

Free information sheet, please take one

Care | Contagion | Community – Self & Other

12 April to 9 July 2022

Mohini Chandra, Poulomi Desai, Joy Gregory, Othello De'Souza-Hartley, Sonal Kantaria, Ope Lori, Dexter McLean, Karl Ohiri, Silvia Rosi, and Aida Silvestri

As we face the emotional, physical, economic, psychosocial and other consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, and consider new ways of being in this time of global crisis, the notion of community and care is more pertinent than ever.

Autograph states “Located as the symbolic bond between ‘care’ and ‘community’, the word ‘contagion’ – its original meaning being ‘together’, and ‘to touch’ – evokes images of close contact, as well as ideas of potential exposure and transmission. What are the new implications of touch, of close relationships between the self and the other, or the lack thereof in a time of isolation and separation? How might we be better together as a community in the future? How to protect those who risk their lives in their commitment to care for others, working on multiple frontlines? What kinds of support structures might we need, to help us navigate such unprecedented times, both collectively and individually?”

Initiated during the first national lockdown in spring 2020, *Care | Contagion | Community – Self & Other* presents the work of ten artists, commissioned by Autograph to create new work responding to the wider contexts of Covid-19. Using photography and video, the artists reflect both carefully and critically – and often very personally – on the impact of the pandemic, exploring ideas of loss, family, home, belonging and diaspora, while considering different lived experiences, and the inevitability of change.

Collectively, the diverse range of interdisciplinary artworks created constitute thoughtful reflections on changing conditions of existence: generous invitations to contemplate what it means to be human, and how we might care for one another.

To contextualise the new commissions, Autograph invited ten writers – poets, scholars, curators - to produce a short essay in response. Excerpts from these texts are reproduced on the exhibition walls.

***Care | Contagion | Community – Self & Other* is an Autograph touring exhibition curated by Renée Mussai, Mark Sealy and Bindi Vora.**

To find out more browse our reading area, or watch the 19 minute film in the foyer opposite the Welcome Desk.

Publication: A new anthology published by Autograph to accompany the exhibition, featuring all 10 artist commissions, and 22 texts including essays by the invited writers and a series of interviews with each artist discussing their practice. Available in person from the gallery bookshop for the special exhibition price of £20 (RRP £30).

Autograph's commissions support emerging and established artists in the creation of new works.

autograph.org.uk/commissions

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