Movement of the 1980s, and her work is politically critical, tackling questions of race, gender and class.

Himid is a steadfast advocate for the contribution that black artists have made to visual art in Britain. To celebrate her ongoing legacy, Spike Island, Modern Art Oxford and Nottingham Contemporary presented simultaneous exhibitions in early 2017, while works selected from these exhibitions are later touring to firstsite, Colchester and Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston.

At Spike Island, the exhibition *Navigation Charts* focused on three longstanding concerns for Himid: migration, labour and creativity. It brought into dialogue major works from the past 20 years and was anchored by *Naming the Money* (2004), a spectacular installation of 100 life-size, painted figures only shown once before in its entirety. The work portrays a mass gathering of African slave/servants from the courts of 18th Century Europe, including ceramicists, herbalists, dog trainers, toy makers, drummers, dancing masters, viola da gamba players, shoe makers, map makers and painters, while a recorded voiceover reveals their original names and true identities. Himid explores notions of invisibility and belonging,

as the artist herself stated “*what it means to make the best of a life unpaid and abused that may have been thrust upon you.*”¹

Image credit: Lubaina Himid *Naming the Money* (2004) Installation view, *Navigation Charts* Spike Island (2017) Courtesy the artist, Hollybush Gardens and National Museums Liverpool: International Slavery Museum. Photograph by Stuart Whipps

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For further information, high resolution images or a video interview with the artist, please contact Jane Faram, Communications Manager on 0117 929 2266 or jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk.

Notes for editors:

- Lubaina Himid is nominated alongside artists Hurvin Anderson, Andrea Büttner and Rosalind Nashashibi.
- An exhibition of work by the four shortlisted Turner Prize 2017 artists will be staged at Ferens Art Gallery in Hull, as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations in September 2017.
- The winner of the Turner Prize 2017 will be announced on 5 December 2017 at an award ceremony broadcast on the BBC.
- *Navigation Charts* at Spike Island was presented from 20 January to 26 March 2017.
- Alongside the exhibition at Spike Island, Himid’s work was also presented at Modern Art Oxford and Nottingham Contemporary:

At Modern Art Oxford, *Invisible Strategies* (21 January to 30 April 2017) brought together a wide range of Himid’s paintings from the 1980s to the present day, as well as sculptures, ceramics and works on paper.

The Place is Here at Nottingham Contemporary (4 February 2017 to 30 April 2017) evoked some of the urgent and wide-ranging conversations taking place between black artists, writers, thinkers and institutions in the UK in the 1980s.

- Arts Council England Strategic Touring fund awarded a grant of £280,000 to Nottingham Contemporary, Modern Art Oxford, Spike Island, the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston and firstsite, Colchester, for an innovative engagement programme and national tour of works by Lubaina Himid as well as a survey of the Black Arts Movement in the 1980s. An extensive public engagement programme at each venue will examine race, gender and social justice.
- Lubaina Himid (b. 1954, Zanzibar, Tanzania) lives and works in Preston, Lancashire. She is Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Central Lancashire. Himid studied B.A. Theatre Design Wimbledon Art School, London (1976) and M.A. Cultural History Royal College of Art London (1984). Over the past 30 years she has exhibited widely, both in Britain and internationally, including: Chisenhale Gallery, London; St. Jorgens Museum,

¹ Victoria and Albert Museum: An interview with Lubaina Himid
<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/i/interview-with-lubaina-himid-artist/>

Bergen; Tate Britain, London; Tate St Ives, Cornwall; The Studio Museum, Harlem, New York; Transmission, Glasgow; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester. Himid represented Britain at the 5th Havana Biennale. Forthcoming solo exhibitions include Hollybush Gardens, London; Turner Contemporary, Margate (both 2018.) Himid is represented by Hollybush Gardens, London.

- Himid's work can be found in public collections including Tate, the Victoria & Albert Museum, The Whitworth Art Gallery, Arts Council England, Manchester Art Gallery, The International Slavery Museum Liverpool, The Walker Art Gallery, Birmingham City Art Gallery, Bolton Art Gallery, New Hall Cambridge and the Harris Museum and Art Gallery.
- Recent public lectures include: *Framing the Critical Decade: After the Black Arts Movement*, Faculty of Arts, University of Bristol; *Lubaina Himid study day*, Iniva, London; *Exhibition Histories*, Whitechapel Gallery/Afterall, London (all 2016.)
- Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design. It is a place where artists and the public can meet, enabling audiences to engage with artists' research and production. It also creates pathways for artists and other creative producers by nurturing a rich arts ecology that supports professional development beyond the confines of the organisation.
- Spike Island is a partner of Tate as part of the Plus Tate network.
- Within the 80,000 square foot building, Spike Island offers visitors a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and activities in the central gallery spaces, as well as providing working space for artists, designers and creative businesses.
- The gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12–5pm. Entrance is free.

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