

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **JERWOOD/FVU AWARDS ANNOUNCES 2022 RECIPIENTS: SOOJIN CHANG & MICHAEL.**

**CELEBRATING A DECADE OF CHAMPIONING  
EARLY-CAREER MOVING-IMAGE ARTISTS**



**Jerwood Space, London, 7<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022, Admission Free**

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March – **Jerwood/FVU Awards** today continues its ten-year programme of enabling early-career moving-image artists to bring their work to ever-wider audiences, with the announcement that the 2022 recipients are **Soojin Chang** and **Michael**. Both artists have been commissioned by the **Jerwood/FVU Awards** to develop and showcase two ambitious, large-scale projects.

The 2022 **Jerwood/FVU Awards** recipient artists **Soojin Chang** and **Michael**. have taken an exciting and challenging approach to ideas of difference and inclusion. In Soojin Chang's case, **BXBY** is a radical, semi-fictional work which explores the fusion of interspecies life and Michael's installation **cleave to the Black** depicts through a moving-image triptych, the continuing legacy of Black male experience.

**Soojin Chang** – **BXBY** is a year-long performance project that merges forms of semi-fictional documentary and ritual practice, following Chang as a hybrid, shape-shifting being trying to learn to reproduce. Drawing from chimeric figures within creation stories of the British Isles and the diasporic cultures of Chang and her collaborators (Choulay Mech, Jade O'belle, Anika Ahuja, and Aditya Surya Taruna a.k.a Kasimyn), Chang positions her own hybrid body – part animal, part woman, part alien – as a site of technological interaction and as a locus of ongoing experiment. Sampling diverse scientific methods such as IVF, biohacking, and voluntary self-touch, **BXBY** addresses the legacy of colonial science to open out into wider affirmation of queer, interspecies kinship and reliance. From this position, **BXBY** aims to spur a purposeful discussion on notions of sacrifice, animality, objecthood and in/visibility; looking in particular to animist techniques of embodying and remembering. *Content note: BXBY contains graphic reproductive content, direct reference to terminated pregnancy and imagery of the culling and dissection of a deer.*

**Michael.- *cleave to the Black*** - echoes the art-historical tradition of the painter triptych in a three-screen video projection that offers a panoramic perspective on the legacies of the past that continue to leave an indelible mark on contemporary Black male experience. Alluding to episodes from the Bible and stories from African folklore and cosmology, the piece brings a subtle overtone of parable and myth to its carefully composed and quietly haunting scenes. Looping sequences of a procession of figures slowly climbing an outdoor staircase in a regulation council block are contrasted with a tableau of those figures sleeping (at nightly peace or at final rest). In between is a third screen depicting an arcadian landscape – a memory of a time long gone or a glimmer of better things to come? Far from a vision of utopia or a fantasy of paradise, it feels more like a space that is being reimagined and remade, from the bottom up. Moving through a series of gradually unfolding transitions, in its deliberate, meditative pace, the piece celebrates slowness as a precondition of recovery and care and also as a lens through which the movements of the Black body attain a distinctive state of poise and grace. Made in close dialogue with a group of Black men from different London communities, *cleave to the Black* is a work of authentic, personal expression and evocative, atmospheric poetry.

These projects coincide with the launch of an exciting new partnership with **Leeds Art Gallery** during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the prestigious awards. There is a planned second presentation in Leeds in Autumn 2022 in partnership with Leeds Art Gallery, details of which will be announced in due course.

The **Jerwood/FVU Awards** is a prestigious commissioning scheme that has supported early-career moving-image artists since 2012. The awards have established an esteemed role in the contemporary visual arts, by awarding £25,000 for exceptional artists to develop significant new artworks at a pivotal moment in their practice. Selection of the awards is made by a panel of experts, including award-winning visual artists **Hetai Patel** and **Rehana Zaman**. Past winners have included contemporary artists **Ed Atkins** (awarded 2012), who has since shown internationally and at Tate Britain and Serpentine Gallery, **Marianna Simnett** (awarded 2014), who has been selected at this year's Venice Biennale, and **Lawrence Lek** (awarded 2017), named Grand Prix Winner of Hyundai's 4th VH Award in 2021.

**Lilli Geissendorfer, Director of Jerwood Arts** said: *"We are delighted to announce Soojin Chang and Michael. as recipients of the Jerwood/FVU Awards 2022. The awards support exceptional artistic voices to create new works using moving-image, often exploring challenging and timely subjects. Through the awards, we are committed to enabling new artistic voices to create ambitious works on their terms, with substantial curatorial and production support. We are excited to premiere Soojin and Michael.'s films at Jerwood Space in Southwark and to work with our new partners at Leeds Art Gallery to share them with audiences in Yorkshire in Autumn 2022, deepening our engagement with artist filmmakers across the UK.*

**Steven Bode, Director of FVU** said: *"The Jerwood/FVU Awards have always aspired to be bold – in the platform they create for new, emerging talents and in the licence they give for artists to respond to contemporary subjects and themes. This year's commissions by Soojin Chang and Michael. are no exception: works that are powerfully of the moment, and which draw upon the past to urge us to think ahead and imagine a different future. It has been a pleasure to collaborate once again with*

*Jerwood Arts and our new partner Leeds Art Gallery on this key initiative, which now marks its tenth year.”*

**Yvonne Hardman, Head of Collections and Programmes at Leeds Art Gallery** added: *“We are thrilled to commence a new three-way partnership with the prestigious Jerwood/FVU Awards. We look forward to showcasing Soojin Chang and Michael., two incredibly innovative and ground-breaking artists and open up opportunities to support moving-image artists in the local region.”*

Jerwood/FVU Awards 2022 is a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Film and Video Umbrella in partnership with Leeds Art Gallery. Film and Video Umbrella and Leeds Art Gallery are supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

More info on the Jerwood/FVU Awards: <https://www.jerwoodfvuawards.com/>

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## LISTINGS INFORMATION

### Jerwood Space: Jerwood/FVU Awards 2022

**Date:** 7 May – 23 July 2022

**Admission:** Free

**Address:** Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN

**Opening Times:** Wednesday – Friday, 12pm – 6pm, Saturday, 11am – 5pm

**Nearest Tube:** Southwark, London Bridge or Borough

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**For images please view and download via Dropbox:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kjwl2q8nmlbrr7l/AACgXmbaye7JqLk4Y7GG\\_tka?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kjwl2q8nmlbrr7l/AACgXmbaye7JqLk4Y7GG_tka?dl=0)

**For further information on the Jerwood/FVU Awards:** [www.jerwoodfvuawards.com](http://www.jerwoodfvuawards.com), [www.jerwoodarts.org](http://www.jerwoodarts.org), [www.fvu.co.uk](http://www.fvu.co.uk)

**For social media:** #JerwoodFVUawards @JerwoodArts @FilmVidUmbrella @LeedsArtGallery

### Artist's Biographies:

Michael. (*pronouns he/him*) is a Black British artist-filmmaker and community worker. Born and based in London, UK. His work explores the poetics of blackness and being. Michael. was formerly known as Michael McLeod and has since dropped his surname due to its historic colonial context.

Soojin Chang (*pronouns she/they interchangeable*) is a Korean-American performance artist, filmmaker, ritual practitioner, and researcher. Chang's practice negotiates contemporary ethics, colonial inheritance, and interspecies reliance through animist methodology. Current and recent interventions include: *Dog Eggs* at Asia Culture Centre, Gwangju (2022); *a heifer would be needed for the sacrifice* at Tramway for Take Me Somewhere (2021); *State of Possession* at ICA London and CCA Glasgow (2019); *Death Ritual* at Sa Sa Art Projects, Phnom Penh (2019); and *Hair Eggs* at MoMA PS1 (2018).

### Notes to Editors:

**About FVU:** Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates and produces artists' moving-image works, and presents them in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners across the UK. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of the vibrant and expanding area of moving-image practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced more than 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to short film and video pieces, as well as online commissions. [fvu.co.uk](http://fvu.co.uk)

**About Jerwood Arts:** Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, bursaries, fellowships, projects, programmes and commissions. We are committed to supporting artistic freedom of expression and being as inclusive as possible across all our work. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together through our exhibitions and events at Jerwood Space, London, as well as across the UK and online. [jerwoodarts.org](http://jerwoodarts.org)

**About Leeds Art Gallery:** Founded in 1888, Leeds Art Gallery has strong collections of 19th and 20th century British painting and sculpture, widely considered to be one of the best outside national collections. With half a million visitors every year, it is one of the city's most visited attractions and is free to visitors. Alongside an extensive painting and sculpture collection, the gallery holds a significant collection of moving-image work by artists: Suzanne Lacy, Hilary Lloyd, Bruce McLean, Rosalind Nashashibi, Martine Syms, and Mark Wallinger amongst others. To accompany the collection Leeds Art Gallery presents a dynamic and diverse programme comprising exhibitions, commissions, acquisitions and projects by artists whose work is globally significant and locally relevant. In recent years, Leeds Art Gallery has launched British Art Show 8, established Yorkshire Sculpture International and has co-commissioned major new moving-image works by Shezad Dawood and Georgina Starr <https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/leeds-art-gallery>

**Artists selected for the Jerwood/FVU Awards to date:**

[2020: \*Hindsight\*. Commissions: Guy Oliver and Reman Sadani](#)

[2019: \*Going, Gone\*. Commissions: Webb-Ellis and Richard Whitby](#)

[2018: \*Unintended Consequences\*. Commissions: Maeve Brennan and Imran Perretta](#)

[2017: \*Neither One Thing or Another\*. Commissions: Patrick Hough and Lawrence Lek](#)

[2016: \*Borrowed Time\*. Commissions: Karen Kramer and Alice May Williams](#)

[2014-15: \*What Will They See of Me?\*. Commissions: Lucy Clout and Marianna Simnett. Shortlist: Kate Cooper and Anne Haaning](#)

[2012-13: \*Tomorrow Never Knows\*. Commissions: Ed Atkins and Naheed Raza., Shortlist: Emma Hart and Corin Sworn](#)