

## *Ikon Slow Boat* *Looping the Loop - Autumn 2018*



*Ikon Slow Boat*

Ikon continues its three year programme *Looping the Loop* (2017–2019) on-board *Slow Boat* and in community spaces across Birmingham's Ladywood district.

A converted narrow boat, *Slow Boat* is a unique floating space for local communities and artists to make and experience art in a stimulating and creative environment.

During Autumn 2018, artist in residence Justin Wiggan presents *Dreamboat*, a new development of his ongoing research *Life Echo*, through which he creates personalised soundscapes inspired by individuals' memories.

*Ikon is delighted to host Justin Wiggan as our next artist in residence on Ikon Slow Boat. Justin Wiggan is at an exciting time in his career, creating pioneering arts projects that teeter*

*between exhilarating creative practice and scientific research.* Kaye Winwood, Producer, *Looping the Loop*.

As part of *Dreamboat*, participants can take part in a Sleep Laboratory from Thursday 27 September to Friday 28 September on board Birmingham's only floating hotel, *Boatel*. Guests will enjoy a soporific snack and a sonic massage before going to bed where - throughout their slumber - they will listen to a soundscape created by Justin Wiggan and Ikon Youth Programme (IYP). Next morning's breakfast will take place on *Slow Boat* where participants discuss the grey areas between waking, dreaming and remembering. Findings from *Dreamboat*, including interviews with the participants and scientists involved, will be showcased at Ikon 7-11 November.

Lucy Orta will be our last artist in residence for autumn 2018. In collaboration with MotherShip Projects – a community arts organisation working in Ladywood – she will work with local communities to create a processional banner based on their personal experiences of living in Birmingham. On Saturday 17 November, 10am–12.30pm, to mark the centenary of women's suffrage, Lucy Orta, MotherShip and students from Birmingham City University lead a procession through the streets of Birmingham headed by the finished banner, after which the banner will be installed within Orta's exhibition at Medicine Bakery and Gallery.

*Looping the Loop*, is supported by Arts Council Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Canal & River Trust and Grantham Yorke Trust.

## Events

**All events take place on-board *Slow Boat* at Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB unless otherwise stated.**

**Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org) or call us on 0121 248 0708. Please consider making a donation for free events. Ikon is a registered charity and your support helps us with everything we do.**

***Slow Boat* is accessible by wheelchair via a ramp and lift and crew are on hand to provide additional assistance for foot passengers boarding the boat. We advise visitors to call 0121 248 0708 to discuss any access requirements before booking.**

**Dreamboat - Make Your Own Memoryscape  
Monday 24 September, 10am-5pm - FREE  
Booking essential, limited spaces  
Meet at Ikon Gallery**

Artist Justin Wiggan explores dreaming through sleep experiments on *Slow Boat* and invites young people to become 'life echoists' for the day, creating soundscapes to be used in his residency. This event is presented with members of Ikon Youth Programme (IYP).

## **Dreamboat**

**Thursday 27 September, 9pm - Friday 28 September, 10am**

**£50, including accommodation and breakfast**

**Meet at Ikon Gallery**

**Booking essential, limited spaces**

Would you like to take part in a sleep laboratory? *Dreamboat* is a unique opportunity to spend a night on Birmingham's only floating hotel, Boatel – includes a sonic massage before listening to a soundscape by Justin Wiggan and Ikon Youth Programme. In the morning have breakfast with the artist and discuss the grey areas between waking, dreaming and remembering. Over 18s only.

## **Meet the Artists – MotherShip**

**Wednesday 10 October, 11am–1pm – FREE**

**Drop in, no need to book**

Meet MotherShip Projects, a community arts organisation working in Ladywood, on board *Slow Boat* to hear about their work with refugee women and their families. This autumn, MotherShip collaborate with artists Lucy Orta and Aimee Bourne and Birmingham City University students to design a banner using motifs and slogans derived from the Suffragette Movement and the experiences of women in Birmingham today.

## **Waterways**

**Thursday 11 October, 11am–12pm**

**£12 / £9.60 concessions**

**Booking essential, limited capacity**

Canal & River Trust writer in residence Jasper Winn and Canal Laureate Nancy Campbell share their work inspired by canals and discuss their passion for Britain's waterways on board *Slow Boat*. This event is chaired by poet and former Canal Laureate Jo Bell, followed by a book signing in Ikon Shop. Presented as part of Birmingham Literature Festival, to book visit [birminghamliteraturefestival.org](http://birminghamliteraturefestival.org)

## **Showcase – *Dreamboat***

**Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 November**

**11am–5pm – FREE**

**Drop in, no need to book**

**Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace**

Co-curated with IYP and *Slow Boat* artist in residence Justin Wiggan, this showcase comprises documents from the *Dreamboat* project – a sleep laboratory in which artistic scores are played as dream prompts – including interviews with the participants and scientists involved.

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Emily Luxford on 0121 248 0708 or email [e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org)

## Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery #ikonslowboat

## Links

[ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)

## Note to Editors:

1. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.  
[ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)

2. **Slow Boat**  
*Slow Boat* is curated by Ikon's Learning Team with members of Ikon Youth Programme (IYP), a group of young people, aged 16-21 years old, who share an interest in art and culture. IYP meet once a week and use *Slow Boat* as a social space to develop ideas and skills.

*Slow Boat* can often be seen journeying the canal network around Ladywood – it's easy to spot the striking blue and yellow exterior, featuring a design by Lamorna Conlon (Ikon Youth Programme member). Come and join us at one of our events.

3. **Ikon's history on the canals**  
Ikon has a long history of working on the canals, collaborating with artists on the waterways for nearly 20 years. In 2000 Japanese artist Shimabuku made *Cucumber Journey*, a two week voyage between Chisenhale Gallery, London and Ikon, Birmingham, during which time he pickled vegetables, with the flavour intensifying as the journey progressed, echoing the slowness of the passage of time. In the same year Tadashi Kawamata collaborated with a group of local volunteers on his work *Canal Boat*, converting a narrowboat into a communal social structure. Subsequent artworks have included *Icknield Port Loop* (2007) with Marie Lorenz who built a small boat by hand, using rubbish found in the city's canals; and *Hey for Lubberland!* (2009) with

Simon and Tom Bloor, who painted the exterior of the canopy with their interpretation of dazzle camouflage.

In 2011 Ikon Sandwell Council generously lent Ikon a narrowboat, the Aaron Manby, launched for the first iteration of *Slow Boat* (2011–2013) involving the Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) and artists Marjolijn Dijkman, Sarah Browne and Navin Rawanchaikul. *Black Country Voyages* (2014–2017) saw Ikon navigate the canals in and around Smethwick, Langley, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, Tipton and Brownhills. Artist-duo Juneau Projects transformed the boat into a hand-painted archive of people's ideas of the natural world, Jacques Nimki created a floating laboratory and Mahtab Hussain used the boat to tell a story of mass displacement in Pakistan in the 1960s. *Looping the Loop* (2017-19) commenced with artist residencies with James Lomax and Mahtab Hussain, working with local partners Brasshouse Languages, Canal and River Trust, Centre of the Earth, Roundhouse, Karis Neighbour Scheme, Ladywood Community Centre, The Real Junk Food Project Birmingham and MotherShip Projects in a programme of screenings and workshops. More recently, artists in residence included Ming de Nasty and Celebrating Sanctuary.

#### 4. Lucy Orta

Early this year Lucy Orta began collaborating with HMP Downview residents as part of the *Making for Change* programme, established by London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London. Commissioned by Historic England as part of the *HerStories* campaign, the group designed 30 banners to mark 100 years since British women won the vote. To coincide with her *Slow Boat* residency Orta exhibits a selection of these banners in an exhibition *Procession Banners* (23 October 2018 – 20 January 2019) at Medicine Bakery and Gallery, 69 New Street, Birmingham, B2 4DU.

5. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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# IKON

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0121 248 0708 / [www.ikon-gallery.org](http://www.ikon-gallery.org)  
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*Ikon Slow Boat*

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Justin Wiggan, photograph courtesy Pirate Hair Waves

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Lucy Orta, *PROCESSIONS* (2018). Photograph courtesy Lance Tabraham.