

Birmingham School of Art

March Newsletter

A lot has changed since the February edition of this newsletter was circulated... most notably the return to Margaret Street for studio and workshop use and for a number of face-to-face taught sessions. Our building, over the past two weeks, has gradually begun to be re-activated, re-occupied and re-utilised in the way that it was before lockdown and in the way it was designed to be all those years ago in 1885 as the first municipal school of art. A site for exploration and realisation and a home for a creative community...we certainly have missed it and it is good to be back!

This March newsletter celebrates some of the outcomes that have been made possible through the return to Margaret Street. It also highlights some of the ambitious ways that so many of you have continued to make work. Whether this has been from home, online or even outside you have all resourcefully developed your ideas, realised ideas and then shared your practices with staff, peers and publics.

This month's newsletter is a bumper one! The quality and quantity of news stories is a testament to your brilliant achievements. Thank you for giving us all so much to smile about, to be proud of and to share with the wider audience this newsletter reaches!

I hope everyone has a good spring holiday and I look forwards to seeing you when we return.

Best wishes

Becky

Rebecca Court
Head of Undergraduate Studies
Birmingham School of Art

What's been happening at the School of Art:

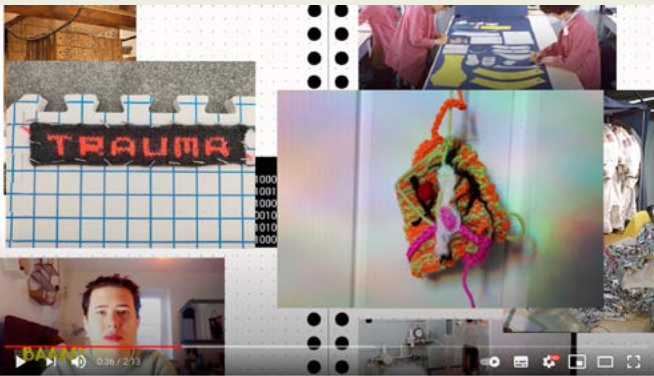
Level 6 Fine Art Professional Portfolio



Third year fine art students recently submitted their websites and artist talks for the Professional Portfolio module. Students employed a range of approaches to making and delivering their artists talks. Student [Jacob Carter](#) (work pictured left) captured some great footage of the School of Art in the process of producing his talk. Other examples include [Fraser Burton](#), [Ines Leicester](#), [Carmela Vienna](#), [Elinor Hunter](#), [Megan Henebury](#) and [Suellen Moraes](#).

Level 6 Fine Art Practice and Professional Presentation

Third year fine art students wasted no time in utilising the studios to make work following their return to the building. From installations and large sculptural works to performances, and expanded painting, students experimented with ideas and fed back on each other's outcomes. Pictured above right is Hafsah Jamil performing her body action painting and below right a group of students working in the studios last week.



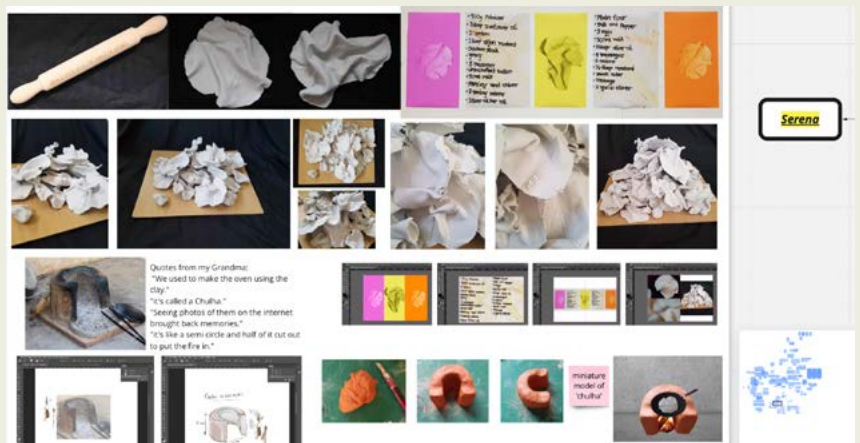
BAAADTV Episode 3: Madeleine Ellis

Level 6 Art and Design Making Public

Continuing to explore ways to make their work public third year BA Art and Design students have launched further episodes on [BAAADTV](#) and on [BAAADRADIO](#). Do keep an eye on their activities by following them on [Instagram](#).

Level 6 Art and Design Supported Production

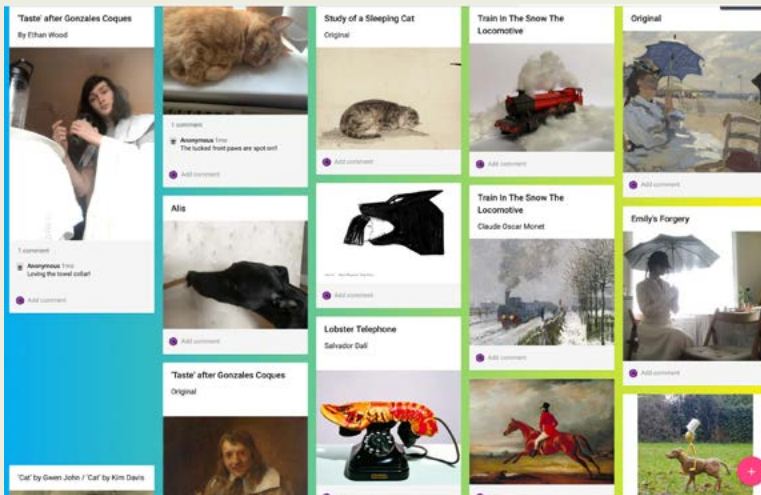
Level 6 Art and Design students have been extending their contextual and material research, sharing ideas, outcomes, thoughts and feedback with their peers and the staff team through their production Miro board.





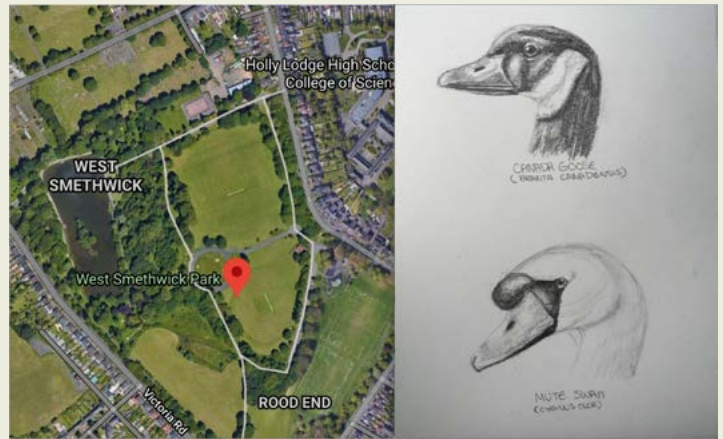
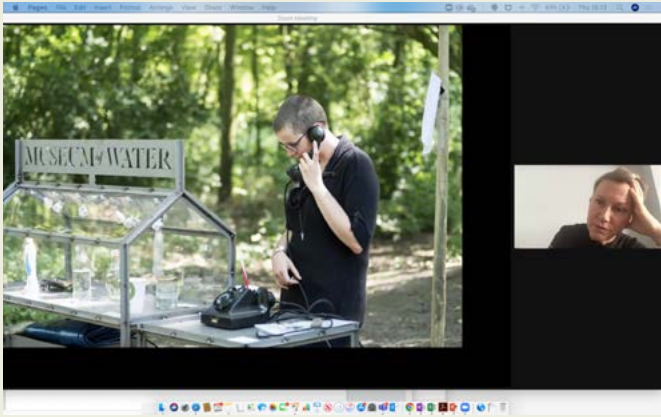
Foundation: Staff Presentations and Jim O'Raw Collage Workshops

Foundation students started this semester with a series of lockdown lectures that reflected on the creative practice of the Foundation staff team. They were joined by Jim O'Raw, local artist and Illustrator, who is a BCU PGCE PCET student. It was a great opportunity for staff and students to work together and share new approaches to teaching and learning. Jim has been rolling out a series of collage workshops this week, creating a super relaxed studio environment and recharging the value of 'hands-on' making; all agreeing it has been great to be back in the studios!



Foundation: BA Progression Sessions

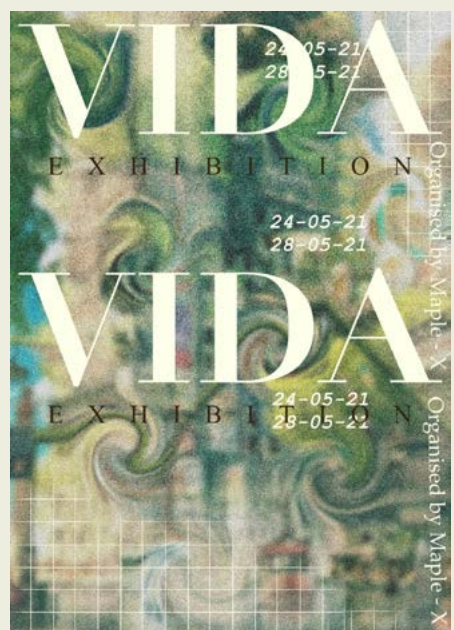
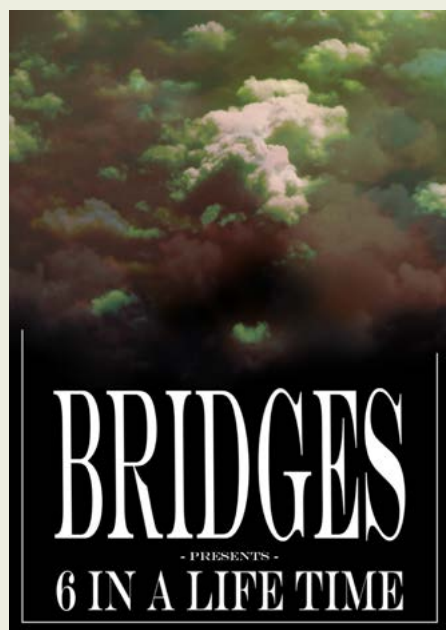
Foundation students recently participated in workshops from BA courses across the Institute of Creative Arts. For the BA Fine Art workshop, Lee and Andrew tasked students with making a quick sculpture made on/for an existing object in their room - using only the materials and objects that surround them. The sculptures only needed to stand up for as long as it takes to photograph. This made for some exciting, if slightly precarious, outcomes as per the example pictured above right by Lauren Stanton! For the BA Art and Design workshop Stuart and Alis asked students to think about fake art by recreating artworks in just 20 minutes with things around the house, making ad-hoc sculptures and rustling up still lives out of Ferrero Rochers and onions shared through a [padlet board](#)! Utilising everything from pets to parents to props, this challenge represents the hustle Art and Design students bring to their projects and the way they respond to the changing world around them.



Level 5 BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design Live Projects

The level 5 Live Projects are always a highlight of the Undergraduate courses and despite the challenges that the current context presents, this year's Live Projects have got off to a great start. Above right are examples of some of the early stage research for the for the *Art/Education/Outside* Live Project which is a collaboration between Level 5 Fine Art and BAAAD, and MAAEP. Another Live Project; *On the Water*, invited [Amy Sharrocks](#) to share her work, particularly the [Museum of Water](#) (pictured above left). There were some great discussions and practical ideas for 'thinking with water' in a time of climate emergency.

Level 4 Collaborative Project



Students on Level 4 BAFA and BAAAD have been working together in groups to develop exhibitions. Left are examples of the posters used to advertise these. The group Bridges are exploring dreams based upon hearing that six years of our lives are spent in dream state. Maple-X are focusing on protecting the environment and have built an immersive model space of the elements that make up and sustain 'Vida'. All 13 groups are currently finalising and making public their curated model spaces.

Level 4 Fine Art Establishing Practice

First year BA Fine Art students have been busy experimenting with ideas in order to begin to establish, define and contextualise their own individual practices. Exploring media and approaches around both the home and more recently back in the studio. It is the first occasion that students are given a real sense of authorship, leading to developing and extending their practice in level 5. Pictured right work by Boh Le.



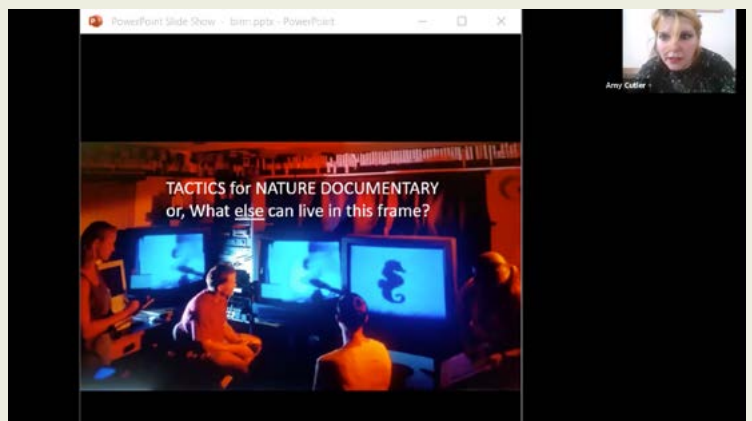
Level 4 Design for Performance

L4 Design for Performance have been working in groups to create a display of objects illustrating the life of an imaginary character. They chose a name and worked together to imagine the narrative of that person's life and how that might be visualised through the objects that they collected. We were very impressed with how each group created a multi-layered character with a believable life story. The students were working remotely on Teams, and also individually to make props for their character. These were put together to create a single coherent digital image of their display. Pictured top left Robyn/Robin Harper - a young woman brought up by her father, who enlisted as a soldier in the first world war and lived as a man. Pictured bottom left Dick Daniels - a serial killer whose crimes developed out of his very restricted up-bringing and the skewed vision that this gave him of life and relationships.



School of Art Artist Talks Programme

The launch of the School of Art Artist Talks Programme has been a well-received addition to everyone's Fridays timetables! So far this term we have heard from [Ruth Beale](#), [Kitty Finer](#), [Amy Cuttler](#), Marlene Smith and Harun Morrison. Keep an eye on the [Talks Teams page](#) for news of further exciting speakers joining us after the holiday!





MA Fine Art

We are delighted to share with you the successes of some of our MA Fine Art students. Starting with Robbie King (work pictured above left) who will be joining a number of our other School of Art students and alumni in showing his work in the [IKON for Artists](#) show happening between the 17 - 31st May.

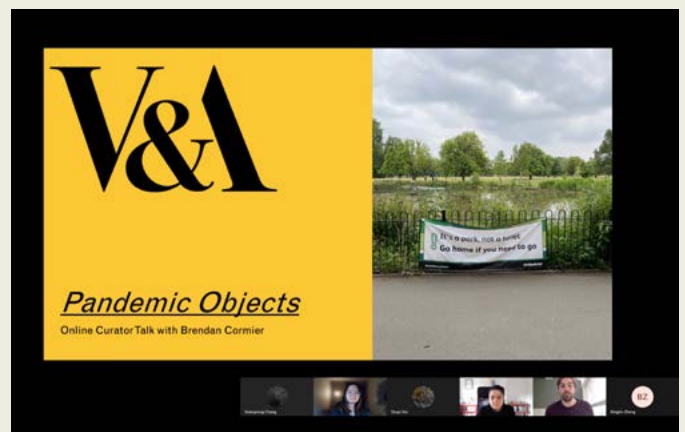
MA Fine Art Student Amy Crouch-Boden, is founder and director of an online music and arts platform called [The 7 Arts Still Exist](#). She has been running a number of online festivals since the March lockdown last year and has been getting support and coverage from BBC Hereford and Worcester and has had some shout-outs on BBC Radio 6.

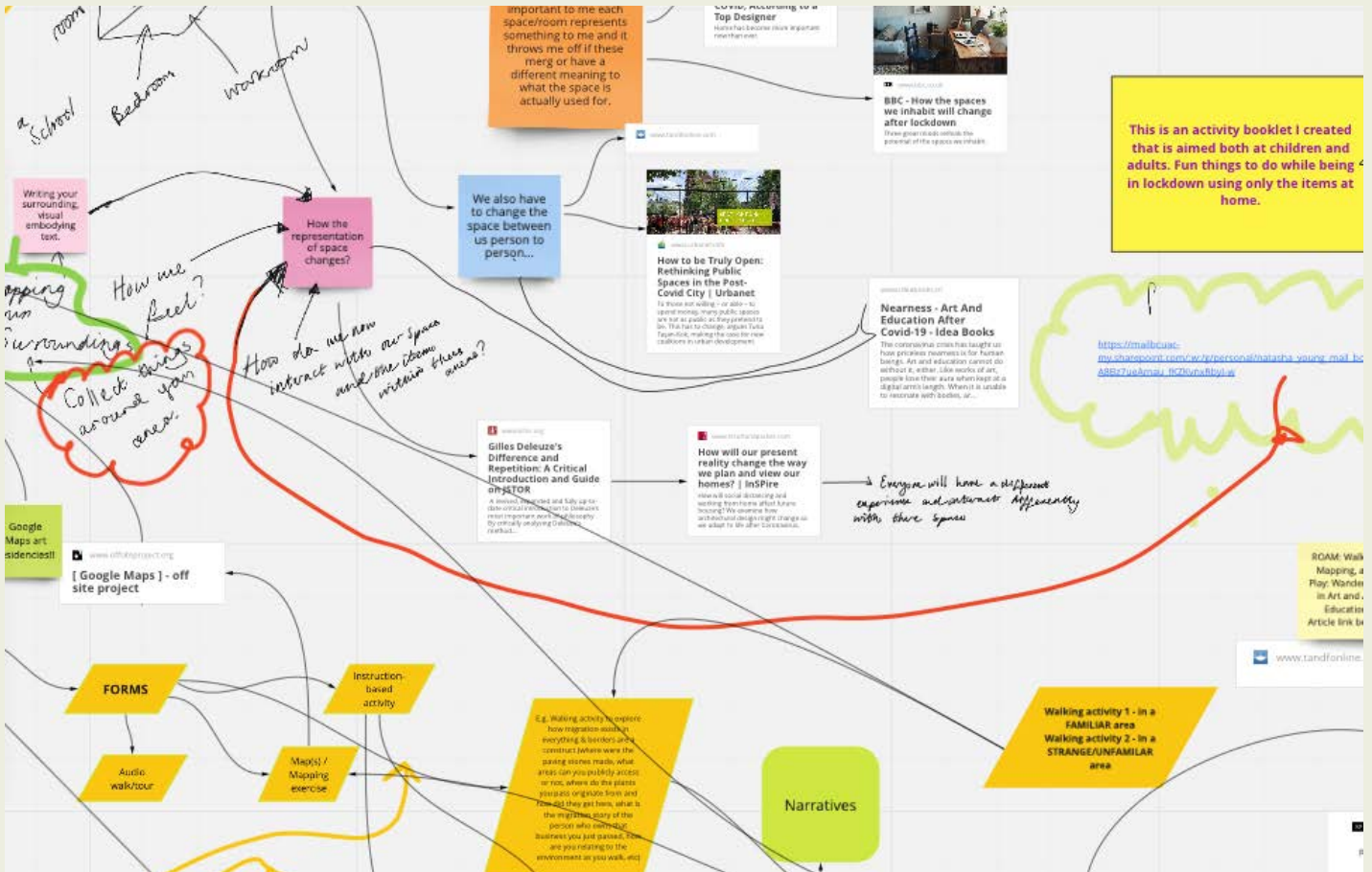


Jessica Ladkin (work pictured below left) is amongst an exciting range of artists (including many alumni from the School of Art) to have had their work purchased by [New Art Gallery, Walsall](#). Their work will now be part of the Twenty Twenty Art collection, which "responds to world events over the last tumultuous year; from the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, to the Black Lives Matter movement and Brexit."

MA Contemporary Art China *Unusual Daily* - Live Project

Unusual Daily is part of the MACAC Live Project *The Museum in a Pandemic*, funded by the Gertrude Aston Bowater Fund. The Museum in a Pandemic explores museums and art galleries responses to the global pandemic, including Ikon Gallery, Vivid Projects and Recent Activity in Birmingham, Firstsite Gallery in Colchester and the V&A in London. In response, MACAC students question how art making can respond to the idea of unusual daily by encouraging us all to think artistically, and to re-examine our deep emotions of everyday life in present times. The students invite you take part and contribute to this project by adding your submissions and reflections on the groups [Padlet board](#). Think of those weirds and wonderful moments we all had during the pandemic and share these with us! The collected works will be selected by MA Contemporary Arts China students and displayed on the project website and social media accounts (see Instagram: @un_usualdaily)



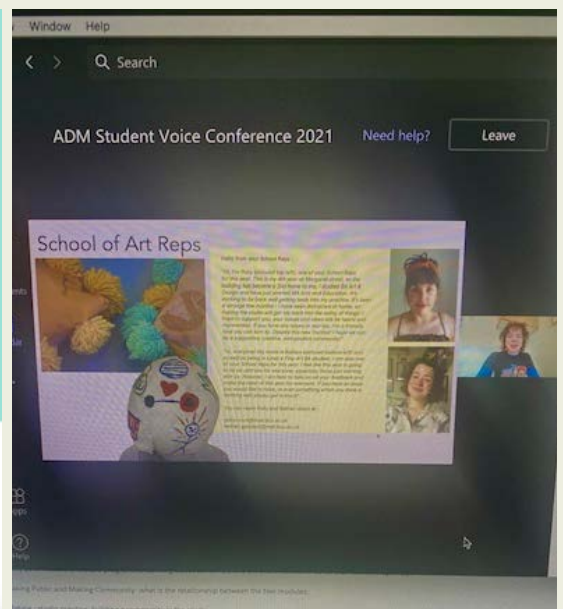


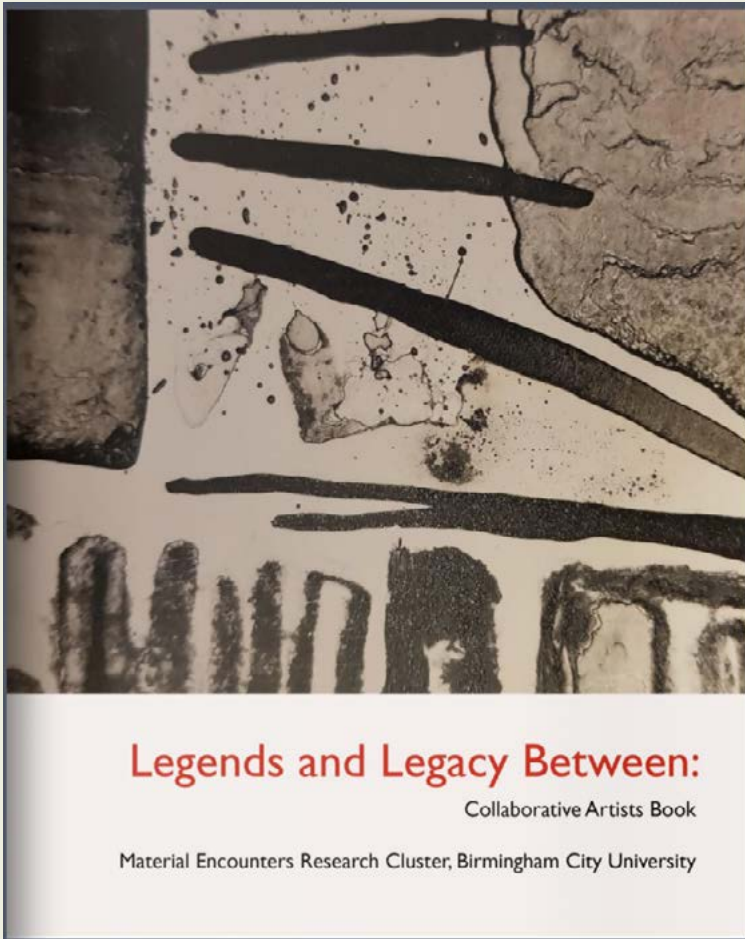
MA Art and Education Practices

Students on MAAEP are developing activities in partnership with Ikon as part of the 2021 Migrant Festival including a publication with designer Keith Dodds for the Bowater Projects. *The Strange and Familiar* explores how arts education can articulate and respond to migrancy in ways that are hyperlocal as well as international, making a home away from home, exploring migration as a homecoming and a coming to terms with home. MAAEP Students are developing work that is responsive to: lived space, mapping, borders, the elements, sound, layers, personal heritages/histories and shifting identities. In other MAAEP news, current student Tamzin Lunn is one of the artists participating in the [Bilston project](#) working to produce billboard artworks and create a workshop for a community in Bilston.

Student Voice Conference

School of Art Reps Polly Brant and Bethan Goddard presented an overview of what has been happening at the School of Art this year at the first ADM Student Voice conference! They gave an exciting account showcasing work, activities, projects and news. Thank you both for your hard work as Reps.





Material Encounters *Legends and Legacy Between*

Students and staff from the School of Art exhibited work at the IMPACT 10 International print conference in Santander, Spain 2017. Following on from this, through the Material Encounters seminars, in 2018 staff and students worked together to make a submission to IMPACT 11. This output taking the form of a book of members work reflecting on the experience of making artworks in the unique environment of the School of Art. In tough isolation times the project and resultant book has been a valuable collective experience for participants and will bring educational benefits when the IMPACT exhibition goes live in April. [You can view the book here.](#)

CHEAD (Council for Higher Education in Art and Design) Annual Conference 2021 Presentation of the Making of Ferocious Love

In 2020 artist Mikhail Karikis was invited to work with a group of students as part of the Live Projects to collaborate on a new audio-visual installation commissioned by TATE. This resulted in the work *Ferocious Love*. This [CHEAD session](#) showcased the [making of the film](#), highlighting the success of partnership working which places students at the heart of co-production.



Other news:



Betsy Bradley
School of Art Alumna 2018
Ikon Solo Show
Chasing Rainbows
3rd December 2021- 13 February 2022

We are very proud to share the news that 2018 MA Fine Art Graduate [Betsy Bradley](#) will be having her first major solo exhibition at [Ikon Gallery](#) later this year. Betsy's work explores painting as a life force that traces "*the dance between thought and action.*" We can't wait to see her work fill the Ikon gallery spaces!

Round Lemon Artist Talks Series

Round Lemon are hosting a series of free, digital artist talks including ones by our co-founders (who are all current third year Fine Art Students!):

Ryan Asbury - 8th April
Bethan Jayne - 15th April
Andreea Pîslaru - 22nd April
Carmela Vienna - 29th April

Tickets are available [here](#) and If you would be interested in hosting a talk, please email us at admin@roundlemon.co.uk



Artist Talk – Bethan Jayne
15.04.2021 19:00
Roundlemon.co.uk



Artist Talk – Ryan Asbury
08.04.2021 19:00
Roundlemon.co.uk

GLOBAL ART FUTURES:

3 SEMINARS ON THE CRITICAL AND CREATIVE PLACE AND VALUE OF ART, ARTISTS AND ART EDUCATION

Lecture 3:

From Where I Stand: Alternate Perspectives, Re-imagining Sources and Other Histories

Date: 27TH MAY 2021

19.00-20.00

As part of BICA's continuing partnership with Tate Liverpool students were given the opportunity to work with staff from both institutions to be part of the design and planning team behind the public online lecture series. In an open call, students and staff from across the School of Art were invited to submit proposals for innovative and exciting topics, with a committee of students, selected from different courses across the school, to join the mentorship scheme. For more information please contact beth.derbyshire@bcu.ac.uk

Knit/Stitch/Crochet Club

The knit/ Stitch/ Crochet club are storming ahead with dedicated knitters who like to chatter and make. New dates for the next face-to-face get together to follow. Beginners and people who stitch welcome! You can join the [Teams group for this club here!](#)



Open Call for Sounds



Would you like to be part of a collaborative album? If you are interested in art, sound, or music send some recordings to us and all contributors will be credited within the album. Deadline April 15. This collaborative album is led by Level 6 students. Please send your full name and audio recordings to Lockdownsound2021@gmail.com

Let's Draw
Tuesday 13th April
2:30 - 3:30pm

This session, hosted by the Student Success Advisors and led by SSA and BA Fine Art Alumni Miriam & Ioana, is designed for students who want to learn a new skill, try a new style of drawing and meet students across the Arts, Design & Media Faculty.

Creative Arts Studio
Wednesdays every Fortnight
4pm
(next session 31st March)

The SSA's have now created a teams channel you can join to share your creative projects and chat and collaborate with other minds alike. Every Wednesday fortnight we host a teams call where we have chats and play some games such as scribbler. [To join the team click here.](#)



Eastside Projects
Claricia Parinussa, Jade Foster
ONLINE Lunch Club
Friday, 23 April 2021
1 - 2pm

Artist and curator Jade Foster has invited movement researcher and artist Claricia Parinussa to co-host the discussion. Interested in borderless kinships and collaborations, Jade and Claricia will open up a conversation about how kinships can act as a form of care towards their members. Both artists have been working with different initiatives such as ID.Y's, Anti Racism in Practice (ARIP) project that has afforded generosity and time as a form of care to contributors. [Everyone is welcome to join.](#)

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If you have any School of Art news or events you would like included in the April newsletter please email: [rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk)