



01 – 11 June 2021

## ABBAS ZAHEDI: 11&1

Friday 4th June, 11:01am:  
Lecture Performance & Book Presentation  
on the occasion of London Gallery Weekend

**Welcomed with sound, 11&1 is an open invitation to congregate, to drop in, to breathe. For 11 days the galley's space will be transformed, given new atmospheric *hapticality*, in celebration of Abbas Zahedi's first artists' publication and solo exhibition with Belmacz.**

Abbas Zahedi works with and through space: that "continuous area or expanse which is free, available, or unoccupied." Derived from the Latin (Proto-Indo-European) *spatium* "to stretch, to pull", Zahedi bends space, expanding what is seemingly known, in order to allow something a/effective to happen.

Following Zahedi's recent solo exhibitions *How To Make A How From A Why?* (South London Gallery, 2020) and *Ouranophobia SW3* (2020 – 21), 11&1 can be seen as a formative point of becoming in Zahedi's exhibitionary praxis. As a moment of theory-informed action, the exhibition weaves together the mathematical formula 'completing the square' (a formula one

can use to solve any quadratic equation) and postmodern logics that counter metanarratives of 'common sense' linearity; Deleuzian thought in particular.

Morethan (>) elongating and entwining these seemingly un-assimilative discourses through some 'Altermodern' mannerism,<sup>1</sup> Zahedi fabricates an architectonic encounter that reworks the tissues of these academic corpora. With a site specific sound piece at its heart, 11&1 is given form through custom made macramé hangings and comfortable seating. These sensorial adornments greet viewers, welcoming them as extra-agents rather than subtracted coefficients. In other words, subjective bodies are welcomed into 11&1, adding to both sides of Zahedi's incongruent conceptual equation, not only producing but allowing *différance*.<sup>2</sup>

As a gesture of reciprocity, visitors will be able to deflate (in) the gallery, with 11&1 becoming a calm, introspective environment, and offshoot of Sonic Support Group — a project co-created by Zahedi and Neurofrindge.<sup>3</sup> Building upon Zahedi's recent projects, and conceptual inquiries, this act expands the exhibition space, providing a moment of respite and remediation to visitors, and indeed the gallery system.

This pivotal exhibitionary moment sits around the launch of Zahedi's first artists' publication *semi rational records of artchievement*. Developed by the artist with reference to some of the theoretical mass grounding 11&1, the publication acts as a spine from which one can branch and renew.

1. See Nicolas Bourriaud (2009) *The Radicant*. New York: Lukas & Sternberg.
2. See Jacques Derrida (c.2001) *Writing and Difference*: Routledge; 2nd edition. London: Routledge.
3. A group of Neurologists, based at Imperial College and NHS Foundation Trust, who explore the intersections of art, society and neuroscience. <https://neurofringe.org/2021/01/13/sonicssupportgroup/>

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**Abbas Zahedi** (b. 1984, London) studied medicine at University College London, before completing his MA in Contemporary Photography: Practices and Philosophies at Central Saint Martins in 2019. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including: Thinking Time, Artangel (2020); Jerwood Arts Bursary (2019); Aziz Foundation Academic Scholarship (2018); and Khadijah Saye Memorial Fund Scholarship (2017). Recent exhibitions include: *Ouranophobia SW3* (2021); *Brent Biennial* (2020), London; *How To Make A How From A Why?* (2020), South London Gallery, London; *In Hindsight...* (2020), Bladr, Copenhagen; B (2019) Belmacz, London; *Degree Show* (2019) Central Saint Martins, London; *The Age of New Babylon* (2019) Lethaby Gallery, London; *Diaspora Pavilion* (2018), Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Wolverhampton; *Pressure Makes Diamonds* (2018), Rich Mix, London; *appetite* (2018), Apiary Studios, London; *Diaspora Pavilion* (2017), Venice Biennale, Venice; *rb&hArts* (2008), Royal Brompton Hospital, London.

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Belmacz is carefully monitoring government guidelines regarding coronavirus safety measures. At present it is expected that access to the exhibition will be limited to six people at any one time with booking ahead suggested.