

## June Newsletter 2021

June is always a busy time in the academic calendar, and despite the current context, this year is no different, with a bumper edition of the Schools Newsletter to share with you all.

Across levels and courses, the past few weeks have seen work realised, projects come to their conclusions and assessments submitted. There have been some outstanding examples of ingenuity, ambition and creativity from students at all stages of their educational journey, from Foundation to PhD.

For our third year BA students, this time of year is particularly significant in that it marks the culmination of their Undergraduate degrees. Our graduating students have continued to inspire us with the ways in which they have navigated their context, tested, experimented and made public. They have responded to the world around them by producing highly individual, sophisticated and considered work, which ask questions, offer insights and challenges the way we do things. As a staff team, the pride and awe we feel for the way they have resourcefully made things happen with such care and consideration, is overwhelming.

This newsletter, though showcasing work from across the School, has a spotlight on the Level 6 cohorts as we celebrate and congratulate them on the achievements of completing their degrees and wish them all the best for the next stage of their journey.

Becky

Rebecca Court  
Head of Undergraduate Studies  
Birmingham School of Art

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## What's been happening at the School of Art:

### Level 6 Degree Show Catalogues

This year level 6 students have realised work and made it public through virtual catalogues which you see at [s-o-a.studio](https://s-o-a.studio). The two catalogues '[How do I open a PDF](#)' (BA Art and Design) and '[Post-Distance](#)' (BA Fine Art) are the result of a rigorous engagement with, and exploration of, issues, ideas, materials, processes and forms. We hope you enjoy exploring the exciting range of practices, research, experiments and outcomes of our talented student contributors.



## Level 6 Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to our level 6 students who were awarded prizes at the recent course awards celebration event:

Gertrude Emily Griffin Prize: Deans choice award. Presented by PVC Executive Dean Alison Honour:

- 1st Prize: [Ella Smart](#) (BAFA)
- 2nd Prize: [Jacob Carter](#) (BAFA)
- 3rd Prize: [Diana Padovac](#) (BAAD)

Eastside Project Prize: Presented by Gavin Wade and Ruth Claxton:

- o [Ollie Dupont](#) (BAAD)
- o [Diane Padovac](#) (BAAD)
- o [Ryan Asbury](#) (BAFA)
- o [Andreea Pislaru](#) (BAFA)

BA Fine Art (BAFA) Azets Prize. Presented by Praveen Gupta:

[Lucy Warren](#)

BA Art and Design (BAAD) Social Justice Prize. Presented by the Community Law Partnership Team:

- 1st Prize: [Mazvydas Prokopovic](#)
- 2nd Prize: [Lucy Lucas](#)
- 2nd Prize: [Yazmine Downing](#)

School of Art Award. Presented by Steve Bulcock, Deputy Head, Institute of Creative Arts:

- o BA Art and Design Award: [Maddie Ellis](#)
- o BA Fine Art Award: [Suellen Moraes](#)

Dissertation Awards: BA Fine Art:

- o [Carmela Hodgson](#) (Essay)
- o [Elinor Hunter](#) (Practice-based)

Dissertation Awards: BA Art and Design:

- o Essay Prize: [Jessica Overdijk](#)
- o Alternative submission prize: [Victoria Blackburn-Harris](#)

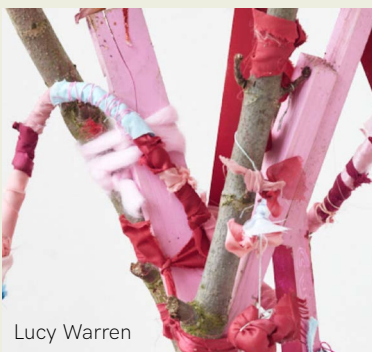
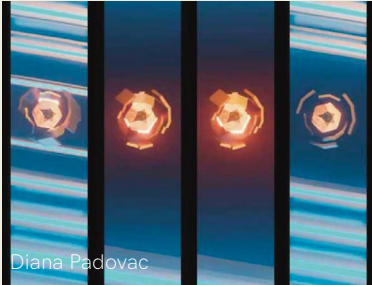
BAAAD Press award: [Yonna Petrova](#)

BAFA Making Prize: [Fraser Burton](#)

Studentship Prize:

- o BAFA: [Bethan Goddard](#)
- o BAAD: [Nikol Ignatovic](#)

Ready for the world prize: [Serena Roadh](#) (BAAD)



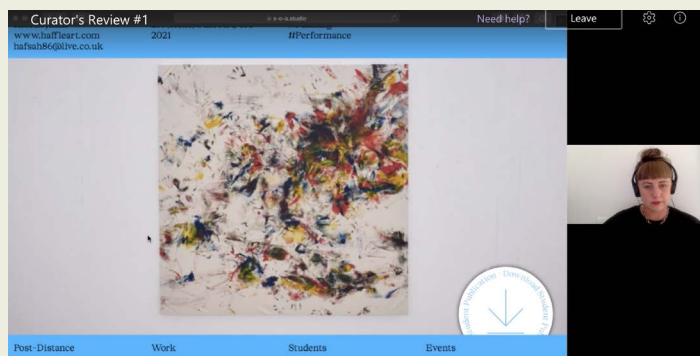
## Design for Performance Level 6 Major Project

Design for Performance third year students have produced some excellent graduating projects, produced in the face of the restrictions from Covid. One of these was a collaborative Major Project submission by two Level 6 students Jasmine Fassenfelt and Rebecca Knight working on a realised sculptural installation. *Natures Hand - The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall*. This piece was inspired by the great work (pictured right) that Heligan does, in maintaining natural spaces, and fostering a connection with nature in times when it is so important to stay grounded. It is also partly inspired by the local artwork already found along the woodland walk, which emphasise the beauty of the land.



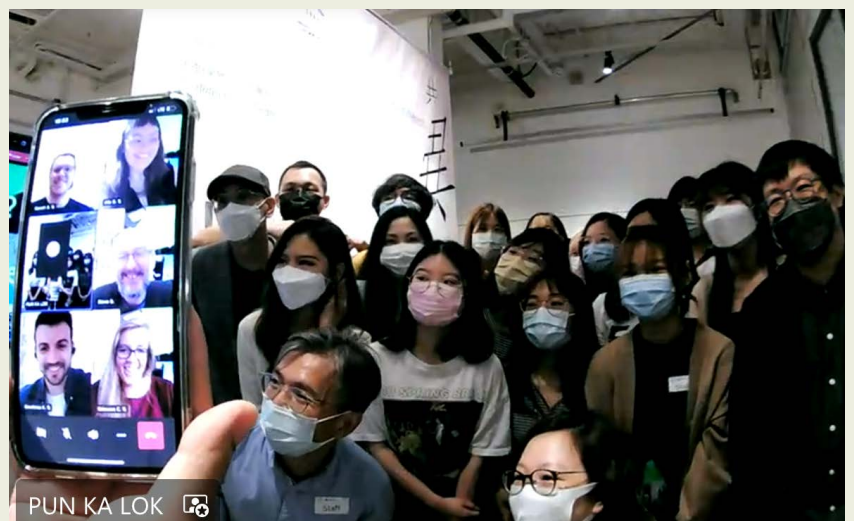
## Level 6 BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design Curators Review

In acknowledging the culmination and resolution of works for level 6, we held two curator review events streamed live on Teams. The first event saw an inconversation review of the works with Kim McAleese from Grand Union and Tom Ellmer from Ikon Gallery and the second event with Deborah Robinson from New Art Gallery Walsall and artist/ curator Antonio Roberts. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the curators for such insightful observations.



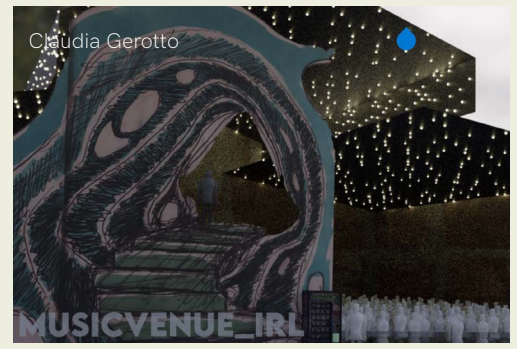
## Hong Kong Degree Show Opening (SHAPE BA FA Level 6 Top Up)

Congratulations to the SHAPE Level 6 Fine Art top-up students who had a very successful in person degree show at the Jockey Club Gallery in Hong Kong which was attended by BCU staff (virtually!) and guests of the students. There was an exciting range of works displayed and it was great to see the students outcomes realised physically in a gallery space!



Level 5 BA Art and Design  
Establishing Art and Design Practice 2

This term we all learnt a new skill and put it to good use. This might be: learning how to code games to challenge the systemic biases that create imposter syndrome; learning to digitally paint in order to journal and improve mental health in isolation; animating to unlock childhood wonder; reconnecting with nature through wood carving, and many more. These new uses were made into 'how to' guides for people to make along with, that also covered why they should care about it too. Pictured right are a small selection of the wonderful outcomes.



Sandra Paszko  
Art and Education Outside Live Project



Ashley Wilson  
BAAAD Pictures Live Project



Emma Fossick  
On the Water Live Project



Tabassum Shakir  
Artist Walks Live Project

In Biology class,  
we were  
taught about  
Relationship types.

Madeleine  
Washbrook  
BAAAD Press  
Live Project

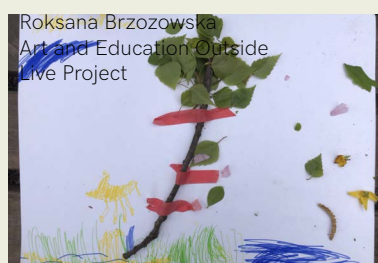
Symbiotic -  
An equal relationship  
Where both parties  
Gain.

I've always had  
a relationship  
with things.  
Tangible  
Tangle-able.

Networks,  
Networking.  
Performing into  
the signal  
back loop.



Georgia Weilds  
Artist Walks Live Project



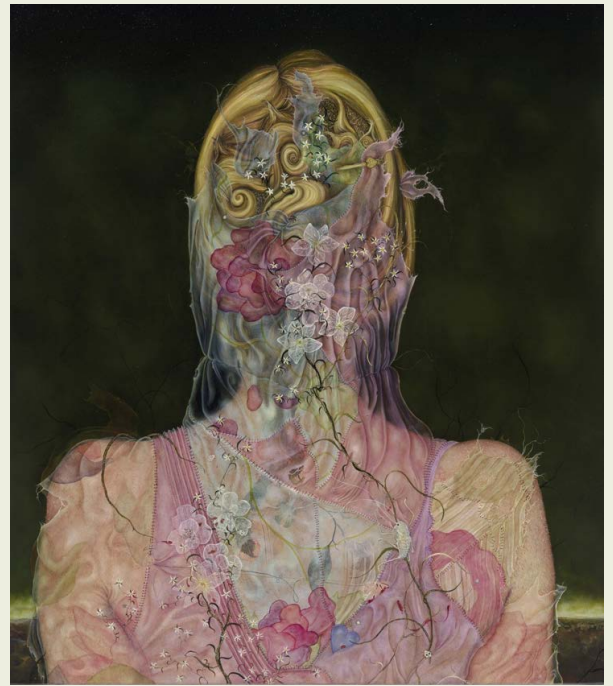
Roksana Brzozowska  
Art and Education Outside  
Live Project

Level 5 Live Projects  
BA Fine Art and Art and Design

The Level 5 Live Projects represent an exciting breadth of approaches to making work in a live way within the parameters of the current context. The *Art and Education Outside* students took advantage of working with MA Art and Education Students to develop projects for young people to participate in. The *Artist Walk* live project students explored walking as an art method looking at strategies from Situationism to Protest where students used everyday walks in their neighbourhood and documented them in sculpture, video, stories, posters and collage. Students working on the *BAAAD Pictures* live project explored personal situations and ideas through the lens of the camera. The *BAAAD Press* live project allowed students to develop their own publications considering communication and distribution of ideas. *On the Water* students explored the potentials of making and designing in response to the ecosystems that surround us.

## BA Fine Art visit to The New Gallery Walsall: Ani Smith Exhibition

A small group of us were lucky enough to have been given a talk and tour by Deborah Robinson the Curator and Head of Exhibitions on Anj Smith's exhibition. It was just the tonic to see and discuss the exquisitely crafted paintings. The intricate detail in the work contained layers of narrative and conversations upon environmentalism, feminism, the treatment of gender and exploration of mental health. It's a rare opportunity to see so many of her works together, [please go see!](#)



## MA Contemporary Art China Museum in a Pandemic

MA Contemporary Arts China students have completed the Live Project '*The Museum in a Pandemic*'. This Live Project explored museum and art gallery responses to the global pandemic, including Ikon Gallery, Vivid Projects and Recent Activity in Birmingham, Firstsite Gallery in Colchester and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. You can see the work on the [project website here.](#)



## MA Art and Design: Interdisciplinary Practices

Students from the MA Art and Design worked with poet, film maker, photographer and former young people's laureate for London, [Caleb Femi](#). Working alongside Professor Onkar Kular and his MA Design students from HDK-Valand-Academy of Art and Design, University of Gothenburg, this one day workshop ran a format called the misreading group. We took texts that exist outside of the frame of design - by non-designers and usually marginalised authors and read them together as design text collectively. As part of the misreading, students annotated the text to make them into design texts.



## Level 4 BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design



Level 4 have been hard at work producing an exhibition website 'UNMUTED' to celebrate work produced over the last semester across both the Fine Art & Art and Design courses. The site will go live on Thursday 1st July. <https://unmuted.cargo.site>

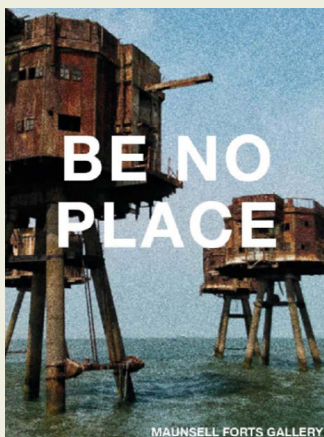
### Level 4 Design for Performance: Insect Installation

During a time when collaborative projects appeared impossible, L4 students worked independently towards an end goal of an installation. Students individually selected and studied an insect to replicate three times, increasing in scale, out of brown paper and corrugated card. Each student had the opportunity to photograph their insects in whatever style they wanted, and then to contribute to a collaborative installation. The impact of lockdown on creative environments has meant the inevitable vacancy of studio spaces. The final exhibition presents an artist's studio deserted mid-work, the artist assumed they'd be returning the following day. Due to their absence from their typical creative space, they are left to fantasize about their unfinished work, away from the restraints of reality.



### Level 4 BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design Collaborative Project

We have seen the successful conclusion of the level 4 cross-course collaboration module. There were many exciting themes and approaches, including the group 'Atlas' presenting an proposed exhibition and a radio station in an off-shore fort, 'Spirit' colliding technology with ancient religions, and F.E.M creating an outdoor sanctuary art space for women. It is a challenging module that establishes principles of effective group working. This year it was especially so as it was entirely online, requiring even more skills in organisation and communication. The groups however pulled it off. Well done to them all.

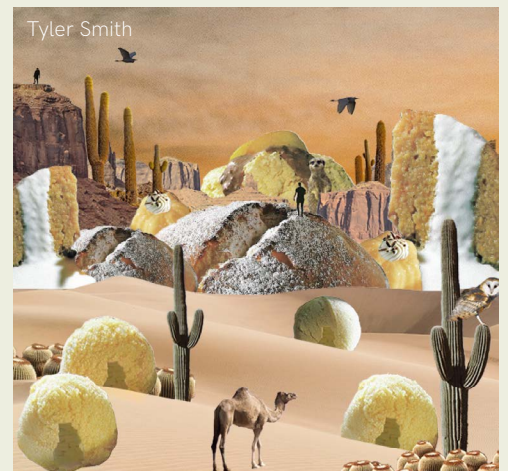
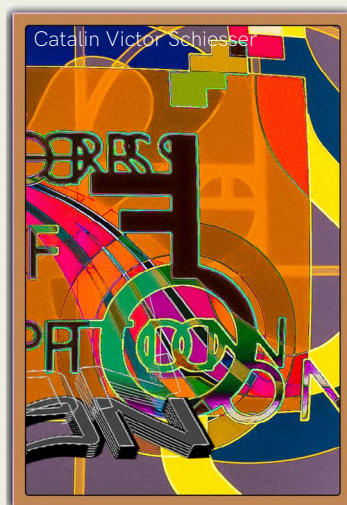


## Foundation

The Foundation Course has ended 2021 with students producing a tremendous range of work.

Covid-19, along with the subsequent lockdowns, undoubtedly brought many challenges for us but the strength of creative practice has to be recognised through the commitment of our students and their perseverance, focus and drive.

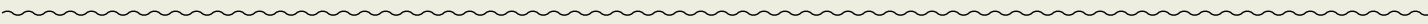
The work in this Newsletter is a teaser of things to come - these are our practitioners in the making! [Watch this space!](#)



## Rupi Dhillon M4C funding success

Rupi Dhillon MA Fine Art Alumni (2020) has been awarded M4C funding for PhD study on Cultural Dysphoria supervised by Dr Rajinder Dudrah, Dr Esther Windsor and Proff Anthony Downey starting September 2021. Congratulations Rupi!

*(Pictured left, The Anthropology of the Self 2020: performances and videos)*

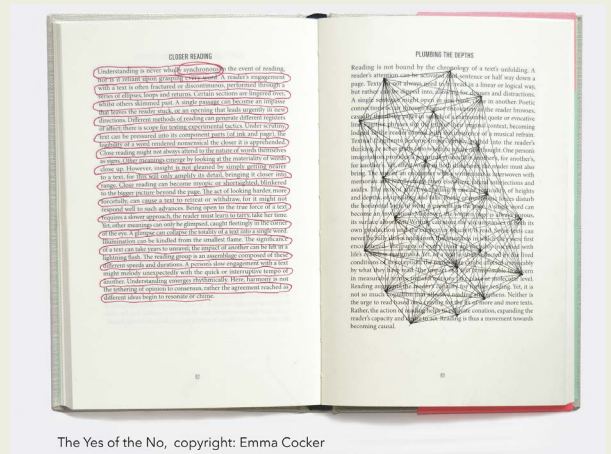


# Other news/ coming soon:

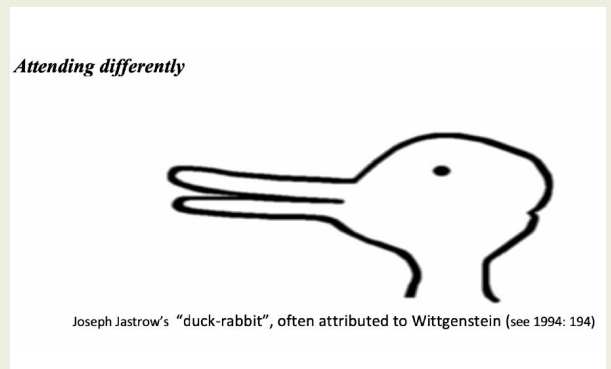
## Material Encounters Research Cluster Events

The Material Encounters Research Cluster is delighted to welcome Professor Robin Nelson as our last speaker in the Art as a Practice of Research series for 2020-21. This event will be held online at 3.30pm, 29 June 2021. BCU Staff and Students must book using their BCU email address and all registered participants will receive a link via Eventbrite. [To book click here.](#)

On the 7 July 2021 the Material Encounters Research Cluster is hosting a one-day colloquium which seeks to provoke dialogues across practices to examine the possibilities and unknowns of the processes and matter as a critical meeting point between thought, intention, and the expectance of what might transpire. What happens when the outcome is not the goal? How can we conceptualise artwork in flux as research? Can the artist's process that is unformulated, communicate research beyond words? The Keynote Speaker will be Dr Emma Cocker, delivering a talk Towards an Attitude of Openness: Preparing for the Unexpected. To book (using your BCU email address) [click here.](#)





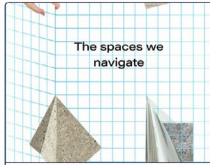

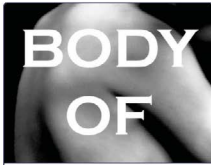




The Yes of the No, copyright: Emma Cocker



Joseph Jastrow's "duck-rabbit", often attributed to Wittgenstein (see 1994: 194)

# INSPIRED FESTIVAL 2021

Art | All Courses | Apply | Clear Filters

 sharon efomi Art	 Amelia Forsyth Art	 Yoana Petrova Art
 Muhammad Hafiz bin Railey Art	 Tegen Hoare Art	 Suelien Carine Maciel Moraes Art
		

## Comming Soon BCU ADM Inspired Festival

Inspired festival celebrates the exciting new talent emerging from the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media. It offers a virtual window into the future of the creative industries. We are very proud to showcase our exceptional graduate work - the culmination of innovative thinking and collaboration at the end of a year unlike any before.

To celebrate the launch of the [Inspired website](#) look out for our graduate work showcased on billboards across the City from 3rd - 17th July!



## Are you Birmingham's Creative Future?

The Gallery37 Residency is Birmingham's flagship creative development programme investing in the city's next generation of artists, with an alumni of over 200 artists.

This free two week programme offers Birmingham based artists (16-25 years) a significant opportunity to boost their career in the creative industries, focused on nurturing creative talent from across the city's diverse communities and neighbourhoods.

Residency dates (you must attend and be available for both weeks):

Week 1: Monday 23rd - Friday 27th August, 10pm- 6pm  
Week 2: Monday 30th August - Friday 3rd September, 10pm - 6pm

Applications will close on Sunday 11th July at 12pm. midday. For more information [visit the gallery 37 website.](#)



## Whitworth Wallis Fellowship

Whitworth Wallis Trust funds an annual fellowship with Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, in partnership with Birmingham City University's School of Art.

Applications open on the 1st and close on the 12th September. Applications are sought from BA, MA and PhD fine art or art and design students (Full and Part-time), graduating from Birmingham School of Art, and alumni of up to ten years since graduating.

The selected artist will be paid an artist's bursary of £1,500 to undertake a fellowship with Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. [For more information click here.](#)

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The next School of Art newsletter will be circulated in September. If you have any news or events you would like included in this next newsletter please email: [rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk)