

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

IKON LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 2024



Melanie Pocock, Artistic Director (Exhibitions), Linzi Stauvers, Artistic Director (Education), Ian Hyde, Chief Executive Officer.
Image courtesy Ikon. Photographer Ayesha Jones.

Ikon is pleased to announce the leadership team taking the gallery forward in its 60th year.

The Board of Trustees have made permanent appointments for Ian Hyde, Chief Executive Officer; Melanie Pocock, Artistic Director (Exhibitions); and Linzi Stauvers, Artistic Director (Education).

"To be appointed as Ikon's leadership team during the gallery's 60th anniversary is very special. Through this new collaborative structure, covering commercial enterprise, exhibition curation and education practice, we are excited to oversee the future development of Ikon in showcasing the visual arts regionally and internationally. From our gallery in Birmingham, a city built on enlightenment principles, we will forge new cultural, industrial and communal partnerships."

Ian Hyde, Melanie Pocock and Linzi Stauvers

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Ian Hyde, Chief Executive Officer, has an overview of the whole organisation, having joined Ikon in 2016 as Deputy Director and later becoming Chief Operating Officer. Hyde has a particular focus on Ikon's business operations, with financial knowledge across all areas, managing engagement with key funders and stakeholders while leading the team to explore new revenue streams and strategic relationships. He is also Company Secretary and facilitates the charity's Board of Trustees. Prior to his roles at Ikon, Hyde was an elected councillor for Manchester City Council and worked freelance across multiple organisations for over a decade - including SHOUT Festival for Queer Arts and Culture, Boardmasters, NASS Festival, SKY, Olympic Games London 2012, Manchester International Festival and Manchester Pride - running their forward planning, liaison and event control functional areas.

Melanie Pocock, Artistic Director (Exhibitions) leads on Ikon's exhibition programme, publications, and, with the wider team, off-site projects. Melanie Pocock joined Ikon in 2020 and has curated exhibitions including a major presentation of performance art by Indonesian artist Melati Suryodarmo (2023); *Horror in the Modernist Block*, an exhibition of work by 20 UK and international contemporary artists exploring the relationship between architectural modernism and horror (2022-23); and off-site projects including artist Hew Locke's city-centre installation *Foreign Exchange*, presented by Birmingham 2022 Festival. Pocock moved to Ikon from her previous position as Assistant Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (ICA), prior to which she held curatorial positions at Modern Art Oxford and Art Scene China. She holds an MA (Distinction) in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London. A member of the International Association of Art Critics (Singapore), Curatorial Committee of the Association for Art History (UK), and a contributing editor at *ArtAsiaPacific*, her writing has been published in numerous publications, exhibition catalogues and journals.

Linzi Stauvers, Artistic Director (Education) leads on Ikon's education programmes with university, school, charity and criminal justice partners. Working with teaching staff at Wolverhampton School of Art, she co-produced Ikon's current exhibition *Start the Press!* (2024), which brings printmaking to life around an antique printing press in the gallery. She also co-curated the exhibition *Imposter Syndrome* (2023), the culmination of Dean's Kelland's four-year artist residency at HMP Grendon, with community members at the Category B prison. Having joined Ikon in 2017, she leads on long-term projects including *Art at HMP Grendon*, funded by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust, and Ikon Youth Programme on *Slow Boat*, funded by Freelands Foundation. With a PhD in History of Art from University College London, Stauvers has worked in education departments at the National Portrait Gallery, Milton Keynes Gallery and The Hepworth Wakefield. From 2011-16, she was Producer at Pavilion, Leeds, commissioning moving image work with artists in response to heritage sites, including an abandoned cinema, tv studio and eighteenth-century landscape.

"On behalf of Ikon's Board of Trustees, I would like to express how delighted we are to appoint the gallery's new leadership team. We have been on a thorough and considered journey to reach this point, taking time to consult with sector colleagues, supporters and artists and working with a specialist recruitment agency to reach the best possible outcome. Ian Hyde, Melanie Pocock and Linzi Stauvers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, both local and international, and the new style of leadership we were looking for. We are excited to work with them and the gallery's

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wider team to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for new and challenging experiences of art, to remain a key component in the region's cultural landscape and to realise this new phase in Ikon's history." **Professor Helen Higson OBE DL**, Chair of Ikon Board of Trustees. Professor of Higher Education Learning and Management, Aston University.

"Congratulations to Ikon on the appointment of their new leadership team. We're excited to see how the next chapter unfolds as they enter their 60th anniversary year and next decade. Ikon has a strong reputation for presenting work that encourages participation and debate on key social issues. Ian Hyde, Melanie Pocock and Linzi Stauvers bring significant individual experience to the organisation which will prove invaluable as they move into this important next phase of Ikon's story and continue to showcase work of local, national, and international significance."

Darren Henley CBE, Chief Executive, Arts Council England

"As Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism it is a great pleasure to learn that Ian Hyde has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer, alongside Melanie Pocock as Artistic Director (Exhibitions) and Linzi Stauvers as Artistic Director (Education). Birmingham City Council fully appreciates the contribution that Ikon Gallery has made to the city's cultural identity over the last 60 years and we wish the management team and Trustees all success going forward."

Councillor Saima Suleman, Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism, Birmingham City Council

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.

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

Notes to Editors:

1. **Ikon** is an internationally acclaimed public art gallery, situated in Birmingham's city centre. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2024. It is an educational charity with free entry for everyone, 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 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. Ikon aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. ikon-gallery.org
2. **About Ikon's 60th year.** The gallery's Exhibition Programme for 2024 sees artists responding to archives, collections and heritage sites. Ikon's current exhibition *Start the Press!* includes a vintage printing press, loaned from Wolverhampton School of Art, which forms 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 with artist

- Exodus Crooks, 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) and *Mirror Martyr Mirror Moon*, a solo exhibition by Dublin-based contemporary artist Jesse Jones. Also in the Summer, Ikon partners with English Heritage to commission artist Dion Kitson to respond 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. 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 Freelands 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.
3. Ikon recently launched **60 for 60**, a fundraising campaign which encourages visitors and supporters to consider donating to Ikon during this very special year.
 4. **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.
 5. **Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. ACE have set out their strategic vision in *Let's Create* that by 2030 they want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 ACE will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.
 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