

Beneath the Surface Skin, Jurga Ramonaite
February 4, 2026, 6–9pm
Exhibition run: 4–13 February
Opening times: 12–2 or by appointment

† Raleigh Chapel
138 Church Walk, London
N16 8QQ

Press Release



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Opening on Wednesday, 4 February 2026 at the newly restored Raleigh Chapel in Stoke Newington, London, *Beneath the Surface Skin* marks the debut solo exhibition of Jurga Ramonaite. The exhibition is a meditation on duration, memory, and entropy as the invisible forces that governs transformation. Spanning three interconnected bodies of work—*Breath of Air*, *Glacial Portraits* and *Landscapes*—the exhibition presents eleven works: eight hand-printed photographs, two chemigrams, and a short film, *The Line* (2.5 min, loop), created during Ramonaite's time at The Arctic Circle residency.

Shaped by her father's stories of travel in the shadow of Soviet occupation, where journeys outward were precious and rare, Ramonaite inherited the impulse to venture beyond the familiar. Given the opportunity to visit the Arctic, she completed the trip both for herself and her father. Even after his passing, this body of work remains a means of speaking to him—an ongoing exchange in which the act of making becomes a continuation of their dialogue.

Working across analogue photography and moving image, Ramonaite treats image-making as a negotiation with entropy, where the instinct to preserve meets the inevitability of change. This is particularly visible through two chemigrams from the series *Breath of Air* (45 × 34.4 cm) produced over the duration of the residency. Made with Arctic seawater, kelp and light, areas of paper are stripped bare through decomposition while others glow in deep greens and flashes of orange, evoking the underwater forests beneath the Arctic surface. Framed behind glass, the works signal to the fragility of the invisible world that sustains and purifies the air we breathe. Continuing on the themes of entropy, visitors encounter *Dahlbrebukta* (70 × 76 cm) upon entering the chapel's ground floor.

One of five works from the *Landscape* series, the photographic emulsion has been altered by light and water - presenting abstract shapes that move across the surface of the photograph before revealing a glacier landscape.

Moving from entropy and duration towards memory and transformation, the *Landscape* series continues on chapel's first floor with *Dahlbreen* (125.6 × 180.6 cm), *Volcanic Rock* (72 × 89 cm), and *Ice Crystal* (89 × 72 cm), mimicking the act of looking they shift between microscopic and monumental perspectives of the Arctic terrain. In *Dahlbreen*, an icy blue iceberg set against a retreating glacier draws the viewer from the open horizon into its crystalline detail, inviting engagement with scale and materiality. Shown alongside is the *Glacial Portraits* series (76 × 70 cm), comprising of three isolated bodies of ice set against black fabric. These fragments act as time capsules—material remnants of ancient climates collapsing into the present. Once monumental, now fractured, they hold millennia of memory, air, and dirt, reflecting on time and transformation.

The show concludes looking at the idea of time through the *The Line* – a 2.5min loop film depicting the Arctic horizon traced during the duration of voyage. Accompanied by a four-speaker surround sound installation that combines field recordings and synthetic textures by sound artist Mathias Arrignon, it deepens the encounter with the Arctic environment and its emotional terrain.

Across the works, Ramonaite maps the instability of existence. Here, time acts as an active collaborator: it corrodes, reveals, clarifies and destabilises. *Beneath the Surface Skin* asks what it means to witness transformation and to hold beauty and loss at once.



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Artist bio

Jurga Ramonaite (b. Lithuania; lives and works in London) is an artist working across photography and moving image, grounded in analogue darkroom processes. Her work examines transformation through themes of entropy, grief, landscape, and time.

She studied Comparative Literature and Culture at Royal Holloway, University of London (2015–16), followed by Graphic Design Communication at Chelsea College of Arts (2016–19). In 2025, she was shortlisted for the Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize and awarded a ten-month bursary from the Lithuanian Council for Culture. She participated in The Arctic Circle Residency and is currently part of Conditions mentoring programme with Yuri Pattison. Ramonaite has exhibited at *Der Greif – Dancing in Peckham*, Peckham 24 (London, 2019), *Wild Horses*, Sim Smith Gallery (London, 2021), *Embodied Activism*, Aspex Gallery (Portsmouth, 2025), and *Listening as Porosity*, Listen Gallery (Glasgow, 2025). She co-founded a photographic studio and colour darkroom in North London where she leads programming of residencies and symposiums.

Mathias Arrignon

Mathias Arrignon is an artist from Val-de-Marne (France), based in Glasgow and working internationally. Driven by listening, he is using this sensitive language to foster environmental care and to narrate realities which suffer from invisibilisation. His works merge field recording practices, audio technology, interactive installations and participatory performances to instil forms of interconnectedness with worlds that are often more-than-human.

His work has been presented and developed at the 18th Venice Architecture Biennale, Southwark Park Galleries, Centre Intermondes, INA GRM, and The Arctic Circle Residency, with broadcasts on Resonance FM, Sonic Matter and Radio Campus Paris. He received a Sound of the Year Award in 2020 and a Phonurgia Nova Award in 2024.



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Raleigh Chapel

Raleigh Chapel was designed by architect John Sulman in a Gothic style of red brick and stone, and consecrated in 1880. Conceived as both chapel and civic hall, it could hold 1000 people, with rooms for teaching, reading, and gathering, a reflection of Sulman's commitment to openness and economy of form.

Over the following century, the building weathered continual change - its original spire was destroyed during the Blitz, a 1954 restoration returned altered its form, and a fire in 1989 left only the outer walls standing, their bricks still marked by smoke and flame. In the years that followed, the church was divided in two, one part serving the Trinitarian Spiritual Baptist congregation, the other becoming a refuge for women.

In 2026 the chapel begins another chapter under its historic name, a place once again dedicated to worship, culture & connection.

The Arctic Circle residency

The Arctic Circle is an international, expedition-based residency programme that brings together artists, scientists, architects and educators for a shared voyage through the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard. Taking place aboard a sailing vessel, the residency emphasises slow travel, interdisciplinary exchange and direct engagement with one of the world's most fragile and rapidly changing environments. Participants live and work alongside one another, responding to the landscape through research, observation and conversation rather than predetermined outcomes.

- 1 Jurga Ramonaite, *Volcanic Rock*, 2025. C-type print dry mounted on aluminium (72 × 89 cm)
- 2 Jurga Ramonaite, *Glacial Portrait 2*. C-type print dry mounted on aluminium (76 × 70 cm)
- 3 Jurga Ramonaite, *Breath of Air 1*. C-type print (45 × 34.4 cm framed)
- 4 Raleigh Chapel from *the archives*