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Birmingham School of Art

October Newsletter 2021

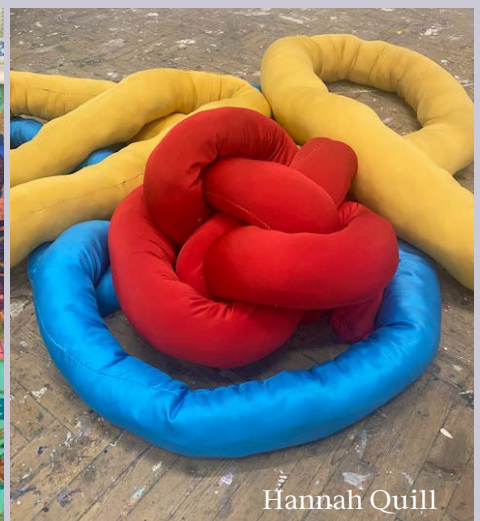
Semester 1, week 6 ... things are very much in full swing!

In reflecting on some of the highlights of the beginning of this academic year, the online *School of Art Staff Talks* and *Artists Lecture Series* instigated through lockdown, feel a positive and successful story to start this newsletter with. These school-wide activities, timetabled as part of the curriculum for all students, have so far included staff talks from [Andrew Gillespie](#), [Linda Stupart](#), [Catherine Baker](#), [Stuart Whipps](#) and [Gay Place](#) alongside external speaker presentations and in-conversations from [Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad](#), [Sunil Gupta](#), [De'Anne Crooks](#), [Anneka French](#) and [Jo Capper](#). These talks have given an insight into a wide range of practices, research strategies and making methodologies. Thank you to everyone who has contributed! (BCU staff and students can watch the talks back by clicking on the names of the speakers above).

A key feature in this month's newsletter is the much-anticipated return of Night School! Night School, a student-led initiative takes place on the last Tuesday of every month. It sees the coming together of the School of Art community with an evening of exhibitions, performances, talks, workshops and general good fun! We haven't been able to run Night School since February 2020 so it was brilliant to see this popular event back for a 'soft' (BCU staff and student only) launch event this week!

Alongside the above, this newsletter shows a glimpse of some of the work in progress from students across our courses and levels in celebrating the exciting range of creative activities that have been happening at Margaret Street (and beyond) over the past month.

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Whats been happening at the School of Art:



The return of Night School!

On Tuesday 26th October, led by a committee of students, Night School returned! The event was packed with things to do and see from work in progress exhibitions to vinyl playing, zine making and of course cocktail tasting at the bar!



Night School: Level 5 Fine Art Gallery Exhibition

Second Year Fine Art students utilised the opportunity of Night School to realise work in the School of Art Gallery. This, the cohorts first group exhibition in the building, featured an exciting range of outcomes taking the form of paintings sculpture, textiles, installation pieces and more. Well done everyone on an excellent show!



Ethan Milovsorov

Gregory Simpson

Night School: Level 6 Fine Art Work in Progress Show (F02)



Third year BA Fine Art students worked effectively as a team to transform their studio spaces to present work in progress from the Practice and Professional Presentation module for the first Night School. It was great to see such ambition and experimentation in their outcomes as they used this opportunity to test strategies for communicating ideas driven by personal, material, contextual and historical enquiries to an audience. We are looking forwards to following the development of their practices over the next year in the lead up to the degree show!



Chloe Bradshaw



Fabiana Martins Simoes



Jean-Paul Reilly



Deashe Inwood

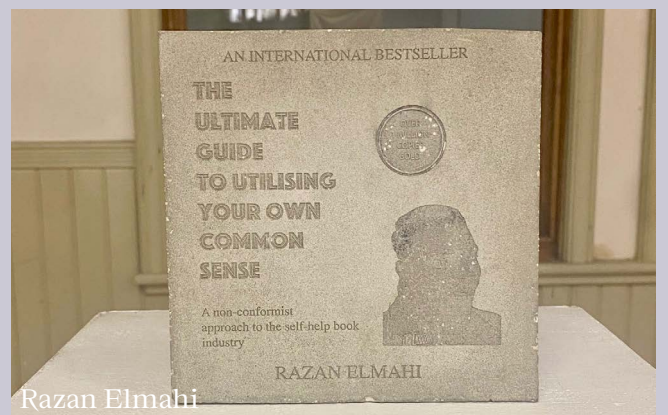
Level 5 Art and Design Work in Progress Show (S09)

Second year BA Art and Design students displayed work in progress from their Establishing Art and Design Practice 1 module.



Emily Fitzgerald

Their studio acting as a space for testing forms of display and of audience engagement (with many of us enjoying Emily's lemonade as a result!)



Razan Elmahi



Canaan Brown



Toby Hawkins

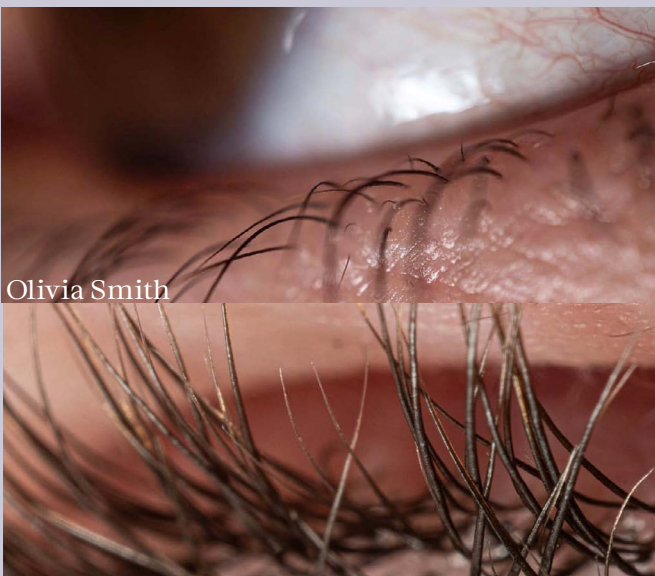
Night School: Level 6 Art and Design Work in Progress Show (F03)



Third year BA Art and Design students worked together to think about and experiment with presentation and collective modes of display. Their Major Project work in progress outcomes included sculptural objects, manipulated materials, films and *assemble your own* zine making activities in testing ideas ahead of their degree show in June! Well done everyone!



Lily-May Priest



Olivia Smith

Foundation

So-ciable and non-so-ciable objects

Object Analysis - How do they look and feel

Object Drawing - Inside and outside the object!

Object Naming - Of course

Object Bonding - Love/hate

Object Context - Broken

Object Sound - Maybe

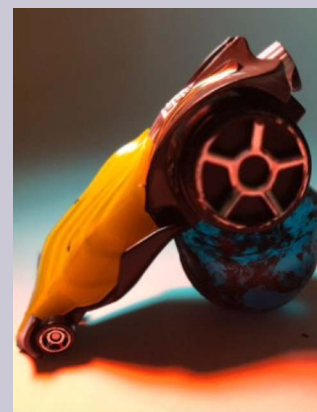
Object smell - Sometimes

Object voice - High-pitched/low pitched/silent

Object texture - Soft and other



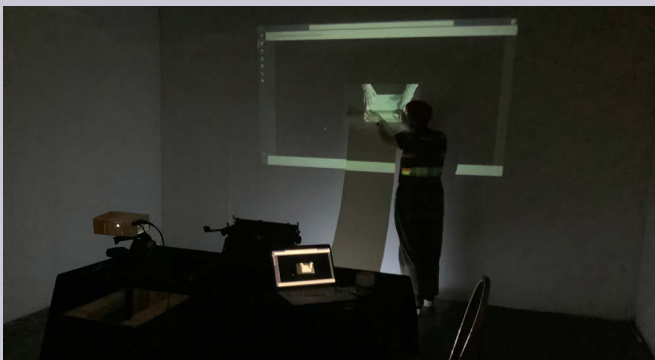
This has been a project that has exhausted all there is to know about how two objects socialise.....or not! It is designed to introduce the Marmite effect on our new student makers and designers. Marmite never tasted so good! Great work everyone!



Level 5 Design for Performance Flatpack Festival Brief



Level 5 DfP students have spent the first five weeks of the semester engaging with an external brief set by Flatpack Festival. Working in groups the students produced three experimental short films in response to a designated space and a randomly allocated object. All films were derived from the space, shot in the space and presented in the space.



Level 4 Fine Art Conceal and Reveal (Imprint and Trace)

Level 4 Fine Art (Group B) have been busy in the studio responding to the overarching subject of 'Conceal and Reveal'. As part of this they worked on a short project called 'Imprint and Trace' that started with monoprinting, introduced by printmaker Justin Sanders (pictured), before exploring a further range of media and approach.

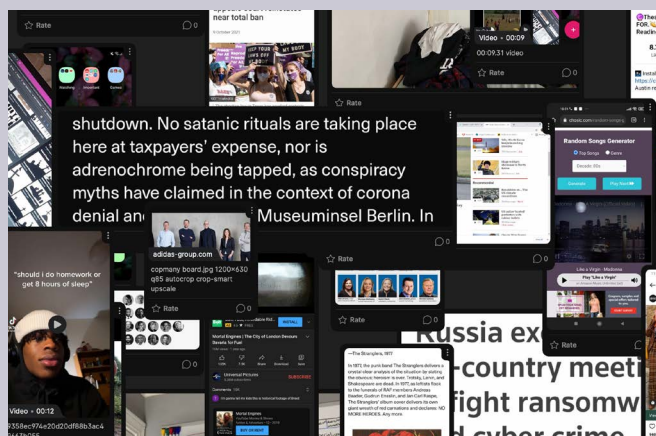


Level 4 Fine Art From all Sides it Devours

Level 4 Fine Art (Group A) have also been busy in the studio responding to their project *From all sides it devours*. This project challenged students to make work which explored and imagined alternate technologies, materialities, bodies, societies and histories. The resulting installations embrace and embody an alternative vision in constructing new narratives, questioning existing structures or habits and imagining new futures in interrupting the everyday and challenging us to think about how societies, systems and bodies operate and are understood.



Level 4 Art and Design Speculative Worlds



Level 4 have been working through their Production Manual and are currently building collaborative drawing machines. They have also been working on a collaborative Padlet that explores speculative worlds and our relationship with technology. It is a sprawling and chaotic joy!

20:20 Print Exchange



20 staff and students from the School of Art have been busy working on their submission for the 20:20 international print exchange. In return for submitting an edition of prints, each artist will receive a box of 20 prints which have been produced within workshops and institutions from around the world!



Wednesday Staff Talks Friday Artist Lectures

As outlined in the introduction to this newsletter, the Wednesday Staff Talks and the Friday Artist Lectures have each week offered us introductions and insights into different practices. Last week's Friday Artist lecture delivered by **Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad** discussed outcomes that span scales and disciplines, from designs for the public realm to games, spaces and products. BCU staff and students can watch his talk back [here](#).



Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad

This week Level 6 Fine Art Coordinator, Artist and Curator **Andrew Gillespie** discussed his interest in surfaces, structures and materials. BCU staff and students can watch his talk back [here](#).



Andrew Gillespie

Telford College visit the School of Art!

29 Level 3 Art and Design students and 3 staff from Telford College were wowed during their visit to Birmingham School of Art on Tuesday 19th October when they came for a look around and an introduction to our undergraduate courses. Many of the Telford students commented on how inspired they were by the architecture of Margaret Street and the work on display. Jo Newmans Foundation Padlet page proved a hit along with Stuart Whipps' personal interest in the new town of Telford! We're looking forward to welcoming some of them as SoA students in September 22!

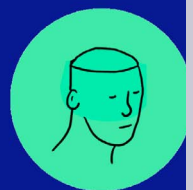


Birmingham Institute of Creative Arts

School of Art
School of Visual Communication
School of Games, Film and Animation

Our Undergraduate Courses:

- BA Graphic Communication
- BA Illustration
- BA Photography
- BA Design for Performance: Theatre, Film & Live Events
- BA Fine Art
- BA Art & Design (with Creative Technologies)
- BA Video Game Design
- BA Video Game Digital Art
- BSc Video Game Development
- BA Digital Marketing
- BA Filmmaking
- BA Film & Screenwriting
- BA Film Studies



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Other news / coming soon:



Stuart Whipps

Stuart Whipps: *The Carboniferous Epoch* NGCA Collection Space until January 2022

Stuart Whipps' 14 minute film *'The Carboniferous Epoch'* examines how the North East's new towns – especially Peterlee – built during the optimism of post-war Britain – have become landscapes of either mass consumption or high unemployment in a single generation. It was commissioned by Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art and North-East Photography Network and is on show **now!**

Takudzwa Chandiwana Whitworth Wallis Fellow 2021/22

We are delighted to announce that **Takudzwa Chandiwana** has been selected as this year's Whitworth Wallis Fellow. As a graduate of the School of Art, she will be using the six months of the paid fellowship to carry out research in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery to produce a series of 'print-paintings' in the School of Art. She will focus on the further developing investigations on black identity, femininity, and the representation of cultural identity and diaspora.



Takudzwa Chandiwana

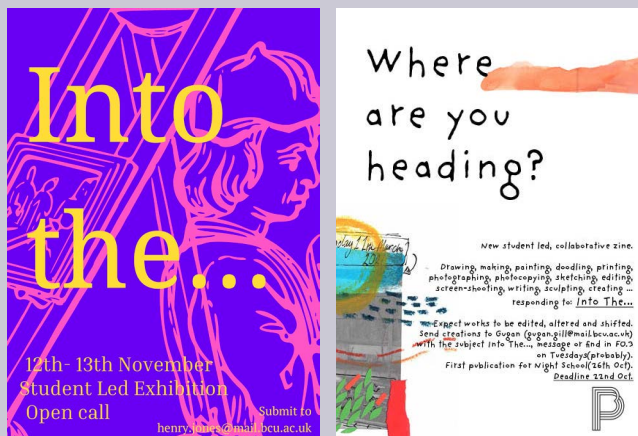
Birmingham Institute of Creative Arts ArtsLab

ArtsLab has been successfully launched as a new initiative for the Birmingham Institute of Creative Arts. Established by the BICA Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Group (EDI), it is a location for all activity that all students can participate in from across the Schools of Art, Visual Communication, and Games, Film and Animation. In addition to activities, there is to be a regular series of cross-school discussions and presentations with students and staff (the first explored 'inclusive communities'). Check out the **website** for more info!



Level 6 Art and Design Opportunities to get involved!

Level 6 Art and Design students have been busy thinking about the different ways that they can show their work publicly throughout their final year. The students have formed 3 collectives, BAAAD Press (for artist books), BAAAD Media (for podcasts and tv) and BAAAD Display (for curation and display). Each group will be working on various self-initiated projects over the year, the first being a new School of Art zine that launched at the first Night School and then an exhibition in the gallery space in week 8. The students are keen to work with students across the School so if anyone is interested in exhibiting please email Henry Jones for more details.



School Reps 2021/22

We warmly welcome Nikol Ignatovic and Ines Leicester into their role of School Reps for this year. They will be working closely with the Course Reps and staff to help to coordinate the 'Student Voice'. They will also be engaged in enhancement opportunities within the School to celebrate and further build our great community.



School Rep Ines Leicester
@inesl_art



School Rep Nikol Ignatovic
@nicole_ign



Joey Holder

Joey Holder : Wheatley Fellow

We are pleased to announce that the recipient of this year's Wheatley Fellowship award is artist [Joey Holder](#). The Wheatley Fellowship sees an artist given a bursary to work within the School of Art and alongside students, from 1st November for 10 months.

[Joey Holder](#) is a visual artist, producer & mentor. Her artwork is fuelled by continued dialogue and collaborations with researchers & practitioners from varied fields. She creates fictional worlds & constructed environments that respond directly to contemporary, real world events. Each artwork is considered a 'set' with filmic, narrative, architectural, visuals & sound elements created uniquely for the conceptual underpinning of the project. She has worked with computational geneticists, marine biologists, behavioural psychologists & investigative journalists where my artwork has addressed themes including future farming, synthetic biology and deep sea ecosystems.



Joey Holder

Sally Bailey, PhD Exhibition

Postgraduate researcher **Sally Bailey** will show her work in both the gallery in G20 and on the [s-o-a.studio website](#) to coincide with her viva voce examination. Sally's PhD entitled *locating a space of exchange: re-imagining the liminal in contemporary painting practice* aims to define and locate a 'space of exchange' within the painting process and articulate the ways in which this phenomenon plays a pivotal role in the often-background-ed transformation of both process and painter. The work in G20 will be open to students on Thursday 4th November, and the exhibition/exposition will be online throughout November. Good Luck for the viva Sally!



Material Encounters Research Cluster news

The *Thinking of Place iii* exhibition which includes five researchers from the Material Encounters Research Cluster will be on exhibition at NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Cairns, Queensland, Australia. The printmaking exhibition includes 95 international artists and includes only two UK based invited groups, this leg of the international tour exhibition will take place 21 January to 19 February 2022.



In other news, alongside producing a **cluster video**, we have set-up a **Work-in-Progress** section on the external Material Encounters website where we will be featuring member research for month long intervals; if any MA students would like to take the opportunity to feature their research on the website we would be keen to work with them on developing their feature. Anyone interested should email: material.encounters@bcu.ac.uk

Holly Hendry, Eastside Projects Workshop with BA Fine Art Students



Last week BCU students from Fine Art, Architecture, Interior Architecture and Design and Design for Future living had the opportunity to take part in a workshop with artist **Holly Hendry** at Eastside Projects. During the workshop students created collaborative drawings and collages in the 'exquisite corpse' method culminating in a large-scale interactive outcomes. It was great to see BA Fine Art students Sahel Vaezi Ghahroudi, Olivia Clarke, Lewis Owen and Madeline Washbrook participate in this!

Recent Activity: Photocopied



Recent Activity, the curatorial project space in Digbeth run by BA Fine Art Lecturer Andrew Gillespie currently has an exhibition of new works made on paper using a photocopier on show. The exhibition features a number of School of Art Staff and Alumni including Ryan Asbury (BA Fine Art 2021), De'Anne Crooks (MA Art and Education Practices 2021), Thomas Eke (MA Art and Education Practices 2019), Leah Hickey (BA Fine Art 2018) and Andreea Pislaru (BA Fine Art, 2021).

Roo Dhissou: Coventry Biennial of Critical/ Political/ Social Art 2021



Roo Dhissou

The third **Coventry Biennial** which presents socially, politically and critically engaged artistic practices in Coventry and Warwickshire is now open and features the work of a broad range of artists including School of Art graduate (and current PhD student) **Roo Dhissou**. Roo's practice explores ways that culture is linked to the idea of belonging, specifically the relationships and connections that we have with one another and with the land.

IRL exhibition visits are back!

It has been great to be able to go and see exhibitions in real life again! Over the past few weeks students from across levels and courses have visited a number of exhibitions including **Mit Jai Inn at Ikon** (to see the work he produced at Margaret Street!), Senior Technician **Gay Place at T-Street Gallery** and Fine Art Lecturer **Linda Stupart at Wysing**.



Eastside Projects: What's on

Eastside Projects, the Universities partner gallery has a range of events and activities coming up including the opening of *Woven Tongue* on the 5th November as part of Digbeth First Friday. *Woven Tongue* examines migration, identity and craft cultures within the curator's mixed heritage—Turkish Cypriot, Pakistani, Yemeni, Welsh. You can find out more about what's on at Eastside Projects [here](#).



Scrapstore is back!



What is it:

Scrapstore is a free collection of things you can take and use to make art! It is made from donations of spare materials, left-over bits and odd but interesting potential sculptural materials. Scrapstore's motto is "Give what you can and take what you need!"

Where to find it:

It lives on the top corridor at Margaret Street. If you take the stairs outside of F01 up a floor, you'll see scrapstore on the left in front of you. It has yellow labels on the shelves and tubs full of random things.

How to give things:

To the left of Scrapstore there is a large cardboard box with the label 'donations'. Please put things in here to be H&S checked before making its way onto scrapstore shelves. Books and magazines are great for collage. Large bits of paper can usually be re-used and strange objects or textured materials usually find their way into new sculptures. For more information please contact [Alis Oldfield](#).



Graduate + Week 1st-5th November

Graduate + Week offers the opportunity to engage with sessions (there are over 100 on offer across the week) to support you in working towards your future success. You can book your sessions [here](#).



News from our Student Success Advisor

[Miriam](#), our SOA SSA (pictured) is on campus every Friday if students wish to have in person meetings with her (these can be informal chats or requests for any kind of support needed). The SSAs are also running a *Time to Talk - Stress and Mental Health* session on Wednesday 3rd November at 12noon on Teams which can be joined [here](#). (This is alongside a range of regular activities run by the SSAs, to find out more visit their Instagram page [here](#)).



Thank you for reading!

If you have any news you would like to share in the November School of Art Newsletter, please get in touch before the 24.11.21: rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk