

FRASER  
T SMITH

FUTURE  
UTOPIA

FRIDAY 18 JUNE

Fraser T Smith  
Future Utopia

Es Devlin (reading)  
Tia Carys  
Simon Armitge  
Kojey Radical  
Murray from Easy Life

Fear or faith?  
What's in a name?  
Do we really care?  
What's the cost of freedom?  
How much is enough?  
Why are we so divided, when we're so connected?  
What matters most?  
Is it too late to save the planet?  
Fear or faith?

**Very special thanks to:**

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Triple E

Future Utopia aka Fraser T Smith presents his debut live show, following his first site-specific project at Bold Tendencies last summer with Es Devlin. Using music - pop to rap to soul, historical testimony and poetry, Fraser T Smith's work confronts the universal anxieties we face today, and his live performance offers up an eclectic search for truth, enlightenment and purpose—glimmers of a compass on turbulent water.

This is his first immersive show and it has a mixtape energy, reflecting his many collaborations and his wide-ranging musical experience and influences. The performance

takes place in and around 'Noise Matrix' by Sarah T Smith, her complex framework sculpture of coloured pipes forming an energetic spatial web of sound around the bank of instruments, synthesisers and mixing desks on stage.

'It feels incredibly poignant to be playing my debut Future Utopia show at Bold Tendencies, after launching '12 Questions' here back in 2020 with Es Devlin. It's as if the stars have aligned to make this happen - it feels really special to be able to play live to people after the year we've all had, particularly in this iconic venue' — Fraser T Smith (Future Utopia)

**Fraser T Smith** works as a producer and song-writer for some of contemporary music's most significant artists. His critically acclaimed first solo album 'Twelve Questions' was released in 2020. He is acknowledged for his role in the British rap resurgence, working closely over many years with Ghetts and Kano, as well as producing Stormzy's 'Gang Signs & Prayer' (2017) and the Mercury Prize winning debut album 'Psychodrama' (2019) by Dave.

**Es Devlin** is known for large-scale, performative sculptures that fuse music, language and light. She draws on her deep understanding of audience

engagement – through her experience as a world-renowned stage designer for Beyoncé, Billie Eilish, The Weeknd, Adele, U2, Louis Vuitton and Kanye West – to encourage participation and give a voice to all. She has shown work at the V&A, Barbican, Trafalgar Square, the Costume Institute Exhibition at the MET Museum New York and designed the Weeknd's half-time performance at the Superbowl this year.

**Tia Carys** is a UK rapper and freestyler. Her debut EP 'EnRoot' is a melange of rap, drill, and dembows and speaks directly to the challenges young people face growing up:

friendships and relationships to self-harm, social media, and sexuality.

**Simon Armitage** lives in Yorkshire and is the UK Poet Laureate. He is also a playwright, librettist, novelist and broadcaster. Armitage has written extensively for radio and television; giving voice to the lost and the marginalised, his credits include 'Black Roses', 'The Killing of Sophie Lancaster', and 'Feltham Sings', the BAFTA-winning documentary for which he received an Ivor Novello Award for song writing.

Armitage writes and performs with the band LYR whose debut album 'Call In The Crash Team' was released in 2020.

**Kojey Radical** is a British music artist, creative director and mixed media visual artist, Radical was raised in Hoxton, the son of Ghanaian immigrants. He began as a spoken word poet and mixed media illustrator, graduating from London college of Fashion with a degree in Fashion Illustration. His musical style is a mix of grime, hip hop, rap and spoken word. Since 2018, he has received three nominations at the MOBO awards including Best Newcomer and Best Video.

**Easy Life** are an English band founded by Murray Matravers in Leicester in 2017. With genre-blurring influences from transatlantic hip-hop, R&B,

and British storytellers they released their debut album 'Life's a Beach' in May of this year. They won Best New British Act at the NME Awards in 2020.

**Sarah T Smith** graduated in 2019 with a diploma in Sculpture from the Heatherley School Of Fine Art. Her final installation earned her the Heatherley Sculpture Prize and served as the foundation for her future collaboration with Fraser.

# HUGE THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THE BOLD TENDENCIES 2021 PROGRAMME

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All those individuals who have generously  
donated to Bold Tendencies

# WHERE AM I?

Since 2007 these rooftop spaces at Peckham Multi-Storey Car Park have been home to not-for-profit organisation Bold Tendencies which is unique in terms of the rich mix of what it does, and where and how it does it.

Bold Tendencies supports artists to develop their ideas and to realise site-specific projects. We commission new visual art — 114 works have been shown here to date — and produce a live programme of music, dance and opera.

The live programme takes place in our covered spaces, deliberately preserving 42,000 sq ft of raw concrete floors and ceilings with panoramic London views.

Bold Tendencies has also commissioned new architecture for the site — Frank's Cafe in 2009, the Straw Auditorium in 2010, and the Peckham Observatory in 2017.

Bold Tendencies is for everyone. We have welcomed more than 2 million people in 13 summer seasons since 2007.

We animate the programme and the site for the neighbourhood through standalone education and community initiatives that take culture and civic values seriously.

Bold Tendencies celebrates the free enjoyment of public space in the city, participation in a rich, experimental programme and open access to this special, spectacular place.

 **BOLDTENDENCIES**

# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

The July - September programme at Bold Tendencies will be announced soon, check [Events & Tickets](#) for details.

Find Fraser T Smith's album 12 Questions here [platoon.lnk.to/12-questions](https://platoon.lnk.to/12-questions)

*Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars.  
Gaze at the beauty of the Earth's greenings.  
Now, think.*

— Hildegard of Bingen

*The needle skipped the groove of the present.  
Into this dark forest you have already turned.*

— Timothy Morton

The Bold Tendencies Programme in 2021 examines Arcadia. We humans long for an “outside” to the burdens of modernity, a yearning as utopian as it is convenient. We dream of uncorrupted idylls of land and labour, conjure a wilderness unspoiled by avarice and atrocity—William Morris called it “the childhood of the world”. Now more than ever we crave this outside: to capitalism, fossil

fuels and overcrowded cities; to technological surveillance, social media and insomnia; to structural inequality, racism and police brutality. An archaic vision of Earth—and our place within it—exhumed, aroused and ignited. Arcadia isn't hope, still less optimism: it is need, and it is desire.

Arcadia never was that of Rousseau's 'State of Nature'—a timeless garden to which we must return—but the dark forest of Morton, alive with the dancing of flora and fauna, pagan subjects and rapturous all-night ravers; the thunder of quarries, fox hunts and the clamours of courting bird-song; the eerie rhythms of non-human

forces, felt in the foreignness of abandoned landscapes as in our own bodies. All points of supposed perfection have a hint of menace: Arcadia is a vexed and veering universe, where national pride slides into fascism and rural bliss surrenders to nostalgia; a last gasp of the human in the more-than-human world, where utopian dreams face an open grave.

Conflicts and contradictions ignite our Arcadia —between science and mysticism, rural and metropolitan, outside and other. New works on-site by Rebecca Ackroyd, Frances Drayson, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Andy Holden, Rene Matic, Harold Offeh and Jesse Pollock and our

Live Programme explores what drives our desperation for the outside, what Arcadia renders possible today and what is prohibited by it.

What happens when our connection to nature—and to each other—frays and unravels, when architectures of the past fall to ruin, and who is and isn't included in the cities and homes that we call ours. The past would seek to foreclose these questions with self-evident truths and a fear of the other; the truth for Arcadia, is that the past is yet to be discovered.

Please consider a one-time donation to keep our programme thriving  
[boldtendencies.com/partners-supporters](https://boldtendencies.com/partners-supporters)

**BOLD  
TENDENCIES**