

LEEDS
ARTS
UNIVERSITY
1846



Exhibitions

January — June 2019

Image: Yoko Ono, Wish Trees for Beijing (1996/2015), installation
view at Faurschou Foundation Beijing, Beijing, China, 2015.
Photo: Emma Zhang.

Introduction

At Leeds Arts University, we are delighted to begin 2019 with the opening of our new dedicated gallery and library at Blenheim Walk.

Dr. Catriona McAra
University Curator

Northern artist, Nicola Dale, commences this programme with her residency, exhibiting the results of her recent research trip to Rome to investigate the iconography of St Jerome – the patron saint of libraries.

This will be followed by two major international shows, Yoko Ono at Leeds and Ilana Halperin: Minerals of New York. Feminist conceptual practice is a unifying principle here, and we conclude this season with a display of the four shortlisted maquettes from our civic 'Feminist Public Sculpture' project co-led with Rachel Reeves (MP Leeds West).

Our new Library will increasingly become a display space – a site of visibility for the rich variety of practice-based research. Our new Librarian's Choice series will include work by former Library Interventionist, Joey Chin, and Darryl Cunningham, the most recent recipient of our honorary Master of Arts degree.

At Vernon Street Gallery we continue our investigations into our heritage with a show of surrealist-inspired visual narratives by alumnus Glen Baxter.

Meanwhile, our lively Curator's Choice series showcases curiosities from sculptor Kate MccGwire, creature designer Rosemary Chalmers, and soft sculptor Sonia Moran, among others.

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Nicola Dale

Figurehead

Nicola Dale is a Northern artist primarily working with sculpture and performance. Dale holds a MA with Distinction in Visual Culture and a First Class BA(Hons) in Interactive Arts both from Manchester School of Art. Since then, she has exhibited internationally and undertaken residencies in London and Shanghai, amongst others, and was previously a Library Interventionist at Leeds Arts University (2016).

Her practice is conceptually-rooted, exploring the processes of knowledge-making. Much of her work investigates practices of reading. 'Figurehead' documents her recent research in Rome on the iconography of St Jerome – the patron saint of libraries. The exhibition will manifest as a gallery show and series of performances extending into the new Library.

As part of this project, we are delighted to be collaborating with Corridor 8 magazine on a Writing Residency. Saffron Ward has been selected to develop a new text in relation to Dale's practice which will be subsequently published by C8.

@nicolaeadale
nicoladale.com

Preview:

5–7pm Tuesday 8 January

Closing event:

5–7pm Thursday 31 January



Yoko Ono

at Leeds

Yoko Ono (b.1933) is an internationally renowned multimedia artist and peace activist. A chief proponent of the Fluxus movement, Yoko Ono is known for her performance- and instruction-based artworks which have been shown internationally.

She has fond memories of her time in Leeds, having performed at Vernon Street in 1966. Patrick Hughes provides the following eyewitness account:

“In 1966 [...] Fluxus artist, Yoko Ono, visited with her then husband Anthony Cox, and their three-year-old daughter Kyoko. When we came into the lecture theatre, Yoko and Anthony were hidden in a large black bag on the dais and a full auditorium of students and staff looked at the bag for an hour. They did not move much. We could not see them, but we learnt that they could see us through the material.”

For this exhibition, a selection of her interactive installations, *Wish Trees*, *Mend Piece*, *Add Color Painting (Refugee Boat)* and *Arising* will be on display. A new text by Andy Abbott will accompany this exhibition.

Preview:

5–7pm Thursday 7 February



The Blenheim Walk Gallery
29 March – 9 May

Ilana Halperin

Minerals of New York



Courtesy of Ilana Halperin and Patricia Fleming Projects

Preview and in conversation with

Lisa Le Feuvre:

5–7pm Thursday 28 March

Closing performance lecture:

Thursday 9 May



Image: Photo credit Gayle Porthow Halperin.

Originally from New York, Ilana Halperin studied for her MFA at Glasgow School of Art, and now works between Glasgow and the Isle of Bute. Her research-practice is internationally oriented, with a deep time focus, and explores the relationship between geology and everyday life. For example, Halperin shares her birthday with the Eldfell volcano in Iceland, and returns once a decade to spend time with the volcano on significant occasions.

Minerals of New York presents her latest body of research in the form of a “mineral biography of the city”, across a range of media. In Halperin’s own words:

“The project began with an encounter with the Subway Garnet, a huge historic blood red mineral found on 35th Street and Broadway, led deep into the stores of the American Museum of Natural History, to the basement of a small bungalow in Queens which held the personal mineral museum of a 96 year old man who began his collection as a boy as part of the Pick and Hammer Club with the Brooklyn Children’s Museum and back again - to a piece of Garnetiferous Gneiss which was found 150 feet below the street where I grew up in New York City.”

Minerals of New York will include a closing performance lecture by Halperin, before touring to The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, in summer 2019.

www.geologicnotes.wordpress.com
[@geologicnotes](https://twitter.com/geologicnotes)

Feminist Public Sculpture

Championing Women's Achievements in Leeds

A public sculpture and related research and engagement project championing the achievements and recognition of women in the City of Leeds. Conceived by Rachel Reeves (MP Leeds West), and project-managed by Leeds Arts University in collaboration with Leeds City Council, the aim is a more balanced gender representation of public sculptures in Leeds.

This exhibition will showcase maquettes by the four shortlisted artists.

Briony Marshall, sculptor/installation artist.

briony.com
@artbriony

Pippa Hale, contemporary artist.

pippahale.com
@pippahale

Wendy Briggs, installation artist.

wendybriggs.com

Zsófia Jakab, interdisciplinary artist.

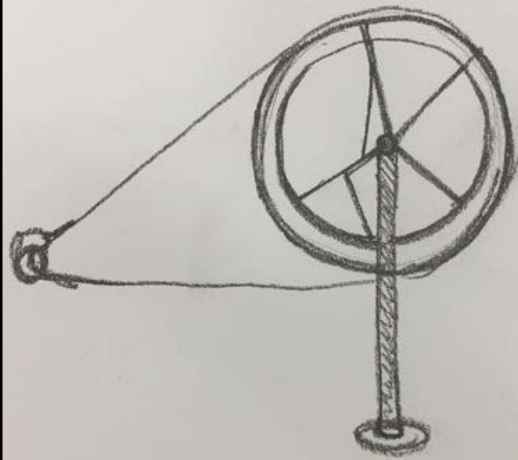
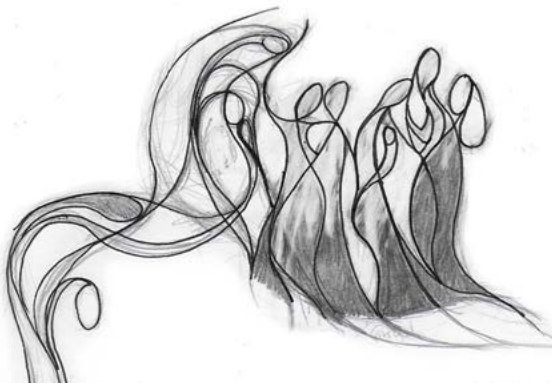
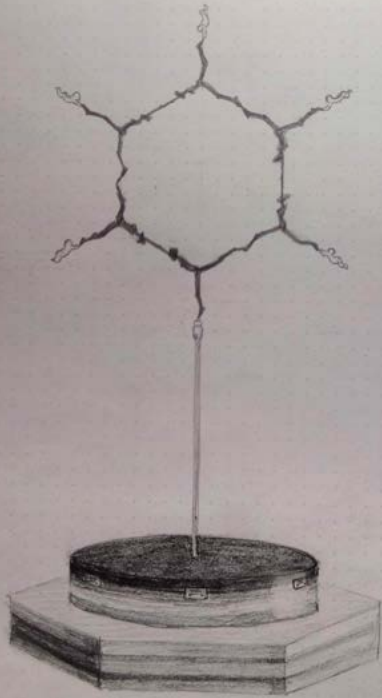
zsofiajakab.co.uk
@zsfiv.jkb

Preview:

5–7pm Thursday 23 May

Research Forum:

Thursday 4 July





POLICE INVESTIGATE AN OUTBREAK
OF SURREALISM IN LEEDS

Alan Baxter 2010

Glen Baxter

Born in Leeds, Glen Baxter (b.1944) is a London-based surrealist artist working internationally. An alumnus from the period 1960-65, he is now widely recognised for his humorous and witty narrative art forms exploring nonsense and pulp fiction. Recurrent themes include scout camp, vegan catering, and Western imagery.

His first exhibition took place in the historical avant-garde hub of Gotham Book Mart in New York, and he recently exhibited in Paris.

This is his first exhibition in Leeds. We are delighted to welcome Baxter back to celebrate his career, and we are grateful to Flowers Gallery for their support.

@glenbaxterartist
glenbaxter.com

Preview:
5–7pm Thursday 28 February

FLOWERS

Alex Gilmour

Well well well well well well well well with me

Curated by Matt Wheeldon

Alex Gilmour creates paintings, drawings and prints from a combination of observation, imagination and memory. With sensitive suggestions of narrative, and drawing on illusory patterns and playful perspectives, he makes work as means of expressing his innate interest in self-interrogation.

Gilmour is originally from Meanwood, Leeds, and now currently lives and works in London. He graduated from Leeds Arts University 2014 and the Royal Drawing School 2016-17.

For his exhibition at Leeds Arts University, Gilmour intends to focus on an ongoing series gouache paintings. The paintings' skewed perspectives confront the viewer with an unstable reality, highlighting the subjective nature of painting practice. The usually reliable tools of distance, angle and proportion are allowed to drift and wander around the mind that created them, resulting in at times unsettling and intriguing images.

Preview:

5–7pm Thursday 4 April

@a_gilmour
alexandergilmour.com



The Rotunda
5 April – 16 May
By appointment only.



Image: Alex Gilmour, Upon Far, 2018. Gouache on canvas. Image courtesy of the artist.



Darryl Cunningham

Curated by Nick Norton

@AcmeDarryl
darrylcunninghamart.bigcartel.com

Darryl Cunningham is an alumnus of Leeds Arts University, a writer and cartoonist. His published works include *Psychiatric Tales* (Blank Slate, 2010), *Science Tales* (Myriad Editions, 2013), *Supercrash* (Myriad Editions, 2014) and *Graphic Science* (Myriad Editions, 2017).

In 2018 he was awarded an Honorary MA from Leeds Arts University. His online profile states his interests are: art cartooning mental health photography papier-mâché craft writing sculpture nursing music movies *some other stuff*.

The graphic art of Cunningham betrays a steely capacity for research, and an urge to present the world with clarity. His simplicity of line and a deliberately reduced colour palette, allows the reader's eye an ease of approach, and then we – the reader – suddenly realise how devastating the worlds Cunningham depicts are. The incisive reduction of form and narrative expands the reading experience toward larger and larger horizons. It turns out that *we too want to look at some other stuff*.

Librarian's Choice
4 April – 16 May
By appointment only.

Joey Chin

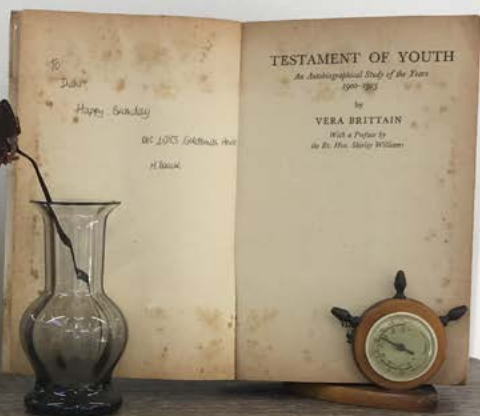
Curated by Nick Norton

joeychin.com

Books given, books received: this collection of work makes strange and fascinating the very physicality of book. Domesticity, daydreaming, childhood, and loving memory: As the object is restaged, so we see afresh the residue of a book's history – his stories and her stories. Chin invites us to imagine or reconstruct the emotional heft of the reading act and its trace.

Deploying both visual and language based narrative, Joey Chin (1986) is a poet and artist. She collaborated with the Leeds Arts University Library previously for *Library Interventions: Moving Knowledge* (2018). She holds an MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from the City University of Hong Kong, and her work has received scholarships, grants, and awards from numerous organisations including the Royal Over-seas League Arts (UK), the Dorothy Cheung Foundation, the National Arts Council (Singapore), the Run Run Shaw Library (Hong Kong), and the American Anthropological Association.

Image: Joey Chin, *Mother Mother We Fight Our Own Wars*, 2018. Mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist.



11th Dec. 1918.

Dear Vera,

Get your photos! You look
jazzed. What wrong with all those
bitter frowns - to what going out with a man
like you!

I'm glad you've made time
to call my sister. Would you please
tell her to write! I haven't received
any letters as yet from her or the boys.

I'll be going away for Christmas
as well as the New Year. Will be going
to France for Xmas & going straight
for the States. Another thing is - Anthony
has been asked to work in the States
for two years & his employer's going
with us if possible next year.

All the best for the festive
season & may God bless you & may
your letters be a piece of comfort
& let me have any recent photos
if any of the boys but will send you a
couple from our holiday trip.

Lots of love &
Best wishes,
Doris

Es
Enjoy your time &
Xmas Year.

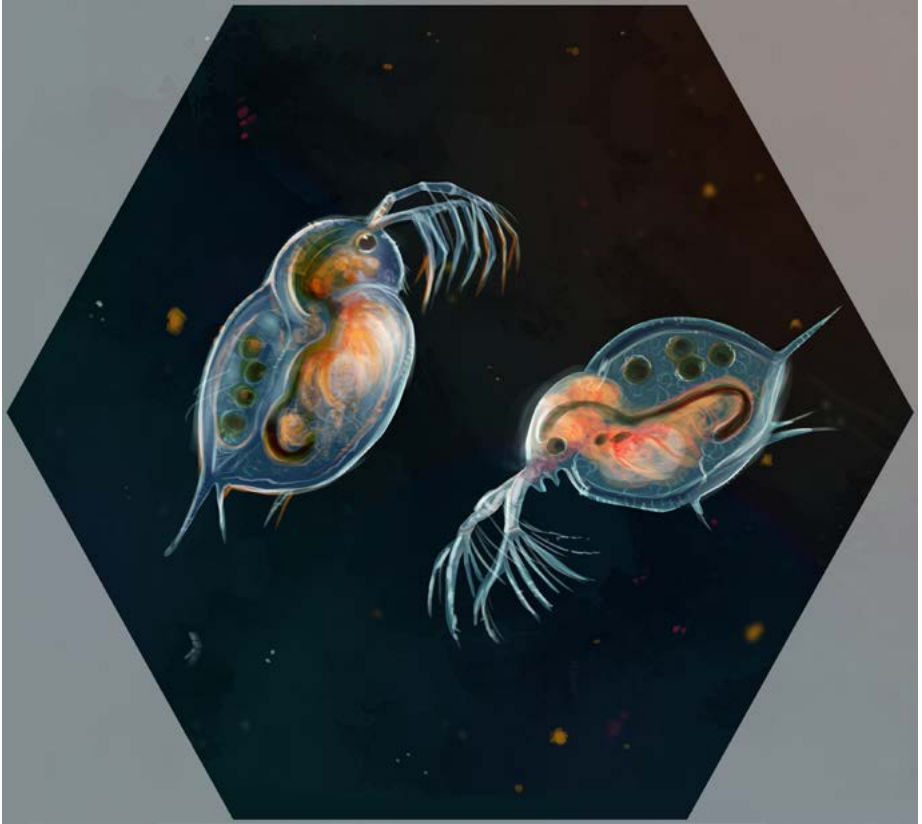


Image: Rosemary Chalmers, Daphnia pulex, 2018 © Gaiagames. Image courtesy of the artist.

Rosemary Chalmers

Chalmers is a concept artist and illustrator with a research-practice in creature design, speculative biology and SciArt. Here she exhibits her recent board game Ecogon Stille Wasser by Gaiagames.

rosemaryartist.com
[@rosemaryconceptartist](https://twitter.com/rosemaryconceptartist)

Kate MccGwire

MccGwire is an internationally renowned contemporary sculptor. Primarily known for her epic feather sculptures, here she will share a moving image artwork from her studies at Royal College of Art in 2004.

@kate_mccgwire
katemccgwire.com

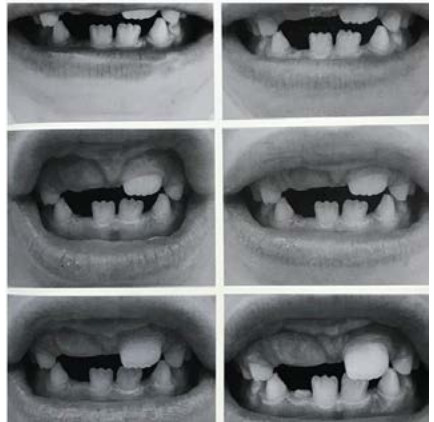


Image: Kate MccGwire, Issue, 2004. Stop motion animation.
Image courtesy of the artist.



Sonia Moran

Moran is a recent graduate of BA(Hons) Fine Art at Leeds Arts University, and currently a Creative in Residence. As a soft sculptor, predominantly adopting second hand material, she describes her practice as 'an umbilical cord to my past.'

@sonia_moran
soniamoran.com

Image: Sonia Moran, Domestic Clairvoyance Installation- Zilpha 2018. Second hand chair, toy stuffing, 1930s patchwork.
Image courtesy of the artist.

Visitor Information

The Blenheim Walk Gallery

This purpose built gallery opened in 2019, in the centre of our new building.

Leeds Arts University
Blenheim Walk
Leeds
LS2 9AQ

Monday – Saturday
10am – 4pm

Vernon Street Gallery

This gallery space is housed in our historical building, originally built in 1903.

Leeds Arts University
Vernon Street
Leeds
LS2 8PH

Monday – Friday
10am – 4pm

Please note that we are closed on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. Both sites are wheelchair accessible. All exhibitions are free of charge and everyone is welcome.

If you wish to visit The Rotunda and Boardroom (first floor) and The Library (second floor) at our Blenheim Walk site, please call in advance to make an appointment.

For more information, please contact the Curation and Library Services Team:

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www.leeds-art.ac.uk/exhibitions