

# Running Artfully Network (RAN) Launch 26 February Friday 10:00-17:00 GMT

Film | Poetry | Drawing | Theatre | Provocation | Performance-Lecture | More [#runrunrunart](#) [#runningartfully](#)

The Running Artfully Network (RAN) reframes running as an artistic intervention to unpick our time of multiple global crises. The launch is a new artist-led iteration of RUN! RUN! RUN!. Since 2014, this has helped to widen 'Running Studies' as a creative and more inclusive discourse, away from elite bodyminds and from sport, and which has been covered in Guardian (2014), BBC (2017) and presented the work of 65 runners, artists and academics across 5 venues including a stadium in Cardiff and Paris School of Culture, and formed an 80-member global Running Cultures Research Group. The RAN online launch is part of Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's In Steps of Sundew two-year programme funded by Arts Council England exploring the effects that extracting resources from the landscape has upon its occupants.

## 10.00 - 13.20 GMT: MORNING RUN

### 10.00 - 10.30: PREAMBLES

**Lynn Dennison (London)** is interested in the enormity of nature. Her work has often been presented as video installation, referencing ideas of climate change, particularly pertaining to the possibilities of water overwhelming a domestic scene. *Runners Video* documents runners in the landscape, exploring our anxiety about the surrounding world. [www.lynn dennison.com/](http://www.lynn dennison.com/)

**Kai Syng Tan (Manchester)** is a hyperactive artist, curator, consultant and academic (PhD Slade 2014). She will introduce RAN. Kai is concerned with the body and mind in motion in a world of (com)motion, in a trademark 'eclectic style and cheeky attitude' (Sydney Morning Herald 2006) 'radical interdisciplinarity' (Latham 2017) and 'positive atmosphere' (Guardian 2014) that is 'positively disruptive' (National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement Images Award for Culture Change 2018). She has been commissioned for 900 shows worldwide. Recognition includes San Francisco International Film Festival Golden Gate Award. Collections include Museum of London and Fukuoka Art Museum. She was Visual Director and Communications Director for the £4m Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 8th ASEAN Para Games. Kai is 'absolutely key' (ANTI Festival of Contemporary Art 2015) and 'the person who has done the most' (Filmer 2020) in re-framing running as a creative discourse. The success of her art-psychotherapy commission, #MagicCarpet, led to the founding of the Neurodiversity In/And Creative Research Network which comprises 240 neurodivergent innovators and allies from UK, US, Canada and Australia. She was co-curated for a 4-day festival with 11 academic and creative partners for Black History Month which reached 18.2m worldwide. Kai is Senior Lecturer, Programme Leader and EDI Co-Lead at Manchester School of Art. She is also Peer Review College member of Arts and Humanities Research Council and UK Research & Innovation. She volunteers for 15 other networks in arts, mental health and human rights. [www.kaisyngtan.com/artful](http://www.kaisyngtan.com/artful)

**James Steventon (Northamptonshire)** is an artist, writer, and runner whose artistic practice involves both endurance running and endurance drawing, often making a parallel between the two. As Director of Fermynwoods Contemporary Art, James will discuss the organisation's current In Steps of Sundew programme examining the effects that extracting resources from the landscape has upon its occupants and how artful approaches to endurance running can suggest alternative economic systems and envisage new ways of living and working. | [www.fermynwoods.org](http://www.fermynwoods.org)

### 11.30 - 12.30: BODYMIND + INEQUALITY

**Matti Tainio (Finland)** is a visual artist and researcher, currently working at the University of Turku. At the moment, his work which continues his doctoral research is focused on the connections between art and sport in contemporary culture. His presentation explores the unique experience of running through a snowy landscape wearing home-knitted woolen socks. During the past couple of winters this invention of a few dedicated minimalist runners has become a small-scale phenomenon in Finland.

**David Sidley (West Midlands)** is working to complete a running project focused around displacement of the Anglesey coastal path. His new work comprises of 100 runs that have taken place since 20th January 2020, the completion of his previous work (5000). In the addition to the act of 100 runs, documentation is provided, showing a GPS check-in for each second of every run. <https://www.davidjsidley.com/>

### 10.30-11:30 - MENTAL HEALTH + PLACE + CLIMATE HEALTH

**Kathryn Cooper (Sneinton)** has studied and practiced as an art psychotherapist for a number of years, focusing on forming an art practice in which meaningful contact, art making, the artist and viewer as agents can all exist. She is developing a guided audio run - specifically for Sneinton, where she lives, but which would work equally well for people running in other places. | [kathryncooper.com](http://kathryncooper.com)

**Andrew Filmer (Aberystwyth)** is Senior Lecturer in Theatre and Performance at Aberystwyth University. His research examines performative explorations of endurance running, and sites of encounter between performance and architecture. In his presentation he returns to the climate activist performance Run for Your Life (2015) that he discussed in his recent article 'Endurance Running and Gesture in Contemporary Theatre and Performance (2020), and re-considers it through the lens of Schneider's theory of gesture.

**Fio Adamson (London)** started running again at age 71, not having run since she was 41 - when back ache and parenting had held her back. In her final year of the MFA at Wimbledon College of Art, with the restrictions of lockdown and online university, she knew she had to run again. 5 minutes the first day and 10 the second, then more and more till she got to 50. Not a marathon, even a half, but running.

**Taey lohe (London)** is a new runner and artist based in London and Seoul. She is interested in the cultural spaces occupied by women, migrants, queers as physical, philosophical and linguistic environments. Her presentation explores how running as an embodied experience, and its memory, provoke a heightened awareness of vulnerability and a temporal disturbance, through "writing the self-reflexive self (Reed-Danahay, 1997)" as a feminist method. | [www.taey.com](http://www.taey.com)

Discussion chaired by Kai Syng Tan + Beth Clayton

**Beth Clayton (Falmouth)** is a third year Fine Art student at Falmouth University, working with place, movement, and writing, to open a dialogue about the climate crisis. Her performance lecture discusses injury and the art of not running, drawing from experience as a runner and exploring the exhausted body as an extension of the "plantationocene" (Haraway, 2014). <https://www.bethclayton.net>

**Nik Wakefield (Portsmouth)** is Senior Lecturer in the School of Art, Design and Performance at University of Portsmouth. His research is concerned with theoretical issues of time and ecology in contemporary performance and art practices. *Running Against* explores how running might work as a critical practice of dominant notions of the body as virtuosic agent. In his talk he will for the first time explore the difficulty of the visibility of running as an inable body, as a person who now with treatment is able to run regularly and with pleasure.

Discussion chaired by Matti Tainio



## 12.30 - 13.20: KEYNOTE SPEAKER

'When you run, there is a guerrilla of ideas. Thinking while in motion is thinking in its purest form'.

- Abdelkader Benali (2012 in Tan 2014)

**Abdelkader Benali (Amsterdam)** is 'one of Holland's leading writers' (Guardian 2010). Born in Ighazzazen, Morocco, the multi-award winning author has lived in The Netherlands since he was four. He studied history in Leiden and now lives in Amsterdam. As well as *Wedding by the Sea* and *The Long-Awaited*, Benali has also written the highly-successful theatre plays *The Unlucky One* and *Yasser*, and published the story collection *Reports from Maanzaad Town*. An avid long-distance runner, Abdelkader's personal record is 2:42, achieved at the 2006 Rotterdam Marathon. He also wrote a book about his failed attempt to improve his best result, *Marathonloper* (Marathon Runner 2011). | @abdelkabenali <https://www.abdelkaderbenali.nl/english/>

Kai Syng Tan will lead a conversation with Abdelkader Benali, followed by questions from the audience.

## 14.00 - 17.00 GMT: AFTERNOON RUN

### 14.50-16.10: TECHNOLOGY + PLAY + SOUND

**Dan Simpson (London)** is a writer, performer, producer, and educator based in London. His subjects include science and technology; history and place; art and culture; people and poetry. In a performance lecture he will be presenting some of the running-themed poetry he has written with the backdrop of his runs, along with reflections on their impact on his mental health and use of technology - and wider lessons we might draw from this. | [dansimpsonpoet.co.uk](http://dansimpsonpoet.co.uk)

**Victoria Ohuruogu (London)** explores how play is delineated in specialised areas. Repetition is one of many themes used throughout her work to represent the dichotomy of being a professional track athlete and also a contemporary sculptor. Introducing sculptural play areas within London by local artists serves a dual purpose of providing residents with a clear access to the arts via sculpture and becoming more educated within the arts and what it can offer.

**Kathryn Lawson Hughes (Swansea)** is an independent researcher and associate lecturer in Visual Culture at the University of the West of England. In 'Running in Rome: A Bio.Digi-Rhythmic Soundscape' the researcher's digitally-mediated running body is re-materialized as a data-process in flux, through the empirical and sensorial materiality of a sound 'data-stream'.

**Chris Wright (East Midlands)** is concerned with borders and marginal spaces where there is a transition from one thing to another creating cross-cultural, political, social and environmental currents that signify change and highlight the relationship to time and space. He will be presenting a sound poem, *Note*, that brings together occurrences on his running route. | [chriswright.co.uk](http://chriswright.co.uk)

**Sharon Wilson (Newcastle)** is a practising multi-disciplinary artist. Her work seeks to explore regional identities, critical heritage, cultural-urban generation, psycho-geographies and tourism as a geo-political space. She will be presenting her findings from a two-week period, allowing artworks and academic writings to evolve as interpretations of the daily 24-minute repeated route. | <https://www.axisweb.org/p/sharonwilson/#info>

Discussion chaired by James Steventon

## 14.00 - 14.50: PLACE + INEQUALITY

**Gongle (Montreuil)** presents a short film made by the artist Nil Dinç during the first Covid-19 lockdown in Seine-Saint-Denis. Nil Dinç co-founded the GONGLE group in 2006 to rethink the functions and methods of theatre making, the aim being to make it a space for confrontation and dialogue around activities, creations and aspirations of the different players in our society. Her approach takes the form of theatrical creations that are written collectively. [gongle.fr/le-groupe/](http://gongle.fr/le-groupe/)

**Véronique Chance (London & Cambridge)** is an artist, Senior Lecturer and Course Leader of the MA Fine Art and MA Printmaking at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. She has an interest in the representation of the body and its relationship to performance, documentation, technology and spectatorship. Having developed an endurance running-based practice, she has been actively involved with the RUN! RUN! RUN! Biennale since 2014. She will introduce her approach to the performative aspect of running through a framework that reconsiders relationships between liveness, recording and representation. | [www.veroniquechance.com](http://www.veroniquechance.com) <https://aru.ac.uk/arts-humanities-and-social-sciences/cambridge-school-of-art/research/fine-art-research-unit/members>

**Natalie Pace (Suffolk & Cambridgeshire)** is a curator based in the East of England drawn to work that is site-responsive, performative and collaborative. Her interests include public space, health, the coast, the concept of 'flow' and running as an artistic or curatorial practice. 'Relay' is an action-research project currently comprising a completed durational run and the basis of an open-source research sharing platform. | [nataliepace.co.uk](http://nataliepace.co.uk)

**Manjeet Mann (Folkestone)** is an actress, theatre maker, writer, personal trainer and founder of Run The World, a not-for-profit organisation which uses running and theatre to help empower women and girls with a strong focus on marginalised backgrounds. Exercise sessions are followed by theatre sessions where women and girls work together to co-create a theatre piece with, for and by them on any subject they choose. | [runtheworld.org.uk](http://runtheworld.org.uk)

Discussion chaired by Véronique Chance

## 16:10-17:00 TOWARDS A MORE CREATIVE+ EQUITABLE FUTURE?

Discussion

+

RAN Inaugural Awards ceremony

Book [here](#). Check updates [here](#). Watch on [Youtube](#) after the event. Enquiries: [veronique.chance@aru.ac.uk](mailto:veronique.chance@aru.ac.uk)

RAN Curatorial committee: Kai Syng Tan, Véronique Chance, James Steventon, Matti Tainio, Elisa Herrera Altamirano, Beth Clayton, Lisa Stansbie.



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