ROLLS-ROYCE ANNOUNCES SONDRA PERRY AS WINNER OF INAUGURAL *DREAM COMMISSION*

* *Muse,* the Rolls-Royce Art Programme, announces artist Sondra Perry (b.1986, USA) as winner of flagship *Dream Commission*
* Artist will create new moving-image artwork investigating narrative of ‘dreams’
* Artwork to be exhibited at the Fondation Beyeler, Switzerland in early 2022 and Serpentine, London in 2022
* Short-form artworks by shortlisted artists are hosted on the Fondation Beyeler and Serpentine websites
* *Dream Commission* plays vital role in supporting moving-image art
* Rolls-Royce demonstrates commitment to art during global pandemic

*“I am delighted to announce that American artist Sondra Perry has been awarded the inaugural Rolls-Royce Dream Commission. The vision of Muse, the Rolls-Royce Art Programme, is to inspire greatness and foster creativity, both of which were apparent in Ms. Perry’s short-form concept submission. We are delighted with the Jury’s selection and thank them for their efforts; we eagerly anticipate Ms. Perry’s new artwork, which will be exhibited at the Fondation Beyeler in Basel and Serpentine in London in 2022.*

*“Supporting the arts is more vital today than ever before and I am delighted that Muse’s Dream Commission is contributing so significantly to the landscape of moving-image art.”*

**Torsten Müller*-*Ötvös*,* Chief Executive Officer, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars**

Sondra Perry, an American moving-image artist, has been awarded the inaugural *Dream Commission*, by *Muse*, the Rolls-Royce Art Programme.

The *Dream Commission* is a biennial project, awarded to inspire greatness and foster creativity in the medium of moving-image art, inviting artists to investigate the idea of ‘dreams and dreaming’. Sondra Perry was unanimously selected as winner by an international Jury of leading art world individuals from a shortlist of four artists. As winner of the *Dream Commission*, Sondra Perry will create a new moving-image artwork which investigates the narrative of ‘dreams’. The new artwork will be unveiled at the Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Switzerland in early 2022 and exhibited at Serpentine, London in 2022. New Jersey-based interdisciplinary artist Sondra Perry works across the media of artificial intelligence, animation, performance, and video, amongst others, and her work explores themes of race, identity and technology.

In January 2021, the Jury met to determine the winner and selected Sondra Perry from a shortlist of four artists including also: Beatriz Santiago Muñoz (Puerto Rico); Martine Syms (USA); and Zhou Tao (China). The Jury comprises: Isaac Julien CBE RA, an internationally-acclaimed artist; Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director of the Serpentine in London; Katrina Sedgwick, Museum Director of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne; Terrie Sultan, former Museum Director of the Parrish Art Museum in New York; and Theodora Vischer, Chief Curator at the Fondation Beyeler in Basel.

Each of the shortlisted artists were tasked with creating a short-form moving-image artwork exploring the notion of ‘dreams’, which delivered a concept for a new long-form artwork. These works were presented to the Jury for consideration, and it was on this basis that Sondra Perry was selected as the winner of the *Dream Commission*. *Muse*, the Rolls-Royce Art Programme, will support Perry in the process of bringing her new artwork to life.

Perry’s proposed artwork builds upon the themes of lineage, memory and longing, as explored in her short-form artwork, *Lineage for a Phantom Zone.* The work will utilise LED panels, installed above, below and around the viewer, to create a ‘dreamscape’ in which the body and consciousness will float. Perry will explore the idea of dreams as a space for reconfiguring history, taking inspiration from an old photograph of her grandmother in the ruins of the house where she grew up. Perry’s experience of isolation from family and friends, caused by the global pandemic, will lead her to explore cravings for touch and intimacy in the digital world.

**Jury statement**: “*Sondra Perry was selected as the winner of the Dream Commission based on her outstanding artwork proposal as well as the brilliant way in which she addresses the current moment of vulnerability in her work. The artist’s ability to delve deeply into personal experiences and present them within a socio/political/aesthetic context is moving, challenging, and exciting.*

*Perry’s proposal epitomised the true core value of the Dream Commission which provides an artist with a rare opportunity: funding to enable new collaborations and access to new tools for experimentation, extending the artist’s practice. Perry’s new work for the Dream Commission will take her already-powerful practice into a new realm, imaginatively harnessing digital technology and platforms to craft a potent story, full of innovative, experiential, potential.*

*The evident level of creativity amongst the shortlisted artists was astonishing and made the final decision-making process challenging. The short-form works created by Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Martine Syms, and Zhou Tao are exceptional productions in themselves, each offering a meditation on the subject of dreams. All four of the works provided a different artistic vantage point and employed varying moving-image technologies. The Jury looks forward to following the evolution of the careers of these exceptional artists and their works”.*

During the current global pandemic, Rolls-Royce has continued supporting the arts; indeed, it recognises that this is a time when the role of artists and the commissioning of new artwork is more vital than ever.

Rolls-Royce’s ambition for the *Dream Commission* is to establish the marque as the leading platform for advancing the medium of moving image art today. Celebrating the latest innovations in the field, *Dream Commission* works can be from any medium in moving image, including experimental film, video, animation, and immersive and participatory installations. Content may be presented in a wide variety of formats, such as augmented and virtual reality. The 2021 *Dream Commission* is brought to life in partnership with the Serpentine, London and the Fondation Beyeler, Basel.

As the two-year process concludes, this year, the cycle will begin again, yielding a group of landmark works of moving-image art.

To stay up-to-date and discover exclusive content relating to *Muse* and the *Dream Commission* follow [@rollsroycemuse](https://www.instagram.com/rollsroycemuse/?hl=en). Discover *Dream Commission* content [here](https://www.rolls-roycemotorcars.com/en_GB/inspiring-greatness/muse/dream-commission.html).

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**EDITORS’ NOTES:**

**About Sondra Perry**

Sondra Perry (b.1986, USA) makes videos, performances, and installations that foreground digital tools as a way to critically reflect on new technologies of representation and remobilise their potential. Her works examine how images are produced in order to reveal the way photographic representations are captured and re-circulated. Sondra Perry was born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, raised in New Jersey and North Texas, and has lived and worked in Newark, New Jersey since 2019. She received her MFA from Columbia University, New York, and her BFA from Alfred University, Alfred, New York, in 2015 and 2012, respectively. Sondra Perry’s exhibition *Typhoon coming on* was presented by Serpentine in 2018, the artist’s first solo show in Europe.

***Dream Commission* Jurors**

Isaac Julien CBE RA, Artist, London

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director at Serpentine, London

Katrina Sedgwick, Director of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne

Terrie Sultan, former Director of the Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY

Theodora Vischer, Chief Curator at the Fondation Beyeler, Basel

**About *Muse* - The Rolls-Royce Art Programme**

*Muse* isthe Rolls-Royce Art Programme, designed to foster and inspire creativity through collaboration with artists who share the marque’s passion for pushing technical and conceptual boundaries. Consisting of two ongoing biennial initiatives, the *Dream Commission* and the *Spirit of Ecstasy Challenge*, *Muse* partners with some of the most respected and prestigious institutions in the world. The *Dream Commission* was founded in 2019 as the flagship initiative of *Muse*. For the 2021 *Dream Commission,* *Muse* has partnered with the Fondation Beyeler, Basel and Serpentine, London. *Muse* will provide selected artists with time and resource to produce art conceived, and to be experienced, without compromise.

Since its inception in 2014, *Muse* the Rolls-Royce Art Programme has invited Rolls-Royce patrons into the world of contemporary art. To date, leading artists Refik Anadol, Tomas Saráceno, Asad Raza, Dan Holdsworth, Isaac Julien, Yang Fudong, Pipilotti Rist, and Ugo Rondione have collaborated with the Art Programme.

**About Rolls-Royce Motor Cars**

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the BMW Group and is a completely separate company from Rolls-Royce plc, the manufacturer of aircraft engines and propulsion systems. More than 2000 highly skilled experts are employed at the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars’ head office and manufacturing plant at Goodwood, West Sussex, the only place in the world where the company’s super-luxury motor cars are hand-built.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

You can find all our press releases and press kits, as well as a wide selection of high resolution, downloadable photographs and video footage at our media website, [PressClub](http://www.press.rolls-roycemotorcars.com/).

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