

Cities and Voices



Film screening
Climate Mobility Pavilion at COP27
Monday 14th November 2022 h 18.00-19.00

Moving between places and across borders is so much more than just crossing them. It is a journey of ideas, people, and cultures.

These two artistic documentaries explore the reality of climate mobility in cities and how it affects the lives of urban residents. They tell the stories of people who move, but also those who cannot – and how the air we breathe and the seas we attempt to cross change our lives.

[“On Freedom of Movement \(wi de mov\)”](#) - Directed by [Julianknxx](#), produced in partnership with ODI and [Labrum London](#) for the [Africa-Europe Mayors’ Dialogue](#).

Shot in Freetown, Sierra Leone and narrated by its Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, the film considers what it means to move. For some of us our environments offer a space and a context for us to move within them, however, this is not the case for many more of us. As both a meditation and a listening exercise, *On Freedom Of Movement (wi de mov)* considers the necessity and inevitability of movement and the ability of the environments we live in to create the space we need.

Julianknxx places this work within his existing artistic series *After the Ocean*, alongside previous work *In Praise of Still Boys (2021)*. In this series, Julianknxx explores the ocean as both a point of departure and meeting, of movement and multiplicities, with water becoming a symbol of life and loss, death and rapture, tragedy and transformation while continuing to operate as a conduit for shared experiences. What does it mean to carry the water with us, when our history left us an ocean?

[“Black Corporeal \(Breathing By Numbers\)”](#) - Directed by Julianknxx, commissioned by [Brixton House theatre](#).

In this work, Julianknxx layers poetry, essay, documentary and music, to expose the multiple realities of Black life in London and our relationships with the built environment that holds us.

The film is anchored by the returning voice of Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, as she traces her journey to having air pollution officially listed as a cause of death of her 9-year-old daughter, Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, the first time this had happened in the UK.

Highlighting the disproportionate impact of air pollution in the inner city, this piece explores the stark realities of environmental poverty, the oppressive existence of melanated bodies and the working class, who are often forced to live in urban estates and congested pockets of our city.

However, rather than lament the weathering conditions and social pressures of Black experiences, the film honours a culture of resilience and perseverance, amongst those who have captured the cosmic.