

# WHITSTABLE 2016 BIENNALE

Press Release

## ***The Faraway Nearby*** **Whitstable Biennale 2016** **4 – 12 June 2016**



Whitstable Biennale is delighted to announce *The Faraway Nearby*, the theme for the eighth edition of the coastal contemporary art festival. *The Faraway Nearby* is Georgia O'Keefe's correspondence sign-off measuring physical and psychic geography, and which also inspired Rebecca Solnit's recent book of the same name.

Whitstable Biennale 2016 interprets the words 'faraway nearby' both literally and figuratively in performances, multimedia installations, artists' moving image, feature film premieres, readings, walks and talks. The programme reflects on real and imagined journeys, and concepts of time, place, culture and identity to make the distant local, and transform the known and seemingly familiar.

Whilst the Biennale revolves around contemporary art, the 2016 edition places a specific focus on literature including the following highlights:

- An hour long daily reading from *The Faraway Nearby* by **Rebecca Solnit** including the writer on Skype from San Francisco
- Writers **Olivia Laing** and **Brian Dillon** discuss their recent books, respectively *The Lonely City: Adventures on the Art of Being Alone* (Canongate) and *The Great Explosion: Gunpowder, the Great War, and a Disaster on the Kent Marshes* (Penguin Books)
- Writer **Iain Sinclair**, poet **Simon Smith** and filmmaker **Paul Tickell** celebrate the life and work of Kent writer David Seabrook, and a day-long, continuous shared reading of his singular study of the county, *All the Devils Are Here*
- **Philip Hoare's** *The Sea Inside*, a presentation and discussion with filmmaker Jessica Rinland, with whom the writer is making a new installation work about the whale for *Utopia 2016* at Somerset House this summer
- Writer **Ali Smith** and artist filmmaker Sarah Wood discuss their recent projects in relation to creative concepts of being 'on the edge', and in Whitstable, a place on the edge of both England and Europe
- **David Herd** reading from *Through*, his latest collection of poetry
- Contemporary composer **Matthew Herbert's** new album in the form of a book (a manifesto for sound) is launched at a special acoustic dinner
- Artist Sadie Hennessey hosts *The Faraway Nearby* pub quiz
- Book Club of Books Clubs calls all local book clubs to discuss *The Faraway Nearby*

The full programme for Whitstable Biennale 2016 on [www.whitstablebiennale.com](http://www.whitstablebiennale.com)

Whitstable Biennale is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Also supported by Canterbury City Council, University of Kent, Culture Kent, and Kent County Council.

**For images, interview requests and further information please contact Janette Scott Arts PR on [press@whitstablebiennale.com](mailto:press@whitstablebiennale.com) or [janettescottartspr@gmail.com](mailto:janettescottartspr@gmail.com), or +44(0)7966 486156.**

### **Notes To Editors**

Whitstable Biennale, 4–12 June 2016. Various locations across Whitstable. For further details see below, and [www.whitstablebiennale.com](http://www.whitstablebiennale.com)

On Saturday 4 June, a low cost bus will depart from Bethnal Green in London at 11:00. For further details and to book see [www.whitstablebiennale.com](http://www.whitstablebiennale.com)

### **Listings Information**

#### **Saturday 4 June – Sunday 12 June**

**10:00 every** morning (except Thur 9<sup>th</sup> Fri 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00) **Communal reading of *The Faraway Nearby*** by Rebecca Solnit, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

**14:00-16:00, daily walking tour** of Whitstable Biennale, meet Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

#### **Sunday 5 June**

**19:00-20:30, The Faraway Nearby Pub Quiz** with artist Sadie Hennessy, The New Inn Pub, 30 Woodlawn Street, Whitstable CT5 1HG

#### **Wednesday 8 June**

**18:00–20:00, Book Club of Book Clubs** discusses *The Faraway Nearby* by Rebecca Solnit, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

#### **Thursday 9 June**

**18:00-19:30 Olivia Laing and Brian Dillon** in conversation, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

#### **Saturday 11 June**

**11:00-19:00** (approx depending on reading times), **David Seabrook Reading** a celebration and reading of the entire work, *All the Devils Are Here*. Whitstable Museum Courtyard, 5A Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DB

**11:00-13:00, A Whitstable Story Map** family event, Horsebridge Arts centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

**14:00-15:30 Ali Smith and Sarah Wood** discuss *On the Edge*, Playhouse Theatre, 104 High Street, Whitstable CT5 1AZ

#### **Sunday 12 June**

**11:00–13:00, Story Boppers** family event, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

**16:00, Philip Hoare** discusses *The Sea Inside*, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

**17:00-18:00 David Herd poetry reading**, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

**18:00-22:00 Matthew Herbert**, *Hear what you eat*, Horsebridge Arts Centre, 11 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1AF

**Whitstable Biennale** is a festival of performance, film and sound, taking place every two years on the Kent coast. The festival re-imagines Whitstable, with multi-disciplinary performances and events woven into the town – into the idiosyncratic halls and huts, the galleries and bars, the alleyways and oyster beds, the working harbour and the steep shingle shoreline. The event has grown out of Whitstable’s extensive artistic community, and has developed an international reputation for showcasing the most exciting up-and-coming artists and filmmakers, and engaging audiences in a rich programme. Artists are commissioned to create ambitious and experimental new works, and stage live performances, film screenings, talks, digital works, events and workshops, engaging audiences with the most compelling new work from across the UK and beyond.

