

IKON

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org
free entry / donations welcome
Registered charity no. 528892

Ikon for Artists: Art Sale 17 – 31 May 2021



On Monday 17 May Ikon reopens after lockdown*, devoting its galleries to an exhibition of artworks for sale by over 250 Birmingham artists. Submitted through an open call, work in a range of media is presented both in the gallery and on Ikon's website. 100% of the proceeds from artwork sales go directly to the artists.

Formed in response to Covid-19, *Ikon for Artists* aims to support artists whose income has been impacted by the pandemic.

The Birmingham art scene has been very shaken. The locked down days are most difficult for artists and other freelancers who depend on work generated by local and regional arts venues. At Ikon we are doing our best to be practically helpful. For example, we are now in the process of organising an unprecedented selling exhibition in May, encouraging visitors to dig deep into their pockets. A city like Birmingham needs a thriving art scene and such investment in the futures of local practitioners will benefit everyone. Jonathan Watkins, Ikon Director.

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In December 2020 Ikon launched an open call, inviting Birmingham-based artists to submit one artwork with a value of up to £1,000. There was no curatorial selection process and no submission fee. Guidelines required participants to demonstrate they have been practising full-time or part-time as an artist in Birmingham, and submissions were welcomed in a range of media including painting, drawing, photography, textiles, sculpture and video. The works are exhibited in the order applications were received.

The response to the Ikon for Artists Open Call was phenomenal. Among the many submissions we received, there's an incredible range of artistic styles and media. Whether supporting a local artist, or looking for an artwork for your home, there's something for everyone.

Melanie Pocock, Ikon Curator

Ikon's show of support for local artists includes encouraging visitors to buy the artworks on display as 100% of the proceeds goes directly to the artists. Online booking for tickets to visit *Ikon for Artists* opens via Ikon's website on Friday 9 April and a full list of works will be posted online from Tuesday 4 May. Buyers will liaise directly with the individual makers, with the hope that connections made as a result of *Ikon for Artists* will generate sales and opportunities far into the future. All artworks will be available to view in person in the gallery or on Ikon's website ikon-gallery.org

Ikon looks forward to welcoming visitors back to the gallery and provides a Covid-safe environment with a one-way system, hand sanitiser stations and reduced capacity. Visitors are required to wear a face covering and book in advance, full visit guidelines available at ikon-gallery.org

Ikon for Artists launches with a digital event with Joe Lycett, comedian and participating artist. *These Are A Few Of My Favourite Things* sees Lycett share his ten favourite works of art with Jonathan Watkins, Ikon Director.

Ikon for Artists is a two-week exhibition (17 – 31 May 2021), open 7 days a week (Monday-Friday, 11am-4pm; Saturday-Sunday plus Bank Holiday Monday, 11am-6pm. Free entry, donations welcome).

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Rebecca Small or Laura Jaunzems on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or l.jaunzems@ikon-gallery.org

Social Media - Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery #ikonforartists

Links: ikon-gallery.org

Note to Editors:

1. *Please note all dates are subject to change, in particular as a result of Government announcements relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. 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
3. 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](#).
4. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. ACE support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, ACE will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. artscouncil.org.uk