

Birmingham School of Art

June Newsletter

Last month we shone a spotlight on the achievements of our Foundation, Level 4, Level 5 and MA students in the May newsletter, so we now turn our attentions to the Level 6 BA Students.

Most institutions across the UK that offer art practice courses have, like us, made the shift from in person to online degree shows for their graduating students. The alternative to the School of Art Show that we have come to know and celebrate, whilst dissapointing and difficult in the way work cannot always be realised digitally, has provided opportunities for re-considering the way work is made public and indeed the way the public can make links with our communities of practice. Our final year BA Fine Art and BA Art and Design students have, in difficult circumstances, responded to the world around them by producing highly individual, sophisticated and considered work, which probes at this question of art and audience- challenging the way we do things.

The work produced in the studios and workshops of Margaret Street and the extension of practices since lockdown that included drawings, paintings, sculptures, videos, installations, performances, digital collages and much more, showed a high quality of technical accomplishment in the fabrication and presentation of works. You all demonstrated the way as graduating students you understand the world, can add meaningful things to it and make a difference within it in changing the ways we think, care and respond to one another. Congratulations level 6 students on the achievements of completing your degree; we will enjoy celebrating with you in person when we can.

Whilst Margaret Street remains closed, we as a staff team are busy supporting those PhD, MA and BA students with Semester Three assessments and are working hard to put plans in place for a blended learning curriculum of activities for the new academic year. Until then I hope everyone has a good summer, I look forwards to seeing you all in September.

Best wishes

Becky

Spotlight on our graduating third years:

Digital Portfolios and Process Books

The assessment submissions may not have had the physicality of the degree show exhibition but that didn't prevent some extraordinary and imaginative works being presented in process books (BA Art and Design) and digital portfolios (BA Fine Art). Across the board submissions were rich in content; from research to experimental processes, the development of ideas was apparent in every submission. Well done everyone! (Right, Alice Rainsely, Fine Art, painting from her Digital Portfolio).

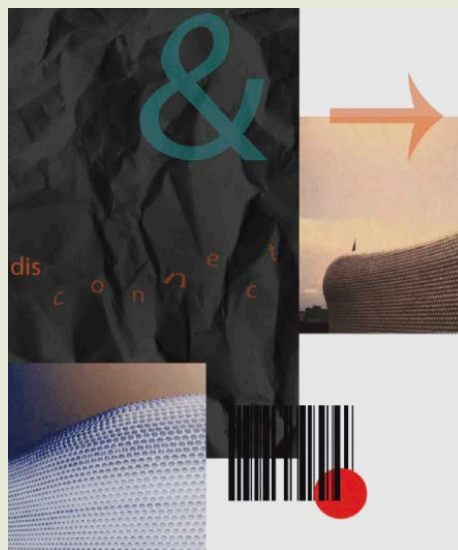
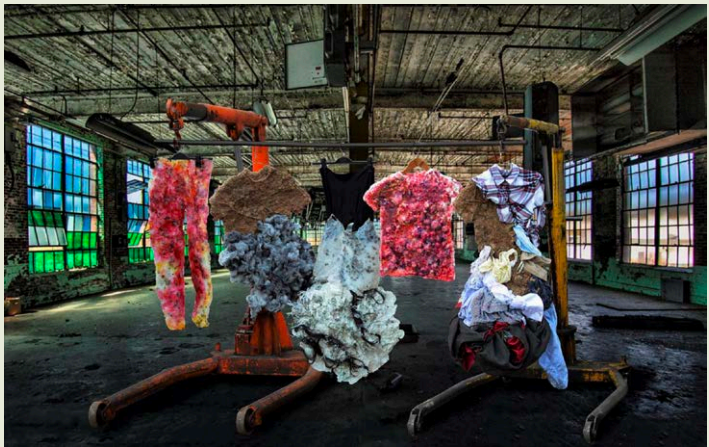
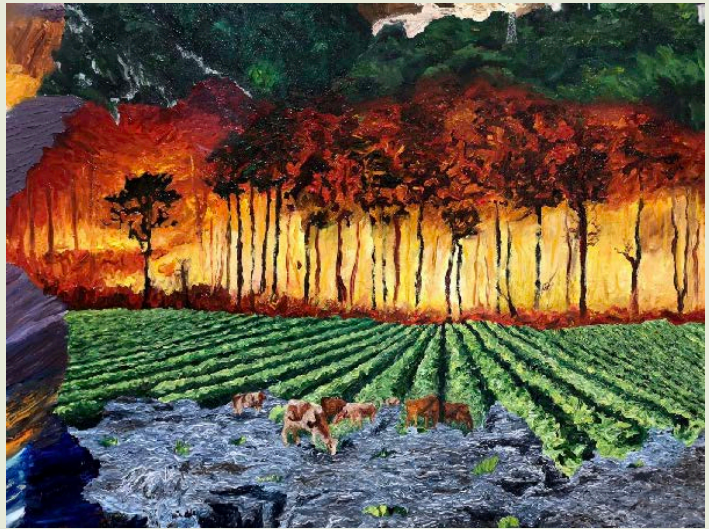


Gertrude Emily Griffin Awards

This award is given to support advancing the study of designing from nature. The fund is designed to assist recipients in developing their practice within the theme.

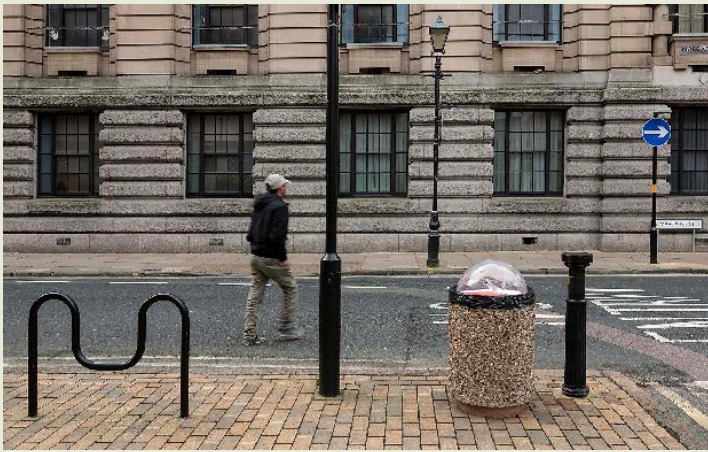
Gertrude Emily Griffin Fine Art Awards

The 1st prize Fine Art award went to Karanraj Boyal (work pictured top right) for his large-scale paintings which deals with ideas of the Anthropocene entangled in the past, present and future, questioning our impact, as humans on the world, through the sublime and the immersive. 2nd prize went to Leah Taylor (work pictured bottom right) whose sculptural investigation into environmental concerns highlight the range of disastrous consequences that the fashion industry causes worldwide, such as the overwhelming mass of clothing that goes to landfill each year.



Gertrude Emily Griffin Art and Design Awards

The 1st prize award in Art and Design went to Thomas Saunders (work pictured far left) whose practice explores the correlation between the growing population and the reduction of green space. 2nd prize went to Abi Loquellano (work pictured near left) whose multi-media practice documents propositions of how people might use space in both urban and rural locations in a post-apocalyptic world.



Tate Prize

Each year, Tate Liverpool select one student from each third-year cohort as a recipient of the Tate Graduate Award. The prize involves a portfolio review and career mentoring opportunities with someone from Tate.

The BA Fine Art Tate award went to [Dion Kitson](#) (work pictured above left) whose practice infiltrates an unsuspecting, un-wanting, un-academic audience though a reactive and intuitive approach that is both playful and pertinent to the current political climate and working-class culture. His film, sculpture and public interventions, aim to reflect a pathos of everyday life, subverted and situated in disguise.

The BA Art and Design Tate award went to Azaria Marismari (work pictured above right) who explores materiality through digital technologies, investigating what happens to images as they transfer between a physical and digital state. Layered stills of textured moments from sci-fi films are re-imagined through digital collage and textiles, forming a tangible yet intangible visual language.



Degree Show Award

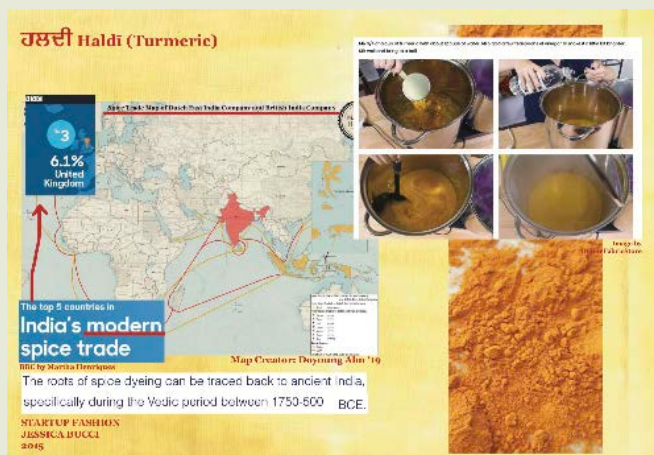
The School of Art Degree Show Award this year was chosen based on the exhibition plan proposals submitted which demonstrated ingenuity and creativity of the highest order. The BA Fine Art recipient was Teal Sparkes (work pictured above left) whose final video piece, which is rooted in concepts of cybernetics and simulation explores the theme of futility against forces greater than ourselves. You can view the work here: [HA! Imagine _Upgrade](#). The BA Art and Design recipient Alarna Lawley (work pictured above right) uses crochet as a craft that is dominated by women and is historically claimed as working-class, to explore ideas around access, value and classism present in the arts.





School Award

The School Award this year was chosen on the merits of students who have in the face of challenging circumstances, in the context of lockdown, innovatively, resourcefully and resiliently developed work for the final submission. For her use of materials, colours and forms used in her abstract paintings this award went to Krati Doshi from BA Fine Art (work pictured top left). For her practice (and online cooking classes!) which explores her British-Indian cultural heritage this award went to Rianne Karra (work pictured bottom left) from BA Art and Design.



Making Award

For her installation made from re-claimed, re-cycled and re-used materials, generating a space for social interaction and gathering, the making award for BA Art and Design went to Charlotte Cridland (work pictured top right). Interested in the contrasts of urban and rural, experiencing the natural cycles of nature, discovering the properties of materials, for BA Fine Art the award for making went to Ian Green (work pictured bottom right).

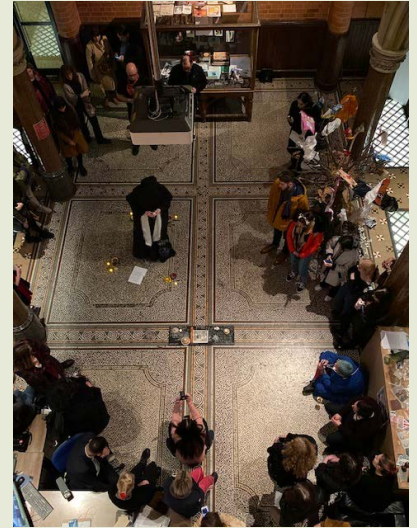


Studentship Award

The studentship award recognises the contributions made to the community of the School and a cohort. This year Clelia Cacciarelli from BA Fine Art (work pictured far left) and Polly Brant (work pictured near left) from BA Art and Design were the deserving recipients after their hard work as School Representatives.

Night School Contribution Award

Night School is a favourite event in the School of Art calendar. Taking place on the last Tuesday of each month it is driven entirely by the energies, time and work of the student cohort. As such this new award aims to recognise some of the excellent contributions to Night School over the past year. The award for BA Art and Design went to Jade Shapiro (work pictured near right) and for BA Fine Art went to Isabelle Talbot (work pictured far right).



Dissertation Prize

For her research questioning if *a lack of staff diversity [can] be contributing to the BME attainment gap within Birmingham School of Art* (which you can read [here](#)), the dissertation prize on BA Art and Design went to Selina Sagna (work pictured far left). For her practice-based research exploring *diaspora art: understanding and navigating spaces within identity and white cubes* (which you can read [here](#)), the dissertation prize on BA Fine Art was awarded to Takudzwa Chandiwana (work pictured near left).

BAAAD Press Prize

Each year, as part of [BAAAD Press](#), School of Art Senior Lecturer Gareth Barnett works with a graduating level 6 Art and Design student to support the production of their Process Book into a publication. This year the recipient of the BAAAD Press Publication award was Eden Walters (her now School of Art famous Greggs Sausage Roll work is pictured left). Eden's practice is centred around social class, diversity, and using materials that can be found anywhere.



Other news: keeping in touch with the School of Art Community:

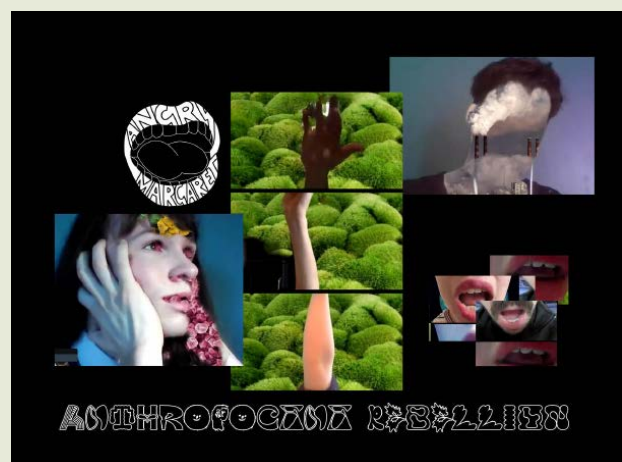
Black Lives Matter



Staff at the Birmingham School of Art want to reiterate the [institution-wide support](#) for Black Lives Matter. The Faculty (Art, Design and Media), that the School is part of, are taking important steps to address issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion which include the recently established Faculty EDI Committee, an action orientated group which reports to the University and includes representation from School of Art Students and Staff. This committee will work alongside the newly formed Centre for Diversity and Inclusion in the Arts which seeks to engage with, promote and challenge issues of equality, diversity and inclusion across the Arts to offer a critical and practical space for thinking and doing; working across Schools, Institutes and the Faculty to remove access, participation and progression gaps for BAME students.

Angry Margaret Music Video

Angry Margaret, the School of Art protest choir have just produced their first ever music video, which was launched on Instagram Sunday 28th June! Recorded entirely on Zoom during lockdown, Anthropocene Rebellion is a song about climate change, imagining a future world where plant, animal and human exist as kin. It's available on [Vimeo](#). The protest choir is made up of Students and staff from the School of Art and is led by Dani and Roxanne of Infinite Opera (conservatoire graduates now both PhD students at BCU). We sing all original songs, crafted with the wisdom and talents of Infinite Opera, combined with the creative vision of our art students. Please contact [Alis Oldfield](#) for further information. This music video has been edited by Oli Day, a student and member of Angry Margaret going into her second year of the BA Art and Design course.



Angry Margaret Book Club: Monday 20th July 2pm

The text: 13th – a film made by Netflix. Available on normal Netflix as well as on [youtube](#). It shows an in-depth look at the prison system in the US and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. Directed by Ava DuVernay. The book club will take place on the Angry Margaret Teams Channel (if you're not in it, send [Alis](#) an email.

PROTEST FOR PROGRESS

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

28TH JUNE - 28TH SEPTEMBER

Round Lemon: Protest for Progress Exhibition

Round Lemon is a new art collective, formed by students at the School of Art whose intention is to create a community that provides opportunities, workshops, competitions and other events. They have recently curated their first virtual exhibition for ZEST HALL - their online gallery space. in partnership with Leeds City Museum. The exhibition launched on June 28th (in commemoration of 51 years since the Stonewall riots). The exhibition provides a safe educational space for the artistic community during these turbulent times, whilst also addressing the importance of pride month. You can view the works [here](#).

Eastside Projects

Alice Channer, Live Studio Visit Thursday 16 July, 1-2pm

Join Gavin Wade and Ruth Claxton to visit Alice Channer in the Studio in East London. Alice is an artist working with sculpture, imagining her work as a kind of 21st Century Process Art.

Channer has exhibited widely during the last two decades, including institutional exhibitions at: Tate Britain, London, UK; Towner Gallery, Eastbourne, UK and Konrad Fischer Gallery, Dusseldorf (2019). Please book [here](#).



Eastside Projects Re-opening: Sonia Boyce: In the Castle of My Skin and Lindsey Mendick: The Yellow Wallpaper
29 July - 8 August, Thursday - Saturday 12-4 pm

This is an important extra chance to experience In the Castle of My Skin, a solo show of new commissions and existing work by Sonia Boyce, with work by six other artists co-curated with Boyce. The exhibition is built through improvisation techniques and riffs on ways of playing in urban space. Alongside this Lindsey Mendick's powerful exhibition is the Extra Ordinary People solo show this year with an installation of video, ceramics and miniatures, exploring three intertwining stories of female 'histrionics', depression and Russian spies. To visit please book online.



My next newsletter will be circulated in September at the start of the new academic year. If you have any School of Art news or events you would like included in this newsletter please email me: rebecca.court@bcu.ac.uk