

# S - O - A

Birmingham School of Art

## March Newsletter 2022

Summer Time is finally here! The School of Art has felt particularly energetic and busy over the past few weeks – a sure sign that the end of Semester 2 is drawing nearer (can you believe we are on week 10 already!). It has been heartening to see the building and its resources (from the studios and workshops to the library and gallery space) so well utilised after the turbulence of the past two years – the Margaret Street community is certainly back in full swing.

This month's newsletter has a particular focus on student outcomes produced through skills-based workshops, work-in-progress exhibitions, and project briefs. There are also several events coming up over the next week to draw your attention to (including Night School which takes place tomorrow 29th March and Digbeth First Fridays happening next week on the 1st April!).

Due to the spring break (Monday 11th – Friday 22nd April) and the timings of the Semester 2 assessments, the next School of Art newsletter will be published at the end of May (instead of April) – I look forwards to a bumper edition in which we will highlight and showcase a number of module outcomes!

Becky



## Whats been happening at the School of Art:

### Foundation

One of the backbones of drawing, making and creative practice is learning to look - a much undervalued skill. With this in mind, we embedded a series of Figure Drawing sessions for our Foundation Students to familiarise ourselves with the value of taking time to look, while studying light, bone structure, muscle formation, texture, clothing, skeletal and architectural values. The learning environment became a place for thinking, sustained concentration, uninterrupted engagement, complimented by no invasive mobile phone distractions! For most of the students this was their first attempt at life drawing. Great work everyone and thanks Paul Aleksandr!



### Level 4 Fine Art G20 Work in Progress Exhibition

First Year BA Fine Art students last week curated a work in progress exhibition in G20 -the School of Art Gallery for their Establishing Practice module. It is great to see such a range of individual practices beginning to emerge - well done everyone! The show will be open for this weeks March Night School event - be sure to pop in and have a look!





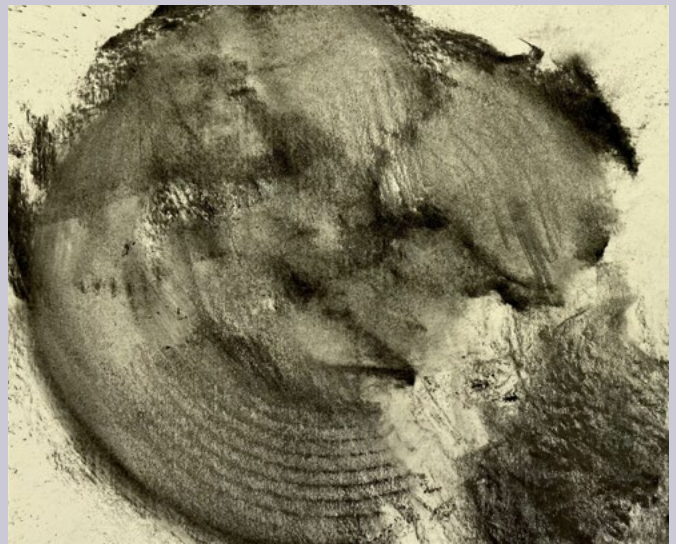
## Fine Art Drawing and Painting Workshops with Yvonne Hindle

Fine Art tutor Yvonne Hindle has been running a series of painting workshops for Fine Art Students (across UG and PG) with students sampling different types of primed surfaces, paints and mediums to inform the development of their individual practices.



## Art and Design Skills Workshops with Catherine Baker

Catherine Baker has run a series of supported production workshops for the L6 Art and Design students which have included: Drawing, Painting & Colour Theory and Preparing for Printmaking. The sessions have been inherently skills based and though the content also included discussions around materiality and the meaning that material choices imbue.





## Level 6 Design for Performance

L6 Design for Performance student Reilain Hart has recently designed and built the set for Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's spring opera 'Banished'. Performed at The Engine Room Space (2nd - 5th March) the opera follows the story of an all-female convict ship in the early 19th century, transporting prisoners to the penal colonies of Australia.



A harrowing tale of the terrible conditions and treatment the prisoners faced in their long journeys; giving a voice to real women from history.



## MA Fine Art - G20 Exhibition



MA Fine Art students presented an exhibition of work in progress in the School of Art Gallery (G20) earlier this month.

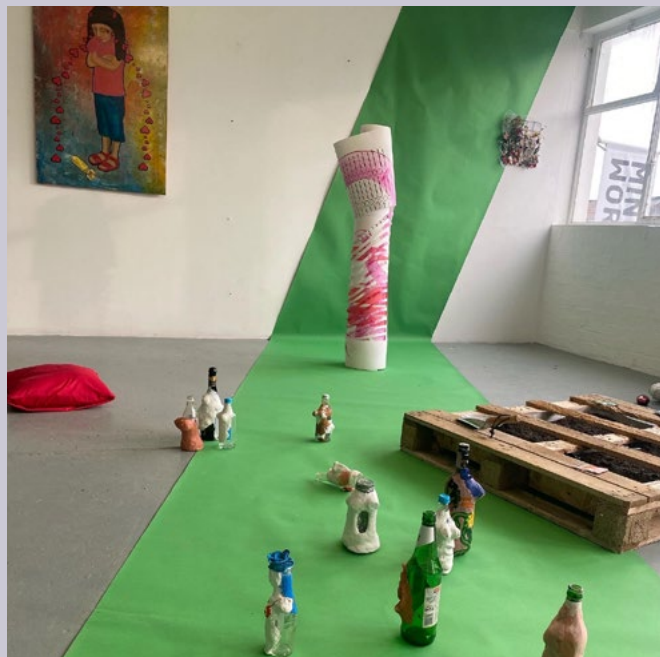




## Level 6 Fine Art Stryx Exhibition EN:TRANCE

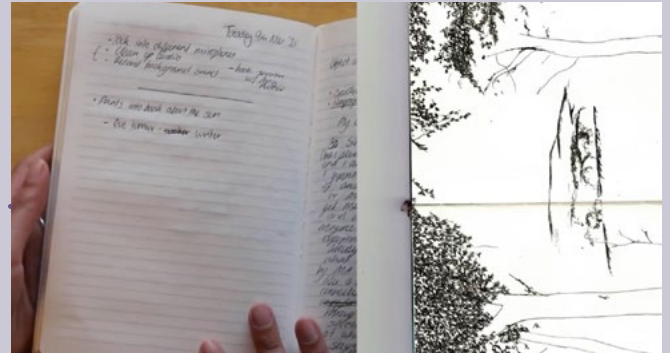


Earlier this month, third year BA Fine Art students presented work in progress for their Practice and Professional Presentation module. They utilised the opportunity of working off site in a gallery space to test curatorial strategies and display mechanisms ahead of their degree show in June. You can see the catalogue of works they organised and produced for this exhibition [here](#). Well done L6!



## Level 6 Professional Portfolio

Level 6 Fine Art and Art and Design students last week submitted their Artist Talks and post-degree Career Plan Presentations for the Professional Portfolio module. The Artist talks offer real insight into the ideas, processes and material decisions of the students individual practices. Here is a small sample of their outcomes - [Gugan Gill](#), [Megan Cassidy](#), [Fabiana Simoes](#), [Kelly Ansell](#), [Zara Masood](#), [Howard Carlton](#), [Dominic Holness](#).



## Making Communities

### Level 4 and Level 5 studio lunches

First and second year Fine Art Students (and staff) each came together to have studio lunches - celebrating the sense of community they have built. Level 4 extended the activity into a collaborative wall drawing outcomes- responding to the idea of an indulgent feast!

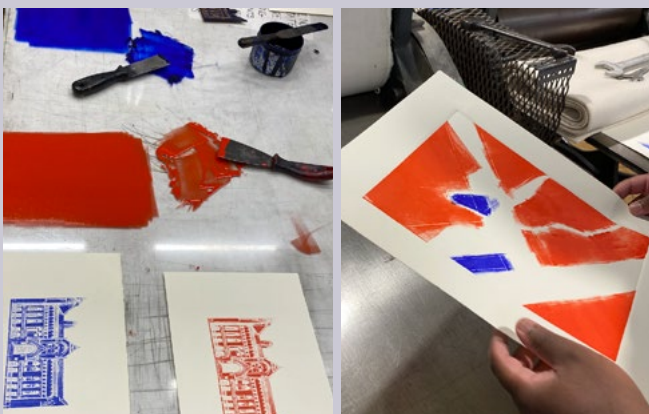




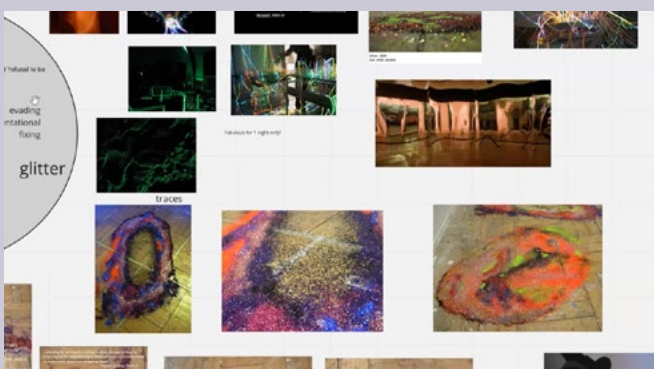


## Applicant Taster Day

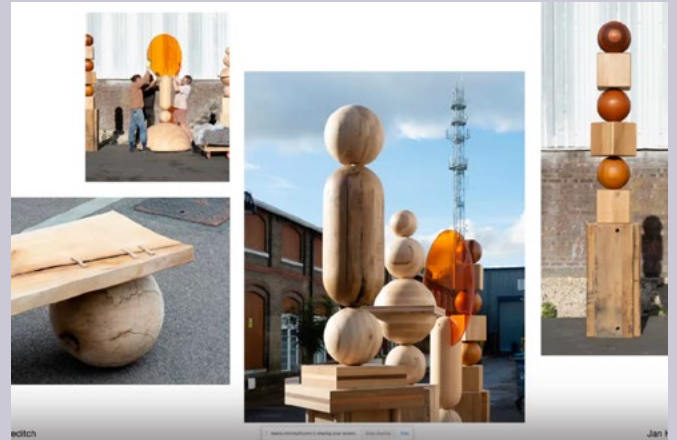
Earlier this month we hosted our first undergraduate Applicant Taster Day. This was an opportunity for BA Fine Art, BA Art and Design (+ with Creative Technologies), BA Design for Performance and Foundation offer holders to experience what it might be like to be a student at the School of Art. Alongside talks with Course Leaders, applicants also took part in technical workshops (Mono Printing with Taiba Akhtar, Tufting with Christina Compton and Storytelling with Light with Lee Cadden). Thank you to these staff and to our applicants for a great day! The next ATD is on **Wednesday 6th April!**



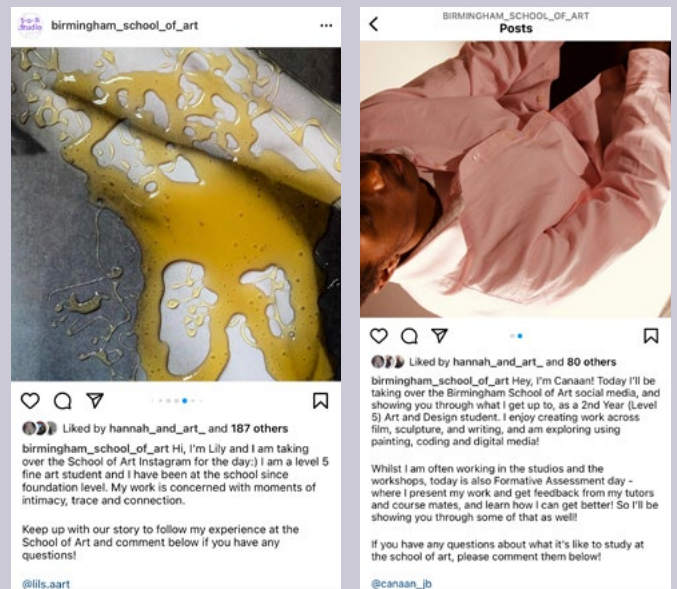
## Wednesday Staff Talks Friday Artist Talks



This month, despite some interruptions due to illness, we have been treated to talks from [Alis Oldfield](#), [Lisa Metherell](#), [Theo Reeves-Evison](#), [Jan Hendzel](#) and [Sarah Selby](#). You can watch future Friday Lectures (and Wednesday 1pm staff talks) [here!](#)



## Social Media Take-Over Thursdays



The School of Art Student Social Media Take-Overs take place every Thursday (across Instagram, Facebook and Twitter). The take-overs so far this year have been brilliant in providing a rich insight into a 'day in the life of an art student!' Thank you to all of the students who have taken part in these so far – if you are a current student interested in doing a social media take-over please speak to your course leader (and don't forget to follow us!)





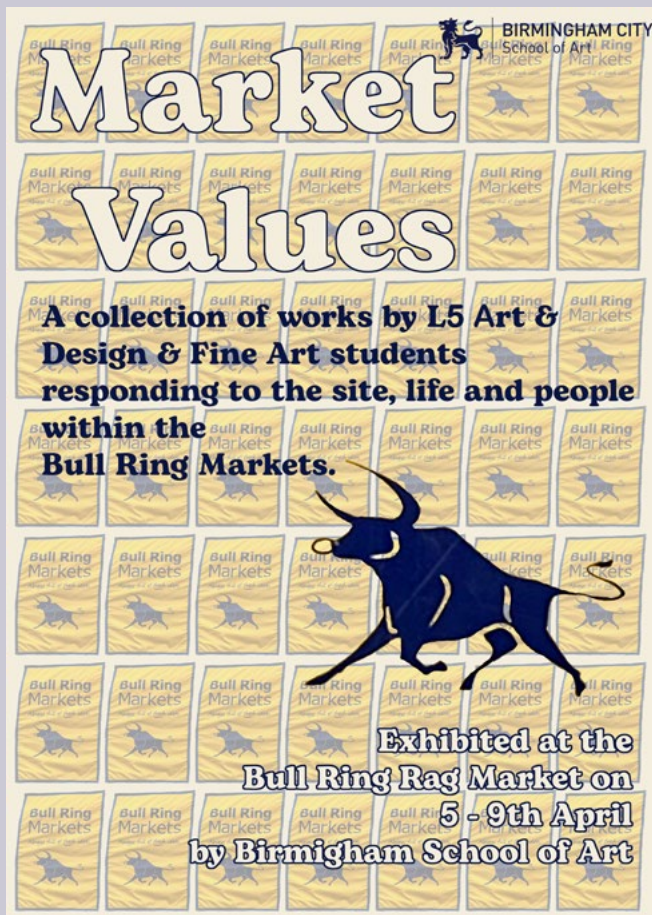
# S - O - A

## Birmingham School of Art

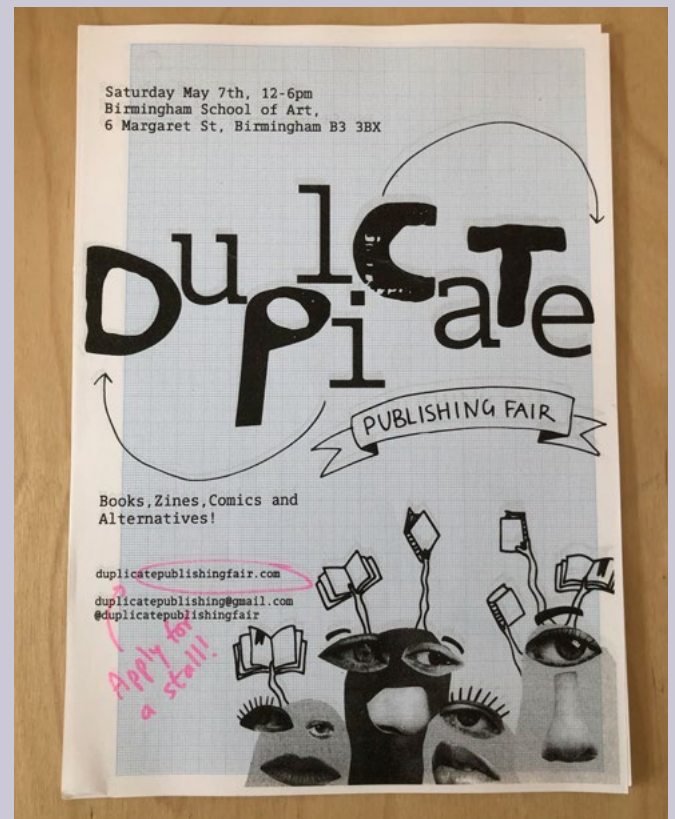
### Other news / coming soon:

Level 5 Fine Art / Art and Design  
Eastside Projects - Live Project  
Market Values Exhibition  
5-9th April, Rag Market, The Bull Ring

As part of their Live Project (centred around markets) with Eastside Projects, second year BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design students have been working hard to organise and develop work for their forthcoming exhibition *Market Values*. Within this exhibition they aim to uncover, explore and respond to the site, lives and people within and around the Bull Ring Markets. Through personal approaches the works created aim to, in some way, present new opportunities for a market space and its people that are recovering from the effects of a pandemic.



Duplicate Artist Book Fair  
Saturday 7th May



Duplicate Artist Book Fair returns on Saturday 7th May as an IRL event at Margaret Street! Bringing together independent publishers from across the UK, the fair will feature over 40 exhibitors selling zines, comics and artists' books as well as a programme of free artist led workshops and talks. For more information or details of how to take part please see [www.duplicatepublishingfair.com](http://www.duplicatepublishingfair.com). On Friday 7th May, BAAAD Press and the Duplicate Team will be working with Vivid Projects, converting the gallery into a making space and zine production studio. Haven't made a zine for the fair? No problem, the Duplicate Team/BAAAD Press will help you make your own. The event will run as part of Digbeth First Friday between 5-8pm so come in and have a go!



## BA Art Business (Level 6 Top-Up)

For all those who are interested in finding out a bit more about our new BA (Hons) Art Business course, you are warmly invited to join us for an informal pizza lunch. There will be a chance to ask questions, gain a bit more info and understanding about the course and meet the staff team. Please contact [Jane.Watts@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Jane.Watts@bcu.ac.uk) if you are planning to come along.

### Interested in the new BA Art Business L6 (top-up)?

Come along to our...

**PIZZA LUNCH!!**

**Thursday 31 March 1-2pm  
Social Space: School of Art**

## Student Rep News

*"Thank you to those who have responded with content for the Student Voice Conference. We are busy preparing and rehearsing for it next week! Hope to see you all there!"* Inés and Nikol.



**MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**

**14:00- 16:00**

**ADM Student Voice  
Conference**

**Come along and celebrate the ADM student experience. This year our focus is on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.**

## Recent Activity

### James Lomax - Flatten and Collapse



Recent Activity, the curatorial project run by Andrew Gillespie, returns with a new exhibition by **James Lomax**, opening as part of **Digbeth First Fridays** on 1st April 6-8pm.

## Island Nations

A joint exhibition between academics from the Institute of Creative Arts and Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo. *Island Nations* explores the similarities, crossovers and connections between creative practitioners from the two institutions and countries – both formed of multiple islands, yet each having different characters, rituals and traditions. The exhibition will be on display at the School of Art from 12 – 22 April.





## Night School - 29/04/22 6-9pm



A reminder that it is Night School on Tuesday 29th March 6-8pm! This month's event features performances, cocktails, fundraising treats, work-in progress exhibitions, open studios and more! See you there! (P.s advance date for your diary, the final Night School of the academic year will take place on Tuesday 26th April).

## Eastside Projects - Emii Alrai The Courtship of Giants

Deep within Eastside Projects **Emii Alrai** has created a world where medieval hunting traps meet museological dioramas. The show at Eastside Projects will have a special late night opening for **Digbeth First Fridays** on 1st April 6-8pm.



## Workshop Technical Skills Sessions



A reminder of the weekly Technical Skills sessions that are running in each of the workshops (in addition to 1:1 sign-ups and inductions). The skills sessions are open to students from all levels and courses and provide an opportunity to learn more about specific processes and techniques. Workshops this week include on Wednesday 30th Introduction to and Demonstration of the Wood Lathe with Charlie, Introduction to Fume Cabinet and Resins with Gay, Digital Embroidery Machine with Taryn, Monotypes/Monoprints/Understanding Inks with Justin, Compositing Images in Photoshop with Luke, Introduction to Adobe Premiere Pro Video Editing Software with Ana and on Friday 1st April C100 Video Camera Induction with Ana To find out more information and to book click [here](#).

Thank you for reading!

If you have any news you would like to share in the May School of Art Newsletter, please get in touch before the 26.05.22: [rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk)