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The Museum of Drug Policy Travels to London this November

The internationally acclaimed arts and cultural hub will open to the public near Tower Bridge for three days only

LONDON (October 20, 2017) – The Museum of Drug Policy is a pop-up exhibition and cultural hub that uses art to demonstrate how drug policies impact and shape communities across the globe. Hosted at 47-49 Tanner Street from **3-5 November**, London marks the third stop on a global tour, following exhibits in Montreal earlier this year and New York City in April 2016.

A press preview of the space will be held on 2 November at 3:00pm.

The Museum, supported by the Open Society Foundations, will feature over 60 pieces of art from eight different countries. Highlights include:

- Carrie Reichardt, *The Tiki Love Truck*: A two-ton truck covered by Dia de Los Muertos-themed tiles, specially set up for this exhibition to honour the 43 missing students in Mexico
- Jesse Krimes, *Prisoner Portrait 1* and *Prisoner Portrait 2*, created on federal prison bed sheets
- Dan Giannopoulos, *Collage of Baggies*: 420 baggies mapped on streets of South East London between January 2013 and April 2016
- Tracy Hetzel, *Execution Series*: portraits of people from five countries killed by the state for drug offenses
- Ann Lewis, *... and counting*: a powerful installation of 187 toe tags representing overdose deaths in the UK

“Together, these artists provide a powerful, emotional experience that illustrates the harms caused by drug prohibition, and advocates for approaches rooted in dignity, health, and human rights,” said Kasia Malinowska, director of the Open Society Global Drug Policy Program. “These artistic expressions remind us that people affected by drug policies are our friends, sisters, colleagues and that they exist as members of families and communities. The Museum’s powerful photographs, sculptures, installations, and performances highlight the human cost of drug policies and contribute to conversations about reform.”

The three-day exhibition will feature interactive discussions on criminal justice reform, public health, and human rights with global experts. Speakers include Duncan Campbell, the award-winning Guardian journalist; Noah Stone, entrepreneur and judge on ABC’s *Shark Tank* in the U.S.; Michael Skolnik, renowned activist and CEO of The Soze Agency; KUCHENGA, Black trans feminist writer and prison abolitionist, and many more.

The [Sex Workers Opera](#) will perform live at the venue on the evening of 3 November.

Release, the UK's centre of expertise on drugs and drugs law, will be hosting the Museum to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Release has been providing free non-judgmental, specialist advice and information to the public and to professionals on issues related to drug use and drug laws since 1967.

"This is a particularly poignant time in the UK to be showcasing the impact of current drug policies," says Niamh Eastwood, executive director of Release. "Drug-related deaths in this country have reached the highest rate on record, and thousands of people who use drugs have been criminalized instead of getting the help they need. The Museum is an excellent opportunity to elevate the drug policy debate, using art to highlight the relationship between drug policy and issues of social control—especially in relation to class and race—in ways our government refuses to address."

All exhibitions and events are free and open to the public, taking place in a stunning, three-story warehouse space managed by Ugly Duck and located between London Bridge and Bermondsey tube stations.

For more information on the event, including the full program, visit our [website](#) or [Facebook event page](#).

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About Release

[Release](#) is the UK's centre of expertise on drugs and drug laws, providing free and confidential specialist services to professionals, the public, and people who use drugs. Release also campaigns for the reform of UK drug policy, particularly the removal of criminal sanctions for possession offences, in order to bring about a fairer and more compassionate legal framework to managing drug use in our society. We are an independent and registered charity.

About the Open Society Foundations

[The Open Society Foundations](#) work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Working with local communities in more than 100 countries, the Open Society Foundations support justice and human rights, freedom of expression, and access to public health and education.

More: www.museumofdrugpolicy.org

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