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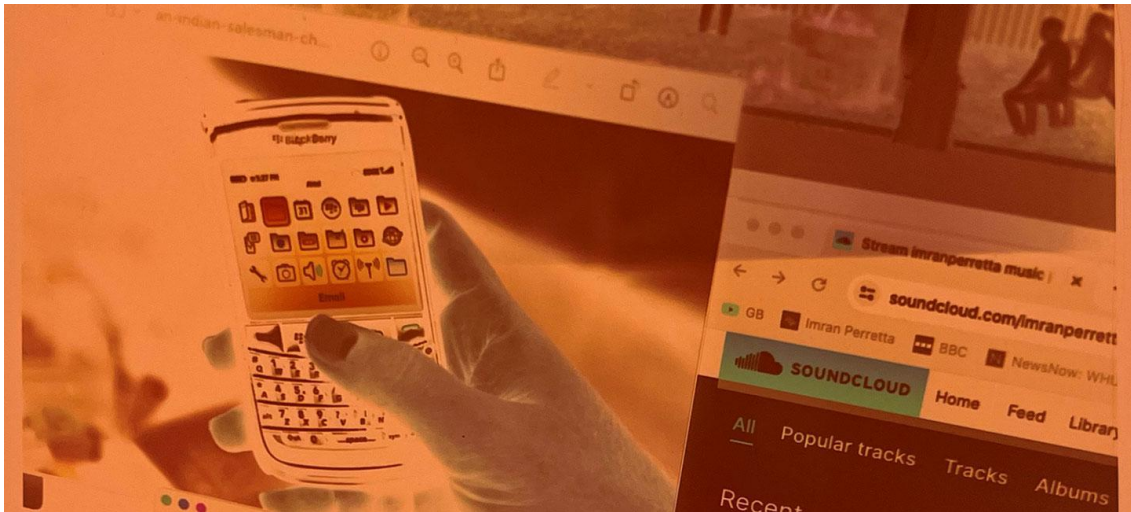
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Imran Perretta: A Riot in Three Acts



Sat 22 Feb – Sun 8 Jun

Press preview on Fri 21 Feb, 1-4pm

Guest preview on Fri 21 Feb, 6-9pm

**A Requiem for the Dispossessed: Manchester Camerata Quartet Live on Fri 28 Feb
and Wed 9 Apr**

HOME is delighted to announce its forthcoming exhibition *A Riot in Three Acts* by artist, filmmaker and composer **Imran Perretta**. The work uses sound, sculpture and performance to reflect on the narratives of our urban spaces and the social inequality and racial violence that shape them.

A Riot in Three Acts is a large-scale installation using the tropes and techniques of cinema, in the form of an expansive film set and cinematic score, to consider riots and civil uprisings that have occurred in response to systemic injustice experienced by marginalised communities. The exhibition provides a stage for the complex narratives that accompany such collective actions directed against the state, often spurred by racist policing, social deprivation, youth disenfranchisement and anti-war sentiment.

Originally commissioned by and developed in residence at Somerset House Studios in London, the work evolves from Perretta's experience as a young person during the UK riots in 2011. Initially a response to police violence in London, the riots became a national uprising brought on by an age of endless austerity, quickly spreading to Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham and beyond.

A Riot in Three Acts opens with Perretta's old Blackberry handset on which he received broadcast messages during the early days of the riots; the now-defunct Blackberry Messenger (BBM) platform was a key communication tool as one of the first end-to-end encrypted messaging services. The burning imagery of a furniture shop at Reeves Corner in Croydon

presented on the handset is emblematic of the five days of civil uprising in cities across the country, following the shooting of Mark Duggan, an unarmed Black man, by police in Tottenham on 4 August 2011.

The film set, consisting of a painted scenic backdrop and props replicates Reeves Corner as it exists today — a fenced-off area of disused scrubland. The site remains a piece of highly contested land, representing at once a memorial ground to a historic family business, a haunting reminder of a community's righteous anger, and the death of a dream for change and the end of austerity. After a decade of socioeconomic turmoil and the systematic erosion of public space and resources, it sits as one of many examples of a privately owned, suburban wasteland, forever awaiting (re)development, itself now an unofficial point of congregation for local people, a neglected location that could be in any UK city.

Central to *A Riot in Three Acts* is a newly commissioned score, *A Requiem for the Dispossessed*, composed by Perretta, arranged by William Newell and co-commissioned and performed by **Manchester Camerata**. Drawing on the classical tradition of the requiem, a musical composition honouring the dead, the score serves as a sonic representation of a civil uprising and its aftermath, questioning who controls the narrative around how these actions are interpreted. Presented in spatialised surround sound by producers and fellow **Somerset House Studios residents Call and Response**, the installation mirrors the experience of cinema sound, with the audience physically located at the centre of the action.

To coincide with the original presentation of the work at Somerset House Studios, Perretta hosted an episode of the Somerset House podcast series 'The Process'. In it, he sat down with artists and historians to find out what one patch of scrubland in Croydon can tell us about the legacy of social unrest in Britain, and how we memorialise dissent. Available via **Channel** - <https://channel.somersethouse.org.uk/podcasts/process>.

Perretta's recent accolades include a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Artist Award and a Turner Prize bursary, his work has been exhibited globally from Vienna to LA.

For more information on our upcoming exhibition by Imran Perretta, **A Riot in Three Acts**, please visit homemcr.org

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For additional information, please contact Communications & Content Manager, Charlotte Hazell on charlotte.hazell@homemcr.org

Listings:

Imran Perretta: *A Riot in Three Acts*

Exhibition dates: Sat 22 Feb – Sun 8 Jun

Press preview: Fri 21 Feb, 1-4pm

Guest preview: Fri 21 Feb, 6-9pm

A Requiem for the Dispossessed: Manchester Camerata Quartet Live: Fri 28 Feb and Wed 9 Apr

A Riot in Three Acts was originally presented at Somerset House Studios and curated by Rahila Haque from Fri 27 Sep – Sun 10 Nov 2024.

A Riot in Three Acts (2024) was commissioned by and developed in residence at Somerset House Studios and curated by Rahila Haque. *A Requiem for the Dispossessed* (2024) was co-commissioned by Somerset House Studios and the Manchester Camerata, by arrangement with NEWFORM MUSIC.

High-resolution images: [here](#)

Imran Perretta Biography

Questions around power and identity formation underpin Perretta's work in a post-9/11 world marked by austerity, state-sponsored Islamophobia, and the War on Terror. Recent exhibitions, screenings and performances include tears of the fatherland, Secession, Vienna (2024), The Condition of Being Addressable, ICA LA (2022), SUROOR for CTM Festival, Berlin and White-chapel Gallery, London (2022), the destructors, Spike Island, Bristol, Chisenhale Gallery, London, the Whitworth, Manchester and BALTIC, Gateshead (2020-21) and Rotterdam International Film Festival; AMRA (in collaboration with Paul Purgas) for Art Night London, (2020-21). Imran was a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Artist Award in 2023 and was named a Turner Prize Bursary recipient in 2020.

[Website](#)

ABOUT SOMERSET HOUSE STUDIOS

Somerset House Studios is a space for experimentation in the centre of London connecting artists, makers and thinkers with audiences. The Studios supports artists across disciplines to push bold ideas, engage with urgent issues and experiment with new technologies.

At the heart of Somerset House, the Home of Cultural Innovators, up to 70 artists are resident at any one time for a period of between one and seven years, with a number of shorter-term national and international residency programmes running alongside this throughout the year.

In addition to its rolling year-round programme, the Studios develops ambitious cross disciplinary projects and creative collaborations, and powers Channel, Somerset House's new online space for art, ideas and the artistic process.

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#)

ABOUT MANCHESTER CAMERATA

Manchester Camerata is the UK's most relentlessly pioneering orchestra, constantly paving the way of what a 21st century orchestra should be. Led by its visionary Music Director, Gábor Takács-Nagy, and its artistic partners, Manchester Camerata has toured internationally, performing in the world's most iconic concert venues with the greatest artists in classical music.

Based at the Monastery in Gorton, Manchester, the Camerata sees a vibrant and exciting future for classical music, investing in the next generation of musicians in the north with its Camerata 360° Ruth Sutton Fellowship programme.

Manchester Camerata believes that music has the power to change the lives of people and transform the prospects of places. Find out more at manchestercamerata.co.uk/about-us

HOME

HOME is Manchester's premier arts centre and a registered charity, welcoming over 4 million visitors since opening. HOME features two theatres, five cinemas, an art gallery, and a popular restaurant. HOME collaborates with artists from both the UK and around the world to produce and present exceptional visual art, cinema, and theatre experiences. Placing a strong focus on UK theatre, international works, new commissions, and artist development, HOME is deeply rooted in the community, pushing creative boundaries, embracing experimentation, and sharing bold, exciting art with as wide an audience as possible. Our patrons include director Danny Boyle, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, and artist Rosa Barba.

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