

IKON/60

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

EXODUS CROOKS

JUNE 2024

OFF-SITE COMMISSION, THE EXCHANGE



Left: Exodus Crooks. Photo by Chelsea Gordon. Image courtesy the artist. Right: The Exchange, University of Birmingham. Image courtesy The Exchange.

In June 2024, Midlands-based artist Exodus Crooks presents new work commissioned by Ikon and University of Birmingham at The Exchange, the University's city centre venue.

This new commission, 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.

AI : FUTURES runs from February to November 2024 at The Exchange and invites audiences to join the University on a journey into the brave new world of artificial intelligence. AI has the power to transform industries and enhance lives, yet it raises concerns about job displacement, privacy and security. Through a programme of exhibitions and events, vital questions are explored through the lens of University research.

The Stuart Hall Archive Project is 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. The archive will be fully catalogued by the Cadbury Research Library team over the course of the project, which is split into three main strands: Conjectures, Readings and Dialogues.

This new commission is supported by University of Birmingham and Ikon Investment Fund. It is the latest in a series of collaborations between Ikon and The Exchange, including Foka Wolf, *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* and Vanley Burke, *A Gift to Birmingham*.

This new commission is presented as part of Ikon's 60th anniversary year. It follows Exodus Crooks' exhibition *Epiphany (Temporaire)* at Ikon Gallery (9 February – 21 April 2024), commissioned by Ort Gallery and International Curators Forum (ICF), and curated by Orphée Kashala. Originally presented at Block 336, London, in Summer 2023, the exhibition includes sculpture, film, text and sculptural installation.

For more information, press appointments, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Rebecca Small by email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or call Ikon on 0121 248 0708.

Social Media Handles - Instagram, Twitter and Facebook:

@ikongallery #IkonGallery @ace_national @aceagrams @ace_midlands @bhamcitycouncil
@exoduscrooks @unibirmingham

Notes to Editors:

1. **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. Based between the Midlands and North Jamaica, their art exists alongside their educational role. With themes of care, tenderness and reimagination at the core of their practice, Crooks uses gardening, text, filmmaking and installation to further explore indigenous thought. Their breadth of experience in art and education can be seen in their work with Ikon, Vivid Projects, The New Art Gallery Walsall, the Film and Video Umbrella, Iniva and the International Curators Forum. exoduscrooks.com
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

IKON/60

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

3. **Ikon** is open Wednesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm. Free entry, donations welcome. Ikon is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and Birmingham City Council.
4. **The Exchange** is the University of Birmingham's city centre venue in Centenary Square, Birmingham's 'civic heart' that is home to many of our city's most iconic locations such as the Library of Birmingham, the International Convention Centre, Symphony Hall and the REP theatre. The Exchange was constructed in the early 1930s and is of historic importance to the city of Birmingham as it was formerly the headquarters of the Birmingham Municipal Bank. The Exchange brings together the University's research, teaching and networks to create a place of curiosity, celebration, collaboration and change. Through free public exhibitions and community engagement programmes our ambition is to enable people from the city and wider region to get involved in the University's work to address the complex challenges of our time. www.birmingham.ac.uk/the-exchange
5. **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. 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.
6. **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



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



**Birmingham
City Council**