

Olana Light
<https://www.olanalight.com>
Portsmouth, Hampshire, United Kingdom

Memberships:

- Member Royal Society of Sculptors
- Studio Member Art Space Portsmouth
- Member Society of Scottish Artists

Education:

2021 - 2022 Artist Professional Development Programme, Newplatform.art
2017 - 2020 MFA Fine Art, Goldsmiths University of London
2014 - 2017 BA First Class Honours Degree in Fine Art, Southampton Solent University
2013 - 2014 Art and Design BTEC Diploma Level 3, Portsmouth Highbury College

Awards/ Competitions/Commissions

2026	• Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant, Between Land and Tide • Sidney Nolah Art Prize 2026, shortlisted • Aesthetica Art Prize 2026, longlisted • Pride of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City Council, shortlisted • Sussex Contemporary 2026, shortlisted
2025	• 2025 Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize, one of the 25 MPB Photography Award Finalists • Victoria Park Tunnel Artwork Commission, Portsmouth City Council • Midsummer Festival Commission, Milton Keynes City Council • Ruth Borchard Collection Self-Portrait Prize, shortlisted • The Windbreaks, Southsea Coastal Scheme, Portsmouth City Council, winner • Aesthetica Art Prize 2025, longlisted • First Plinth Public Award 2025, one of the five finalists
2024	• ArtCabbage Prize, 1st Place, Performing Art Section • Bute Street Festival, Themeslink Art Award winner • Every Breath We Take Art Competition winner in Open Category • Alpine Fellowship Visual Art Prize, shortlisted • Arts Council England: Developing Your Creative Practice Grant • Clyde&Co Art Award, shortlisted • BizBubble Modern Maker Award, finalist • Aesthetica Art Prize, longlisted • The John Ruskin Prize, shortlisted
2023	• Arts&Heritage Digital Winter Commission, supported by English Heritage • Zealous Amplify: Environment, shortlisted • Mela Monument, Co-creating Public Space: John Hansard Gallery, shortlisted • SpudOPEN: Digital Dreaming, 2023, shortlisted • CAS Emerging Sculptors Development Award, winner • Quay Arts Open 2023: The Art of Sculpture, shortlisted • CAS Open_Open 2023, shortlisted • Found Cities, Lost Objects: Women in the City Billboard Commission winner, curated by Lubaina Himid, partnership between Arts Council Collection, Southampton City Gallery and 'a space' arts
2022	• SpudOPEN 2022 Judge's and Public Choice Award, winner • The Next Thing Award 2022, shortlisted • StreetLife&Aesthetica Changing Rooms Commission Prize, winner • The 8th International Marianne Brandt Award, shortlisted • Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant, Fly Like a Butterfly • Contemporary Art Volunteer Ambassadors: Blue Sky Ideas Arts&Heritage Award • The Spring Open Competition Prize, winner • NAE Open 2022, shortlisted • Zealous Stories: Short Film 2022, shortlisted • Little Forest 4th Plinth Open Competition 2022, winner • Orbit, Ridley Road Market Bar London, commissioned
2021	• Next Thing Award 2021, Bury Art Museum & Sculpture Centre, shortlisted • Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant, Search to Belong • Stamp Festival, Hamburg, commissioned • Zealous Stories: Sculpture 2021, winner • Batsford Art Prize 2020-2021, Fine Art category, shortlisted

- Platform Art Projects Open Call, commissioned
- Zealous Stories: Photography 2021, shortlisted
- Lucky Dip Bursary 'a space' arts, winner
- 2020 • October, Sunny Art Prize 2020, winner
- Southampton from your SOfa, commissioned by Southampton's B. I .D. Ltd
- Zealous Stories: Performance 2020, shortlisted
- Arts Council England Covid-19 Emergency Fund
- 2019 • November, Harvest Short Film Competition 2019, shortlisted
- London Contemporary Art Prize, longlisted
- April, Batsford Prize Award 2019, shortlisted
- The News Guide Award Portsmouth, Best Visual Artist, runner-up
- 2018 • October, Journeys Festival International Competition LookUp Portsmouth, finalist
- May, Nasty Women International Art Prize 2018, shortlisted
- May, Visual Art Open Prize 2018, Digital Category, finalist
- January, The News Guide Award Portsmouth, Best Visual Artist, shortlisted
- September, Platform Graduate Award 2017, shortlisted (nominated by Aspex)
- Goldsmiths International Response Scholarship Award 2017

Selected Performances

- 2026 • Bergen International Performance Art Festival 2026, Norway 2024
- Between Land and Tide, Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant, Victoria Park/Hotwalls Beach/Portsmouth Historic Dockyard/Southsea Beach/Palmerston Road, Portsmouth
- The Birch Tree Family, British Council, Hay Festival, Segovia, Spain
- The Birch Tree Family, Arbola, Pamplona, Spain
- The Birch Tree Family, Sismògraf Festival, Olot, Spain
- 2025 • The Birch Tree Family, Midsummer Festival, Milton Keynes
- The Birch Tree Family, Nature Calling 2025, Surrey Hill Arts, Box Hill London
- 2024 • The Birch Tree Family, Rituals for Earthly Survival, Portsmouth
- The Birch Tree Family, POSE, Treadgolds Warehouse, Portsmouth
- The Birch Tree Family, Middlesbrough Art Week
- The Caterpillar, Rebirth and Regeneration, The Bulb, Southampton
- The Birch Tree, Sculptural Intervention, Sir Harold Hillier Garden, Romsey
- The Birch Tree, Above Bar Street, Southampton
- 2023 • Fly Like a Butterfly, Hot Walls Christmas Market, Portsmouth
- Fly Like a Butterfly, The Imaginarium of Dreams, The StoreHouse N9, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Invisible Woman, Awe and Wonder, Fringe Arts Bath
- Fly Like a Butterfly, Art in the Garden, Little Forest Land Art, Wickham
- Fly Like a Butterfly, Making Space, Havant, Hampshire
- Fly Like a Butterfly, Guildhall Square, Southampton
- Winter Sculpture Park, Gallery No.32, London
- Race, Bridport Arts Centre, Bridport
- 2022 • December, Fly Like a Butterfly, West Street, Havant, Hampshire
- The Light Festival/Lantern Parade, Fratton Big Local, We Shine, Portsmouth
- 2021 • The Imaginarium of Dreams, We Shine, The Studio Theatre, Portsmouth Guildhall
- Search to Belong, God's House Tower, Southampton
- Search to Belong, Above Bar Street, Southampton
- Search to Belong, The Arches Open Studios, Southampton
- We Are Not Ourselves, Art in the Garden, Little Forest Land Art, Wickham
- Adapting to the New Reality, Above Bar Street, Southampton
- 2020 • We Are Not Ourselves, Chalton Gallery, London
- I Am Not Myself, Houskeeping, Jeannie Avent Gallery, London
- Goldsmiths Degree Show, St. James Hatcham Church, Goldsmiths, London
- 2019 • I Am Not Myself, Mangoes into a Pub, Alfred Arms, Southampton
- 2018 • The Other, commissioned by 'a space' arts, Canute's Palace, Southampton

Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 • Searching for a Place to Belong, British Council, Hay Festival, Segovia, Spain
- Searching for a Place to Belong, Arbola, Sala Gótica del Palacio del Condestable Pamplona
- Searching for a Place to Belong, Sismògraf Festival, Olot, Spain
- 2025 • The Caterpillar's World, spudWorks, New Forest
- 2023 • Fly Like a Butterfly, Making Space, Havant, Hampshire
- 2022 • Let It Breathe, Hidden Wardrobe, 'a space' art, Southampton

- 2021
 - out I side I in, The Smallest Gallery, London
 - Automatic Sight: Autofókusz, Museum of Unfulfilled Dreams, Fringe Arts Bath
 - We Are Not Ourselves, Jeannie Avent Gallery, London
 - Portal Fantasy, commissioned by K6 Gallery, Southampton
- 2020
 - We Are Not Ourselves, The Stone Space, London

Residencies

- 2026
 - Bergen International Performance Art Festival 2026, Norway
 - Art in the Landscape - Nature Calling Artist Residency, 101 Creation Space, Newbury
 - Botanical Residency, Hugo Burge Foundation, Scotland
- 2023
 - La Vista Residency, Tenerife
- 2022
 - ecoSuites art Residency, Tristinika Beach, Greece
- 2019
 - School of Art, Design and Fashion, Southampton Solent University
- 2018
 - Look Up Residency, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth
 - Space Gallery, Fareham
 - Platform Graduate Award Alumni Residency, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth

Workshops

- 2026
 - Between Land and Tide, Green House, Victoria Park Portsmouth
- 2025
 - Portsmouth Family Fringe, Victoria Park Portsmouth
 - Tunnel Artist Commission, Green House, Victoria Park Portsmouth
 - Nature Calling, Surrey Hill Arts, Box Hill
- 2023
 - Fly Like a Butterfly, Making Space/Art in the Garden/Arches Studios Southampton

Conversation/ Talks/ Seminars/Publications

- 2026
 - British Council Spain, Voices on Centre Stage: An Interview with multidisciplinary artist
- Olana Light
 - ARA, A birch-woman will walk through the streets of Olot
- 2024
 - Permaculture No.121 Autumn
 - Artists in Conversation: Lubaina Himid talks to Sarah Filmer, Ellen Gillet and Olana Light, Southampton City Art Gallery
- 2022
 - Artist Talk curated by Kate Street, Art Space Portsmouth
- 2021
 - Artist Close Up, interview
 - Exit, Ludvig Rage Book, London
 - Corona Art, Ludvig Rage Book, London
- 2020
 - Chalton Gallery, Inside Artist Issue 17
 - Sacred Vestments: Internal Roles. The crush of bodies at Chalton Gallery, Trebuchet
 - Transformation: Everything Flows, ArtConnect Magazine
- 2019
 - APERO Catalogue Fine Art Publication 'Dreams'

Group Exhibitions

- 2026
 - Sidney Nolah Art Prize 2026, The Rodd, Herefordshire.
 - Assembly, Abject Gallery/Moving Gallery, Sunderland
 - TIN, Southampton Solent 10 Years Container Exhibition, Guildhall Square
 - Resonance, Fabrica Gallery, Sussex Contemporary, Brighton
 - SSA 127th Annual Exhibition, The Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
- 2025
 - Of Seeds & Stories, The Brooks, Winchester
 - The Temple of Venus Art Exhibition, Yourspace, Gosport
 - Childhood, MA Contemporary Curating 2025, Winchester School of Art
 - Ruth Borchard Collection Self-Portrait Prize, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery&Museum
 - Royal Society of Sculptors Summer Show, Burgh House, Hampstead, London
 - Underground Gallery, b-side, Portland
 - Portsmouth Creates: Curated Spaces, Southsea Library, Portsmouth
 - Works in Progress, Goldsmiths Exhibition Hub, Goldsmiths University, London
 - Work&Play, Winchester Gallery
 - The Land, The Dick Institute, Kilmarnock
 - Making It 2025, Jubilee Gallery, MAKE Southwest
- 2024
 - LORE, Sunny Bank Mills, Leeds
 - Photo Fringe 2024 OPEN Eco, The Outdoor Hub, Brighton Beach
 - The Bute Street Festival, The Hat Factory, Luton

- Art Space Portsmouth Open Studios
- Ulaidean / Treasures: SSA at Gairloch Museum, Scotland
- Every Breathe We Take, West Way Trust, London
- EAST QUAY OPEN 2024: OPEN ABOUT IDENTITY, East Quay, Watchet
- Rebirth and Regeneration, The Bulb, Southampton
- MK Calling 2024, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes
- Agored 2024 - Transformation, Plas Brondanw, Llanfrothen, Wales
- Women of Art Space, Arts Space Portsmouth
- Eight, CAS Emerging Sculptor Development Award Exhibition, Sir Harold Hilliers Garden
- Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition, York Art Gallery
- The John Ruskin Prize: Seeing the Unseen, Hearing the Unspoken, The Byuo Store, London
- Open Art Exhibition 2024, Gosport Museum and Art Gallery
- SSA 125TH Annual Exhibition I CUTLOG I VIEWPOINT, The Maclaurin Art Gallery, Scotland
- SSA 125TH Annual Exhibition: The Maclaurin Art Gallery, Scotland
- Tap Mini Fringe Festival, The Queens Head, London
- SpudOPEN 2023: Digital Dreaming, Spud, Sway, Hampshire
- Open 2023: The Art of Sculpture, Quay Arts, Isle of Wight
- GRIPE, Fringe Arts Bath 2023
- RIPE FIVE, God's House Tower, 'a space' arts, Southampton
- Open 2023, curated by Rosalind Davis and Susan Francis, Chapel Arts Studios
- Art in the Garden, Little Forest Land Art, Wickham
- Common Thread, Guildhall Square, Southampton
- Video Art Maiden, ToPikap, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Inspirational Women Artists, 'a space' arts, God's House Tower, Southampton
- Grad Race, Bridport Arts Centre, Bridport
- 4th Wall Video Art, Axis Screening, Lisbon, Portugal
- The Next Thing Award, Bury Art Museum & Sculpture Centre
- Our Changing Landscape, spudOpen, Hampshire
- 4th Wall Video Art, Prospect Art Screening, Los Angeles, US
- RE-IMAGINING WONDERLAND, Edinburgh
- Society of Scottish Artists Exhibition, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
- Visions in the Nunnery, Nunnery Gallery, London
- Aesthetica&Streetlife Changing Rooms Commission, StreetLife Hub, York
- Photo Fringe 2022 OPEN Eco, Outdoor Hub Worthing Seafront
- Issue 28 Metamorphosis, Haus-a-Rest, online
- Inspired, Hampshire Open Studios, Making Space, Havant
- Drift, Summerhall Cinema, Edinburgh
- Open Exhibition 2022, The Spring, Havant
- Open Exhibition 2022, Southampton City Art Gallery
- NAE Open 2022, New Art Exchange, Nottingham
- ecoSuites art Residency exhibition, Tristinika Beach, Greece
- Little Forest Open Competition exhibition, North Boarhunt
- Spring Exhibition, Lighthouse Gallery, London
- Nasty Women Revive, Open House Hackney, London
- Inspirational Women Artist, GHT, 'a space' arts, Southampton
- WTD 2:2, Art Gallery, Middlesbrough, online
- The Next Thing Award 2021, Bury Art Museum & Sculpture Park
- SHIM Eco Inaugural Show, URSA Gallery, Bridgeport, US
- The Imaginarium of Dreams, We Shine, Portsmouth Guildhall
- Lucky Dip Exhibition, GHT, 'a space' arts, Southampton
- Arches Open Studios, Southampton
- b-side Festival, Royal Manor Theatre, Portland
- This is Not a Shop! Fringe Arts Bath, No 5 Broad St, Bath
- ONE: Pandemic, Walk_Bye and Open Road Poetry, virtual
- Birkenhead International Film Festival (BIFF)
- Art In The Garden, Little Forest Land Art, North Boarhunt
- Platform Art Projects Open Call, online exhibition
- Alone, Together, curated by Shannon Skye Robinson, virtual
- Wilderness, The Haven, St Pancras New Church, London
- The Castle, Arthousehaus, London
- Human Was Here, The Virtual Museum of Anthropocene
- Issue 9 - The Identity, New Haus Gallery/Kofferraum Haus Gallery
- 36th Annual Open Exhibition, Southwark Park Galleries, London
- Without Borders, World University Of Design, Delhi NCR, India
- Sheroes in Quarantine Part II Virtual, London-art Creative
- Sunny Art Prize 2020, Sunny Art Centre, London

- Queens Hall Arts Digital - Micro Commission, Hexham
- First-Time Filmmaker Sessions September 2020 P7, online
- Degree Show, Goldsmiths University of London
- Between Surrealism and Magical Realism, Beam Collective
- Online Performance Art Festival 2020
- Elysium International Film week, Elysium Gallery, Swansea
- Person and the Otherness of Nature virtual, curated by Adele Lazzeri and Toby Kid
- If 2020, 24-hour International Improvisational Festival, online
- Lost, Lacuna Festival de Arte Lanzarote Fuerteventura digital, Spain
- Post Quarantine I, curated by Maria Bourika, Video Art Miden Online, Greece
- COVENT-19 online, curated by Faryal Arif & Nadin Hassan
- The Sensation of Home, curated by Lisa Marinello, Fringe Arts Bath Festival
- Girlhood, curated by Jess Holtaway, Fringe Arts Bath Festival virtual
- Really//Real, curated by Toby Rainbird, Fringe Arts Bath Festival virtual
- Homemade Mango Chutney virtual, A Space Arts, Southampton
- In 24-Hours virtual, curated by Ayshia Taskin, The Wall Space Gallery, Scotland
- Housekeeping, curated by Jessica Mankowska, Jennie Avent Gallery, London
- Of Streets and Monsters, OKNA - Espaco Cultural, Portugal
- 2019
 - Open Projection 4: Spectacle, Coventry Cathedral
 - Nasty Women Exhibition, Bovenfoyer van De Balie, Amsterdam
 - Black and White Christmas, Pineapple Black Gallery, Middlesbrough
 - Symbol, Cupola Gallery, Sheffield
- School of Art
 - Laboratory of Dissent 2: Inside/Outside, The Screen, curated by Susan Francis, Winchester
 - Harvest Short Film Competition Shortlist Screening, Lower Hewood Farm, Chard
 - Open Projections 3: curated by Martin Green, Coventry Cathedral
 - Open Show, Yellow Edge Gallery, Gosport
 - NOW Digital Festival, curated by Genetic Moo, Margate
 - Mangoes into a Pub, Alfred Arms, Southampton
 - Open Mouth Film Festival, University of the Arts, London
 - Self-Service, curated by David Theobald and Genetic Moo, St John's Waterloo, London
 - Fantastic and Strange, curated by Clare Winnan, Fringe Arts Bath Festival, Bath
 - Self, curated by Toby Rainbird, Fringe Arts Bath Festival, Bath
 - Made in Southampton, Re:So, Southampton
 - Perceptions, LoosenArt, MFR 19 Festival, Rome
 - The Body Language, Venice Carnival 2019, The Room Contemporary Art Space, Venice
- and Bari
 - 2018
 - Visual Art Open Prize Exhibition, Chester Cathedral
 - Chester Arts Fair, Chester Racecourse
 - Journeys Festival International, LookUp: Searching for Home, Aspex Gallery, The Big Screen, No.6 Cinema, Southsea Library, Fratton Park, Portsmouth
 - Deptford X Festival, Gold X, Deptford Creek, London
 - End-Of-Residency Exhibition, Space Gallery, Fareham
 - Ripe Bananas, Alfred Arcade, Southampton
 - MFA Interim Show 2018, Goldsmiths University of London
 - Nasty Women International Art Prize Showcase Exhibition, Newcastle
 - Altered States, St John's, Waterloo, London
 - This Temporary Matter, Fringe Arts Bath Festival, Bath
 - Efflorescence, Safehouse, London
 - My Neighbourhood, Aspex, Portsmouth
 - 2017
 - End-of-Residency studio exhibition, Aspex, Portsmouth
 - Water Under The Bridge, Out of the Brew, New Cross, London
 - Platform 2017, Aspex, Portsmouth
 - Southampton Photography, The Artisan, Southampton
 - Fine Art Degree Show, Southampton Solent University
 - City and Life, Chongqing Real Estate College, China
 - Escape, Spark, Southampton
 - Open Studios, Southampton Solent University
 - 2016
 - Barcelona International Art Fair 2016, Museu Martim de Barcelona
 - Fareham Art Open 2016, Sticks Gallery, Fareham
 - Abstract Art, Brick Lane Gallery, London
 - Versatility, Guildhall Square, Southampton