IKON

Exhibitions / Events
March – May 2020
ikon-gallery.org
Free entry

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Judy Watson

Exhibition
4 March – 31 May 2020
First Floor Galleries

Launch Night
Wednesday 4 March, 6–8pm – FREE

Ikon presents the most comprehensive UK exhibition to date by Australian Aboriginal artist Judy Watson, as part of an international tour developed in partnership with TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Australia.

Born in Mundubbera, Queensland, Watson derives inspiration from her matrilineal Waanyi heritage, often conveyed through collective memory, using it as a foil for the archival research that informs much of her practice. The latter spells out an unceasing and institutional discrimination against Aboriginal people, described by curatorial advisor Hetti Perkins as "Australia's 'secret war'".

Ikon's exhibition includes new paintings, video and sculptural pieces – some made in response to visits she undertook to see British sites of prehistorical significance – which consider a more balanced and sustainable relationship between humanity and the rest of the natural world.

Exhibition supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Cover Judy Watson
standing stone, kangaroo grass, bush string (2020)
Acrylic, graphite on canvas
Courtesy the artist and Milani Gallery

1 Judy Watson
standing stones, ashes to ashes (2020)
Earth, acrylic, graphite on canvas
Courtesy the artist and Milani Gallery

Yhonnie Scarce

Exhibition
9 April – 31 May 2020
Tower Room, Second Floor
Please note the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps

Yhonnie Scarce was born in Woomera, South Australia, and belongs to the Kokatha and Nukunu peoples. Working with glass, Scarce explores the political nature and aesthetic qualities of the material – in particular corresponding to the crystallisation of desert sand as a result of British nuclear tests on her homeland during 1956–63. For Ikon, she undertakes a five week residency before presenting a new work in the Tower Room.

Organised by Ikon and TarraWarra Museum of Art with curatorial advisor Hetti Perkins. Supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

2 Yhonnie Scarce
Hollowing Earth (2017)
Hand blown uranium enriched glass
Courtesy the artist and This is No Fantasy
Photograph by Janelle Low

John Newling

Dear Nature

Exhibition
4 March – 31 May 2020
Second Floor Galleries

Launch Night
Wednesday 4 March, 6–8pm – FREE
Live reading of *Dear Nature* by the artist

Birmingham-born artist John Newling is a pioneer of public art with a social purpose.

Ikon's exhibition exemplifies his strong environmental proposition – at the heart is *Dear Nature* (2018), a book comprising letters Newling wrote to nature every day for 81 days. The letters explore our relationship with the natural world – "part truth and reconciliation, part advocacy of an urgent need, part thoughts for future social ecologies".

Newling's recent *Soil Books* (2019) likewise address this theme. Made with soil from his own garden, they embody the idea of the Anthropocene, our current geological age in which human impact is evident. His plea for a closer connection with the natural world is clear in his devising of a new alphabet based on leaves he found at Nymans, a National Trust garden in West Sussex. At Ikon, *Nymans Language* (2017) occurs in a grid of marble slabs on the floor and also as a downloadable font.

This exhibition is supported by Ikon Investment Fund.

3 John Newling
Eliot's Note Books (2017)
Mixed media
Courtesy the artist

4 John Newling
Dear Nature (2018)
Courtesy the artist and Beam Editions

… you are the music
While the music lasts
T. S. Eliot

Mariateresa Sartori

Étude no 10 in B minor

Exhibition
4 March – 5 April 2020
Tower Room, Second Floor
Please note the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps

This work by Italian artist Mariateresa Sartori is about the connection between music and language, one of her research fields. It is a visual representation of her perception that some Chopin piano pieces are like conversations between two people. The music highlights the emotional, universal value of communication, making specific content irrelevant.

5 Mariateresa Sartori
Étude Op.25 N.10 in B minor, Homage to Chopin, Dedicated to Roman Opalka (2012)
Video, 7'40", b/w, sound

Events

Visit Ikon's website for full events listings, including Talks, Tours and Film Screenings. ikon-gallery.org

Talks

Symposium
Culture and Country in Aboriginal Australia
Friday 6 March, 10am–4pm – FREE
Strand Campus, King's College London, WC2R 2LS (Council Room)
A day symposium responding to Ikon's exhibitions by Australian artists Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce. Both place emphasis on environmental issues, Indigenous cultural traditions and Britain's colonial legacy. Speakers include the artists and Aboriginal writer and curator Hetti Perkins. Organised in partnership with Menzies Australia Institute, School of Global Affairs, King's College London. Booking essential.

Birmingham & the A-bomb
Wednesday 8 April
Launch 5.30–6pm, Talk 6–7pm – £3
Join us to launch Yhonnie Scarce's new installation at Ikon. This event connects the landscapes of Birmingham, where scientific calculations that led to the development of the atom bomb were made during World War II, and Maralinga, South Australia, where nuclear testing took place during 1956–63. Speakers include Dr Ele Carpenter, curator, writer and artist whose research considers the contemporary aesthetics of living in a nuclear present. Booking essential. Presented as part of the Arts and Science Festival, University of Birmingham.

Artist's talk – John Newling
Wednesday 13 May, 6–7pm – £3
John Newling reveals the processes behind his work exhibited in *Dear Nature*. Together with Clare Lilley, Director of Programme, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Newling discusses a sustainable approach to artistic production in the age of the Anthropocene, our current geological age in which human impact on the environment is becoming increasingly evident. Booking essential.

Digital Broadcasts

During late Spring artist John Newling explores the local canal network, walking with writer Alys Fowler in search of holes in Birmingham's landscape as potential sites of soil excavation and plant intervention; and collaborating with Ikon Youth Programme to make geological excavations. Check Ikon's website and social media accounts for digital broadcasts of these interventions.

Book online at ikon-gallery.org
or call 0121 248 0708
Visit Ikon's website for full events listing

Performance

Cherry Blossom Concert
John Cage: Ryoanji
Sunday 29 March, 3–4pm – FREE
Outside Ikon, Oozells Square, Brindleyplace
Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (BCMG) and Ikon present a live outdoor performance of John Cage's 1984 work *Ryoanji*, composed for flute with electronic sound projections and percussion. This performance, amongst the cherry trees in Oozells Square, coincides with John Newling's exhibition, and creates "a garden of sound" with the instruments playing the very outlines of the stones and the raked sand that surrounds them.

Small Press Fair

Thursday 14 May, 5.30–7.30pm – FREE
Support your Birmingham publishing scene and visit Ikon's Small Press Fair. Stallholders include zine-makers and local small press such as Holodeck, Playtime Press and many more. This event includes readings and demonstrations.

Festival

The Migrant Festival
18–21 June 2020
Ikon presents the third annual *Migrant Festival* – a four day programme mixing visual art, music, film and performance. Coinciding with Ikon's 90s exhibition, *The Migrant Festival* celebrates the contribution made by refugees and migrants to Birmingham and the UK, whilst bearing witness to the hardships and sacrifices involved.

6 Fashion parade – with Osman Yousefzada
The Migrant Festival 2019

Families

Ikon is a family-friendly gallery offering free creative activities and events, including Family Saturday, a fun, practical workshop for all ages.

Easter Family Workshops: Leafy Lettering
Thursday 16 April, SEN Workshop, 10am–12pm, ages 6+ – £3
Friday 17 April, 10am–12pm, ages 3–5 – £3
Friday 17 April, 1–3pm, ages 6+ – £3
Experiment with natural materials and John Newling's Nymans alphabet to create a personalised print. Ticket includes one accompanying adult. Siblings welcome to book additional places. Booking essential.

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

7 Ikon Family Workshop

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

8 IYP and MA students from Birmingham School of Art, Bollards Project Showcase Launch, Ikon.

Art at HMP Grendon 2019–2022

Dean Kelland is Ikon's artist in residence at HMP Grendon, Europe's only wholly therapeutic prison. During the first year he has focused on the residents' exploration of artistic methods including printmaking and painting.

Funded by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

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

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Talk: Therapeutic Practice at HMP Grendon
Monday 23 March, 6–7pm – £3
Ikon Events Room, First Floor
Richard Shuker, HMP Grendon Head of Clinical Services, reflects on the therapeutic practices underpinning the prison's commitment to building positive relationships and encouraging responsibility and participation.

Art at HMP Grendon Showcase:
Koestler Awards 2020
Wednesday 6 – Sunday 10 May, 11am–5pm – FREE
Ikon Events Room, First Floor
Ikon showcases artwork by residents from HMP Grendon, made with Dean Kelland, Ikon's artist in residence, and submitted to the Koestler Awards. Curated in collaboration with MA Fine Art students, University of Wolverhampton.

Future Exhibition

Ikon in the 1990s

12 June – 6 September 2020

The fourth in a series of surveys of Ikon's artistic programme, this exhibition is a review of the 1990s. Comprising work by artists who featured in exhibitions and other projects at the gallery in John Bright Street during the period 1989–1997 and at Ikon's current premises in Brindleyplace until 1999.

9 Graham Gussin
Surrendering 2 (1995)
Courtesy the artist

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.

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Exhibition supporters
The Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce exhibitions are supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. John Newling's exhibition *Dear Nature* is supported by the Ikon Investment Fund.

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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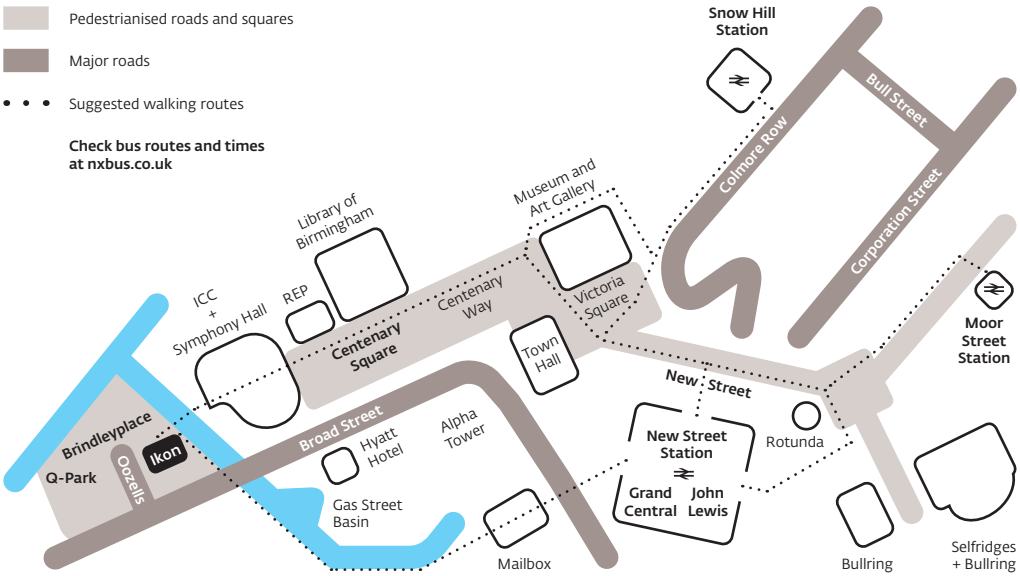

About Ikon

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
Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–5pm
Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays
Galleries closed 24 February – 3 March 2020

Connect with Ikon
ikongallery

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 yorkscafe.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.

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