

## CREATIVE HEALTH AT IKON

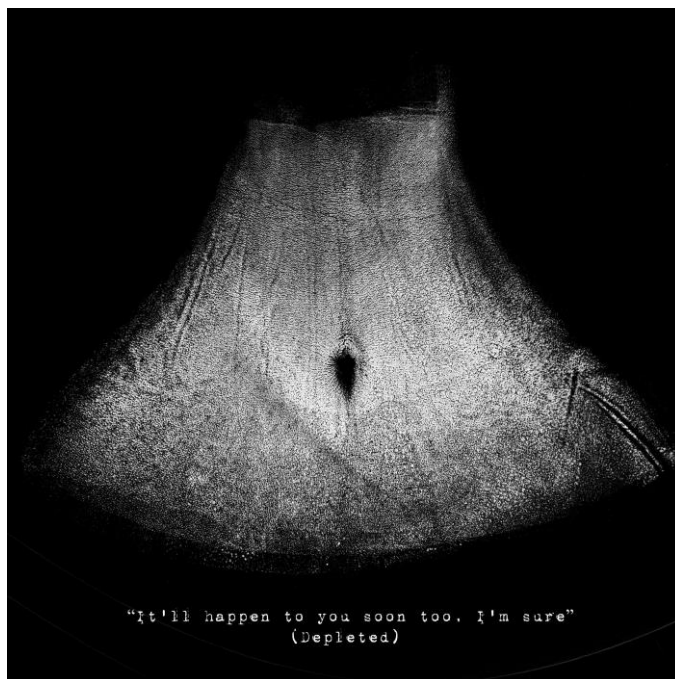
IKON GALLERY, BIRMINGHAM

SALLY BUTCHER: *VISIBLE BODIES*

5 JUNE – 7 JULY 2024

JASKIRT DHALIWAL-BOORA: *GREEN SPACES*

12 – 23 JUNE 2024



Left: Sally Butcher, *Infertile Platitudes of Embodied Emptiness: Sonogram 3/9* (2020). Archival inkjet digitised monoprint. Image courtesy the artist. Right: Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora, *Alan* (2024). Image courtesy the artist.

Ikon presents a programme of exhibitions and events that engage audiences in dialogue about health and wellbeing. Conversations range from infant feeding in public spaces and the medicalisation of maternal bodies to the impact of natural environments on our physical and mental health. The programme contributes a comprehensive evidence base to inform policy development for Birmingham City Council Public Health, such as a creative health strategy.

Artist-in-residence Sally Butcher presents *Visible Bodies*, focusing on themes of gender, care and the space of the reproductive and maternal body, through the lens of her practice-based research about experiences of infertility. Butcher works with Ikon's display of *Feeding Chair* (2022), a collaborative artwork which acts as a focus for sharing experiences and challenging social attitudes towards feeding and mothering. *Green Spaces* (2024) is a showcase of photography by

Birmingham-born artist Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora and members of the Erdington community who have explored the benefits of nature to our health.

**Feeding Chair, Ikon Gallery, 5 June – 7 July 2024.**

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 de Montserrat, the chair integrates audio works and videos about infant feeding, gender and public space. The work acts as a focus for sharing experiences and challenging social attitudes towards feeding and mothering. A screen and speakers in the headrest offer sitters specially commissioned audio artworks about feeding, resting and public space.

*“The Feeding Chair provides an opportunity through the visual arts to discuss barriers to infant feeding with fresh eyes. As a society we don't openly discuss this essential part of raising a child and the way that public settings preclude parents from this important time with their child.”*

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health, Birmingham City Council

This presentation is supported by Birmingham City Council Public Health and Arts Council England. The chair is part of *Feed*, developed by In Certain Places at University of Central Lancashire, in collaboration with Corridor8 and Textbook Studio. [feedproject.art](http://feedproject.art)

**Sally Butcher: Visible Bodies, Ikon Gallery, 5 June – 7 July 2024.**

Sally Butcher presents *Visible Bodies*, responding to *Feed's* themes of gender, parental care and public space, as artist-in-residence at Ikon Gallery. During the residency space and through a series of public workshops, Butcher creates performative text pieces that explore alternative meanings around the reproductive body.

*“I'm drawn to Feed's use of women's stories to inspire the chair's making and the fragmented audio narratives that sit around the body in the feeding space. Developing this interest in sharing lived experience, I wish to create work using women's words around (in)fertility not as a story-telling project, but creating pieces that brings these women's accounts together creatively in a collective telling.”* Sally Butcher

**Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora: Green Spaces, Ikon Gallery, 12 – 23 June 2024.**

Ikon and Living Well Consortium have collaborated to commission award winning, Birmingham-born artist Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora to create new work with communities in Erdington. Focusing on the impact and importance that green spaces have on mental health, Dhaliwal-Boora worked with participants in Erdington to explore their personal connections to parks, gardens and urban green areas. The exhibition includes new portraits by Dhaliwal-Boora of Alan, Jack, Jane, Hannah, Mary, Kayleigh and Melvin, alongside their personal stories and own photographs, taken on disposable cameras whilst exploring Erdington.

*“Green Spaces is a celebration of what it means for these seven individuals to be from or discover Erdington anew, and how we can immerse ourselves in nature, to uplift and hold us, to piece us back together. Nature has a way to heal and calm the mind, the camera can be used as a tool to observe and treasure what's around us, words can express how we feel.”* Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora

# IKON/60

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

The exhibition tours to grounded café in Selly Oak, Birmingham in Autumn 2024 – the first café of its kind in the West Midlands, designed with mindfulness at its heart. It is founded by leading mental health organisations, Living Well Consortium and Birmingham Mind, and funded by NHS England. This programme is supported by Living Well Consortium.

**Events - For more information or to book visit [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)**

## **Workshop: Care, Spaces, Bodies and Creative Health**

**Thursday 13 June, 5.30-7.30pm. Free, booking essential.**

Join artists Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora and Sally Butcher for a workshop exploring themes of care, spaces, bodies and creative health. Participants are invited to respond to artist prompts by creating a mini-zine and taking part in small group discussions. This event is supported by Birmingham City University Art Activism research cluster.

## **Workshop: Re-writing the Reproductive Body**

**Thursday 20 June, 5.30-7.30pm. Free, booking essential.**

Join Sally Butcher to re-write a feminist glossary of terms for the reproductive body. Participants engage in slow reading and alternative writing exercises using found text, to challenge authoritative medical meanings and give voice to hidden lived experiences of both infertile and maternal bodies.

## **Workshop: Re-framing the Reproductive Object**

**Friday 28 June, 11am-1pm. Free, booking essential.**

Join Sally Butcher, artist in residence for *Feed*, and Sophie Beckett, Public Health Research Officer at Birmingham Museums Trust, to re-frame reproductive objects in the collection. Participants engage in slow looking exercises with the museum's historic objects, including a 1926 public health pamphlet for new mothers and mid-century glass feeding bottles. Participants sketch, print, creatively write and collage, creating alternative knowledges that reflect contemporary experiences of parenthood in Birmingham.

## **Family Saturday: Love is the Dream**

**Saturday 6 July, 11am-3pm. Free, no need to book, just drop in.**

Join Sally Butcher for a family workshop that explores ideas of love and care that can be seen and not seen, through creative play with words, including wax resist, embossing and lino printing. Participants are invited to respond to the language, colours and textures of Jade de Montserrat's artwork on *Feeding Chair* in Ikon's Resource Room.

This programme of exhibitions and events is presented as part of Ikon's 60th anniversary year.

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

@ikongallery #IkonGallery @ace\_national @aceagrams @ace\_midlands @bhamcitycouncil  
@sallybutcher @jaskrtidhaliwalboora @feed\_futures @incertainplaces @livingwellbrum

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## Notes to Editors:

1. **Sally Butcher** is an artist, researcher, activist, and (m)other, based in Birmingham. Her interdisciplinary feminist practice draws on lived experience to engage with spheres of subjectivity and embodiment. [sallybutcher.com](http://sallybutcher.com)
2. **Jaskirt Dhaliwal-Boora** is an award-winning multi-disciplinary artist whose work focuses on a socially engaged practice, working with local communities to empower and give voice to marginalised groups. She is interested in celebrating untold stories while exploring visual representations of gender, ethnicity and place. [jaskirtdhaliwalboora.com](http://jaskirtdhaliwalboora.com)
3. **Ikon** is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art gallery, situated in Birmingham's city centre. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. It is an educational 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. Exhibitions feature artists from around the world who work with a variety of media, 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. Ikon aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)
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](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)

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