



FRANKO B

I'M HERE

Pioneering performance artist Franko B presents the UK tour of his new work *I'm Here*, commencing July 2021. Using innovative body mapping techniques, in collaboration with Anthony Martin from *a/political*, Franko B revisits his seminal bloodletting works for the first time in the artist's practice. Each cut challenging the audience to confront their own history, a global history of war, abandonment, homophobia, freedom, displacement, famine and sex.

Starting out performing at fetish nights in London's underground club scene, at the height of the AIDS epidemic, Franko B used bodily fluids to confront the audience with the ongoing reality of the virus. By the mid-90s, Franko B had begun performing in world class institutions such as the ICA, the Arnolfini, South London Gallery and Tate Modern, attracting both applause and criticism for his radical approach.

In *I'm Here*, present but disembodied, Franko B provides a portrait of our failing society. As the artist bleeds for a world that is hemorrhaging to death, pain and nostalgia emit to expose how Franko B became who he is amongst all of the shit.

"Everyday I'm trying to make sense of my extended time here. The past is part of our present. It never left us but is evolving rather than repeating; it is continuing to allow us to make the same mistakes. I believe this is valid for both the personal and the political. I'm Here is trying to express these two connected worlds. It doesn't revisit the past romantically or melancholically in the context of our political and social histories but questions and reinterprets it." - Franko B

TOUR DATES

- Globe Gallery in Collaboration with The Department of Media, Culture, Heritage at Newcastle University: 2nd July 2021
- Swiss Church: 9th September 2021
- Arnolfini: 2nd October 2021
- Norwich Arts Centre: 21st October 2021
- Colchester Arts Centre: 10th November 2021
- Decentraland Performance - Date TBC 2021

NOTES TO EDITORS

FRANKO B

Born in Milan, Italy, 1960. Franko B moved to London in 1979 integrating into the anarcho-punk scene. He began performing in nightclubs, including the legendary fetish night FIST and, by way of his blood performances, was later responsible for bringing subversive body art into the leading art institutions including ICA, Tate Modern, and Arnolofini. A pioneering artist, Franko B uses his body as a tool to explore the themes of the personal, political, poetic, resistance, suffering and the reminder of our own mortality. Trawling the media everyday, his body of work responds to contemporary politics through the lens of the vulnerable individual. His practice spans curating, drawing, installation, performance and sculpture.

ANTHONY MARTIN

After graduating in Engineering and Graphic Design, Anthony Martin created his design studio in 2005. In 2009, he became the assistant of contemporary artist Andrei Molodkin, working alongside him on the development of the experimental art space The Foundry, built from a 19th century metal foundry in Midi-Pyrénées, France. He has also worked on the production and graphic design for projects with renowned artists including Santiago Sierra, Andres Serrano and Erik Bulatov. In 2017, Anthony Martin integrated into the non-profit art organisation a/political as Production and Design Manager, affirming his visual signature, conceiving and producing large-scale industrial sculptures, paintings and installations worldwide.

I'M HERE WILL TOUR THE UK

More information visit:

<http://here.franko-b.com/>

Selected performances will also be live-streamed.

I'm Here is a collaboration with a/political and supported using public funding by Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant

For press & tour related enquiries please contact george@a-political.org

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