

Press release: August 2016

Cherophobia by Noëmi Lakmaier

7 - 9 September 2016, starting at 12pm GMT

St Leonard Church, Shoreditch High St, London E1 6JN

www.facebook.com/cherophobia2016 | [@cherophobia2016](https://twitter.com/cherophobia2016)

Cherophobia is a 48-hour durational living installation by Noëmi Lakmaier. It is an attempt to lift the artist's bound and immobilised body off the ground using 20,000 helium party balloons.

Cherophobia is a performance and a gathering, a one-off event that intertwines people in their shared suspense and anticipation. It takes its title from a psychiatric condition, defined as 'an exaggerated or irrational fear of gaiety or happiness'.

□Commissioned by Unlimited, a festival celebrating extraordinary new works by disabled and Deaf artists, *Cherophobia* invites viewers to observe as balloons are inflated and attached by a team of assistants, as Lakmaier is suspended in the air. The performance will be broadcast live from St Leonard's Shoreditch church in London to the Southbank Centre and venues across the UK and internationally.

Originating from her own experience of disabled self, Noëmi Lakmaier's live and site-responsive practice explores notions of the 'other', ranging from the physical to the philosophical, the personal to the political.

□Using everyday materials and her own body, she constructs temporary living installations – alternative physical realities through which she explores the psychological implications of power, control and insecurity, the drive to belong and succeed, as well as feelings of self-doubt and otherness.

□Noëmi has performed and exhibited widely in the UK and internationally. She lives and works in London.

Supporters: Michael Wüst, world-renowned rope suspension expert and the Live Art Development Agency.

Listings information:

Cherophobia by Noëmi Lakmaier is a 48-hour durational living installation, in which the artist's bound and immobilised body will be lifted by 20,000 helium balloons. One-off durational live art event in London, also available as 48 hour live streaming.

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Noëmi Lakmaier's work explores notions of the 'Other' ranging from the physical to the philosophical, the personal to the political. The individual's relationship to its surroundings, identity, and perception of self and other in contemporary society are core interests in her predominantly site-responsive, live and installation-based practice.

□□Lakmaier's work aims to emphasize and exaggerate the relationship between object, individual and space. Through the use of everyday materials as well as her own body and the bodies of others, she constructs temporary living installations - alternative physical realities - exploring the psychological implications of power, control and insecurity, the drive to belong and succeed as well as feelings of self-doubt and otherness. □□

She is interested in the presence of the viewer as voyeur and how this presence can act as the catalyst that galvanizes an event and creates a tension and a divide between 'Them' – the passive observer - and the 'Other' – the objects of their gaze.

Unlimited Festival London | 6-9 September 2016 | www.weareunlimited.org.uk

Unlimited – celebrates the artistic vision and originality of disabled and Deaf artists, showcasing theatre, dance, music, literature, comedy and visual arts. The festival aims to embed works by disabled artists within the cultural sector, shift perceptions of disabled people and reach new audiences across the country to national and international delegates.

Delivered by Shape Arts and Artsadmin, Unlimited is a biennial festivals in London's Southbank Centre and Glasgow's Tramway. It is funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales and Creative Scotland. The British Council and Arts Council England funds Unlimited International.

St Leonard Church, Shoreditch High St, London E1 6JN | 020 7739 2063

St Leonard's Shoreditch church is a london-famous art and performance venue as well as an active CoE church, serving the highly diverse East London community. Known as the actor's church, its crypt is home to the remains of the founders of the first English theatre, the Globe theatre, and the first actor to play Macbeth, Hamlet, Richard 3rd, Othello and Romeo.

UNLIMITED   **ARTS ADMIN.**  **SOUTHBANK CENTRE**



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