

IKON/60

IKON ANNOUNCES 2024 EXHIBITIONS & CELEBRATES 60 YEARS.

Ikon, Birmingham's internationally acclaimed contemporary art gallery, announces plans for 2024, during which time the gallery celebrates its 60th anniversary. Established as an artists-led alternative space in the Bullring in 1964, Ikon remains free to all and committed to showcasing the very best of British and international art.

Exhibition Programme

Ikon's 60th year sees artists responding to archives, collections and heritage sites. In the Spring, a vintage printing press, on loan from Wolverhampton School of Art, will form the centrepiece of a print exhibition with Jerwood Foundation. A traditional means of production is contrasted with a major off-site digital commission, by Ikon in partnership with The Exchange, University of Birmingham in response to The Stuart Hall Archive Project.

In Summer 2024, Ikon is proud to be a partner in *National Treasures 2024*, The National Gallery's Bicentenary celebration, for which Ikon hosts Artemisia Gentileschi's *Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria* (about 1615-17). Also in the Summer, Ikon partners with English Heritage to commission an artist's response to the J. W. Evans Silver Factory in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter with support from the Foundation Foundation. The Autumn/Winter programme features an exhibition with the British Council Collection and macLYON: *Friends in Love and War / Meilleur-es ennemi-es*, showing work by over 20 artists, based around the theme of friendship.

Education Programme

Ikon's Education Programme addresses key social issues whilst championing arts education, often working off-site with artists to collaborate with communities. Ikon's artist residency *Art at HMP Grendon*, generously supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust, enters its 10th year with a focus on the development of artistic practice within a dedicated studio space at the prison. Ikon Youth Programme (IYP), funded by Frelands Foundation, reflects on its navigation of the waterways on board *Slow Boat*, offering an alternative curriculum against the backdrop of funding cuts to arts education.

Ikon's partnership with the School of Education, University of Birmingham, continues with a series of Teacher Twilights that challenge assumptions about migration, breaking down institutional and intercommunal barriers within the classroom. Partnering with Birmingham City Council's Public Health Division, Ikon supports different arts and health initiatives, including the question of how we feed infants in public spaces.

For more information, press visits, high-res images and to request interviews please contact:

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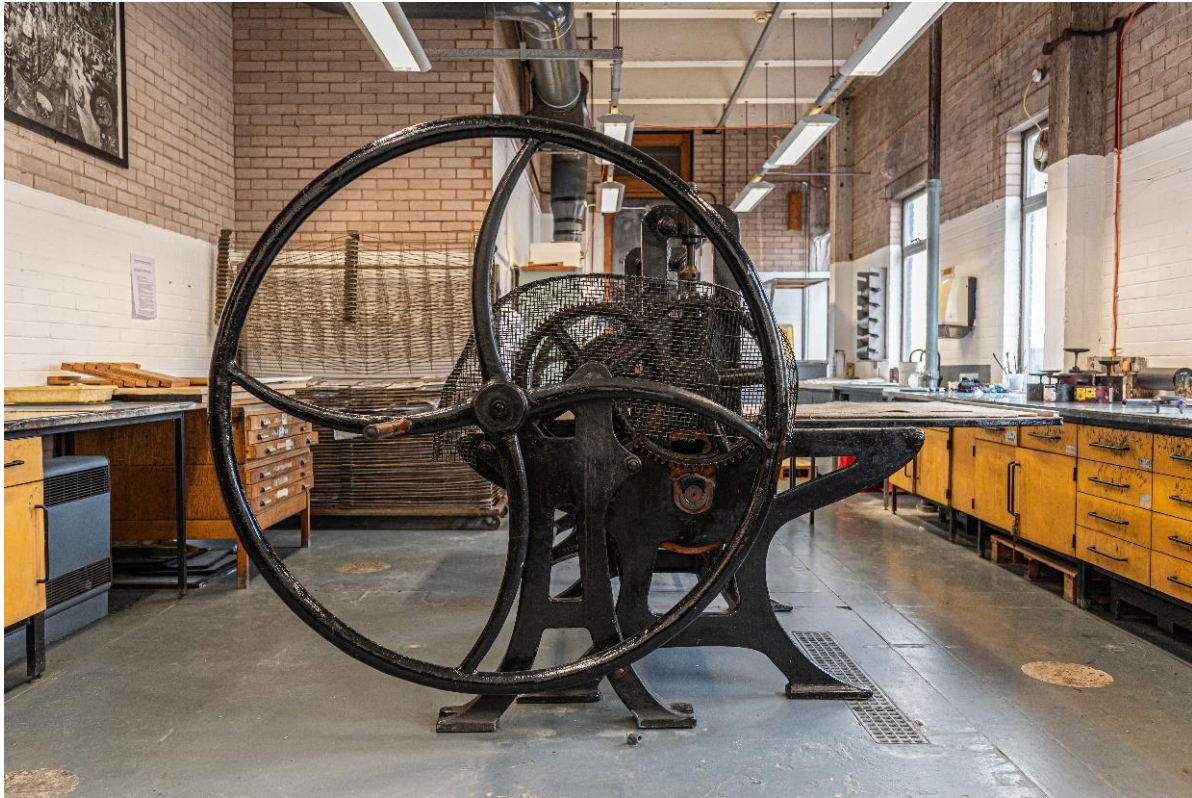
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IKON EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

START THE PRESS!

9 FEBRUARY – 21 APRIL 2024

IKON GALLERY



Flatbed printing press, Wolverhampton School of Art. Photo by Tod Jones. Image courtesy Ikon.

The centrepiece of *Start the Press!* is a vintage, flatbed printing press from Wolverhampton School of Art, taking its position in the gallery as a form of occupation in the tradition of the student art-school sit-ins of the 1960s, and in response to the current challenging economic landscape. A cohort of West Midlands printmakers will operate the press, producing original prints and filling the gallery walls as work is made in real time.

Start the Press! includes a display of printmaking, including artworks by Lubaina Himid, David Hockney and Yinka Shonibare loaned from the Jerwood Collection. With funding from Freelands Foundation, Ikon Youth Programme and other educational groups will be introduced to the printmaking processes preserved in regional art schools.

This exhibition is supported by the Jerwood Foundation and Freelands Foundation.

EXODUS CROOKS
EPIPHANY (TEMPORAIRE)
9 FEBRUARY – 21 APRIL 2024
IKON GALLERY
& OFF-SITE COMMISSION, THE EXCHANGE



Left: Exodus Crooks, *Doing Duties for Miss Dell* (2023), installation view *Epiphany (Temporaire)*, courtesy ICF and Ort Gallery.
Right: Exodus Crooks. Photo by Chelsea Gordon. Image courtesy the artist.

Ikon hosts Midlands-based artist Exodus Crooks' exhibition *Epiphany (Temporaire)*, commissioned by Ort Gallery and International Curators Forum (ICF), originally presented at Block 336 in Summer 2023. Curated by Orphée Kashala, the exhibition includes sculpture, film, text and sculptural installation.

Following their Ikon exhibition, Crooks presents new work commissioned by Ikon and University of Birmingham at The Exchange, the University's city centre venue. This new work, supported by Vivid Projects, responds to the University's 2024 public programme theme of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and coincides with the launch of The Stuart Hall Archive Project, a new research project that will expand public understanding and engagement with the work of celebrated Jamaican-British academic and cultural theorist, Professor Stuart Hall.

Exodus Crooks is a British-Jamaican multidisciplinary artist, educator and writer whose art practice centres on the relationship with self. Observing the results of fractious domesticity, despair and passion, their art tends to appear as questions of self-actualisation and the role that religion and spirituality play in that journey to enlightenment.

Orphée Kashala is a UK-based Pan-African and Diasporic art curator and cultural producer. Kashala was a producer at Maokwo, Coventry (2020-2021), and was selected for the Emergence(y) project in Birmingham (2021), an Ort Gallery and ICF residency provision for emerging curators to develop their practices. Kashala is interested in visual arts, visual cultures, semiotics and performing arts.

This new commission is supported by University of Birmingham and Ikon Investment Fund.

NATIONAL TREASURES: ARTEMISIA IN BIRMINGHAM

JESSE JONES

10 MAY – 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

IKON GALLERY



Left: Artemisia Gentileschi, 1593 – 1654 or later

Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, about 1615-17

Bought with the support of the American Friends of the National Gallery, the National Gallery Trust, Art Fund (through the legacy of Sir Denis Mahon), Lord and Lady Sassoon, Lady Getty, Hannah Rothschild CBE and other donors including those who wish to remain anonymous, 2018. © The National Gallery, London

Right: Jesse Jones. Photo by Brian Teeling.

Ikon is a partner in *National Treasures*, a key strand of the programme celebrating the National Gallery's Bicentenary, NG200. Twelve partner venues, one in each region of the UK, receive a masterpiece from the Gallery's collection and curate around it, with all displays opening simultaneously on 10 May 2024, the 200th anniversary of the National Gallery opening in London. Ikon presents *Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria* (about 1615-17) by Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1654 or later).

Simultaneously, Ikon shows a solo exhibition by Dublin-based contemporary artist Jesse Jones whose practice crosses film, performance and installation. Informed by her research into the iconography of Gentileschi's self-portrait, Jones' installation presents Gentileschi, Hypatia of Alexandria and Saint Catherine the Martyr as interconnected archetypes of feminist resistance. This new commission includes sound elements and moving images to create a cinematic space, while Jones also collaborates with Dublin-based dance company Junk Ensemble on performance tableaux that mirror Gentileschi's compositions.

Jesse Jones' exhibition is supported by The Ampersand Foundation, Culture Ireland and Arts Council of Ireland.

DION KITSON

RUE BRITANNIA

10 MAY – 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

IKON GALLERY

& OFF-SITE COMMISSION, J.W. EVANS SILVER FACTORY



Left: Dion Kitson, *Burn Out* (2023). *Bronze Frosty Jack Cider bottle*. Photo by Steve Russell Studios. Image courtesy the artist.

Centre: Dion Kitson, *Conch* (2023). *Deconstructed football*. Photo by Steve Russell Studios. Image courtesy the artist.

Right: Dion Kitson. Photo by Luke Pickering. Image courtesy the artist.

Ikon presents the first major solo exhibition and an ambitious off-site commission by British artist Dion Kitson in partnership with English Heritage.

Incisive, enterprising, and laced with sharp wit, Kitson's artistic practice dissects class and identity from the depths of the British psyche, reshaping its visual hallmarks and traditions across a range of media: sculpture, painting, film and found objects. Kitson's work is both playful and pertinent, providing a candid account of the everyday. Among the new works presented at Ikon Gallery is *Council House of Kitson*, a new installation by the artist complete with a pebble-dashed façade, containing footage collated over 15 years that documents the eccentricities of his father.

In 2008, English Heritage acquired the J.W. Evans Silver Factory, located in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, which began as a cottage industry in 1881. The workshops are preserved in situ, containing thousands of dies for the manufacture of silverware; the entire factory's working equipment; and the ephemera, magazines and posters of the workers. Kitson honours a lost industrial past, utilising new technologies to create sculptural interventions in the factory celebrating the history and popular culture of Birmingham and the Black Country.

This exhibition is supported by English Heritage, The Foundation Foundation and Ikon Investment Fund.

*FRIENDS IN LOVE AND WAR / L'ÉLOGE DES MEILLEUR·ES
ENNEMI·ES. WORKS FROM THE BRITISH COUNCIL
COLLECTION AND MACLYON*

25 SEPTEMBER 2024 – 23 FEBRUARY 2025

IKON GALLERY



Rachel MacLean, *The Lion and The Unicorn* (2012). Single channel HD video, colour and sound. 11 minutes 30 seconds
© Rachel Maclean, 2012, commissioned by The Edinburgh Printmakers. Courtesy of the British Council Collection.

Ikon and macLYON present works by over twenty artists from the British Council Collection and macLYON that explore the theme of friendship.

Based on mutual trust and affection, friendships are among our most valued relationships. Friends share life experiences, broaden horizons and build collective futures – yet the nature of friendship is difficult to define. Taking place in the partner cities of Lyon and Birmingham, this exhibition also looks at diplomatic friendships, and how regional capitals and cultural institutions can create new ways of living and working together in a post-Brexit climate. It includes painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, film, sculpture and installation, with existing and new work by artists with longstanding connections to each city.

This exhibition is shown at macLYON, 8 March - 7 July 2024, before its presentation at Ikon later the same year. Artists exhibiting at macLYON include: Kenneth Armitage, Sonia Boyce, Patrick Caulfield, Jimmie Durham, Tracey Emin, Emma Hart, Lubaina Himid, Delaine Le Bas, Markéta Luskacová, Rachel Maclean, Goshka Macuga, Madame Yevonde, Gordon Matta-Clark, Hetain Patel, Paula Rego, Francis Upritchard, Lily van der Stokker, Fabien Verschaere, Gillian Wearing, Bedwyr Williams, Rose Wylie and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

This exhibition is supported by the British Council. Presented as part of *Spotlight on Culture UK/France 2024 – Together We Imagine*.

OFF-SITE EXHIBITIONS

MARYAM WAHID: *DREAMS OF BRUM*

OCTOBER 2023 – MARCH 2024, HANDSWORTH LIBRARY, BIRMINGHAM

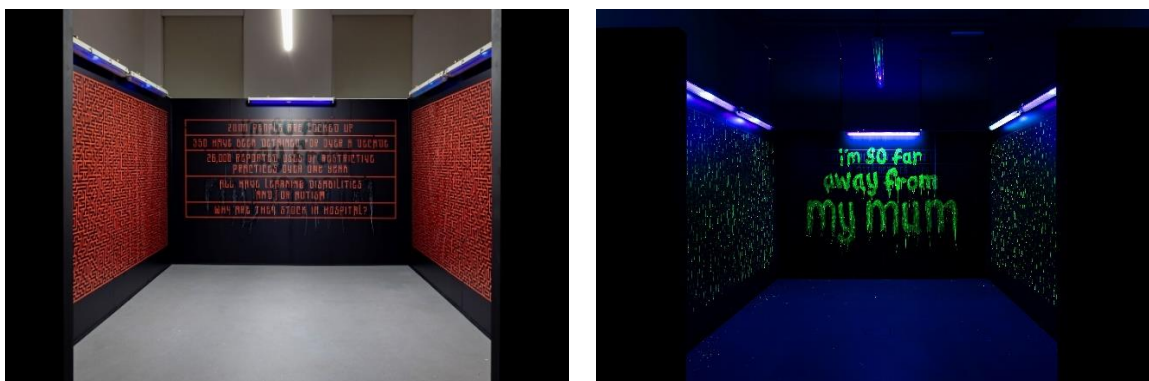


Left: Bibi. Maryam Wahid, *Dreams of Brum* (2023). Image courtesy the artist. Centre: B. Singh. Maryam Wahid, *Dreams of Brum* (2023). Image courtesy the artist. Right: D. Singh. Maryam Wahid, *Dreams of Brum* (2023). Image courtesy the artist.

Ikon's exhibition *Dreams of Brum* by Birmingham-based photographer Maryam Wahid, tours to Handsworth Library during autumn/winter 2023-2024. Originally presented at Ikon Gallery as part of The Migrant Festival 2023, the exhibition is organised in partnership with Handsworth Library and is supported by Birmingham City Council's Cultural Development Service.

FOKA WOLF: *WHY ARE WE STUCK IN HOSPITAL?*

SPRING 2024, NATIONAL PARTNERS

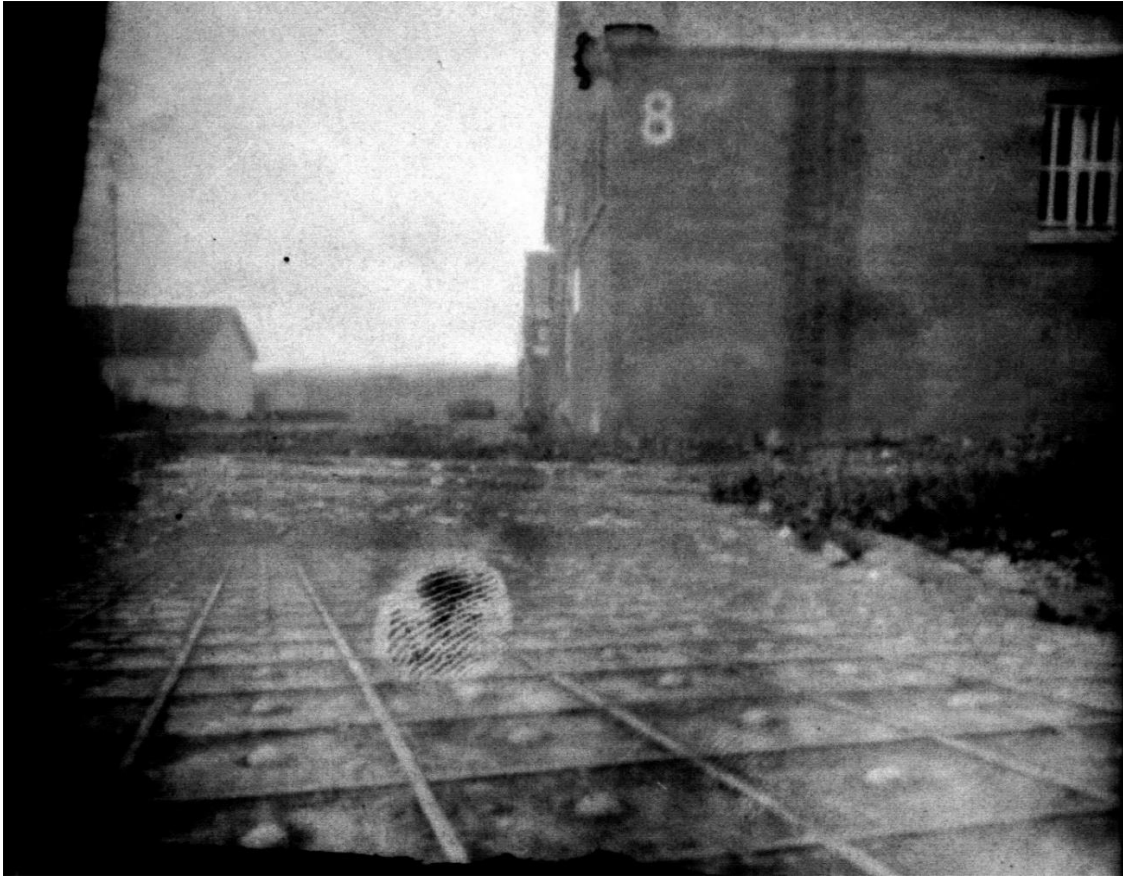


Foka Wolf, *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* (2023). Image courtesy Ikon. Photo by Tegen Kimbley.

Produced by Ikon, *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* by Birmingham artist and activist Foka Wolf illustrates the invisibility of people with learning disabilities and / or autistic people in long-stay hospitals. Organised in partnership with the School of Social Policy, University of Birmingham, and rights-based organisation Changing Our Lives, the installation was shown at Ikon Gallery in March 2023 and now tours to national partners in association with IMPACT, the UK centre for implementing evidence in adult social care. It is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) School for Social Care Research.

IKON EDUCATION PROGRAMME

ART AT HMP GRENDON 2024 – 2026



Prisoner-made pinhole photograph (2023). Image courtesy Ikon.

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. Ikon has received funding from the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust for two new artist residencies to take place consecutively at HMP Grendon over the next three years (2024 – 2026).

The Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust has funded *Art at HMP Grendon* since 2011. 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.

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* in Stourbridge (2023). Image courtesy Ikon.

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.

With a focus on the arts and crafts heritage in the West Midlands, the IYP curriculum reflects a 1960s art school prospectus and revisits student activism of the period. Each year is themed (2022 glass, 2023 textiles, 2024 print) to allow for experimentation and specialist study with results showcased at regional events, including International Festival of Glass 2022, Coventry Biennial 2023 and Ikon's exhibition *Start the Press!* 2024.

Slow Boat was created in 2011, in response to the Ikon Youth Programme's request for 'a space of their own', and they have used it to produce, present and promote their work ever since.

JASKIRT DHALIWAL-BOORA: *GREEN SPACES*
12 – 23 JUNE 2024, IKON GALLERY AND OFF-SITE



Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora. Photo by Emma Lewis.

Ikon and Living Well Consortium collaborate to raise awareness of, and engagement with, topics centred on mental health and wellbeing. Birmingham-born artist Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora will work with communities, taking photographic portraits against the backdrop of the city's green spaces, and exploring the benefits of nature to our health. This programme is supported by Living Well Consortium.

FEEDING CHAIR
5 JUNE – 7 JULY 2024
IKON GALLERY



Feeding Chair (2022). Modelled by Meysa and Razan. Photo by Fiona Finchett.

Ikon hosts *Feeding Chair* (2022), a collaborative artwork which invites parents and carers to feed their young children in galleries and other public venues. Featuring artwork by artist Jade Montserrat, the chair integrates audio works and videos about infant feeding, gender and public space, acting as a focus for sharing experiences and challenging social attitudes. The chair is part of *Feed*, an arts-based project developed by In Certain Places at University of Central Lancashire, in collaboration with Corridor8 and Textbook Studio. This presentation is supported by Birmingham City Council Public Health.

FUNDING

Ikon is a registered charity and is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and Birmingham City Council. These core grants cover the gallery's running costs, enabling Ikon to provide free entry. The exhibitions and 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.



MAJOR PARTNERS 2024

The Ampersand Foundation; Arts Council of Ireland; Birmingham City Council; British Council; Culture Ireland; English Heritage; The Foundation Foundation; Freelands Foundation; HM Prison and Probation Service; Jerwood Foundation; Living Well Consortium; macLYON; Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust; The National Gallery; University of Birmingham.

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.

INDIVIDUAL PATRONS

A.I. Gallery; Paul Aston; Abdulrazaq Awofeso; Lulu Badr; Simon Chapman; François Chretien; Victoria Denning; Robert Goddard; John Hayes; Ian Hyde; Peter Jenkins; David Lodge; Oliver Longmore; Tom Merilion; Stephen Pallister; Jasmin Pelham; Jonathan Seville; Elizabeth-Valentina Sutton; Jonathan Wearing; Richard Wilkinson; and those who wish to remain anonymous.

CORPORATE PATRONS

Cass Art; Deutsche Bank; Elonex; Howells; Viessmann.

IKON TEAM



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

The Ikon team is led by Ian Hyde, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Melanie Pocock, Acting Artistic Director, Exhibitions; and Dr Linzi Stauvers Acting Artistic Director, Education.

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

IKON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Professor Helen Higson OBE DL, 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; **Councillor Jayne Francis**, Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness, Birmingham City Council; **James Leo**, Solicitor, The Wilkes Partnership LLP, **Harminder Randhawa**, Accountant, Jaguar Land Rover; **Dee Sekar**, Musician, curator and global D&I expert, Lawyer by training; **Sandeep Shambi**, Architect, Partner at Howells; **Nick Smith**, CEO, Elonex; **Liam Smyth**, Project Implementation Manager, The UK National Commission for UNESCO.

IMAGES

Please contact the team for high res images and captions:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS. 0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org

Open Wednesday-Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm. Free entry, donations welcome. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 528892.

2. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art gallery 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.

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 a 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 Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Australia and Sweden, in addition to homegrown talent including Vanley Burke, Ayesha Jones, Farwa Moledina, Maryam Wahid and Foka Wolf. Ikon has played a key role in the development of many artistic careers – Hurvin Anderson, Antony Gormley, Carmen Herrera, Beatriz Milhazes and Cornelia Parker all had important exhibitions here.
4. Ikon Shop is Birmingham's only specialist art bookshop, stocking a range of books, cards, artists' limited editions, magazines and gifts. All profits from Ikon Shop support Ikon Gallery's charitable artistic and educational programme. shop.ikon-gallery.org
5. Ikon is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and Birmingham City Council.
6. Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £440 million of public money from Government and an estimated £93 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk. Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund of which we delivered over £1 billion to the sector in grants and loans. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.
7. Birmingham City Council is the local government body responsible for the governance of the City of Birmingham, UK. It is the most populated local council area in the United Kingdom (excluding counties) with 101 elected councillors representing over one million people, in 69 wards. The council headquarters are at the Council House, Victoria Square in the heart of the city centre. The council is responsible for running nearly all local services, with the exception of those run by joint boards. For more information visit www.birmingham.gov.uk
8. 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.