

Lucky Dip



15 October - 7 November 2021

God's House Tower, Southampton, SO14 2NY

Lucky Dip brings together new work by nine local artists working in multiple disciplines and mediums. From music to painting, planting and performance, the work is informed by a multitude of ideas, processes and practices.

The exhibiting artists are recipients of a new and experimental grant programme, launched by GHT's parent organisation, 'a space' arts in January this year. The Lucky Dip bursary scheme offered nine artists in the SO postcode £500 to fund the creation of a new artwork or activity. In order to remove barriers around access and inclusion, proposals were not assessed and bursaries were awarded to artists through a lottery selection.

The scheme provided financial support and a well-needed boost of positivity at a time when many artists were facing challenges due to the impact of the pandemic. The bursaries enabled the artists to experiment and take risks to push their practice forward.

As part of the 'a space' arts mission to work towards becoming an anti-racist organisation, five of the Lucky Dip bursaries were awarded to Black or non-Black artists of colour to proactively increase our support of ethnically diverse artists.

Exhibiting Artists:

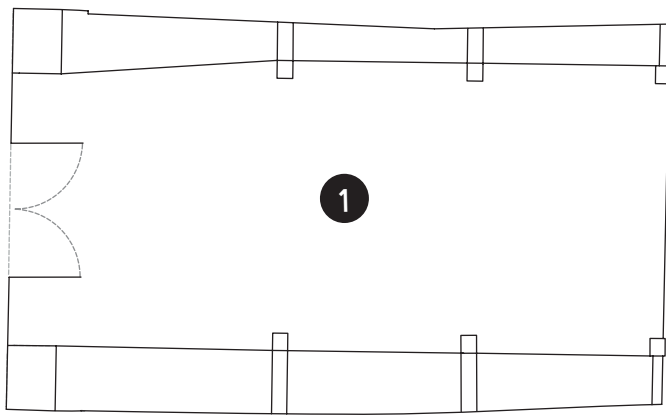
Kwame Bakoji-Hume, Issa Loyaan Farrah-Kelly, Claudia Friend, Gullu Kandrou, Maryam Zahra Kazimi, Svetlana Ochkovskaya, Alex Sutherland, Joanna Rose Tidey & Vin Warrican.

Project supported by



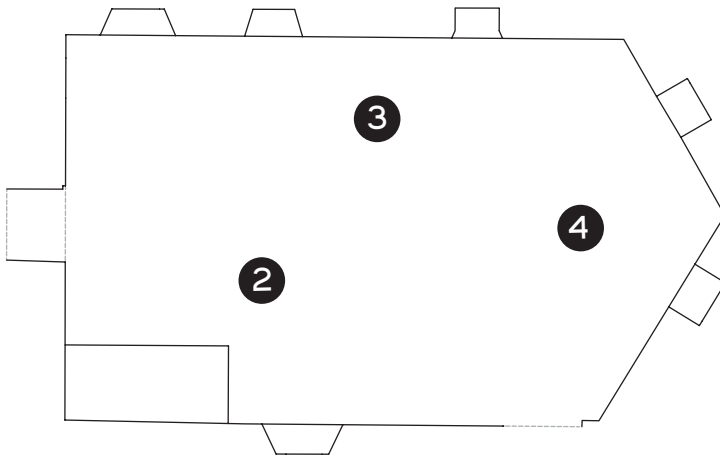
Supported using public funding by
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ENGLAND**

Exhibition map



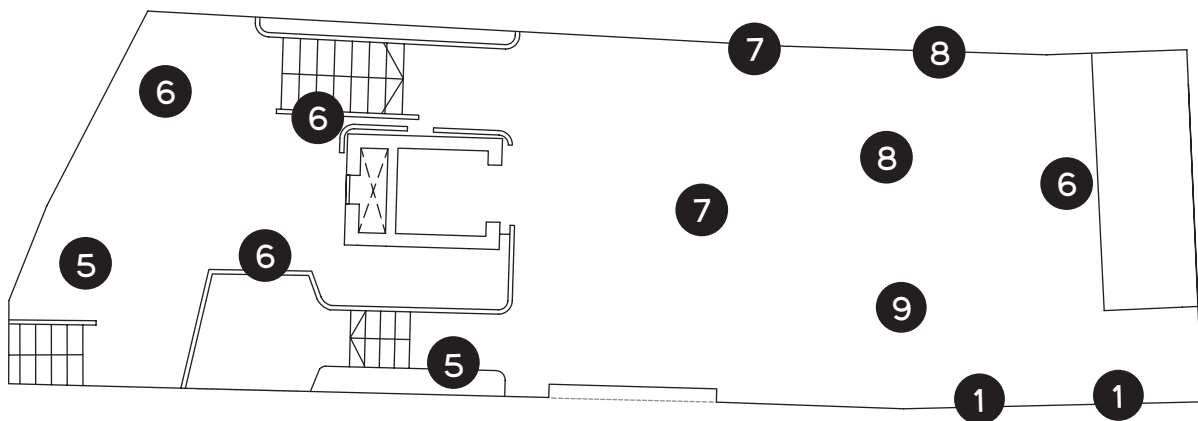
The Barker Mill Project Space

- 1 **Search to Belong**
Svetlana Ochkovskaya



The Crawford Room

- 2 **MUSH**
Claudia Friend
- 3 **Autumnal**
Vin Warrican
- 4 **Sunny Circle**
Joanna Rose Tidey



The Main Gallery

- 5 **A Remedy of Last Resort**
Alex Sutherland
- 6 **Adinkra: A Journey into the Future Through the Past**
Kwame Bakoji-Hume
- 7 **art cube™**
Maryam Zahra Kazimi
- 8 **Can You Hear the Bells Tolling?**
Gullu Kandrou
- 9 **The Lucky Dip E.P**
Issa Loyaan Farrah-Kelly
- 1 **Search to Belong**
Svetlana Ochkovskaya

About the artists & works

1 Svetlana Ochkovskaya

@ @svetlanaochk

Svetlana Ochkovskaya is a visual artist who uses sculpture, performance and film to explore timeless questions of belonging, identity and otherness. Striving to make the familiar unfamiliar, Svetlana's fantastical worlds offer an escape from the mundanity of daily life. Since graduating from the BA Fine Art course at Southampton Solent University in 2017, Svetlana has completed a Masters in Fine Art at Goldsmiths University of London and has been awarded the Zealous Stories Sculpture 2021 and the Sunny Art Prize Award 2020.

Search to Belong

"Search to Belong' reflects the multiplicity of identity and the never-ending pursuit for belonging. Exploring notions of the 'self' and its connection with the body and others in the world, this work presents new perceptions by challenging audiences to accept the absurdity of the Other. Viewers are invited to observe the story of two creatures of an unidentified nature - neither human nor animal, yet simultaneously both. Embodied in a human-like form with a reptilian skin, these creatures are 'Other' to the whole world but 'Native' to each other. With the flow of time, the couple metamorphose into a singular organic being, it sheds its old plastic skin for a moss shell, and requires a different ecosystem to maintain it as a new 'organon' to find its peace in the vastness of nature. Relationships between bodies, love and compassion for our fellow creatures is the pathway to creating a 'we-world'- an inclusive environment at the intersection of all systems, a realm in which everybody belongs."

2 Claudia Friend

@ @friend.claudia

Claudia Friend is a multidisciplinary artist interested in power relations, community and whimsical activism. She has developed her own practice alongside various community art projects such as The Wool House Project (2013), TRANSPORTED container project (2015) and Tiger Yard Pop up Shop (2014 - 2018). In 2019 she was selected to attend the Venice Biennale as part of the British Council's Venice Fellowship Scheme. Claudia has co-created actions and interventions directed at planning developments in the city, the problem of the excess of waste and the difficulty of meaningful protest. More recently she has been drawn to the notion of community and communality, uncovering what it is and how to grow it. She is currently studying for an MA in Fine Art at Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton.

MUSH

"a mash-up - a confluence of many influences - a learning and experiment - looking at rituals real and imagined - a contemplation of community - its difficulty - filming, cutting, splicing, expanding - working on focus, and looking for funny - life restricted by 'the corona' - so filmed versions of what could be, couldn't be, maybe once was or wasn't - a sort of nostalgia or longing."

3 Vin Warrican

@ @v1ncent1zer0

Vin Warrican is a visual artist whose practice centres around abstract & atypical photography. A Fine Art graduate from Solent University, Vin's colourful experiments with analogue photography have allowed him to exhibit locally for a number of years. In 2008, Vin became a full-time caregiver for his mother, before her passing in 2018. It was during this ten year period that his practice evolved and adapted, embracing digital mediums and painterly aesthetics. These new methods and mediums offered Vin a more flexible way of working and a cathartic outlet. His recent and unique engagement with printmaking has laid the foundations for continued artistic growth.

Autumnal

"Autumnal' is part of my ongoing 'Inkling' series of abstract photography derived from elements within gum arabic transfer printmaking, rather than being a print achieved from said process itself. As such, it is the product of incidental aesthetic discovery. Fascinated by what occurs from preparation to print transfer, I document the beautiful deterioration wrought by each successive application of gum arabic solution, ink and press; the play of light across and through the damp photocopier paper; its waxy reveal of textures and colour in a palimpsest of eroded pattern. These observed ephemera are later enhanced through Photoshop to reveal their potential as entirely new compositions. Thus, I examine notions of renewal and rebirth that sees my morbid seascape from 2017, 'Troubled Waters', transform into a meditation upon this present season. The Lucky-Dip Busary has helped me to establish my own printmaking workspace and physically realise my largest artwork to date."

4 Joanna Rose Tidey

@ @joanna_rose_tidey_artist

Joanna Rose Tidey is a visual artist working in painting, mixed-media and socially-engaged art activity. She is inspired by nature and wildlife and her practice draws on both art and science. Since graduating from the University of East London with a degree in Fine Art, Joanna has completed commissions for Essex Mayflower Railway and Sudbury Railway and her work has been bought for private collections in the UK and overseas. Joanna's painting are vibrant and colourful reflecting her enthusiasm for the natural world. She is a welcome visitor to the New Forest Wildlife Park where she spends hours watching and painting native and more exotic species. Many of her paintings adorn the walls at the park and at Colchester Zoo.

Sunny Circle

"My aim with this project is to bring communities together and build a positive and colourful environment for them to sit, think, talk and draw in. It is a response to the Lockdowns and Covid 19 where outside space for some was extremely limited. The craving for everyone to spend more time exploring their local area and to be in a positive setting where they feel connected to both nature and the wider community. Sunflowers were given to reception class at Sholing Infant School to grow. Then I organised a Big Dig Day at Sholing Valley Study Centre with the children. Once the flowers had grown, the group came back to visit the space and made drawings and paintings in response to the new environment they had created."

With thanks to Sholing Infant School, Sholing Valley Study Centre and Sholing Valley Nature Watch.

5 Alex Sutherland

@a_sutherlanda

Alex Sutherland is a visual artist who works predominantly with ceramics. Since graduating from Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton in 2019, Alex has been selected to exhibit as part of 'a space' arts' graduate scheme, RIPE and has established their own ceramics business to support their practice. They currently occupy a studio space at the Alfred Arms on Old Northam Road and are part of the ZEST Art Collective - a new organisation that works with the local community in Northam and St Marys. Although the primary medium of their practice is ceramics, they also work with analog photography, painting and drawing. The artist's work begins solely on intuition in the present, with the understanding that their past will eventually integrate itself.

A Remedy of Last Resort

"Although seemingly unremarkable, I have always been fond of the pigeon. Plump, scraggly and common but also classic, elegant and unknowing. They may not be the favoured bird of many, but they've been with us all along. 'A Remedy of Last Resort' references their use as a medicinal cure during the 17th Century. Pigeons were laid to the feet of the sickly as a last resort. Feathers would be plucked and the bill held shut while the bare patch was held against the patients skin. Once the pigeon had passed, the sickness was said to have been drawn out. Over the past year, the pigeon has been a remedy of sorts for me. Their existence remains a constant. This work is an exploration of the pigeon's purpose, as a cure back then and also as a remedy for present day."

6 Kwame Bakoji-Hume

@Bakoji.Art

Kwame Bakoji-Hume was born into a tradition of music and medicine in Buipe, Ghana, West Africa. He was separated from his family at ten and after completing college was sponsored to continue his education at Ghanatta Arts College in Accra. Upon graduation Kwame was selected to be the artist in residence at Ghana's National Centre for Culture. During this time he ran a number of community and environmental art projects working with the street children of Kumasi and the substance farming community around Lake Bosomtwi. In 2000 Kwame relocated to the UK and established African Activities CIC, a collection of West African artists who offer the opportunity to engage with Black and African culture by sharing superb creative artistic experiences that disrupt preconceptions, create community, drive excellence and break barriers. This occupation inspires and influences his painting practice, which runs alongside his community engagement work.

Adinkra: A Journey into the Future Through the Past

"My life continued due to my separation from my family as a child, but it has also been defined by it. My art work explores the concepts of identity, loss and returning to pick up the pieces of our future. Sankofa the adinkra symbol simply means 'it is not a taboo to go back into the past and collect it. Over time I have lost much of the language and memories that connect me to my childhood. In the same time my homeland (and possibly the world) has undergone seismic shifts in development that mimic my own journey. We all seem to be more and more distant from our own selves from our food, from the fruits of our labour and from our joy. Each immigrant knows the process of deconstruction and reconstruction, to be reborn, reformed but also to remain. My art work connects my past to my present it explores how symbols change and flex. But also remain."

7 Maryam Zahra Kazimi

@_maryamkaz

Maryam Zahra Kazimi is an interdisciplinary artist, making work within the expanded field of drawing, at the intersection of installation, intervention, and socially engaged art. Maryam often invokes humour and absurdity, which can play out through a character's inner monologue, or through the witty exchanges between characters; a wizard weeps upon misplacing his anti-capitalist manifesto. Giant, ballooned heads mock one another for their grotesque disembodied form. After completing a Foundation at City & Guilds of London Art School, Maryam studied Fine Art Sculpture at Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton with an exchange semester at Beaux-Arts de Paris. She has recently commenced a PGDip in Theology & Religion at The University of Oxford.

art cube™

"Brought to you by the legendary hijabi novice screenplay writer, who has been roaming Southampton in search of a studio and somewhere to live, this art cube™ ruminates excessively on the meaning of the ambiguous Ben Howard lyric, 'there's coke in the midas touch'. cube™ is an article of cultural bricolage, co-created with local labourers and lads about town, artists Kane & Rob. Critics have remarked that this structure 'encapsulates Southampton in all it's blazing glory'. cube™ is the formal byproduct of a broader research project, in which the artist undertook a 'roaming residency' across the SO area. Leaving a trail of fresh watermelon juice from Bedford Place to Northam, chillin' with the sk8rs at Guildhall, getting stranded on the roof of the Alfred Arcade, building a website for the notorious brand-spanking-new ZEST art collective... the work attempts to offer a semblance of structure, amidst the most chaotic of times."

8 Gullu Kandrou

@gullukandrouart

Gullu Kandrou is a multidisciplinary artist interested in found photography and mixed-media collage and drawing. She uses her SWANA (South West Asian and North African) heritage to explore personal and cultural oppression and intergenerational trauma. Her practice is informed by the challenges she faces as a neurodivergent, disabled, non-binary person. Gullu works autobiographically; looking for catharsis as she finds freedom from the trauma inflicted upon her, taking back her agency. Having graduated from Solent University with a First-Class Honours in Fine Art in 2020, Gullu has exhibited internationally and her work has been printed in several publications.

Can You Hear the Bells Tolling?

"In these pieces I translate the similarities of stranger's past lives with my own to unnerve the audience, who can never quite understand where the next peculiar, detached sentence will come from. Like a puzzle, you can't quite solve, the pictures are one half of the enigma, whilst the text makes up the other half of the mystery: keeping the audience at a distance. I approached the project as a memory that needed to be purged. An infection that needed to be excised before healing could take place. A sense of catharsis would come as I would methodically stamp out the letters; a rhythmical removal of this pain from inside me. But it created a new pain of its own in the repetitive motion, so I questioned, doesn't all healing hurt a little? Doesn't all creation take some form of growth? This project was my mind putting to rest these feelings and reigniting the spark of creation within me."

9 Issa Loyaan Farrah-Kelly

📍 @ILFPoet

Issa Loyaan Farrah-Kelly is a writer and performer who creates percussive, mantric and image driven poems. Musing off of a lifetime of hip hop and classic literature, he creates oral soundscapes in a characteristic mellow boom. Issa founded and ran Write a Note Poetry Open Mic in Southampton and was commissioned by the British Arts Council to write responses to the British Art Show 8 in 2015. He has also been curating showcases of Solent music and poetry on Riverside Radio (London) since 2017.

The Lucky Dip E.P

"The Lucky Dip E.P consists of five tracks of poems set to music on themes of dislocation, esoterica, activism, inner city life and love. The project is ongoing, so for this exhibition I am presenting experiments and recordings as work in progress. The E.P samples 'A World of Peace Must Come', a poetic and musical album created in 1968 by poet Stephen John Kalinich and producer Brian Wilson. Deep thanks to Mr Stephen John Kalinich for his unending kindness in granting permission to sample 'A World of Peace Must Come.'"