

News announcement

Isaac Julien appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours List



Isaac Julien, 2017
Portrait: Thierry Bal

Artist and filmmaker Isaac Julien has been appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to the Arts in the Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours List.

Isaac Julien is acclaimed for his fluent, arresting films and vibrant, inventive gallery installations. He came to prominence in the film world with his 1989 drama-documentary *Looking for Langston*, a lyrical exploration – and recreation – of the private world of poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist Langston Hughes and his fellow black artists and writers who formed the Harlem Renaissance during the 1920s. Over the past two decades Julien has made work largely, though not exclusively, for galleries and museums, using multi-screen installations to express fractured narratives exploring memory and desire. Julien's major film installations include the seven-screen *PLAYTIME* (2014), which explores the dramatic and nuanced subject of financial capital; *Ten Thousand Waves*, 2010, an exploration of China's ancient past and rapidly transforming present through a series of interlocking narratives; and *Western Union: Small Boats* (2007), for which he was recently awarded the Charles Wollaston Award for most distinguished work at the 2017 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Along with *True North* (2004), and *Fantôme Afrique* (2005), *Western Union: Small Boats* forms a trilogy of works that deal with themes of voyaging

and cultural displacement on both a local and global scale. Earlier audio-visual installations include *Baltimore* (2003), which, in part through the stylisations of black action movies from the 1970s, looks at the histories, divisions and intersections of black and white cultures.

One of the objectives of Julien's work is to break down the barriers that exist between different artistic disciplines, drawing from and commenting on film, dance, photography, music, theatre, painting and sculpture, and uniting them to construct a powerfully visual narrative. Solo exhibitions of his work have been held at MAC Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2016), MUAC (Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo), Mexico City (2016); the De Pont Museum, Netherlands (2015); Museum of Modern Art, New York (2013), Art Institute of Chicago (2013), Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (2012), Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo (2012), Bass Museum, Miami, Florida, USA (2010), Museum Brandhorst, Munich (2009), Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea - Museu do Chiado, Lisbon, Portugal (2008), Kestnergesellschaft Hanover (2006), Pompidou Centre Paris (2005), and MoCA Miami (2005).

He is a Trustee of the Art Fund and Patron of the Stuart Hall Foundation. Born in 1960, Isaac Julien lives and works in London.

Isaac Julien: “*I dream a world*” *Looking for Langston*, an exhibition of newly-conceived, large-scale and silver gelatin photographic works and rare archival material, continues at Victoria Miro, 16 Wharf Road, London N1 7RW until 29 July 2017.

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