

IKON

Exhibitions / Events
June – September 2019
ikon-gallery.org
Free entry



The Aerodrome

An exhibition dedicated to the memory of Michael Stanley

Exhibition

12 June – 8 September 2019

Throughout Ikon

Please note the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps



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This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Michael Stanley, Curator of Ikon before becoming Director of Milton Keynes Gallery and then Modern Art Oxford, who died tragically in 2012. Co-curated with David Austen and George Shaw and structured loosely on Rex Warner's 1941 wartime novel *The Aerodrome*, a book that made a great impression on Stanley, it includes many of the artists he worked with, all of whom held him in great affection and regarded him as one of their own. Jenny Saville, for example, whose first solo show in a British public gallery took place at MAO in the year of his death, describes Stanley as someone who "wasn't scared of history or of being radical. He was as likely to be enthusing about working with a sculptor in his nineties, [as] raising funds to facilitate a young filmmakers' vision. His poetic sensibility, combined with a can-do attitude where everything's possible, is what made him so magnetic and convincing."

Phillip Allen
Polly Apfelbaum
David Austen
Karla Black
Simon & Tom Bloor
Boyd & Evans
Marcel Broodthaers
Marcus Coates
Nathan Coley
Phil Collins
John Constable
Michael Craig-Martin
Abraham Cruzvillegas
Shezad Dawood
Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane
dRMM Architects
Alec Finlay
Anya Gallaccio
John Gerrard
Siobhán Hapaska
Roger Hiorns
Lonnie Holley
Thomas Houseago
Langlands & Bell
Elizabeth Magill
Aleksandra Mir
Jean-Luc Moulène
Paul Nash
Hayley Newman
Adrian Paci
Susan Philipsz
Paul Ramírez Jonas
Kristian Ryokan
Michael Sailstorfer
Jenny Saville
George Shaw
Michael Stanley
Linder Sterling
Graham Sutherland
Phoebe Unwin
Wolfgang Weileder
Cathy Wilkes
Stephen Willats
Keith Wilson
Richard Woods
Gilberto Zorio



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Warner's *The Aerodrome*, written during the Second World War, is an allegorical novel whose young hero is faced with the disintegration of certainties about his loved ones and with a choice between the earthy, animalistic life of his home village and the pure, efficient, emotionally detached life of an airman. Its dystopian vision was very influential on writers such as Orwell, Burgess and Ballard. In fact it is full of the imagery we think of now as Ballardian: modern dystopias, bleak man-made landscapes and the psychological effects of technological, social or environmental developments. In light of current affairs world-wide, including the rise of terrorism, listening secret states and drone warfare – symptomatic variously of a serious challenge to the democracy we too often take for granted – a rereading of Warner's book, as the point of departure for such an exhibition, could not be more timely.

The exhibition is supported by The Ampersand Foundation, Gagosian, Henry Moore Foundation, Modern Art Oxford, Outset and Thomas Dane Gallery. Thanks also to Michael Stanley's family for unstinting generosity.

The Aerodrome is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue published by Ikon and Modern Art Oxford, featuring essays by artists David Austen, George Shaw, Carrie Stanley and Ikon's Director Jonathan Watkins.

Cover	Aleksandra Mir <i>Plane Landing</i> (2003) Compton Verney Courtesy the artist
1	George Shaw <i>Scenes from The Passion: The New Star</i> (2002) Private collection, London Image: Anthony Wilkinson Gallery, London and © George Shaw
2	John Constable <i>Study of Clouds</i> (1822) Image: © The Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

Associated Events



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Exhibition Opening

The Aerodrome

Wednesday 12 June, 6–8pm – FREE

Join us to celebrate the opening night of *The Aerodrome*. Pay bar.

Talks and Screenings

Committed Curating:

The achievement of Michael Stanley

Monday 22 July, 2.30–6.30pm – £3

Artists, curators and writers share their personal experiences of working with Michael Stanley. They consider the development of his curatorial approach through his programming at various venues – The Harris Museum, Compton Verney, Ikon, MK Gallery and Modern Art Oxford – distinguished by a close involvement in the production of new work, and an insistent pushing at the boundaries of space dedicated to art. Alongside archival footage of Stanley, speakers include David Austen, Paul Luckraft, George Shaw and Jonathan Watkins.

Films – David Austen and Shezad Dawood

Tuesday 16 July, 6–8pm – £5

Written and directed by David Austen, *Crackers* (2007) is set within a single room redolent of faded grandeur, somewhere in Hove. Sparsely furnished, it is where two protagonists, Tin and Heart (actors Toby Kebbell and David Leon), engage in an exchange that touches on themes that often occur in Austen's work – love, sex, death and the aches of human impulse and emotion.

Part documentary, part character-driven narrative, Shezad Dawood's film *Piercing Brightness* (2013, rated 12) considers the diverse and changing communities in Preston. Against the backdrop of the Lancashire landscape, which has the highest UFO sighting rate in the country, the film applies the lens of science fiction to fixed notions of race, migration and identity. Courtesy Thunderbird Releasing.

Revisiting wartime literature:

Surrealism, Anti-fascism and The Aerodrome

Monday 5 August, 6–8.30pm – £5

Dr Jeannette Baxter, reader in modern and contemporary literature at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, examines the relationship between Rex Warner's 'dark' surrealist novel *The Aerodrome* (1941) and World War II. She considers the influence of Warner's dystopic imagery on George Orwell and J.G. Ballard, producing a revision of the text in light of current affairs, including the rise of neo-fascist politics and culture, and global terrorism. Includes a screening of the 90 minute BBC adaptation of *The Aerodrome*, first screened in 1983, followed by a Q&A with by Director Giles Foster and Producer Ken Trodd. With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive.

**Book online at ikon-gallery.org
or call 0121 248 0708.**

Families and Schools



Free Drop-in Activities

Family Saturdays

Saturday 6 July, 12–4pm – FREE

Saturday 3 August, 12–4pm – FREE

Saturday 7 September, 12–4pm – FREE

Spend some time making and experimenting as a family with creative, hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibition.

Brindleyplace Dragonboat Race

Saturday 15 June, 12–4pm – FREE

Join us in Brindleyplace for a fun, free drop-in workshop where you can get creative whilst authentic Dragonboats paddle race the canal.

**Book online at ikon-gallery.org
or call 0121 248 0708.**

Summer School

What I did this summer

Monday 5 August – Friday 9 August, 10am–3pm

£120 per child, payable in advance

Suitable for children aged 7–12

Ikon's Learning Team and exhibiting artists Simon & Tom Bloor lead a week-long summer school. Explore the galleries, be inspired by Ikon's group exhibition *The Aerodrome* and experiment with a range of materials and techniques to make your own artworks. The summer school includes canal trips on-board Ikon's floating arts space, *Slow Boat*.

School Visits

At Ikon pupils enjoy learning to develop transferable key skills such as problem-solving, communication and literacy. We offer countless opportunities to think creatively and critically, engaging in cross-curricular activity, narrowing achievement gaps and raising attainment. There are a range of options available to suit a wide range of needs.

Ikon Slow Boat



Performances

Andy Ingamells – *Barataria*

Wednesday 12 June, 5–6pm – £3

Coinciding with the opening of *The Aerodrome*, experimental musician Andy Ingamells performs on *Slow Boat* in response to the passing urban and rural landscapes, blurring the line between composer, performer and listener.

Fly the Flag

24–29 June

Fly the Flag is an ambitious collaboration between arts organisations and human rights charities to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On board *Slow Boat*, Ikon flies a flag designed by artist and activist Ai Weiwei, symbolising advocacy for and celebration of universal human rights.



World Music Voyage

Thursday 4 July, 6–8pm – £5

Join artists from Celebrating Sanctuary for a *Slow Boat* trip with live world music and creative activities.

Rie Nakajima LP Launch

Saturday 20 July, 2–4pm – £10

Presented in partnership with Supersonic Festival, Birmingham's internationally renowned experimental music and art festival (19–21 July), Rie Nakajima launches her new LP – *1 May 2018* – a pressing from a performance with saxophonist and marine biologist Akira Sakata during her 2018 Ikon exhibition. Includes a one hour boat trip with Japanese drinks and snacks. supersonicfestival.com

Workshops and Discussion

Meet the Artist – Dion Kitson

Thursday 11 July, 3–5pm – FREE

Dudley-based artist Dion Kitson exhibits his archival research and artistic proposals for William Shenstone's eighteenth century landscape, The Leasowes, Halesowen. This includes designs for the *Assignment Seat* by Ian Hamilton Finlay in the pastoral paradise Virgil's Grove, upon Lover's Walk.

Assignment Seat

Sunday 14 July, 2–3pm – FREE

Leasowes Lane, Halesowen B62 8DH

Booking essential

Dion Kitson leads a performance walk through The Leasowes with experts on Shenstone's poetical garden and members of Ikon Youth Programme. This includes the placement of a large cardboard obelisk, fabricated by Kitson with IYP and transported by *Slow Boat*.

Slow Moving Words: Writing for Performance

26 and 27 July, 10am–4pm and 10am–8pm

£40 for two days, including lunch and refreshments

Artists Hayley Newman and Sally O'Reilly host a two-day writing workshop on *Slow Boat*, taking the canals and environs as site and catalyst for text-based performances. On the first day, participants develop writing in response to prompts, exercises and particularities of selected waterside places. The second day involves feeding back on texts, devising modes of delivery and preparing for an evening performance to an invited audience. Two bursaries are available for artists; visit Ikon's website for further information.

Urban Retreat – Simon and Tom Bloor

Simon and Tom Bloor use *Slow Boat* as a floating studio to document the urban decline and development of Birmingham's waterways, making a series of drawings in response to their findings and available to purchase from Ikon Shop as limited edition prints.

Carrie Stanley and Angela Samata

Ikon is working with artist Carrie Stanley and campaigner Angela Samata to use *Slow Boat* as a sanctuary for discussion and creative activity that addresses family bereavement. If you have experience of bereavement, or are involved with a charity supporting the bereavement of children and young people, please contact Ikon's Learning Team for more information on programmed activity.

All events take place on board *Slow Boat* unless otherwise stated. For boat location and booking please visit ikon-gallery.org or call 0121 248 0708.



Learning

Seminar

What is Refugee Week?

Monday 17 June, 11am–1.30pm – FREE

Celebrating Sanctuary ask what is Refugee Week (17–23 June) and why do we celebrate it? This is answered by members of the Refugee Week network in Birmingham who share their programme and activity around this year's theme 'You, me and those who came before'.

Screening

Mugging: A Case Study in Communication

Tuesday 2 July, 7.15–8.30pm – £3

Dr Kieran Connell (Queen's University Belfast) introduces a screening of Stuart Hall's film *Mugging: A Case Study in Communication* (Open University, 1974), focusing on the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies' work on the Handsworth mugging case that later led to the book *Policing the Crisis*. Followed by a discussion about reading *Policing the Crisis* in light of our current crises, led by Dr Nick Beech (New York University) and Ash Sarkar (Novara Media).

IYP

Open Social

Thursday 20 June, 6–8pm – FREE

Drop in, no need to book

A chance for young people to join members of Ikon Youth Programme for an evening exploring the current exhibitions and enjoy live music by local composer and performer Rosie Tee.

Flying the Flag with IYP

Thursday 27 June, 6–9pm – FREE

Drop in, no need to book

Find out more about IYP first hand by joining this flag making workshop with current members on board Ikon's *Slow Boat*. Then *Fly the Flag* in a procession marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Creative Careers

Thursday 18 July, 5–8pm – FREE

Drop in, no need to book

Free refreshments

Ever wondered what it's like to work in a contemporary art gallery and want to know how to get a foot in the door? Join Ikon staff to chat, ask questions and learn more about opportunities at Ikon and across the city. Hear from creative professionals about their own experiences of working in the industry, including Amahra Spence, multidisciplinary artist and producer, and meet Ikon's Front of House team in advance of recruitment for our forthcoming year of exhibitions.

Also Showing



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Kate Groobey

Pure Pleasure

9 May – 22 June 2019

Castello 2432, Venice, Italy (near Arsenale)

Ikon and a.topos present *Pure Pleasure* by British artist Kate Groobey. Consisting of video, dressed mannequin and paintings, this installation at the Venice Biennale 2019 is as joyful as it is philosophical, informed by the artist's feminist observations of art history.

5 Kate Groobey *Places Unknown* (2018)

6 Barry Flanagan *heap 3 '67* (1967)
Installation view
Courtesy The Estate of Barry Flanagan
and Plubronze Ltd

Future Exhibition



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Barry Flanagan

18 September – 24 November 2019

Ikon presents a major survey of work by Barry Flanagan, bringing together a selection of the artist's iconic bronze sculptures alongside earlier works made with rope, sand, cloth, stone, ceramics and light as a sculptural component. Curated with Jo Melvin, this exhibition offers new insights into the interconnectedness of seemingly distinct periods of Flanagan's forty year career, demonstrating an ongoing experimentation with materials and their properties and a symbiosis between abstraction and figuration.

Sylvani Merilion Ikon Founder Artist 1936–2019



Ikon was constantly on the agenda even when we were socialising. We often met at each others' houses and at parties. There was never any question that we wouldn't get a gallery underway with the money that Angus (Skene) provided and the efforts expended by everyone. There were many difficulties but notwithstanding these it happened.

Sylvani Merilion, 2004

Thank you



Ikon is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Ikon would also like to thank all those who make a donation during their visit.

**Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon.
Registered Charity no. 528892**

Support Ikon

As a charity, Ikon needs your support. We rely on donations from individuals and businesses to fund what we do. If you would like to donate, become a patron or leave a legacy, call 0121 248 0708 or visit ikon-gallery.org/support.

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Exhibition supporters

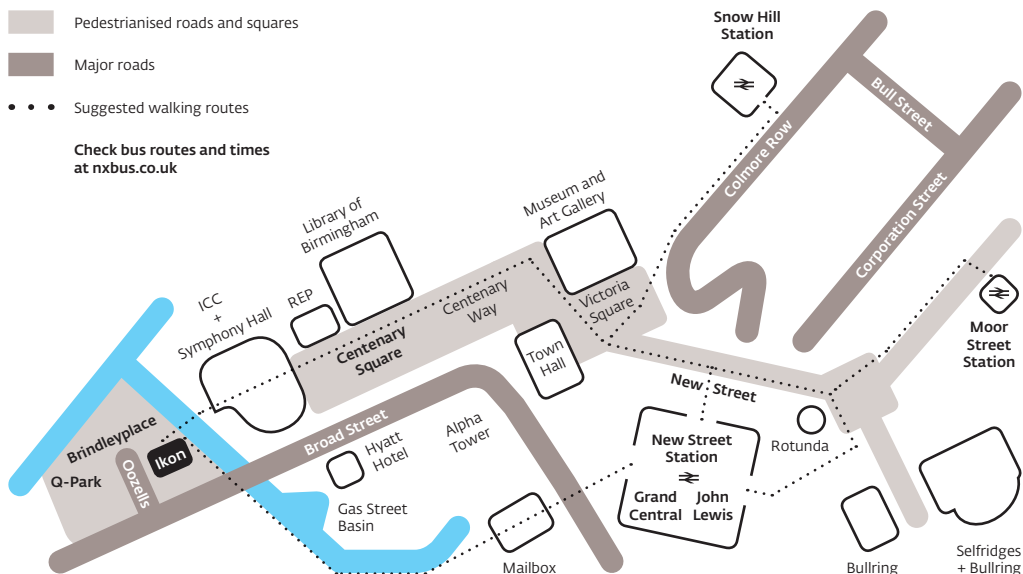
The Aerodrome is supported by The Ampersand Foundation, Gagosian, Henry Moore Foundation, Modern Art Oxford, Outset and Thomas Dane Gallery. Thanks also to Michael Stanley's family for unstinting generosity.

Project and Event supporters

Ikon's Learning Programme is supported by Arts Connect West Midlands, Birmingham City University, Cass Art and The Rowlands Trust. Ikon's *Slow Boat* programme, *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. Artist in Residence at HMP Grendon is supported by Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

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About Ikon

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in Central Birmingham. Housed in a magnificent neo-gothic school building, the gallery encourages public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. It is a charity and offers free entry to all.

Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
+44 (0) 121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org

   [ikongallery](#)

Registered Charity no. 528892

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–5pm

Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

Galleries closed 3–11 June 2019 for installation

Ikon Shop

Ikon Shop is Birmingham's only specialist art bookshop, stocking a range of books, cards, artists' limited editions, magazines and gifts. Open daily, 10.30am–5.30pm.

Yorks Café at Ikon

Open daily for Yorks' own-roasted coffee, house-baked cakes and all-day-dining menu including brunch favourites and delicious small plates, all served alongside a stunning wine and craft beer selection. Current opening times and menus at yorksbakery.co.uk

Visit

Ikon is situated in Brindleyplace, off Broad Street. Birmingham's main stations are all within a 25 minute walk and Ikon is easily accessible by bus. The nearest car park is Q-Park Brindleyplace on Brunswick Street (pre-book and quote IKON for 10% discount at q-park.co.uk). Orange and blue badge holders may park on Oozells Street in accordance with badge guidelines. There is a bicycle rack near Ikon.

Ikona aims to be fully accessible. Wheelchair and lift available. Assistance dogs welcome. Fitted induction loop and portable loop for talks. Ikona can provide British Sign Language (BSL) and audio described introductions to our current exhibitions. Individual or group bookings are free but must be booked. Please get in touch.

For more information and to plan your journey visit
our website: ikon-gallery.org/visit