

**Canal Dream CIC making its debut at London Design Festival 2023, together with Slash Arts, Word on the Water, and programming partner Global Generation and the Floating Garden to celebrate arts and culture on the Regent's Canal**

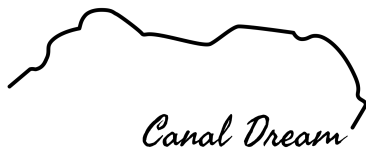
Press Release  
News 2023



(June 2023, Canal Dream Art Festival opening night, performer: Victoria Tchibor, photographer: Nozirohpic)

Making its debut during London Design Festival 2023, London-based non-profit arts and cultural organisation [Canal Dream CIC](#) will in collaboration with floating gallery [Slash Arts](#), book barge [Word on the Water](#), and local charity [Global Generation and the Floating Garden](#), showcase a curated selection of cutting-edge artwork by emerging artists and host a series of engaging events exploring culture and arts in Kings Cross on the Regent's Canal.

An emerging canal-based arts and culture organisation founded by Chuntian Hu, Canal Dream CIC has made its home on the Regent's Canal in Kings Cross. In 2022 Canal Dream CIC with Slash Arts and other canal organisations started to facilitate combined art exhibitions and creative



performances which energised the community and cultivated civil engagement on the London Canal. To date we have organised over 11 events, including the Canal Dream Art Festival in June, which we aim to make an annual multi-arts festival; and a water-based International Artists Exchange programme between the UK and China. More than 300 emerging artists, musicians, performers and poets have been featured in these events.

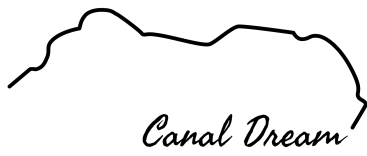
Chuntian Hu, Founder and director of Canal Dream CIC, comments: *“Our vision is to foster a hub for waterway-based innovation and collaboration, connecting the arts and culture, the environment, health, and engaging universities, research institutions and local authorities... In this way, we can achieve our beautiful vision: to transform the former industrial canal into a creative wellbeing space for the future.”*

Simon Hodgkinson, Founder and director of Slash Arts says: *“Canal Dream CIC is a new force driving exciting and much needed expansion of arts and culture on the London canal through its collaboration with like minded organisations and its wide network of talented emerging artists of all kinds. We have worked with Chuntian for a year now and she is a breath of fresh air!”*



(2023 IWA Canalway Cavalcade, Simon Hodgkinson, Co-founder and director of Slash Arts, Chuntian Hu, Sarah LaBrasca, Co-founder of Slash Arts, photographer: Qoditha)





(2023 Canal Dream Art Festival, Boat of Sound & Motion - Slash Arts gallery boat, musician: Whatever (band), ANTJE LANG, photographer: Anna, Alvin)



(2023 Canal Dream Art Festival, Boat of Performance Art - the Floating Garden, artist: Barbara Prada, Melanie Hawthorne, photographer: Wenqing Yao)



(2023 Canal Dream Art Festival Boat of Poetry - Word on the Water book barge, poet: Brandon Squires, photographer: Dongcheng Cai)

## Planned programme for LDF23 | Canal Dream CIC X Slash Arts X Word on the Water X Global Generation & the Floating Garden

### 1. Dream Nights presented by Canal Dream CIC X Slash Arts X Global Generation & the Floating Garden X Word on the Water

Introduction: Dream Nights is a series of multi-arts live events that happen on the canal, including music, performing arts, poetry and film.

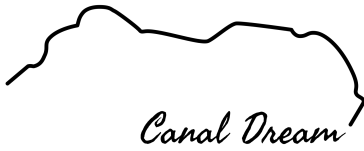
Curation & production: Yiru Yan (Cainy), Kai Marks, Hardy Gru, Adam Zhu, Yuxuan Wu, Yobe Wei, Linlin Zhu, Yiming Pi, Ke Peng

Address: Regent's Canal Towpath, London N1C 4LW (Slash Arts Gallery Boat X Word on the Water book barge X the Floating Garden)

Time: Dream Night I | Film Night, Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 20h-22h; Dream Night II | Music, Performance & Poetry Night, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 18h-22h. (free entry, [get a ticket here](#))

### 2. Panel Discussion, and Canal Dream Hub & the Canal Dreamer Zine Launch Events

Introduction: Canal Dream CIC will launch the Canal Dream Hub, an innovation and collaboration platform connecting creative individuals, practitioners, researchers, educators, and relevant



institutions interested in canals. And will also release the first issue of the Canal Dreamer, a zine featuring multidisciplinary practices on the canal.

Guest of panel discussion: Chuntian Hu, Simon Hodgkinson, Paddy Screech, Laura Price, Jillian Linton

Address: Regent's Canal Towpath, London N1C 4LW (Slash Arts Gallery Boat, next to Word on the Water)

Time: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 4h-6h, panel discussion (free entry, [get a ticket here](#))

### **3. Art exhibitions presented by Slash Arts**

#### Exhibition I: Meanings of Home: Transcending Borders

Artists: Pamela Enyonu (Uganda) and Mary Thatcher (UK). Curator: Simon Hodgkinson

Introduction: Enyonu and Thatcher invite us to reflect on the notion of home, extending beyond its conventional definition as a physical space. Through their distinctive artistic perspectives, they delve into the intricate layers of personal and collective narratives, emotions, and experiences associated with the concept of home. Their works offer an intimate exploration of how the idea of home shapes our identities, memories, and connections with others.

Address: Regent's Canal Towpath, London N1C 4LW (next to Word on the Water)

Time: 16-17 September 11h-19h (Free entry, [get a ticket here](#)).

#### Exhibition II: Bodies of Water - Vienna meets London

Artists: Birdly, Satur Chong, Richard Cook, Monika Drabot, Simon Hodgkinson, Konstantina Hornek, Hannah Imhoff, Damla Ilhan, Miya Kosowick Mawatari, Nadine Schuller, Naj Shirazi, Roberta Sweet. Musicians: Nina Oltarzewska, Cecilia Raab, Fani Raab, Hannah Wimmer. Curator: Hannah Imhoff

Introduction: Bodies of Water is an interdisciplinary exhibition that approaches the phenomena of society shaping and containing water and women's bodies. The exhibition establishes a safer space and a meeting point between environmental artists and the public. The young artists want to allude with the literal relationship of the birth-canal, the Regents and the Danube canal. Here, we see a strong connection between the two capital cities, London and Vienna both having a canal in the heart of the city.

Address: Regent's Canal Towpath, London N1C 4LW (next to Word on the Water)

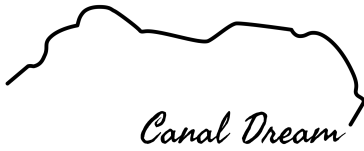
Time: 20-24 September 11h-19h, (Free entry, [get a ticket here](#)).

### **4. Activities presented by Global Generation and the Floating Garden**

#### Exhibition: [Voices of the Water](#)

Introduction: Voices of the Water is a two year programme inviting our local community to reflect on water, taking inspiration from two local waterways - the hidden River Fleet and the man-made Regents Canal. This exhibition will showcase the wide variety of artwork that our fellows and local people have made while uncovering, sharing and celebrating the cultural memories and stories





associated with water. See sonographic bird feeders, stop motion animation and woven textile art among other pieces.

Address: the Floating Garden, Regent's Canal Towpath (south side, off Goods Way), Kings Cross, N1C 4UR

Time: Throughout the festival, see website for opening hours.

Community engagement activities: Twilight Gardening and Natural Fabric Printing & Dyeing Workshop

Introduction: Join Global Generation at the Floating Garden for a series of hands-on making and creative activities that connect you with the natural world. Our twilight gardening session will get you involved in growing on a wide beam barge and our fabric printing workshop will explore a range of natural dyeing techniques for working with textiles that are inspired by the watery landscape.

Address: the Floating Garden, Regent's Canal Towpath (south side, off Goods Way), Kings Cross, N1C 4UR

Time:

Natural Dyeing Workshop: Wednesday 20 Sept, 13h-15h (free entry, [get a ticket here](#)).

Twilight Gardening: Thursday 21 Sept, 17h-19h, (free entry, [get a ticket here](#))

Please see Notes to Editors for more information on Canal Dream CIC and their collaborators.

Canal Dream CIC Website: [www.canaldream.org](http://www.canaldream.org)

Canal Dream CIC Instagram: canal\_dream



(2023 Canal Dream Art Festival Boat of Creative Activity, artist: Hide Takemoto, Yuchen Li, Xiaoyu Wu, Jolyn Yin, photographer: Yobe Wei)

- ENDS -

### **Press Contact:**

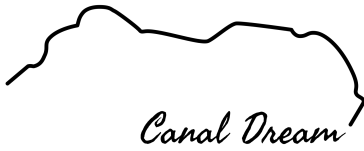
For interviews, high resolution images or if you have any questions, please contact:  
Chuntian Hu at [chuntian.hu@canaldream.org](mailto:chuntian.hu@canaldream.org)

### **Notes to Editors**

#### About Canal Dream CIC

Canal Dream Community Interest Company is an award-winning non-profit organisation in the arts & social innovation field. We use the UK's waterways network as the pathway and boats as the stage for multi-arts activities. Through connecting the emerging creative community to the old canal system, to create opportunities for creative practice, community well-being, canal regeneration, and environmental engagement.

Chuntian Hu, Founder and Director of Canal Dream CIC



Chuntian is a creative director & producer, a service & product designer, and an artist. Professionally she has for the last two years focused on creating canal-based multi-arts events and festivals in London. Canal Dream began as her graduation project at Royal College of Art. Then, in 2023 she founded and directs Canal Dream CIC and is establishing the Canal Dream Hub to bring together individuals and organisations who have a common interest. In 2022 CD received the Marcus Boudier Trophy on the IWA Canalway Cavalcade, and in 2023 CD was runner up for the best illuminated boat for the same event. She has organised 11 waterways events in this time, 4 of them festivals involving partnering with several boats and many artists. In total she has featured over 300 artists in her events including visual artists, performers, musicians, poets and dancers.

Chuntian has a multidisciplinary educational background, including art, design, and business. She completed her undergraduate studies at Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. She pursued her master's degree in Service Design at the Royal College of Art in London. Additionally, she has taken courses in Behavioral Economics and Decision Making at the London Business School, as well as the Entrepreneurship Journey course at Imperial College Business School. She benefits from different disciplines of thinking, methods and tools. She can analyse and solve problems from multiple perspectives. Her experience of projects in different industries makes her skilled in cross-sector collaboration.

### Programming Partner Listings

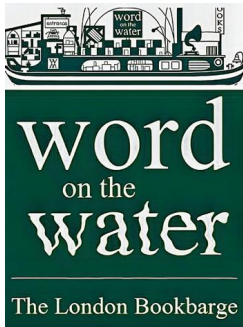
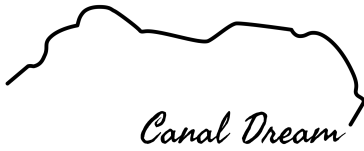


#### Slash Arts

We were founded in 2020, at the start of Covid, to support emerging contemporary artists from Central Saint Martins during their isolation. We have since rapidly expanded and support a wide community of post-graduate artists and curators with opportunities in their first year(s) of professional practice.

We hold artist/curator led pop-up weekend exhibitions throughout the summer on our unique Slash Arts gallery houseboat in Kings Cross, London, where we always receive a high number of visitors. We support contemporary visual arts in all media, including painting, digital, performance, immersive and installation art, as well as fashion and music (we use the boat roof as a stage). Where we can we focus on socially and environmentally engaged art. We also help artists to travel on residencies, either coming to the UK ( this year from Portugal, China, Georgia, Uganda, Austria) or going abroad (to Portugal where we work with a psychiatric hospital).





### Word on the Water

Word on the Water is a bookshop situated on a barge that normally resides on Regent's Canal in the King's Cross area at Granary Square, London, although it has historically been based at other points along the London canal network. It has appeared in numerous publication's lists of the best bookshops in the UK including The Washington Post and The Guardian. The bookshop's home is a Dutch canal boat called Dianti dating back to the 1920s. As well as working as a bookshop, it regularly acts as a venue, hosting live music and poetry events.

## GLOBAL GENERATION

### Global Generation

Global Generation is an environmental educational charity. Founded in 2004, we grow food, people and community for a fair and just world. We have created the Floating Garden as an outdoor learning space for local young people, families, residents and employees, a space to relax and to connect with nature. We provide opportunities for hands-on, innovative learning, focusing on water and biodiversity, discovering wildlife and increasing wellbeing.