

STILLED SHADOWS

Jeremy Brooker

Stilled Shadows is the result of a collaboration between award-winning novelist Chloe Aridjis and magic lanternists Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker. It grew out of Chloe's time as writer in residence at the Swedenborg Society, when she came across a large collection of magic lantern slides in the archives. Intrigued by what she had found, she decided to weave new narratives and stories around these forgotten images and contacted us to help develop this material into a performance. Premiered at the Bloomsbury Festival in 2021, the show was put on again in 2022 and 2023 to great acclaim.



The Swedenborg collection of magic lantern slides

This year the National Gallery have approached us to revive the show, this time in connection with an exhibition of the paintings of Joseph Wright of Derby. This will be the first time *Stilled Shadows* has been shown outside the Swedenborg. We are joined by the pianist James Keay and multi-instrumentalist David Meredith (clarinet and accordion) for what should be a wonderful evening.

This event also marks the launch of Chloe's new novel *The Shadow of the Object*, in which the magic lantern plays a prominent part. This will be published by Chatto & Windus on 16 April 2026, and those attending will be able to purchase a copy for the first time.

Event details: Pigott Theatre, Sainsbury Wing, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN; Friday, 24 April 2026, 6.30-7.45 pm

(see www.nationalgallery.org.uk/events/music-and-performance-friday-lates-stilled-shadows-a-magic-lantern-show-with-chloe-aridjis-24-04-2026)