



LINDER

BOWER OF BLISS: AN IMPROPER ARCHITECTURE

14 March 2020, 6.30pm

The Dome, Murray Edwards College

Linder's *Bower of Bliss: An Improper Architecture* is the latest in a series of works engaging with pleasure, desire and creative expression, commissioned as part of *Linderism* at Kettle's Yard. Begun in 2018 with Linder's artist residency at Glasgow Women's Library (GWL), Linder has created Bowers of Bliss through image and performance at GWL, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, Southwark Station, London and now Murray Edwards College, one of two colleges for women at the University of Cambridge and the home of the New Hall Art Collection. When the building opened in 1964 one critic described this women's college as an 'improper architecture'.

The phrase 'Bower of Bliss' derives from Edmund Spenser's epic poem *The Faerie Queene* (1590), where it describes the lair of decadent Acrasia who threatens the moral purity of the gallant Redcrosse Knight. An allegory of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the poem poses a critique of irresponsible femininity. With this performance, Linder reclaims the Bower, re-casting Spenser's woman characters including Acrasia, Mary Queen of Scots and Britomart as protagonists of their own story.

Bower of Bliss: An Improper Architecture is performed by Lauren Fitzpatrick, Kirstin Halliday, Gia Jones, Lilian Wang and Ashley Young. Music composed and performed by Maxwell Sterling with Kenichi Iwasa and Inter Alios choir of Murray Edwards College and Churchill College. Costumes designed by Louise Gray.

Please note that this is a standing performance. Limited seating is reserved for those less able to stand.

This performance is generously supported by Jo Eddings and Sunny Dupree.

Image: Still from Linder, *Bower of Bliss*, 2018, featuring Lauren Fitzpatrick and Kirstin Halliday. Cinematography by Fatosh Olgacher, costumes by Louise Gray. Commissioned by Glasgow Women's Library and Glasgow International Festival.



Murray Edwards
College
University of Cambridge

KETTLE'S YARD #Linderism