

IKON

FORWARD PROGRAMME 2023



Ikon Gallery

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Registered charity no. 528892

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INTRODUCTION

Ikon, Birmingham's internationally acclaimed contemporary art gallery, announces plans for 2023: exhibitions and education programmes that represent our ongoing commitment to showcasing the very best of British and international art.

The year begins with ***Horror in the Modernist Block***, an exhibition of new and recent work by 20 UK and international contemporary artists exploring the relationship between architectural modernism and horror. In March, Birmingham-based artist and activist **Foka Wolf** creates a gallery installation and billboard campaign that illustrates the invisibility of people with learning disabilities and / or autistic people in long-stay hospitals.

In summer 2023, Ikon transforms its galleries into a platform for performance art, with the first UK exhibition by acclaimed Indonesian performance artist **Melati Suryodarmo**. This is followed by an exhibition by Birmingham-born artist **Dean Kelland** who exhibits the results of his four-year residency at HMP Grendon, Buckinghamshire, Europe's only wholly therapeutic prison.

Ikon's Education Programmes continue to address key social issues, often working off-site with artists to collaborate with schools and communities.

Ikon's artist residency **Art at HMP Grendon** with Dean Kelland (2019 – 2023), continues to focus on the development of the prisoners' artistic practice. Ikon has opened the *Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Studio* at Grendon - a dedicated space for workshops and exhibitions.

Ikon Youth Programme (IYP), with the support of Freelands Foundation (2021 – 2024), navigates the waterways on board *Slow Boat*, a converted narrow boat. IYP are collaborating with creative thinkers and makers to reimagine *Slow Boat* as a local art school, offering an alternative curriculum against the backdrop of funding cuts to arts education.

A Gift to Birmingham, Ikon's collaborative research project with photographer Vanley Burke, Migrant Voice and University of Birmingham, tours to venues in the city. Featuring photographic portraits of members of Migrant Voice, the project considers the role of artists, educators and activists in challenging assumptions about migration and breaking down institutional and intercommunal barriers.

Ikon also enters a new phase in its history as Jonathan Watkins, Director since 1999, stepped down in October 2022. During the coming period members of the current senior management team will take on new roles and responsibilities. Ian Hyde becomes Acting Chief Executive Officer; Melanie Pocock becomes Acting Artistic Director, Exhibitions; and Dr Linzi Stauvers becomes Acting Artistic Director, Education.

IKON EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 2023

HORROR IN THE MODERNIST BLOCK

25 NOVEMBER 2022 – 1 MAY 2023

IKON GALLERY & OFF-SITE



Ho Tzu Nyen, *The Cloud of Unknowing* (2011).

HD projection, 13 channel sound, smoke machines, floodlights, show control system.

Courtesy of the artist and Kiang Malingue Gallery, Hong Kong.

Modern architecture is often associated with the horror genre. In fiction and film, high-rise towers and concrete buildings form the backdrop to terrifying stories of dystopia. Ikon presents new and recent work by 20 UK and international contemporary artists exploring the relationship between architectural modernism and horror.

The exhibition takes Birmingham as its starting point, a city renowned for its brutalist architecture. It considers how these artists unpack the troubled histories and legacies of modernist buildings through the lens of horror by linking its tropes (suspense, darkness, fear) with qualities of modernist design.

Artists: Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann, Simon & Tom Bloor, Ruth Claxton, Shezad Dawood, Ola Hassanain, Ho Tzu Nyen, Richard Hughes, Karim Kal, Kihlberg & Henry, Firenze Lai, Diego Marcon, Ismael Monticelli, NT, Amba Sayal-Bennett, Seher Shah, Monika Sosnowska, Maria Taniguchi, Abbas Zahedi.

The exhibition and public programme are supported by Fluxus Art Projects, Embassy of the Netherlands, Freelands Foundation, Italian Cultural Institute and The Modern Institute.

FOKA WOLF

WHY ARE WE STUCK IN HOSPITAL?

7 – 19 MARCH 2023

IKON GALLERY & OFF-SITE



Foka Wolf, *Enter chaos* (2019). Image courtesy the artist.

Birmingham-based artist and activist Foka Wolf creates a gallery installation and billboard campaign that illustrates the invisibility of people with learning disabilities and / or autistic people in long-stay hospitals. Known for his ‘subvertisements’, which parody corporate and political posters, Foka Wolf’s interventions make us question our city’s infrastructure and whether it is meeting the needs of our community.

Comprising graphic design and declarative captions, Foka Wolf’s new work responds to *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* – a project conducted by the School of Social Policy at the University of Birmingham in partnership with rights-based organisation Changing Our Lives. The research raises awareness of the 2,000 people with learning disabilities and / or autistic people who live in hospital settings for long periods of time, often for many years and with no planned date to leave. Ikon’s exhibition coincides with the publication of policy guidelines based on the experiences of people with learning disabilities, their families and front-line staff.

Why Are We Stuck in Hospital? is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research HS&DR programme.

MELATI SURYODARMO

17 MAY – 3 SEPTEMBER 2023

IKON GALLERY



Melati Suryodarmo, *I'm a Ghost in My Own House*.
Performed at Lawangwangi Foundation, Bandung, 2012. Photo courtesy of the artist.

In summer 2023, Ikon transforms its galleries into a platform for performance art, with the first UK exhibition by acclaimed Indonesian performance artist Melati Suryodarmo.

Melati Suryodarmo is one of Indonesia's most important living artists. Mentored by renowned Butoh dancer and choreographer Anzu Furukawa and performance artist Marina Abramović, Suryodarmo's physically demanding performances can last several hours, testing the limits of the human mind and body. Her longest work, *I'm A Ghost in My Own House* (2012), involves the artist grinding blocks of charcoal with a rolling pin continuously for 12 hours. Visually spectacular, Suryodarmo's performances are feats of endurance that interrogate notions of time, labour and identity.

The exhibition at Ikon features live performances by Suryodarmo and "delegated works" performed by artists and communities in Birmingham.

This exhibition is developed in collaboration with Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara (Museum MACAN), Jakarta, Indonesia and supported by the Melati Suryodarmo Exhibition Circle, A.I. Gallery.

DEAN KELLAND

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

20 SEPTEMBER – 22 DECEMBER 2023



Dean Kelland, *Walk A Mile In My Shoes* (2022).
Performance film excerpt still. Image courtesy the artist.

“You can't pretend in here. You've got to try and remove the mask and address what's left.” – ‘B’, C Wing

Birmingham-born artist Dean Kelland exhibits the results of his four-year residency at HMP Grendon, Buckinghamshire, Europe's only wholly therapeutic prison.

In 2019 Kelland started documenting his dialogues with the male prisoners and therapeutic staff in his sketchbooks that test ideas for moving image works. Between the page and the screen, Kelland carries therapeutic tropes – of ‘masking’ and ‘mirroring’ – through a series of solo and group performances set within the prison environment and community.

The exhibition is accompanied by two publications – *Notes from Grendon 1* and *2* – including excerpts from Kelland's sketchbooks and blog posts alongside artworks and letters by the prisoners. It is supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

JUDY WATSON AND YHONNIE SCARCE *LOOKING GLASS*



(l-r) Judy Watson, *standing stone with spines* (2020); Yhonnie Scarce, *Cloud Chamber* (detail) (2020); Judy Watson, *standing stone, grevillea* (2020). Installation view, *Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce*, TarraWarra Museum of Art. Photo: Andrew Curtis.

Following Judy Watson's exhibition at Ikon (March – September 2020) and Yhonnie Scarce's residency at Ikon (March 2020 – June 2022), Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Australia presented *Looking Glass* (November 2020 – March 2021), an important exhibition by two of Australia's most acclaimed contemporary artists. It toured Australia during 2022 and continues: Latrobe Regional Art Gallery (November 2022 – March 2023), Mildura Arts Centre (June – August 2023) and Wangaratta Art Gallery (August – October 2023). Organised by Ikon and TarraWarra Museum of Art with curator Hetti Perkins. Touring Australia with NETS Victoria.

MIT JAI INN *DREAMDAY / DREAMWORLD*

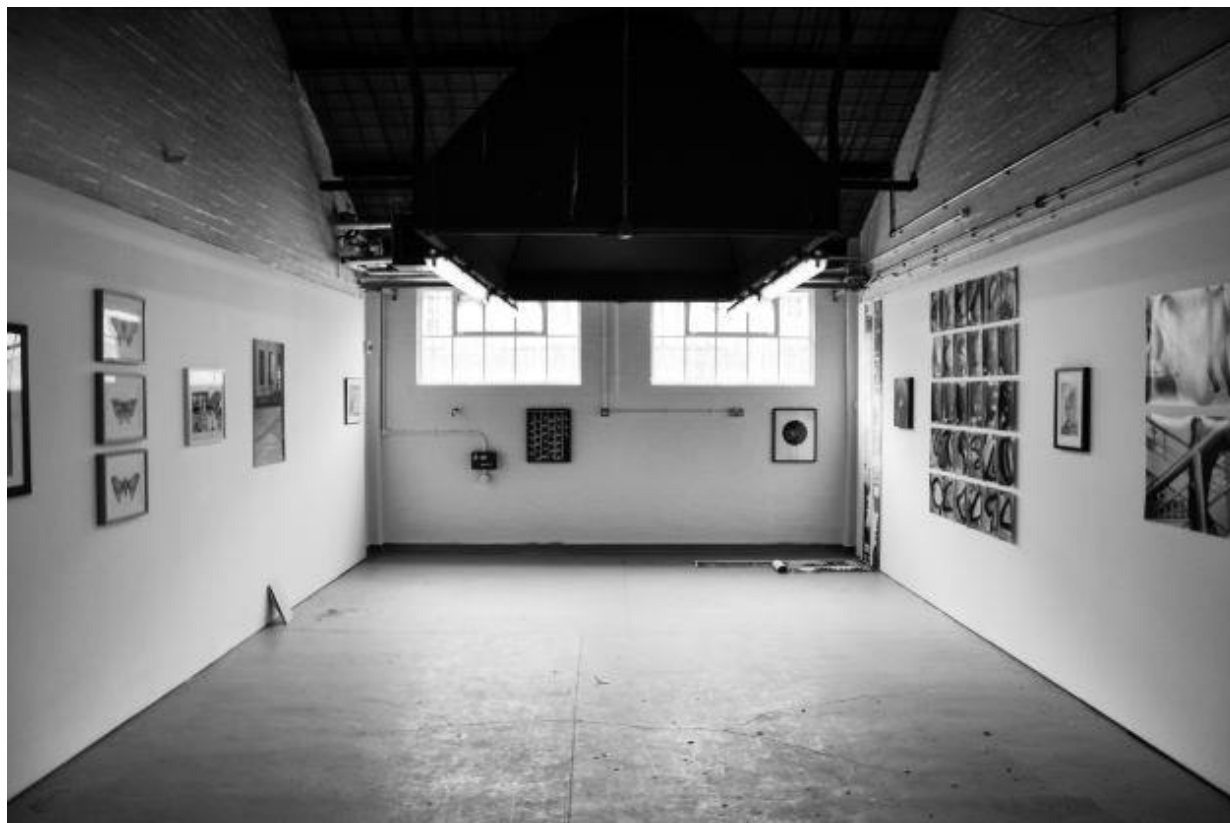


Installation view, Mit Jai Inn, *Dreamworld* (2021).
© Ikon Gallery. Photographer: Stuart Whipps

In 2021 Ikon presented *Dreamworld*, the first major solo exhibition in Europe by leading Thai artist Mit Jai Inn. Ikon now collaborates with MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai to present *Dreamday*, a solo exhibition by Mit Jai Inn at Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok (December 2022 – February 2023). *Dreamworld* then tours to MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai (March 2023 – February 2024).

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

ART AT HMP GRENDON 2019 – 2023



From Night into Day Showcase of prisoners' artwork, Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Studio (2022).

The Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust has funded *Art at HMP Grendon* for twelve years. During this period, Ikon has managed two artist residencies – Edmund Clark (2014 – 2018) and Dean Kelland (2019 – 2023) – resulting in major exhibitions at Ikon Gallery and HMP Grendon, Buckinghamshire.

With a focus on the development of the prisoners' artistic practice, Ikon has opened the *Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Studio* at HMP Grendon – a dedicated space for workshops, in printing and painting, and a changing programme of exhibitions, art historical and contemporary. Future exhibitions will include presentations of work by Australian painter Sidney Nolan (1917 – 1992) and Viennese artist Marie-Louise von Motesiczky (1906 – 1996).

The residency runs alongside a public programme of research symposia and events at Ikon, allowing a platform for public discourse on the role of art in criminal justice.

IKON YOUTH PROGRAMME

SLOW BOAT

2021 – 2024



Ikon Youth Programme with *Slow Boat*. Image courtesy Ikon. Photographer, Tod Jones.

Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) are a group of young people aged 16-21. Together they make artwork, meet artists, publish writing and organise events.

With the support of Freelands Foundation, over three years (2021 – 2024) IYP navigates the waterways on board *Slow Boat*, a converted narrow boat. IYP are collaborating with creative thinkers and makers to reimagine *Slow Boat* as a local art school. Set against the backdrop of funding cuts to arts education, they are offering an alternative curriculum, raising fundamental questions concerning the definition and relevance of art.

To date, IYP has delved into thinking and making – exploring performance, craft and conversations around art education. With artist Betsy Bradley they transformed *Slow Boat's* exterior with a radical new 'dazzling' design. IYP took up residence in Birmingham's creative workshops, engaging with traditional jewellery-making and experimental clay work. The group explored glass as a material and considered new skills such as casting and urban photography with artists, technicians and heritage workers in the West Midlands. In 2023 IYP will focus on the opportunities presented by art schools in Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton.

VANLEY BURKE

A GIFT TO BIRMINGHAM

2022 – 2023



Vanley Burke, *A Gift to Birmingham* (2021). Digital prints, courtesy the artist.
Left: Selbin. Centre: Mashkura. Right: Collette and her children.

In 2022 Ikon presented a showcase of photographic documentation of migrant communities in Birmingham by renowned photographer Vanley Burke, in collaboration with Migrant Voice and University of Birmingham. In 2023 it tours to Handsworth Library and University of Birmingham.

A Gift to Birmingham features seventeen portraits of members of Migrant Voice, a migrant-led national organisation with a hub in Birmingham. Each image tells a story of migration, either recent or long past, with subjects accompanied or alone. Displayed together, the photographs present a portrait of Birmingham as a superdiverse city, with residents from many parts of the world.

This collaborative research project considered the role of artists, educators and activists in challenging assumptions about migration and breaking down institutional and intercommunal barriers. Ikon, with Dr Reza Gholami, University of Birmingham, created schools' activity packs (KS 1, 2 and 3) for teachers and students to discuss sensitive issues and address conflict. Designed by artist educator Haseebah Ali, they include questions on race, language, culture and religion; and creative exercises, allowing learners to express their identities.

A Gift to Birmingham was commissioned as part of the 'Non-formal Intercommunal Education in Birmingham (NICE-B)' project, led by Dr Reza Gholami, Deputy Director of the Centre for Research in Race and Education, University of Birmingham.

FUNDING

Ikon is a registered charity and is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. These core grants cover the gallery's running costs, enabling Ikon to provide free entry. The exhibitions, education programme and off-site projects across the city are primarily paid for through fundraising activity. Ikon raises money through venue hire, Ikon shop, trusts and foundations, corporate patrons and sponsors, international funding sources and the generosity of those visitors and supporters who make a donation.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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INDIVIDUAL PATRONS

A.I. Gallery; Paul Aston; Lulu Badr; Simon Chapman; Victoria Denning; Robert Goddard; Patzi Haslimann; John Hayes; Ian Hyde; Peter Jenkins; Tom & Yvonne Jones; Jeanette Koch; David Lodge; Oliver Longmore; Tom Merilion; Stephen Pallister; Jasmin Pelham; Jonathan Seville; Elizabeth-Valentina Sutton; Jonathan Watkins; Jonathan Wearing; Richard Wilkinson; and those who wish to remain anonymous.

CORPORATE PATRONS

Cass Art; Deutsche Bank; Elonex; EY; Glenn Howells Architects; Viessmann.

SECTOR PARTNERS

PLUS TATE aims to support the development of the visual arts across the UK, and to foster a climate where exchange and partnership can flourish. Joining together to exchange ideas, knowledge, skills and resources, as well as programmes and collections, the Plus Tate partners, along with and facilitated by Tate, broaden and deepen engagement in modern and contemporary art across the country.

CULTURE CENTRAL is a collective voice and development agency for culture and the creative industries in Birmingham and the wider region. Culture Central is committed to developing and leading projects, alongside other leadership bodies in the city region, that have the potential for a positive impact on the sector and on the region.

IKON TEAM



Left to right: Melanie Pocock, Ian Hyde, Dr Linzi Stauvers.

In October 2022 Ikon entered a new phase in its history as Jonathan Watkins, Director since 1999, stepped down.

During the coming period members of the current senior management team will take on new roles and responsibilities. Ian Hyde becomes Acting Chief Executive Officer; Melanie Pocock becomes Acting Artistic Director, Exhibitions; and Dr Linzi Stauvers becomes Acting Artistic Director, Education.

They will be supported by the rest of the senior management team: Matthew Hogan, Head of Operations; Julie Nicholls, Head of Finance; Rebecca Small, Head of Communications.

Biographies:

Ian Hyde

As Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ian Hyde has an overview of the whole organisation, prioritising areas such as operations, financial management, fundraising and income generation, HR, strategic planning and stakeholder relations. He is also Company Secretary and facilitates the charity’s Board of Trustees.

Previously Ian was a freelance consultant in operations and strategic planning for a number of UK festivals and arts organisations including Boardmasters, NASS Festival and the London 2012 Olympic Games amongst others. He also worked for Manchester International Festival, Contact Theatre, Manchester and Urban Splash. Ian currently serves on a number of boards in Birmingham. He is Chair of Birmingham LGBT, the region’s leading charity advocating for and supporting LGBTQIA+ communities and is on the Board of Culture Central, the collective voice of the cultural sector in the West Midlands.

Melanie Pocock

As Acting Artistic Director, Exhibitions, Melanie Pocock leads on Ikon's exhibition programme, publications, and, with the wider team, off-site projects. Appointed Curator in January 2020, she has curated solo exhibitions by Mit Jai Inn, Krištof Kintera, James T. Hong, Betsy Bradley, Abdulrazaq Awofeso and Yhonnie Scarce. In 2022 she curated [Foreign Exchange](#), a reimagining of Birmingham's city-centre statue of Queen Victoria by Guyanese-British artist Hew Locke RA for the Birmingham 2022 Festival.

Melanie previously held curatorial roles at Modern Art Oxford and Art Scene China. She was Assistant Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (2014-2019) and curated more than 60 exhibitions with Southeast Asian and international artists. As an editor and writer Melanie contributes to exhibition catalogues and artists' monographs, and has written essays, articles and reviews for many publications. Melanie holds an MA with distinction in Curating Contemporary Art, Royal College of Art, London and her areas of expertise are international contemporary art, the representation of global majority artists in public institutions, and mentorship for artists and emerging curators.

Dr Linzi Stauvers

As Acting Artistic Director, Education, Dr Linzi Stauvers leads on Ikon's education programmes and the gallery's public programme of events. Since joining Ikon in 2017, she has been responsible for [Art at HMP Grendon](#), including artist residencies by Edmund Clark and Dean Kelland, supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust. She has worked with Freelands Foundation to reenvision the alternative arts curriculum offered by [Ikon Youth Programme](#) on *Slow Boat*. Linzi produced Ikon's [Migrant Festival](#), supporting communities to engage with Ikon's exhibitions and off-site projects by Osman Yousefzada and Hew Locke and commissioned new digital works, by artists Haroon Mirza, Keith Piper and Lindsay Seers, that respond to social, political and spiritual crises.

Previously Linzi was Programme Producer at Pavilion, Leeds (2011-2015) where she commissioned artist moving image works. Whilst undertaking a PhD in History of Art (UCL, 2010), she worked at the National Portrait Gallery, MK Gallery and The Hepworth Wakefield. Linzi has worked in gallery education for twenty years.

IKON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Professor Helen Higson OBE DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Professor of Higher Education, Learning and Management, Aston University

Lee Brocklehurst, Accountant, Quantuma Advisory LLP; **Rachel Chiu**, Head of Business Development, Spring Housing Association; **John Cloughton**, Former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham; **Soweto Kinch**, award winning alto-saxophonist and MC; **Jenny Loynton DL**, Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Director, Loynton & Co. Solicitors Ltd; **Harminder Randhawa**, Accountant, Jaguar Land Rover; **Dee Sekar**, Musician, curator and global D&I expert, lawyer by training; **Nick Smith**, CEO, Elonex; **Liam Smyth**, Digital and Data Consultant, The Audience Agency.

IMAGES

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS. 0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org Open Tuesday-Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm / free entry
Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 528892
2. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is a registered charity, with free entry for all, 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 and through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Education Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.

3. Ikon's first home was in a glass-sided kiosk in the Bullring shopping centre, a 'gallery without walls'. Since then, Ikon has had a number of venues around the city centre and in 1998 moved to its current premises in Brindleyplace, converting an old Victorian school building into a contemporary art gallery. Ikon now welcomes over 200,000 visitors a year. From a humble start, Ikon has grown to establish a worldwide reputation as one of the most international art institutions in the UK. In recent years, exhibiting artists have hailed from China, Japan, Australia, France, USA, Czech Republic, Canada and Thailand, in addition to homegrown talent including Jesse Bruton, Vanley Burke, Ruth Claxton, Mahtab Hussain and Hurvin Anderson. Ikon has played a key role in the development of many artistic careers - Antony Gormley, Beatriz Milhazes, Cornelia Parker, Julian Opie and Carmen Herrera all had important exhibitions here. In 2015 the gallery celebrated its 50th anniversary through a series of special exhibitions and events, known as *Ikon 50*. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
4. Ikon Shop is Birmingham's only specialist art bookshop, stocking a range of books, cards, artists' limited editions, magazines and gifts relating to art, design, photography, architecture and contemporary culture. All profits from Ikon Shop support Ikon Gallery's charitable artistic and educational programme. shop.ikon-gallery.org/
5. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
6. 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. artscouncil.org.uk
7. Please note all dates and details are subject to change, for up to date information and high-res images please contact Pelham Communications or Ikon.