

IKON

Exhibitions / Events
December 2019 – February 2020
ikon-gallery.org
Free entry



Meryl McMaster

As Immense as the Sky

Exhibition

4 December 2019 – 23 February 2020

First Floor Galleries

Launch Night

Wednesday 4 December, 6–8pm



From a rising generation of indigenous artists in Canada, Meryl McMaster (b. 1988, Ottawa) uses photography to explore identity and its distinct cultural landscapes with extraordinary visual impact. For Ikon, she shows new and recent work, drawing on her dual heritage to examine broader questions of being in the world.

McMaster is of the nêhiyawak community (Plains Cree) and a member of the Siksika First Nation (Alberta, Canada) on her father's side, and Euro-Canadian (British and Dutch) on her mother's. Fashioning elaborate, sculptural garments and props, her performative self-portraits present journeys which are both actual and imaginative, into the realms of her ancestors.

In her recent series *As Immense as the Sky* (2019), McMaster draws on place-based narratives, memory and self. Captured across ancestral sites in Saskatchewan and early settlements in Ontario and Newfoundland, she interprets, and re-stages patrimonial stories collected from relatives and community knowledge keepers. Acknowledging

the personal and social history and effects of colonisation, McMaster contemplates how ancestral stories are written into the landscape by the people who once lived, as well as those who still reside there. She presents herself in nature, viewing the environment and seasons as an integral part of the cultural context.

Works from her series *Edge of a Moment* (2017), taken in Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump in Alberta, an important historical site for the Siksika First Nation, address the environmental consequences of colonisation. McMaster references the dangers of unsustainable land usage and the erasure of key species within ancestral ecosystems.

The exhibition tours to Canada House, London, Spring 2020. It is supported by Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ), Canada Council for the Arts, Entente de développement culturel intervenue entre le gouvernement du Québec et la Ville de Québec and Manif d'art.

Cover Meryl McMaster
From a Still Unquiet Place (2019)
Digital C-print

1 Meryl McMaster
On the Edge of This Immensity (2019)
Giclée print

Courtesy of the artist and Stephen Bulger Gallery, Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain and The Baldwin Gallery

John Walker

New Paintings

Exhibition
4 December 2019 – 23 February 2020
Second Floor Galleries

Launch Night
Wednesday 4 December, 6–8pm



2

Ikon presents a major exhibition of new paintings by Birmingham-born artist John Walker (b. 1939), recently described as “one of the standout abstract painters of the last 50 years” (Cate McQuaid, *Boston Globe*, 2014).

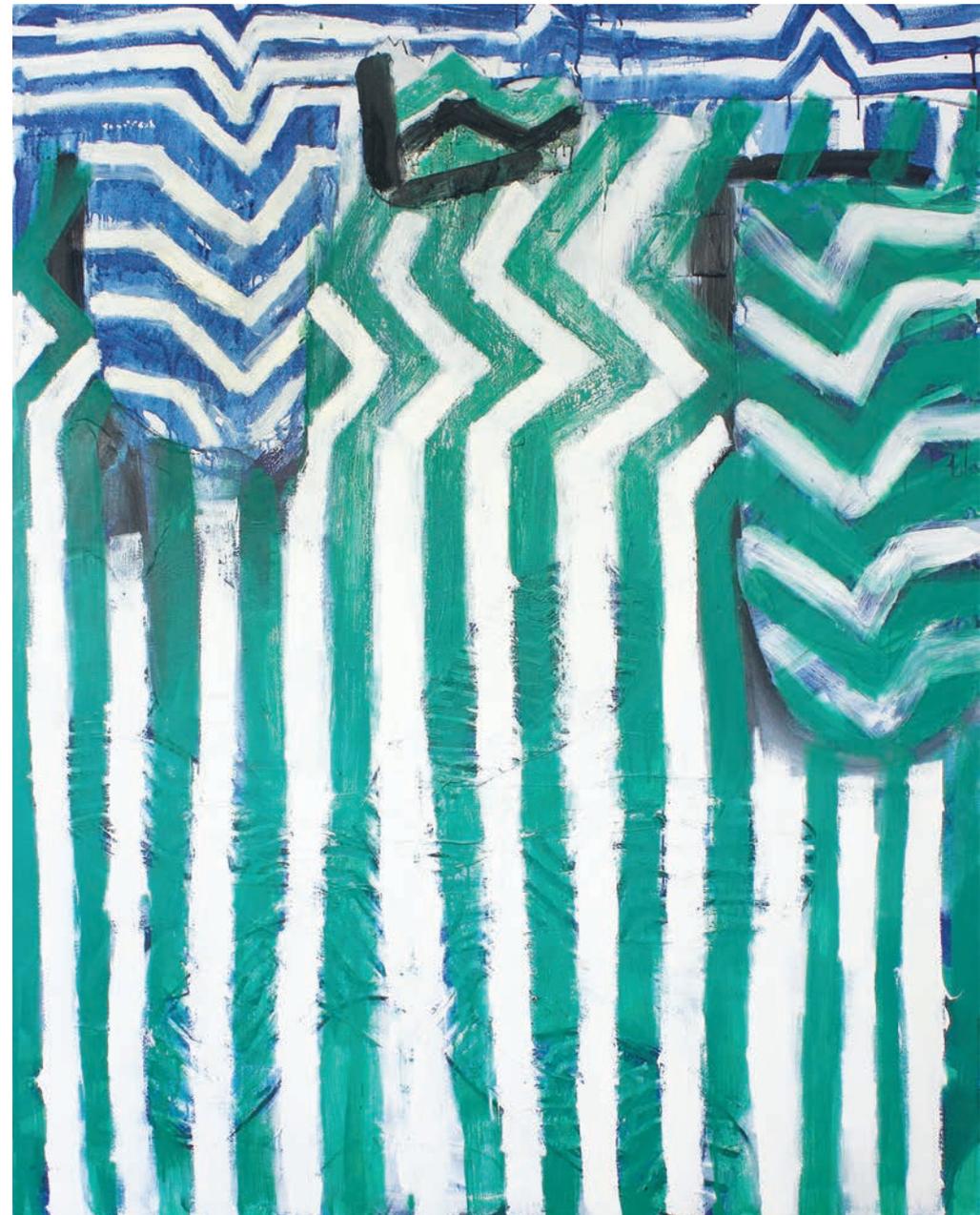
Having studied in Birmingham at the Moseley School of Art, and later the Birmingham College of Art, Walker was the first artist to show at Ikon Gallery when it moved in 1972 to new premises in the Birmingham Shopping Centre above New Street Station. Here he presented large chalk drawings on blackboards made in situ. In the same year he represented Britain at the Venice Biennale.

This exhibition reveals an artist at the height of his powers, featuring “anti-scenic” paintings inspired by the coastal landscapes of Maine where Walker now

lives. The freedom with which he is working, and the edgy beauty he achieves as a result, give rise to a refreshing artistic experience of colour and graphic rhythms.

Walker’s preoccupation with the natural world, and his place in it, is engaging in its essentialism – capturing light, space and tidal movement. He is turning paint into land, sea and sky on a coastline that beats to the sound of the Atlantic Ocean – a far cry from the industrial city where he was born and brought up. He left Birmingham more than fifty years ago to explore new landscapes, literally and artistically, and it is a privilege to have him back with us for a long-awaited homecoming.

The exhibition is supported by the John Feeney Charitable Trust and the Owen Family Trust.



3

2 John Walker
Nomad II (2018)

3 John Walker
Passage (2015)

All works oil on canvas
Courtesy the artist

New Limited Editions

Artists John Walker and Meryl McMaster have generously created new limited edition artworks to aid Ikon's fundraising. By buying these works you are directly supporting Ikon.

Visit Ikon's Editions Showcase (4 – 20 December 2019) or shop online for the full range of limited editions by artists including Polly Apfelbaum, Vanley Burke, Haroon Mirza and Cornelia Parker.

Meryl McMaster

On the Edge of This Immensity
Edition of 50
50 × 75cm
Digital print
£200



4 ZouZou Group
Damascus street, still from
– door open – (2019)



John Walker

Ripple
Edition of 35
75 × 55cm
Woodblock/screenprint
£400

ZouZou Group

– door open –

Exhibition

4 December 2019 – 23 February 2020

Tower Room, Second Floor

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

This new video installation, – door open – (2014–2019), is by ZouZou Group, comprising two anonymous artists, one Syrian from Damascus, the other British, living in England. The work comes from their ongoing dialogue, made possible (and frequently impossible) through online messaging and filesharing mobile phone video footage. The work exposes the constraints and imbalances of working together across the boundary of a war zone and longstanding military dictatorship. Three screens speak to and across each other, exploring, interpreting and finally overcoming the many impediments to making the work. The exhibition is supported by Art Fund.

Check online for associated events including a panel discussion with women artists and academics, reflecting on the themes of – door open –

Events

Visit Ikon's website for full events listings, including Talks, Curator Tours and Film Screenings.



5

Talks

Meryl McMaster and John Walker
Thursday 5 December, 6–7pm – £3

Artists Meryl McMaster and John Walker discuss their Ikon exhibitions, placing emphasis on the artistic representation of homelands and adopted landscapes, ecology and the possibility of capturing the essential nature of a place.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla
These Are a Few of My Favourite Things
Friday 13 December, 6–7pm – £3

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Music Director, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, discusses her eight favourite works of art with Jonathan Watkins, Ikon Director. This is the latest in our series of *These Are a Few of My Favourite Things*, recently featuring horticulturist Alys Fowler, multi-award winning saxophonist and MC Soweto Kinch, and cellist and conductor Julian Lloyd Webber.

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

Book Launch

***This Way To The Revolution* (2019)**
Tuesday 10 December

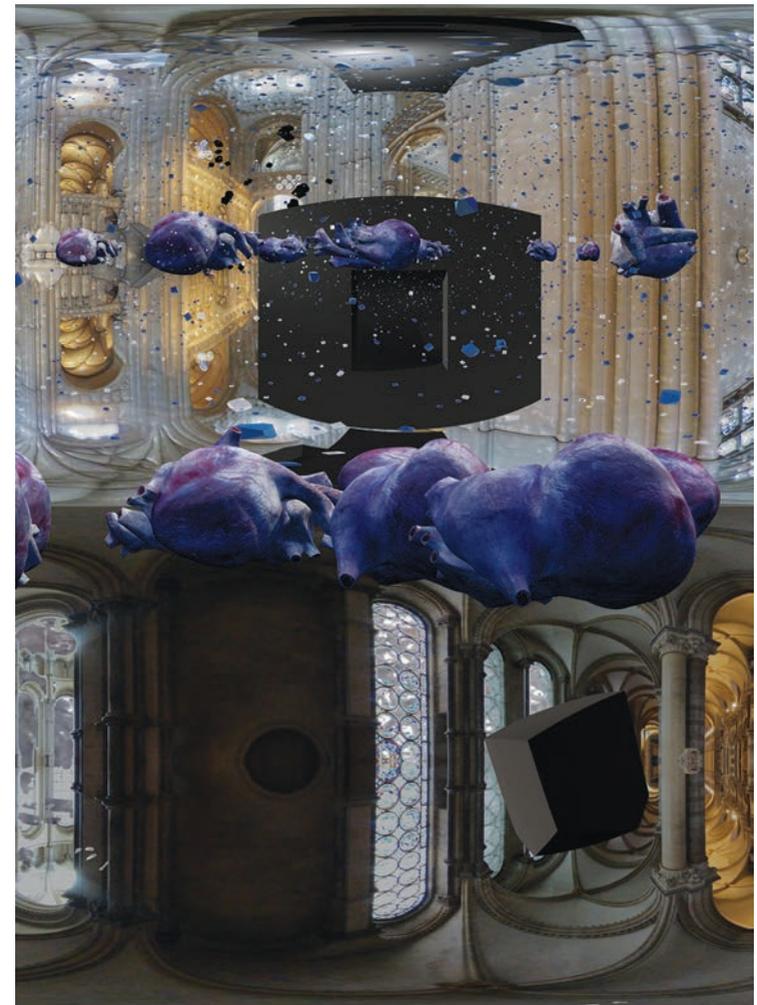
6–7.30pm, Ikon and 7.30–9pm, Yorks Café – FREE
No need to book, just drop in

Ian Francis, Director, Flatpack Festival, launches a book investigating art and activism in Birmingham in 1968, including the photography of Janet Mendelsohn and Nick Hedges and the stories behind Birmingham Arts Lab, Mothers club and Black Sabbath. Francis is joined by a number of those who have shared memories for the publication – among them musician Steve Ajao, who like John Walker studied at Moseley School of Art. Ajao and his band the *Blues Giants* play in Yorks Café after the launch.

Winter Craft Market

Thursday 12 December, 5.30–8.30pm – FREE

Join us for our annual Winter Craft Market, expanded over both floors of the gallery. Take the opportunity to meet a range of local independent makers, with artisan food and drink alongside stalls selling jewellery, gifts, cards and books plus music from the Diskery and 20% off in Ikon Shop.



6

VR Film

Lindsay Seers
Care(less)
15–23 February 2020 (closed Monday 17 February)
Events Room, First Floor

5 Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla
Photograph by Frans Jansen

6 Lindsay Seers
Care(less) (2019)
Film still
Courtesy Lindsay Seers/Keith Sargent
and Matt's Gallery

Care(less) (2019) is an immersive 360 degree film using VR technology by British artist Lindsay Seers. This OPCARE artist commission responds to new research by the University of Birmingham, University of Brighton and University of Lincoln, supported by the Wellcome Trust Enrichment Fund, into the experiences of older people receiving care they pay for themselves. The installation is part of an ongoing exploration around the ethics of care in partnership with Fabrica gallery, Brighton and Frequency Festival.

Please note this experience lasts for 20 minutes and has limited capacity. No need to book, just drop in.

Families

Ikon is a family-friendly gallery offering free creative activities and events. Visit on the first Saturday of every month and enjoy Family Saturday – a fun, practical workshop for all ages. Or pick up a copy of *Art Explorer*, our exhibition guide for children.



7

February Half Term Workshops:

Exploring our Landscape

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 February, 12–4pm – FREE

Moseley Community Hub, Balsall Heath, B12 9AH

We invite families to the former Moseley School of Art which inspired a generation of artists, including John Walker. Here we explore Walker's abstracted landscapes through painting and printmaking workshops with local artists. Open to all ages. No need to book, just drop in.

Visit Ikon's website for full events listing.
Ikon also houses a café, shop, baby changing facilities and a lift to all floors.

- 7 Starry Night family installation
- 8 School workshop at Ikon
- 9 IYP visit Ikon's Barry Flanagan exhibition

Schools

Ikon welcomes school visits all year, giving teachers and students a unique gallery experience.



8

Tours

Self-guided tour (max 30 students) FREE
Guided tour (max 30 students) 1 hour, £30

Workshops

KS1 + 2 – *What is a gallery?*
2 hours, £120 (max 30 students)

KS3–5 – Guided tour and practical workshop
3 hours, £150 (max 15 students)

Booking essential for all tours and workshops.
Book online at ikon-gallery.org or email learning@ikon-gallery.org.

Ikon Youth Programme

IYP is a group of young people, aged 16–21, who share an interest in visual art.

IYP meets once a week at Ikon to tour exhibitions, share ideas and work with artists. Visit Ikon's website for more information, details of future events and how to join IYP or contact Farwa Moledina f.moledina@ikon-gallery.org



9

Ikon *Slow Boat* 2017–2019

Looping the Loop, Ikon's ambitious programme of activity on *Slow Boat*, comes to a close this Winter. During this time, *Slow Boat* has become a space for encouraging greater understanding of the experiences of refugees and new arrivals to the city – recently collaborating with Celebrating Sanctuary to promote the exceptional talents of artists in exile.

Over the Winter, Ikon and IYP hold conversations and produce presentations reflecting on the *Looping the Loop* programme.

Check Ikon's website and social media for details of our Spring 2020 programme.



10

Art at HMP Grendon 2019–2022

Dean Kelland is Ikon's artist in residence for the next three years at Europe's only wholly therapeutic prison. Practical workshops on each of the prison's wings culminate in a Winter exhibition at HMP Grendon. If you are an artist, arts professional or work in criminal justice and would like to attend the exhibition, contact James Latunji-Cockbill: j.latunji-cockbill@ikon-gallery.org

Funded by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

For regular updates about Art at HMP Grendon visit ikon-gallery.org/blog

To be seen is to be perceived

Monday 17 February, 6–7pm – £3

Artist in residence Dean Kelland and other guests share slides from the Art at HMP Grendon exhibition, followed by a screening of Samuel Beckett's *Film* (1965), which plays with the notion of self-perception. This screening will be repeated for residents at HMP Grendon with the support of Flatpack and BFI.

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

Visit Ikon's website for full events listing

Future Exhibitions



11

John Newling

4 March – 31 May 2020

A major exhibition of new work by Birmingham-born artist John Newling. At the heart of Ikon's exhibition is *Dear Nature* (2018), a book of 81 letters the artist wrote to planet Earth over 81 days.

Judy Watson

4 March – 31 May 2020

Australian Indigenous artist Judy Watson shows new paintings, video and installation, exemplifying her interest in sacred sites in the light of her family history. Organised by Ikon Gallery and TarraWarra Museum of Art with consultant curator Hetti Perkins.

Yhonnie Scarce

9 April – 31 May 2020

Yhonnie Scarce was born in Woomera, South Australia, and belongs to the Kokatha and Nukunu peoples – a master contemporary glass blower, her practice explores the political nature and aesthetic qualities of glass. Organised by Ikon Gallery and TarraWarra Museum of Art with consultant curator Hetti Perkins.

10 Chartwell Diritu, Celebrating Sanctuary on board *Slow Boat*

11 Yhonnie Scarce
Glass bomb (Blue Danube) (2015)
Hand blown glass bomb and yams
Photograph by Janelle Low

Future Exhibitions



12 Carlo Crivelli *The Annunciation, with Saint Emidius* (1486)
Egg and oil on canvas, 207 x 146.7 cm
© The National Gallery, London
Presented by Lord Taunton, 1864

Carlo Crivelli Radical Illusionism in the 15th Century

Summer 2021

Ikon is delighted to announce winning the inaugural £125,000 Ampersand Foundation Award, which will enable the gallery to realise its dream of staging an exhibition of works by the 15th century master Carlo Crivelli. The Trustees of the National Gallery in London have agreed to lend four masterpieces by Crivelli for Ikon's presentation in Summer 2021.

This announcement comes as Jonathan Watkins marks 20 years as Ikon Director:

"An exhibition of work by the 15th century painter Carlo Crivelli is not only a dream come true for Ikon, but also something that I have always really wanted to do. Since being an undergraduate I have been fascinated by Crivelli, at once very 'traditional' in a northern Italian style but pointing towards a postmodern art historical future unlike any other pre-modern artist. In other words, arguably, Carlo Crivelli was as radical as Magritte."

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. Ikon is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Corporate Patrons

ARTiMBARC; CIS; Deutsche Bank; Emerson Press; EY; Glenn Howells Architects.

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Paul Aston; Lulu Badr; Adrian Bland; Simon Chapman; Angela Choon; Thomas Dane; Jean Denning; Victoria Denning; Carl & Didi Forster; Robert Goddard; Patzi Haslimann; John Hayes; Ian Hyde; Peter Jenkins; Tom & Yvonne Jones; Masood Khan; Stephen & Sigrid Kirk; Jeanette Koch; David & Mary Lodge; Oliver Longmore; Tom Merilion; Stephen Pallister; Jasmin Pelham; Mr & Mrs A E Taylor; Jonathan Watkins; Jonathan Wearing; Greville Worthington, Tricia Wright.

Exhibition supporters

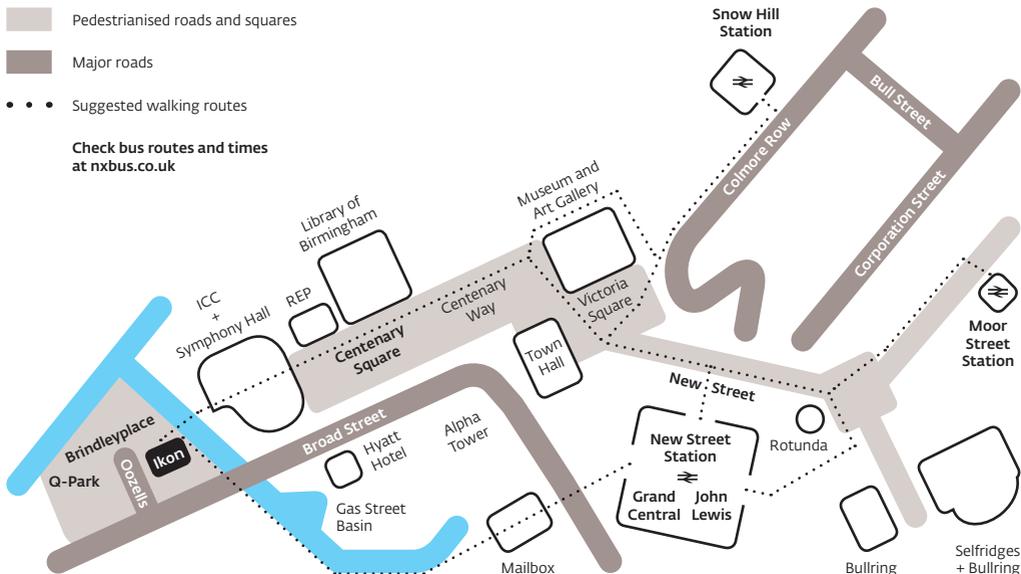
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Project and Event supporters

Ikon's Learning Programme is supported by Arts Connect West Midlands and Cass Art. 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

f t i ikongallery

Registered Charity no. 528892

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–5pm

Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

Galleries closed 25 November – 3 December 2019

and 23 December 2019 – 1 January 2020

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 is 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). Blue badge holders may park on Oozells Street in accordance with badge guidelines. There is a bicycle rack near Ikon.

Ikon aims to be fully accessible. Wheelchair and lift available. Assistance dogs welcome. Fitted induction loop and portable loop for talks. Ikon 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.

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. Visitors should call Ikon to discuss any access requirements before booking.

Enhance your experience of Ikon's exhibitions with an audio tour and extra content, accessible anywhere online. Visit artimbarc.app/galleries/ikon

Plan your visit at ikon-gallery.org/visit