



Press Release:

Focal Point Gallery Director: Katharine Stout



Focal Point Gallery is thrilled to announce the appointment of Katharine Stout as our new Director, taking up the position in May 2019. Katharine joins the organisation from Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, where she has been in post as Deputy Director for the past two years, previously Head of Programme for four years.

On her appointment Katharine said;
"I'm delighted to join as Director of Focal Point Gallery, working with the team to build upon the excellent programme and reputation already established and further its local relevance to the culturally rich area of Southend-on-Sea and South Essex, as well enhance FPG's national - and international - significance as a pioneering contemporary arts organisation, by leading on an exciting new period of expansion and development."

Essex born Katharine joins the gallery at an exciting time, with an extension to the current gallery site planned for Autumn 2021, and new artist's studios to open following a successful Arts Council England small capital bid. Focal Point Gallery sits within Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's culture department, with whom these projects are delivered in partnership.

SBC's Director of Culture, Tourism and Property Scott Dolling said;
"We are delighted that Katharine will be taking up her role as Director of Focal Point Gallery at such an exciting time for culture in the Southend area. She brings a wealth of experience to an already high performing and successful gallery which will continue to challenge and set high standards. We look forward to her joining the organisation."

Katharine succeeds Joe Hill who was appointed Director of Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne in December 2017.

About Katharine Stout

Katharine Stout has been Deputy Director of Institute of Contemporary Arts, London since 2017, and previously as Head of Programme since 2013. At the ICA she has curated exhibitions, amongst others, with Tauba Auerbach, Sonia Boyce, Richard Hamilton, Morag Keil, Prem Sahib, Hito Steyerl and Betty Woodman. Prior to the ICA, Stout was Curator of Contemporary Art at Tate Britain (1999 to 2013), curating exhibitions with artists such as Liam Gillick, Gary Hume, Eva Rothschild and Patrick Keiller, group exhibitions such as 'This Was Tomorrow: Art & the 60s', as well as co-curating the Art Now series, Turner Prize exhibitions and Collections displays. She was previously the Contemporary Art Consultant at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, where she inaugurated the contemporary art programme. She serves on the Board of Artist's Studios organisation, Tannery Arts, and has published numerous texts on contemporary art and artists in books, journal and magazines. In 2001, she co-founded the Drawing Room with Mary Doyle and Kate MacFarlane and is Associate Director. Her book *Contemporary Drawing: 1960s to Now* was published by Tate in 2014.

About Focal Point Gallery

Focal Point Gallery is south Essex's only publicly funded gallery for contemporary visual art. It currently produces up to seven major gallery exhibitions a year. Each programme includes a series of educational activities and aims to establish ongoing collaborations with international arts institutions and a wide range of local community groups, rooted in a strong narrative of reflecting its context and heritage.

Recent exhibitions include new commissions by critically acclaimed artists Mark Fell, Lindsay Seers, Hilary Lloyd, Volker Eichelmann and Christian Nyampeta, and group shows 'Get Out and Push!', 'Maximum Overdrive' and 'The Peculiar People'.

The gallery is located on the ground floor of The Forum building in Elmer Square, 100 metres from Southend Central Station. (Trains are every fifteen minutes from London Fenchurch Street, journey time fifty minutes.) The gallery receives regular funding from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation, and forms part of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council from which it receives ongoing support.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm,
Sunday 11.00am to 4.00pm



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Focal Point Gallery, Elmer Square, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1NB
+44 (0)1702 534108, focalpointgallery@southend.gov.uk
www.fpg.org.uk