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PRESS RELEASE

**Open Space launches *Tender Touches*,
an artist-designed experiential art café where you can eat, touch and feel
the artwork**

17 May - 30 June 2019
@openspacecontemporary #OpenSpace



(L-R *Install view of Tender Touches*, by Open Space; *Ceramic cutlery* by Lindsey Mendick for *Tender Touches*; *Tender Touches* (2019), by Marco Palmieri for *Tender Touches* All images courtesy Open Space and copyright Tania Dolvers.)

Today (17 May 2019), **Open Space** has launched a temporary artist-designed cafe at AMP Gallery in Peckham, South London open to the public until 30 June. The cafe, which is a participatory exhibition entitled *Tender Touches*, takes the form of an ‘art cafe’ where everything – from the food to the furniture and tableware – is both a functional object and an artwork. Visitors to the cafe will be able to sample a regularly changing seasonal menu created by artist and co-curator Inês Neto dos Santos. The exhibition and cafe will be open Wednesdays - Sundays, 10am-6pm.

Tender Touches will also host a series of artist-led workshops and supper clubs, taking place among the new commissions by a group of 12 international emerging artists. The exhibition is co-curated by **Huma Kabakci**, Founding Director of Open Space, and Portuguese artist **Inês Neto dos Santos**.

A further eleven international artists have created artworks that make up every element of the cafe: cutlery with cast ceramic gherkin handles by **Lindsey Mendick** (U.K.) in collaboration with David Mellor Design; tables stenciled with biomorphic patterns by **Coco Crampton** (U.K.); hand sculpted ceramic crockery by **Bea Bonafini** (Italy); napkins painted by **Sofia Stevi** (Greece); candle holders cast from hands clasping eggs by **Clementine Keith-Roach** (U.K.); bespoke wallpaper by **Marco Palmieri** (Italy); paintings made using corn, jute and fruits native to Mexico by **Magda Skupinska** (Poland); mirrored trays overlaid with photographs by **Pixy Liao** (China); intricate ceramic bibs by **Paloma Proudfoot** (U.K.) and colourful embroidered aprons by **Cecilia Charlton** (U.S.A) and **Goia Mujalli** (Brazil).

The food menu priced from £2.50 - £12.00 features both sweet and savory dishes with a focus on seasonality and local produce and is inspired by Neto dos Santos’ interest in sustainable food practices such as preservation and fermentation. Each dish has been inspired by encounters and conversations between the artists in the show.

Tender Touches is generously supported by Old Spike Roastery, a Peckham-based roastery who are

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providing the coffee served free of charge throughout the exhibition, and Studio Arhoj, a small independent design and production studio who are providing beautiful ceramic cups to be used by visitors to the exhibition. Other kind sponsors of our programme include Aesop, Annie Sloan Chalk Paint, German Kraft Brewery, Infinity Foods and Rare Tea Co.

Events Programme

Please see **Open Space's website (openspacecontemporary.com) for a list of events and to book tickets**. Accompanying *Tender Touches* will be a series of tours, workshops and supper clubs, led by the participating artists at AMP Gallery, offering visitors the chance to interact with the artists' work.

PRESS INFORMATION

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PRESS PACK

You can request further information and high res images from Hannah Vitos (contact details above)

VISITOR INFORMATION

AMP Gallery, 1 Acorn Parade, London, SE15 2TZ
Opening times: Wednesdays - Sundays, 10am-6pm

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Open Space

Open Space is an organisation that supports emerging creative practices and promotes dialogue in the arts through an annual programme of projects in unexpected spaces. Since its inception Open Space has collaborated with various projects and organisations including Alt, Artkurio, Block Universe, IKSU, Open Dialogue Istanbul, The Art Department and SALT. Previously Open Space Contemporary, Open Space has re-launched in 2019 with a new visual identity and website **openspacecontemporary.com**

Huma Kabakci - Co-Curator and Founder of Open Space

Co-curator of *Tender Touches*, Huma Kabakci (b. London, 1990) is a second-generation collector, independent curator and Founding Director of Open Space, living and working between London and Istanbul. Kabakci studied at London College of Communication, has an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art and recently completed a curatorial fellowship at the 2018 Liverpool Biennial. She has worked at various galleries, museums and auction houses, both in the UK and Turkey, including Sotheby's Contemporary Art Sales department (London), The Albion Gallery (London), Pera Museum (Istanbul), and has worked on three major collection exhibitions in museums during the 2010 Ruhr & Pecs Capital of Culture. Kabakci's curatorial interests lie in subjects such as diaspora, cultural identity, gender, memory and the body.

Inês Neto dos Santos - Co-Curator

Inês Neto dos Santos (b. Lisbon, 1992) is a multidisciplinary artist based in London and is co-curator of *Tender Touches*. She studied at the Royal College of Art (2016) and London College of Communication (2013). Her practice stands between performance and installation - using food, people and spaces as metaphors and prompts for discussion and conversation. Neto dos Santos explores the stories and performative actions behind eating, feeding, and cooking. She has exhibited internationally, including Lisbon, Porto, Madrid, Athens and London.

