

The Art House

AUTUMN-WINTER 2023-24 PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT

The Art House in Wakefield is delighted to announce its Autumn-Winter artistic programme, which features an exciting range of exhibitions, residencies, and artist support programmes.

The Art House (TAH) presents another exciting season of vibrant exhibitions that proudly support emerging and mid-career artists, as they develop their practice and engage with timely themes that the organisation aims to give space to.

A major highlight includes the collaborative project, **SOFT & HARD: Beyond Recognition and Queer Coding**, which sees artist and Chinese drag king Whiskey Chow curate thirteen exciting emerging artists who have recently graduated from the Royal College of Art (RCA) in London.

The season will also see major firsts for artists, including the showing of work by Sophie Amelia Gratton, a recent Leeds Arts University graduate and designer. Informed by research-led approaches to making, the artist will be exhibiting a new collection of homewares and accessories, made for neurodivergent women and fem-aligned people.

October will bring the premier solo presentation of new work by artist Ryoko Akama. Following her time spent at TAH on residency this summer, Akama's latest work responds to family history and examines the fluidity of her experience as an untold Zainichi (Korean immigrant in Japan). The artist pushes the boundaries of traditional darkroom practices, and for her show **in.visible**, Akama will create performative image-making in the gallery which will change in appearance over the exhibition's duration.

TAH also welcomes visitors to discover the sensory experience of being inside of a bubble, through the artwork of Cat Scott. Set in the beautiful backdrop of the Tiled Gallery, her sculpture **Inner Horizons** invites you to step inside and become part of a magical fluid landscape that draws on wide-ranging ideas from our earliest experiences inside the womb, to the vastness of outer space.

Proudly emerging through the pavement, and escaping out of TAH roof is Cat Robertson's installation **Gigantic Pile. Relics of the Future**. Taking the form of enormous man-made earthworms, eating through the ground and rejuvenating the earth, the project explores ideas around our fast-changing rising concrete landscape and the declining of creating space for natural habitats.

TAH is a hub for creativity, and studio holders are central to the community and ecosystem that thrives here. Housing a wide variety of artists in over 50 studios throughout the building, we are proud to open our doors to the, typically private, working spaces of the artists that make up TAH and the workshop spaces that they use. October's **Open Studios** gives everyone the opportunity to connect with new and exciting artists and the creatives that you've been loyally following for years.

Coinciding with Open Studios, TAH welcomes a new partnership with the **Wakefield Artisan Market**, bringing together a curated collection of the most exciting independent makers and small business owners from across Yorkshire.

September sees the last chance to visit the first UK exhibition, **Room to Breathe**, by Mumbai-based artist Madhu Das, and the **20:20 Print Exchange Touring Exhibition**, a curated selection of first editions from print studios across the world.

Get ready for the festive period as we transform our beautiful Tiled Gallery into a **Festive Makers Wonderland**, showcasing a curated selection of talented artists and makers. As the weather turns cold, cosy up on armchairs with seasonal drinks, amongst Christmas trees and lights, whilst browsing artworks, gifts, prints, ceramics and furniture, all available to purchase in time for the gift-giving, wish-list making, time of year.

Damon Jackson-Waldock, Programme Director at The Art House, comments, *“With another season, comes another fantastic programme of projects, events and exhibitions, carefully curated and brought together by the wonderful team here at TAH.*

Our exhibitions programme continues to offer opportunities to support recent graduates and emerging creatives to push and extend their artistic practices and professional development. I am always blown-away by the talent and quality of the artists we work with, and the important connections we make with each project. I'm incredibly excited to share with you a programme that shares local and timely international conversations but that also supports designers and makers in our region. We cannot wait to welcome you to show you what we have programmed.”

For further information on The Art House Wakefield's Autumn/Winter artistic programme, visit: <https://the-arthouse.org.uk/>

ENDS

Damon Jackson-Waldock at The Art House:
damon@the-arthouse.org.uk / 01924 312000

See below for full listings of The Art House, Wakefield's Autumn/Winter artistic programme

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Exhibitions

Cat Scott
Inner Horizons

Tiled Gallery, 21 Sept–25 Oct 2023

Cat Scott creates moments of curiosity and wonder using science, technology, and engineering. Using a combination of light and sound, she creates kinetic sculptures, installations and experiences.

Scott's dynamic bubble installation, **Inner Horizons**, set in the beautiful backdrop of the Tiled Gallery, invites visitors to feel what it is like being inside a bubble, exploring an inner landscape on a scale that's impossible to experience physically. From the depths of the ocean to outer space, Scott prompts us to consider whether the universe itself is one giant bubble. Scott will also hold focus groups with disabled individuals to explore and inform future prototypes of her work.



Inner Horizons, Cat Scott, 2019, photo by Sarah Kim

Catriona Robertson
Gigantic Pile.
Relics of the Future.

Outdoor Spaces, until Spring 2024

Robertson's practice explores architecture and the monumental; ruins of buildings, and void spaces interwoven with the fast-changing rising concrete landscape. Her new large-scale installation for the outside of TAH takes the form of enormous man-made earthworms, eating through the ground and rejuvenating the earth.

Using a combination of construction and discarded recycled materials, Robertson's sculptures can be seen protruding through the pavement cracks and escaping out of the roof of the building.



Catriona Robertson
Gigantic Pile. Relics of the Future

Madhu Das
Room to Breathe

Main Gallery, until 30 Sept 2023

Mumbai-based Madhu Das explores the impact of cultural and political factors on humanity, and examines connections between trauma, anxiety and belief, and how they relate to history, geography, and community.

Room to Breathe is Das' first UK exhibition that brings together new work created following his time on residency at TAH in 2022, and inspired by relationships formed whilst working in Wakefield. Through the co-creation of sculpture, Das reveals contrasting, yet deeply intertwined stories of the local asylum-seeking community, to highlight the importance of diverse blended cultural fabrics.





Ryoko Akama, Untitled, 2023. Courtesy of the artist

Ryoko Akama **in.visible**

Main Gallery, 14 Oct 2023–13 Jan 2024

Huddersfield-based artist Ryoko Akama examines the environment, architecture, conflict, immigration and fluidity of being. **in.visible** presents new work, created during her recent residency at TAH, exploring her untold Zainichi (Korean immigrant in Japan) family history. Describing herself as ‘culturally fluid’ with Korean-Japanese-British nationalities, Akama examines themes of loss, identity, injustice, contradiction, and pride, as well as investigates how her own personal cultural ‘root’ has shaped her as an artist.

20:20 Print Exchange Touring Exhibition

Learning Space, until 28 Oct 2023

Coordinated by Manchester-based studio Hot Bed Press, the **20:20 Print Exchange** brings together work from print workshops internationally. Every year, artists from around the world are invited to take part in producing an edition of 20x20cm prints, and in return receive a box set of 20 randomly selected artworks from participants.

The coinciding exhibition features a curated selection of first editions, showcasing a diverse range of printing including linocuts, screen prints and gelli prints. A limited number of prints from previous exchanges are also available to purchase from The Art House Shop.



Courtesy of Cait McEnniff

Festive Makers Wonderland

Tiled Gallery, 11 Nov–23 Dec 2023

This winter we are transforming our beautiful Tiled Gallery into a festive wonderland, showcasing a curated selection of talented artists and makers, with our own take on the winter craft markets. This immersive exhibition invites visitors to cosy up on armchairs with seasonal drinks, amongst Christmas trees and lights, whilst browsing artworks, gifts, prints, ceramics and furniture, all available to purchase in time for the gift-giving, wish-list making, time of year.

The exhibition brings together a range of affordable and inspiring gifts by Ali Appleby, Cait McEnniff, Hannah Way, Iain Stephenson, Lucy Norton, and Sophie Amelia.

Sophie Amelia Gratton
Authentic Expression

Wakefield Cathedral, 2 November– 4 December 2023

2023 Leeds Arts University graduate and designer Sophie Gratton creates beautiful homeware and accessories that are made for neurodivergent women and fem-aligned people. Gratton's first exhibition showcases an expressive collection inspired by and for those who celebrate their authentic identities, and who aim to make their surrounding spaces become more representative for, and of them.

Sophie Jones: A Tangled Thread
2 November 2023 - 2 January 2023

Leeds-based artist and recent graduate of Leeds Arts University, Sophie Jones, presents 'A Tangled Thread', celebrating childhood mark making and exploring young parenthood at the intersection of hand-embroidery. **A Tangled Thread** is a new body of work and the culmination of a twelve-month project in which Jones directly stitched into their daughter's felt tip marks, captured onto calico over two four-week periods.

SOFT & HARD: Beyond Recognition and Queer Coding.

Curated by Whisky Chow

Main Gallery, 27 Jan 2023–16 March 2024

Whiskey Chow, a London-based artist, Chinese drag king, and Tutor at Royal College of Art (RCA), brings together a group of artists exploring what 'Queer spirit' means in artistic practice today.

Living in different timelines of LGBTQ+ movements, and constantly negotiating with complex power dynamics from intersectional and cross-cultural perspectives, Queer artists often invent new visual approaches to address their desires and concerns.

SOFT & HARD investigates how new generations of Queer artists create space for themselves and their community through art that goes beyond vanity, hypersexuality and gender performativity.

The collaborative project features recent RCA graduate artists Annette Warner, Candice Dehnavi, Elena Hoskyns-Abrahall, Emma Sheehy, Hongmin An, Jim Rampage, Leonie Cameron, Maya Erin Masuda, Rose Arbuthnott, Sean Synnuck, Sojung Park, Theresa Weber, Yuqing Lin, alongside work by Chow.



Courtesy of Sophie Amelia Gratton



Courtesy of Sophie Jones

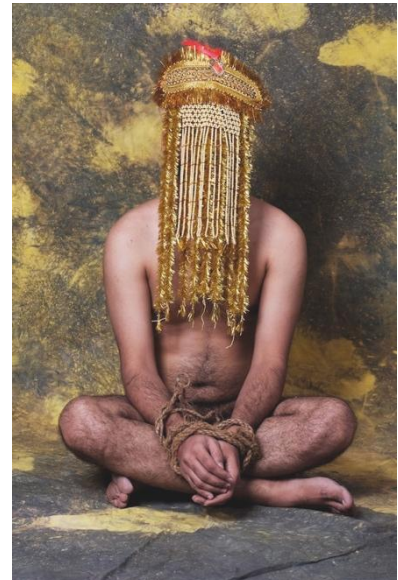


Courtesy of Emma Sheehy

Artists Residencies

We support artists, particularly emerging, mid-career creatives, or those facing barriers to practice, both local and internationally by providing time and space at crucial points in artists' professional development.

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Ifa Abebe, courtesy of the artist; Kim Karabo Makin, Molenza (Shield), 2020, and Charan Singh, Untitled, New Delhi, 2010

Kim Karabo Makin

Sept–Nov 2023

Informed by a lived sense of displacement and multiculturalism, Botswana-born artist and DJ Karabo Makin combines sculpture, sound, installation, and archival research to explore community identity.

Aastha Gupta (a.k.a. Qaidi Aasthsopaanch)

Sept–Nov 2023

Delhi-based artist and designer Gupta works with painting, film and writing, and is Director of The Urdu Project, a collective that uses the language Urdu as a metaphor for cultural exchange and assimilation. Both residencies are in partnership with the Royal Over-Seas League.

Babeworld

Sept 2023 & March 2024

In partnership with LEVEL Centre and Unlimited, Babeworld (Ash Williams, Ingrid Banerjee Marvin, Gabriella Davies & Caitlin Chase) will explore how neurodivergent individuals experience creative spaces.

Charan Singh

Autumn 2023

Singh draws from his involvement with HIV/AIDS work and activism to inform his artistic practice, exploring and expressing multi-layered gender experiences and the ephemeral nature of queer desire.

Ifa Abebe

Until January 2024

Ethiopia-born, Doncaster-based architect, artist, poet and DJ, Abebe explores global themes of socio-political systems, identity, community-focused architecture and environmental concerns.

Event Highlights

Open Studios & Artisan Market

7 Oct 2023 | 10:00–16:00 | free

Discover a world of creativity as Wakefield's largest collection of creatives and artists throw open their studio doors to the public, alongside local makers in our galleries for this very special Artisan Market.

Art House Late: Light Up 2023

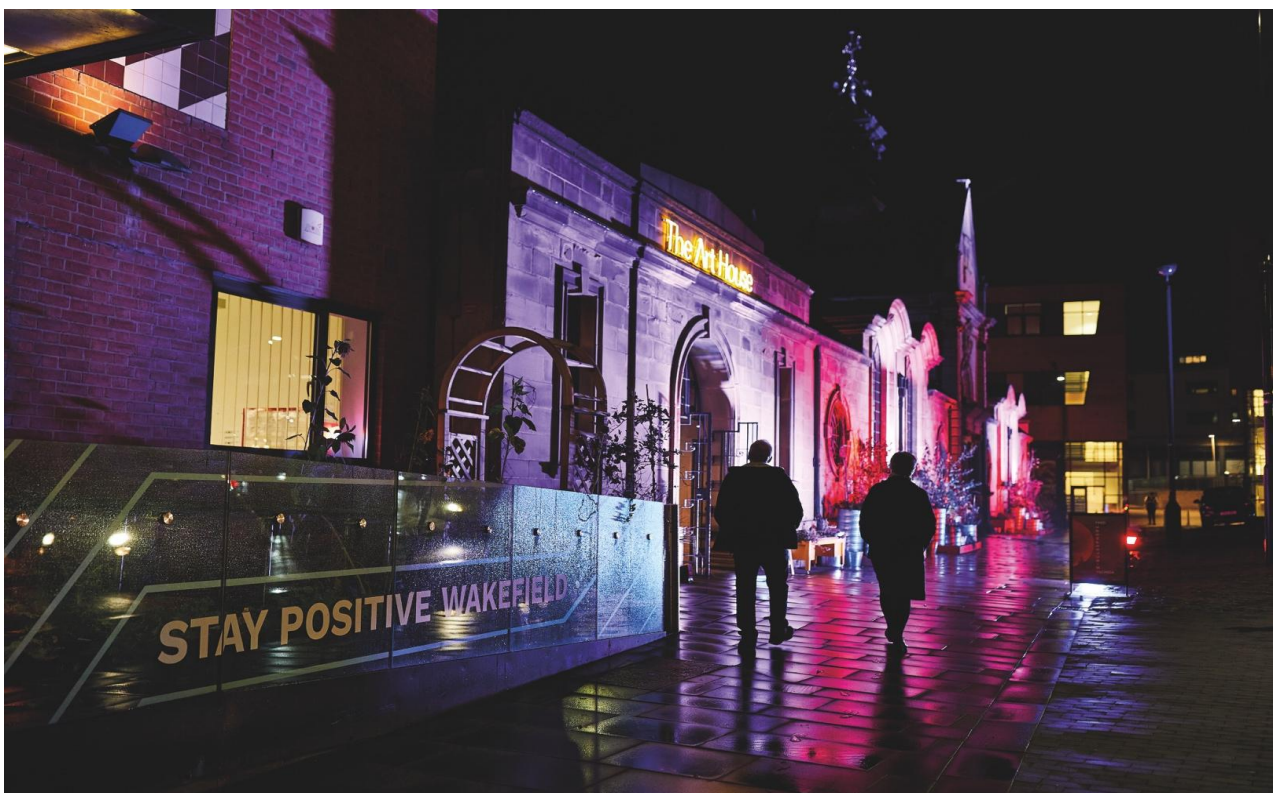
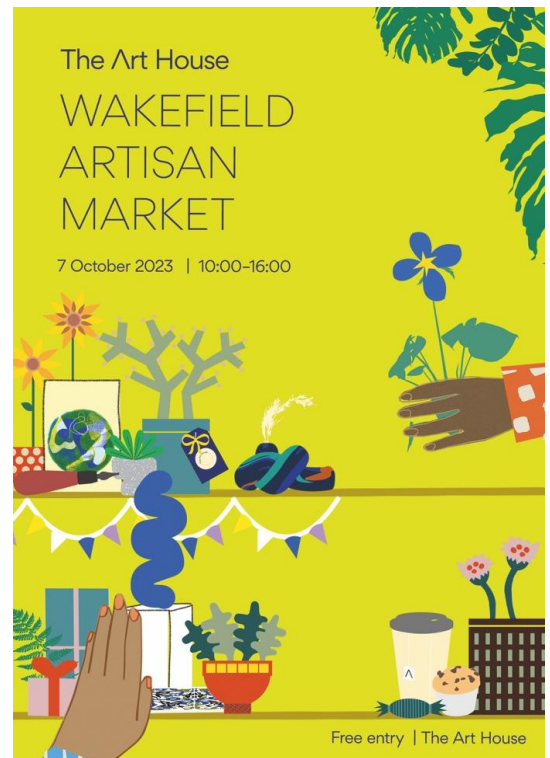
17–18 November | Until 20:00

Celebrate Wakefield Light Up with us with free family glow-in-the-dark activities, neon henna and body art, neon sculpture, as well as late-night shopping in our festive Makers Wonderland. Our late night bar will be serving festive and glow-up cocktails for the adults.

Rhubarb Festival

17 Feb 2023 | 10:00–16:00 | free

As The Rhubarb Festival returns to Wakefield, we will be offering free drop-in activities and serving delicious rhubarb treats in our Coffee House.



Notes to Editors

Press contact: Damon Jackson-Waldock / damon@the-arthouse.org.uk / 01924 312000
Images and interviews by arrangement.

The Art House

Drury Lane, Wakefield
WF1 2TE, 01924 312000

Opening times

Monday: by appointment only
Tuesday: 9.30am–4pm
Wednesday: 9.30am–4pm
Thursday: 9.30am–4pm
Friday: 9.30am–4pm
Saturday: 9.30am–4pm
Sunday: Closed

Social

Twitter: @TheArtHouseUK
Facebook: /theearthouse.wakefield
Instagram: @theearthouseuk

About The Art House

The Art House provides time, space and support for artists, makers and creative businesses to develop their practice. It is a place where artists and audiences of all kinds are welcome to experience contemporary visual art and learn about the practice of being an artist through a year-round programme of exhibitions and events.

Established in 1994 by a group of disabled and non-disabled artists, The Art House is both a visual arts development agency and registered charity. Alongside a programme of training, mentoring, residencies and commissions, The Art House develops a range of projects designed to engage audiences in the artistic process and contribute to an essential discourse around diversity in contemporary visual arts practice.

The Art House is an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) with Arts Council England and is the recipient of The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's second annual Award for Civic Arts Organisations 2021. It manages Makey Wakey - an ongoing partnership with The Ridings Shopping Centre to repurpose meanwhile retail spaces and is the UK's first Studio of Sanctuary and Gallery of Sanctuary, a role which sees them engage Wakefield's Asylum Seeker, Refugee, and Settled communities in creative projects.

TAH offers free private view appointments, designed to be covid-safe and offer maximum access accommodations to visitors who otherwise find themselves excluded from visual arts spaces. For more information and to book a private view visit The Art House website: <https://the-arthouse.org.uk/about/access/>.