Carolyn Lazard Large Print Exhibition Notes

Carolyn Lazard

*Long Take*
11 February - 7 May 2023

Through art and writing, Carolyn Lazard (b.1987) explores the social and aesthetic dimensions of care. Their work unfolds in radically different ways, questioning how dominant forms of artmaking and working value efficiency and ability
over life itself. Lazard’s practice is rooted in accessibility, centring dependency and incapacity as a site of abundance and collectivity.

For their first UK solo exhibition, Lazard presents *Long Take*, an installation that responds to the legacy of dance for the camera, a type of choreography for film and video that emerged in the 1960s.
This experimental art form questioned not only where a performance occurs but also how an audience might experience it. *Long Take* considers this legacy through the lens of accessibility as a creative tool.

The exhibition is anchored by *Leans, Reverses* (2022), a sound installation made of a recorded reading of a dance score, the sound of a dancer’s movement and breath, and an audio description. Audio description is a form of narration that describes the visual elements of an event, a performance, or a film for blind and partially-sighted audiences. Lazard gave a recorded reading of an original dance score—prompts for sequences

of movements—to collaborator and dancer Jerron Herman, and recorded
his performance. The performance was then audio described in collaboration with poet and artist Joselia Rebekah Hughes. The interdependent score, audio description and captioned sounds can be heard through speakers and read across three separate monitors.

Intentionally blurring the boundaries between instruction, description and translation, *Leans, Reverses* asks us to consider where, and in what form an artwork resides. In replacing the camera with microphones it creates a sensorial blur of sound, vibration, breath, touch, and memory that doesn’t replace the visual but questions sight as a primary means of aesthetic experience.

The exhibition is experienced within a staged black box gallery and includes
the architectural intervention *Surround Sound* (2022)—vinyl floor mats, like those typically found in dance studios, cover the entire gallery floor and retain the marks of visitors’ shoes, assistive devices, and pushchairs. *Institutional Seat 5–8* (2023) is also part of this installation— four standard Nottingham Contemporary gallery benches that Lazard has altered with cushioning, backrests, and height adjustments. In doing so, the benches become more suitable for longer stays and more welcoming for visitors with varying access needs.

*Long Take* positions care as a collective concern rather than an individual
one, it encourages us to think about the often-unseen networks of care, labour, and friendship that make collaboration possible.

The exhibition’s interpretative texts
are available in Unified English Braille (UEB), Arabic, Polish, Urdu, Easy Read
and Large Print. A range of resources
to help families, neurodivergent, and disabled visitors explore and experiences some of the ideas in the exhibition are also available. Following the exhibition’s opening, an audio description of the gallery experience will be available in text, digital braille (BRF) and audio formats.

All are available on Nottingham Contemporary’s website.

**RELATED EVENTS**

**Exhibition Walkthroughs**

**Wed 15 February, 12pm**

Welcome walkthrough
Explore the exhibition with our team and join us for refreshments and conversation in the café afterwards.

**Wed 1 March, 2pm**

With Rosa Tyhurst, Curator of Exhibitions, Nottingham Contemporary

**12.30pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, starting 21 February**Join our friendly Gallery Assistants
for a short exploration of one of our exhibitions. For more details visit

our website.

**Artist conversation**

Online
Carolyn Lazard with Jamila Prowse.

**Free Family Activities**

During school holidays:

**14–16 February,
4–6 and 11–13 April**Explore the themes in the exhibitions through making and play.

Carolyn Lazard, *Long Take* is co-commissioned by Nottingham Contemporary, the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania and the Walker Art Center.

The exhibition is curated by Olivia Aherne, Curator, Chisenhale Gallery (former Curator of Exhibitions, Nottingham Contemporary); Meg Onli, independent curator (former ICA Andrea B. Laporte Associate Curator) and Pavel Pyś, Curator, Visual Arts,

Walker Art Center. The exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary is produced by Rosa Tyhurst and Niall Farrelly.

With in-kind support from Le Mark Group Ltd. Exhibition graphics by Åbäke.

For more information about the exhibition, related events and learning programmes, visit nottinghamcontemporary.org

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Suggested donation: £3