

YOKO ONO LOOKING FOR...

2 March – 31 December 2019



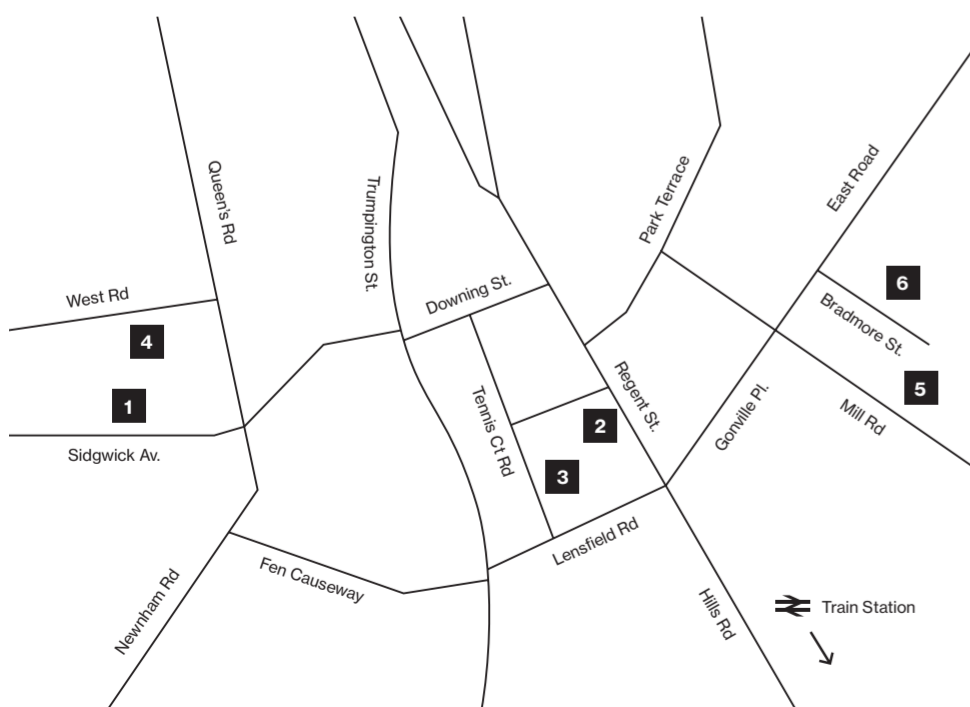
Yoko Ono performing *Voice Piece for Soprano*, 1961.
Photo Courtesy of Yoko Ono.

Showcasing Yoko Ono's work in the city of Cambridge for the first time ever, the exhibition *YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...* celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Ono's first visit to Cambridge and her debut public concert with John Lennon at Cambridge University's Lady Mitchell Hall on 2 March 1969.

A leading artist of the Fluxus movement and a pioneer of Conceptual Art, Yoko Ono was a major figure in the late 1950s and early 1960s New York underground avant-garde scene and continues, up to this day, to create thought-provoking art and music, which challenges the way we understand art and the world around us. Featuring over ninety early, recent and new works, most of which are participatory and will develop as the exhibition unfolds, *YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...* will offer the opportunity to immerse ourselves fully within Ono's versatile world, demonstrating the wide-ranging scope of her artistic practice, spanning an array of media including text, painting, sculpture, installation, performance, event, music, film and video.

Taking over the city of Cambridge, *YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...* will evolve throughout the year 2019 featuring a diverse programme comprising exhibitions, interventions, performances, film screenings and a symposium, taking place at various venues and public sites.

Curated by Gabriella Daris



1 **Lady Mitchell Hall**, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DE
Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 3pm

2 **The Heong Gallery**, Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 1DQ
Wednesday – Sunday, 12 – 5pm

3 **Howard Theatre**, Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 1DQ

4 **Alison Richard Building**, University of Cambridge, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT
Monday – Friday, 9am – 7pm

5 **Ruskin Gallery**, Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge CB1 1PT
Monday – Saturday, 10am – 4.30pm

6 **Mumford Theatre**, Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge CB1 1P

INTERVENTIONS

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
CAMBRIDGE 1969 (1969)**

02.03 – 31.12
Lady Mitchell Hall

02.03, 11:30am
Unveiling

To commemorate Yoko Ono and John Lennon's debut public concert at Cambridge University's Lady Mitchell Hall on 2 March 1969, the live recording of the concert *Cambridge 1969* is available for visitors to listen to until the end of the year, whilst a historic plaque preserves a hidden gem of Cambridge's social history for future generations to come.



Yoko Ono and John Lennon at Lady Mitchell Hall, Cambridge, 2 March 2019. Photo: Eddie Collinson. Image courtesy of Cambridge News.

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
TOILET THOUGHTS – FILM NO. 3 (1968/2019)**

02.03 – 31.12
City of Cambridge

Posted at different stages throughout the year, *Toilet Thoughts – Film No. 3 (1968/2019)* is an instruction for a conceptual film, which involves putting a poster in toilets across various sites of a city, and periodically filming the posters.



Yoko Ono, *Toilet Thoughts – Film No. 3*, 1968/2019
© Yoko Ono

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
WORD PIECES**

02.03 – 31.12
City of Cambridge

Posters bearing a selection of *Word Pieces* will be displayed in public sites across the city, with imperative words such as "DREAM," "DANCE," and "IMAGINE" inviting the viewer to see new meaning in the quotidian, to contemplate ideas and visions beyond what is immediately seen and to engage in positive thinking and action.

EVENT

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
WHITE FLAGS (2018/2019)**

02.03 – 31.12
City of Cambridge

Participation piece whereby students in Cambridge are invited to hang white flags from their dormitory windows.

EXHIBITIONS

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
SKY PIECES**

15.06 – 06.10
The Heong Gallery

Demonstrating Yoko Ono's use of the 'sky' since the early 1960s, the exhibition *Sky Pieces* features over thirty works, some of which invite visitors to play an all-white chess set until they can no longer remember where their pieces are, to scream against the sky, to open the skies, to take capsules with fresh air and jigsaw puzzle pieces of the sky with them, and to hang a wish on a tree branch. The central piece of the exhibition is a new configuration of *Sky TV (1966/2019)*, in which a closed-circuit camera will record the sky, transmitting real-time views through a network of twenty-five television monitors into the gallery.

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
PIECES FROM GRAPEFRUIT
AND OTHER WORKS**

19.09 – 01.11
Alison Richard Building

26.09, 6pm
Exhibition party

The exhibition *Pieces from Grapefruit and other works* brings together two participation pieces, *Mirror Piece (2017/2019)* and *Imagine Map Piece (2003/2019)*, along with thirty-six instruction pieces from Ono's artist book, *Grapefruit (1964)*.

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
ARISING (2013/2019)
MEND PIECE (1966/2019)**

03.10 – 01.11
Ruskin Gallery

03.10

5 – 9pm
Private View

6pm
Performance of Cut Piece

The exhibition explores themes of violence and healing. In *ARISING (2013/2019)*, featuring the namesake film, the walls will be gradually covered by the submitted testimonials in response to an open call by the artist for women to send in a testament of harm inflicted upon them for simply being a woman, whilst *Mend Piece (1966/2019)* invites visitors to 'mend' broken pieces of porcelain.

PERFORMANCES

SKY PIECE TO JESUS CHRIST (1965/2019)

15.06, 6pm
Howard Theatre
Free
RSVP gallery@dow.cam.ac.uk

In *Sky Piece To Jesus Christ*, a group of musicians play a score, whilst another group of performers begin to wrap medical gauze around each member of the orchestra along with their instruments, as well as the conductor.

Performed by students from Anglia Ruskin University and conducted by Dr Paul Rheys. Followed by a discussion with Dr Paul Rheys and Gabriella Daris, moderated by Dr Ross Cole, and Q&A.

CUT PIECE (1964/2019)

03.10, 6pm
Ruskin Gallery
Free

First performed in 1964 by Yoko Ono, in *Cut Piece*, the performer kneels with a pair of scissors in front of them and invites members of the audience to cut a portion of the performer's clothing off and take it with them.

Performed by Fukiko Takase.

SYMPOSIUM

YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...

03.10, 10am – 5pm

10am – 12:30pm
Howard Theatre

2:30 – 5pm
Mumford Theatre

Free
RSVP gallery@dow.cam.ac.uk

A day-long symposium with the participation of international scholars will explore the many facets of Yoko Ono's work to date.

Introduction

Prof. Steven Connor, Grace 2 Professor of English, Peterhouse, Cambridge University, and Director of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), Cambridge University

Speakers

Dr Reiko Tomii, art historian and independent curator; Naoko Seki, Curator at Museum of Contemporary Art of Tokyo; Dr Tanya Horeck, Reader in Film, Media and Culture, Anglia Ruskin University; Gabriella Daris, art historian, independent curator and PhD candidate at CRMEP; Mathieu Copeland, independent curator and writer; Chris Owen, Head of Cambridge School of Art, Faculty of Arts, Law and Social Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University

Chair

Prof. Peter Osborne, Professor of Modern European Philosophy and Director of the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP), Kingston University

FILM SCREENINGS

APOTHEOSIS (1970)

16mm film, colour, sound, 18½ minutes
Dir. John Lennon and Yoko Ono

FLY (1970)

16mm, colour, sound, 25 minutes
Dir. Yoko Ono

21.06, 6pm

Howard Theatre
Free
RSVP gallery@dow.cam.ac.uk

Inspired by Ono's earlier work, *Sky TV (1966)*, *Apotheosis* was filmed from a hot-air balloon, capturing overviews of the clear blue sky. *FLY* was made in the same year, in which the camera follows several flies as they alight on the naked body of a woman, then tracks away to film views of the sky out the window.

Followed by a discussion with Dr Amy Tobin and Gabriella Daris, moderated by Dr Prerona Prasad, and Q&A

RAPE (1969)

16mm film, colour, sound, 77 minutes
Dir. Yoko Ono and John Lennon

22.10, 7pm
Mumford Theatre
Free

Shot mainly in close-up with a hand-held camera, and made in London in 1969, "RAPE" is a semi-documentary, in which a young woman walking through the streets of the city is chased and knocked down by a man.

Followed by a discussion with Dr Tanya Horeck and Dr Prerona Prasad, moderated by Chris Owen, and Q&A

TOUR

YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...

04.10, 1 – 4pm
Lady Mitchell Hall
Free
RSVP gallery@dow.cam.ac.uk

Discover Yoko Ono's works around the city with visits to all the exhibitions and interventions with this walking tour led by the exhibition's curator, Gabriella Daris, and Dr Prerona Prasad, Exhibitions and Programming Manager, The Heong Gallery.

HOMAGE

**YOKO ONO: LOOKING FOR...
HOMAGE TO YOKO ONO**

06.10
Cambridge Junction
Get your tickets: junction.co.uk

4pm
Mixed-programme: Sound, multi-media and performance artists pay homage to Yoko Ono

8pm
Gig by the Japanese four-piece noise rock and alternative rock band BO NINGEN



Yoko Ono, *ARISING (2003)*, film still, 2013 © Yoko Ono



BREATHE