

The Art House

2022 Programme Announcement

The Art House in Wakefield unveils its ambitious 2022 artistic programme which highlights the work of underrepresented artists alongside diverse international voices

The Art House in Wakefield has announced its 2022 artistic programme featuring an exciting range of exhibitions that will explore important social issues alongside major residencies, artist support programmes, and new site-specific commissions.

Highlights include the major presentation of **HOME** by internationally acclaimed artist **Permindar Kaur** – including new work made especially for this show during a summer residency at The Art House – exploring a common central question in her practice: ‘where is home?’, and the first solo exhibition by recent Leeds University Fine Art graduate **Hang Zhang**.

A new project, **Dreamland** by **Mohammad Barrangi**, marks the first time the Iranian-born artist has translated his evocative illustrations into sculpture, developed using pioneering 3D-printing technology with the support of XPLOR, Production Park’s state-of-the-art research and innovation centre for entertainment technology and production, based in Wakefield. The exhibition is a celebration of Barrangi’s working relationship with The Art House, having originally been introduced in 2017 as part of its Studio of Sanctuary residency programme; a one-of-a-kind initiative that supports artists with experience of the asylum-seeking system to continue their artistic work.

Other major shows throughout the year will explore important issues surrounding disabled bodies and societal restrictions, including **alabamathirteen**, a Leeds-based artist who will showcase work developed during her time as an artist in residence in 2021, the result of a partnership with national arts charity Outside In. Encompassing photography, embroidery, and sound her work highlights the limitations and barriers she encounters whilst navigating the spaces she occupies as a disabled, working-class woman. **Sam Metz’s Making Solid Unpredictable Bodies** features sculpture, drawing, animation and film to investigate the relationship between disability, the body, and neurodivergence.

Award-winning creative director and producer, **Hassun El-Zafar presents HEAR – Hearing Extinction and Audiological Relapse**, a brand new immersive installation exploring the intersections between human hearing loss in underrepresented communities and the diminishing sounds of endangered species due to climate change.

Photography will also take centre stage – with **My North**, an exhibition by Wakefield photographer **Robert Broad**, documenting the city and his family since 1990 and **Only the Lonely?** featuring the latest images in an ongoing photography project by artist **Tony Fisher** that captures moments of hope during the 2020 national lockdowns. The Art House will also host **The Disabled Photographers’ Society (DPS)** annual photography competition exhibition – having worked closely with the organisation to design The Art House’s accessible darkroom which

opened to the public in 2021. This year's judging panel will be led by internationally renowned photographer and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, Sunil Gupta.

The Art House will also partner with **The Hepworth Wakefield** and international photographer **Hannah Starkey** to support a creative professional development programme for Yorkshire-born or based photographers this summer. The group will create new work for an exhibition at The Art House that runs alongside Starkey's major retrospective at The Hepworth, opening this autumn.

Other highlights across the year include a show by Leeds-based artist, **Paula Chambers** and an exhibition of painters responding to their natural environment curated by Wakefield-based artist and Art House Studio Holder **Helen Thomas**, featuring her own work alongside pieces by contemporary painters **Alison Critchlow** and **Natalie Dowse**.

Damon Jackson-Waldock, Programme Director at The Art House comments: *"Supporting local, national, and international talent, from all walks of life, has informed the passions of The Art House for many years. I am thrilled to be working with a wide range of creative artists to present such an engaging, diverse, and exciting series of projects this year."*

"The programme brings together so many things that excite, inform, and inspire me. Not only is it a celebration of high-quality art, but it will share important ideas and conversations about the world we live in. I am excited to be presenting a range of amazing local talent, as well as hopefully introducing several artists previously unknown to Yorkshire."

The Art House continues to support creatives with some of the UK's leading residences for risk-taking work and experimental practices, as well as supporting pop-up projects across the city as part of the long-running **Artwalk**, which celebrates creativity across Wakefield city centre.

Its Artist in Residence programme includes **CUTTER // NASH** who will investigate the history of rebellion and activism in pirate radio in relation to disabled bodies and voices. The programme will also see several site-specific commissions as part of The Art House's work to put artists in the heart of the Wakefield community. Drawing on her own lived experience as a Chinese Northern Vietnamese migrant who fled persecution in the aftermath of the Vietnam/American war of the 1970s, multidisciplinary artist, **Moi Tran** will invite local diaspora communities in Wakefield to contribute personal testimonies that usually fall outside of mainstream archives to help reshape of how future histories are told.

The Art House's international work continues through a partnership with the **Royal Over-Seas League**, which will see Mumbai-based **Madhu Das** and Nigeria-based **Samuel Nnorom** take up a two-month residency in Wakefield, to explore the history and connections of textiles in Yorkshire and their residing countries.

Sydney Thornbury, CEO/Artistic Director at The Art House comments: *"Like every arts centre in the country, The Art House has experienced an extraordinary two years of complex challenges and unexpected opportunities. Thanks to our intrepid team and amazing visitors, we were able to finish 2021 on a real high with FRED TSCHIDA: CIRCLESHERE. The exhibition marked a new phase for The Art House, not only in the level of our artistic ambition but in the quality of our programme and the potential it has to empower the communities we work with."*

Our 2022 programme truly reflects our belief that everyone should be able to experience ambitious, high-quality art and that artists, especially those who are underrepresented and facing barriers, have the power to change the world we live in. I am immensely proud that with this year's programme, we will have the opportunity to work with so many artists and partners to do just that."

For further information on The Art House Wakefield's 2022 artistic programme visit:
<https://the-arthouse.org.uk/>

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See below for full listings of The Art House in Wakefield's 2022 programme.

Exhibitions

Paula Chambers: Not at Home Gallery, 26 January–11 March 2022

Working with three-dimensional forms and installation, Paula Chambers explores feminist concepts and ideas of contemporary domestic spaces. Working with found objects, including familiar household items and furniture to reconsider associations with the home, Chambers creates sculptural installations that perform narratives of disobedience and disruption.

The exhibition will bring together new work for the very first time, displayed alongside her ongoing series which draws from personal experiences and seeks to represent and unsettle our expectations of women and their relationship to the home.



Paula Chambers,
Domestic Front, installation view, (2016-).
Photo David Lindsay, courtesy of The Art House.

Central to the exhibition is *Domestic Front* (2016–), a sculptural construction of kitsch furniture that sprawls across the main gallery floor to form a large barricade and splitting the gallery in two.

New works in the show include *Feminist Escape Route: Attempt No.3* (2021), part of a series developing the disruption of domestic objects through craft-making processes, and *Coming Home* (2021), a work made in response to football-related domestic violence during the Euros 2021.

Hassun El-Zafar: HEAR – Hearing Extinction and Audiological Relapse Tiled Gallery, 26 January–4 March 2022

Hassun El-Zafar is an award-winning creative director and producer who investigates the life stories of those that have been traditionally underrepresented. *HEAR - Hearing Extinction and Audiological Relapse* is an immersive installation exploring the intersections between human hearing loss in underrepresented communities and the extinction of wildlife due to climate change.

As climate change increases the rate of extinction, the sounds of endangered species become less audible. Each day the planet is rapidly losing unique sounds, melodies and rhythms found in nature. According to research, engaging with our senses is a key way in which we can feel more



Hassun El-Zafar, *HEAR*, installation view, 2022.
Photo David Lindsay, courtesy of The Art House.

connected to the natural world, and listening to nature is known to strengthen our bond with nature. This exhibition will present three stories from fascinating ecosystems on our planet; the mangroves of The United Arab Emirates, the tropical rainforests of Borneo and woodlands in Yorkshire.

Tony Fisher: Only the Lonely? **Project Space, 26 January–20 February 2022**

Only the Lonely? is a photography project by artist Tony Fisher that explores themes surrounding mental health and wellbeing. It is an ongoing investigation into one of the biggest crises faced by people in the UK today, the increasing epidemic of profound loneliness and disconnect from modern society.

Over the last 40 years, Fisher has battled loneliness and isolation which has created a personal narrative central to his work. His practice is deeply rooted in the representation of lived experience, both personal to him and the communities that he meets and connects with.

Fisher creates bold and characterful photographs and captures moments of hope amidst the increased anxious feelings felt by many during the 2020 national lockdowns, as isolation, depression and loneliness became more prevalent and visible. This timely project champions a sense of belonging throughout the recent challenging times. The Art House is delighted to present the most recent work in the series, which celebrates the individual spirits that come together to form cherished communities.



Tony Fisher,
Happy to Chat, 2019.
Courtesy of the artist.

**Mohammad Barrangi: Dreamland
Gallery, 30 March–5 June 2022**

Mohammad Barrangi presents his most comprehensive solo exhibition featuring his large-scale murals as well as revealing his first-ever sculptural works, developed using pioneering 3D-printing technology with the support of XPLOR, Production Park's state-of-the-art research and innovation centre for entertainment technology and production, based in Wakefield.

Born in Rasht, Iran in 1988, Barrangi travelled to Wakefield in 2017. His association with The Art House began as part of the Studio of Sanctuary residency programme, a one-of-a-kind initiative that supports artists who are refugees and asylum seekers to continue their artistic work. Since this time, Barrangi has quickly established a highly productive and internationally respected practice.



His work centres on experiences of travel, journeys, and the artist's lived experience with immigration and disability. Inspired by Iranian mythological stories and contemporary social upheaval events, he has developed a signature style of bold imagery that combines elements of Persian calligraphy, old scientific illustration, and storytelling.

Dreamland is a celebration of the artist's working relationship with The Art House and his incredible success over the recent years. Central to the gallery, and made specifically for this exhibition, Barrangi has created his first 3D sculptures based on his wonderful world of characters that feature in his prints, which are exhibited for the very first time.

Mohammad Barrangi,
Tanaz, 2021.
Courtesy of the artist.

Robert Broad: My North
Tiled Gallery, 30 March–15 May 2022

Wakefield-based photographer Robert Broad takes over the Tiled Gallery with his ongoing series of photographs that document the city and his family who lived there since 1985.

My North is a collection of work that documents the district from the early 1990s, a time when the artist first began to notice major changes within the local landscape and Wakefield centre, including the re-development of Westgate and the demolition of major buildings such as Ings Road School and Harlequin Hotel. During this period, Broad found new meaning in his practice and committed to documenting Wakefield evolving throughout the following years in an attempt to create an archive that local residents can feel connected to.



Robert Broad,
Wakefield Bus Station, 1998.
Courtesy of the artist.

Recently Broad built his own darkroom at home and started working through his archive of photography, sharing the images with the public. In 2021, The Art House launched its own accessible community Dark Room. Working with the facility, Broad has created new prints that can be seen on display for the first time.

Sam Metz
Making Solid: Unpredictable Bodies
Gallery, 18 June–13 August 2022



Sam Metz,
Stone and Radial, installation view, 2021.
Photo Andrew Quinn, courtesy of the artist.

Known for their highly engaging and profound projects that raise awareness of important issues surrounding disabled bodies and societal restrictions, Sam Metz will share their recent project which translates and shares the experiences of being a disabled neurodivergent performer.

Making Solid: Unpredictable Bodies features sculpture, drawing, animation and film that explores the concepts of 'choreographic objects' to investigate the relationship to disability, the body, and neurodivergence. Created through

movement and rhythm, the artist's work attempts to capture a range of 'interruptions', 'aberrations', and uncontrolled actions of disabled bodies and investigates how to make movement solid.

alabamathirteen

Tiled Gallery, 25 May–17 July 2022

2021 visiting resident artist alabamathirteen returns to The Art House to showcase work in progress, developed during her time staying onsite. A largely self-taught artist from Leeds, alabamathirteen's practice focuses on the barriers she experiences whilst navigating and negotiating the spaces that she occupies as a disabled, working-class woman.

Using photography, embroidery and sound, her work explores how we occupy our bodies, spaces and places both as individuals and as a society, particularly the concept of 'non-conforming' bodies as an act of defiance challenging who traditionally gets to take up the most space and whose voices get to be heard the loudest.



alabamathirteen,
The Engulfing, 2021.
Courtesy of the artist.

**Conversations with Nature: Helen Thomas,
Alison Critchlow and Natalie Dowse
Tiled Gallery, 27 July–21 August 2022**

Artist and Art House Studio holder Helen Thomas curates an exhibition of painters based across the UK, who respond to their natural environment. The exhibition will include contemporary painters Alison Critchlow based in Cumbria and Natalie Dowse based in Portsmouth alongside works by Helen Thomas from Wakefield.

The exhibition is a celebration of the artists' relationships with the natural environment, from plants that squeeze their way through the cracks in the pavement, to the uncanny or the familiar in the urban and natural landscape, and a recognition of their shared experience. Through the artists' interactions



Helen Thomas,
Yarrow and Nettle on Smyth Street, 2021.
Courtesy of the artist.

and emotional connections with nature, the exhibition will use the language of paint as a medium to explore the unpredictable beauty found within the natural world.

Critchlow, Dowse and Thomas all studied together at Falmouth School of Art, Cornwall, and 2022 marks 30 years since the artists graduated. The exhibition is a celebration of their passion to document nature, plants and place through painting and drawing.

Permindar Kaur: HOME
Gallery, 03 September–13 November 2022

Acclaimed sculptor and installation artist Permindar Kaur rose to international fame in the early 1990s with her playful approach to using objects related to childhood to explore the territory of cultural identity, home, and belonging.



Permindar Kaur,
Untitled - Bed, 2020.
Photo Thierry Bal, courtesy of the artist.

Perfectly situated at The Art House, *Home* is an ongoing exhibition of work surveying the artist's continuing interest in the 'public' and 'private' and a common central question in her practice: 'where is home?'.

The exhibition features work made by Kaur early in her career, alongside recently made pieces created specifically for this project during a summer residency at The Art House.

Kaur explores the difference between the 'private and public' by abruptly converting the gallery into a bedroom in a private home. Central to the exhibition is *Untitled (Bed)* (2020) a large steel sculpture, which upon closer inspection reveals a world of colourful creatures 'lurking' beneath it. These creatures are a conception of private thoughts and dreams, giving viewers a sense of domestic insecurities and vulnerabilities.

The Disabled Photographers' Society Tiled Gallery, 3 September–9 October 2022

This autumn The Art House is delighted to be hosting The Disabled Photographers' Society (DPS) annual photography competition exhibition in the Tiled Gallery.

The DPS was formed in 1968 to help make photography accessible to those with disabilities and access needs. Run by a team of volunteers, most of whom are disabled photographers themselves, they have developed a broad knowledge of how photography can be made accessible. Membership is open to all people regardless of experience and the Society's prime function is to promote and encourage disabled people to take up photography as a therapeutic and rewarding pursuit.

The exhibition is an annual celebration of the members work and will feature the winning photographers that range from breath-taking skylines to stunning nature shots, selected by a panel of judges including Emily Ryalls, Artist and Art House Darkroom Project Coordinator, *alabamathirteen*, Artist and current Art House residency awardee, and internally renowned photographer, Sunil Gupta.

Hannah Starkey: Partnership Project with the Hepworth Tiled Gallery, 21 October 2022–29 January 2023

This October, The Art House will present an exhibition of new work by a group of Yorkshire-born or based photographers. Produced in partnership with The Hepworth Wakefield and internationally renowned photographer Hannah Starkey, the exhibition will coincide with The Hepworth's presentation of the first major survey of Starkey's career, tracing the development of her work across two decades.

Throughout her career, Starkey's meticulously choreographed photographs have determinedly engaged with how women are represented in contemporary culture, an issue that is now centre stage. Starkey reveals individuals in moments of private reflection, alienation or social interaction that might otherwise go unseen. She is also witness to the powerful female presence in our cities, from those she encountered growing up in Belfast to women and girls at recent street protests in London.

The Hepworth Wakefield will present a series of photographs from Starkey's graduation show in 1997 that immediately brought her widespread acclaim, through to a newly commissioned body of work made in Wakefield in 2022 in collaboration with early-career female and non-binary photographers, as part of a wider creative professional development programme.



Hannah Starkey, *Untitled, October 1998, 1998*
© Hannah Starkey. Courtesy Maureen Paley, London

As part of this programme, The Art House will work in partnership with The Hepworth Wakefield, providing studio space and access to dark room facilities and will present a concurrent exhibition of the early career photographer's own work in the Tiled Gallery.

Hang Zhang
Gallery, 30 November 2022–05 February 2023

The Art House is dedicated to supporting creatives at all stages of their career. Hang Zhang is an artist and curator currently studying MA at the University of Leeds and will graduate in September 2022.

This winter, The Art House will present the first solo show of work by Zhang. Her work challenges the boundaries of art and explores the potential of various disciplines, including asemic and wordless writing, animal languages, extra-terrestrial life, and mortality. The exhibition is Zhang's



first public gallery show and a space for the artist to increase the ambition of her practice and test new ideas, bringing together these newly developed works, including interactive dress-up games for sheep, and large giant inflatable insects.

Hang Zhang,
Zoot Path, 2021.
Courtesy of the artist.

See below for full residency information for The Art House in Wakefield's 2022 programme.

Residencies

Jessie Davies

February 2022–February 2023



Jessie Davies,
Climate Change - Estuary Debris.
Courtesy of the artist.

Jessie Davies is an artist who works with painting to highlight the importance of the UK's fragile and threatened wetland environments, which play a vital role in our wider ecosystems. Working with acrylic and mixed media, and often incorporating discarded objects and materials found in reed-beds, her work references the impact of global climate change on these fragile ecologies.

Davies produces paintings by immersing herself into the reeds and foliage of this terrain, whilst extensively researching specific habitats and ecologies. Living with autism and multiple disabilities, and spending all her life in a wheelchair, Davies' access to and view of the rural environment

is from a particular angle. Her low viewing position, sitting amongst the reeds, provide her with an acute observation of overlooked and small aspects that nestle in the landscape, expressing clashes of human activity and nature's resilience.

Davies' recent work focuses on two local freshwater reed-beds on the Humber estuary which have been restored following saline incursion during tidal floods. The Art House will support the artist with a year-long residency throughout 2022, allowing her to reflect and move forward with her practice. It will provide her space to increase the ambition of her ideas and help her create her largest and most ambitious work to date.

CUTTER // NASH: The Quips

1 March–27 March 2022

CUTTER // NASH is a collaboration between two disabled sound and performance artists, Gareth Cutter and Gemma Nash, whose practice investigates and holds space for queer, non-normative bodies and voices. During their residency, CUTTER // NASH will develop *The Quips*, a research and performance project investigating radio broadcasting's relationship with disabled bodies and voices, and the history of rebellion and activism in pirate radio. Framed within the context of Covid-19, the artists will work with disabled people and those who were shielding



Gareth Cutter and Gemma Nash.
Courtesy of the artists.

through the pandemic, to bring their voices and contributions to the forefront of the project. As society begins ‘reopening’, the artists will explore how disabled and clinically extremely vulnerable people remain at the risk of being excluded once again, as digital and online access becomes less focused.

Moi Tran
Summer 2022



Moi Tran, *Hole Dig*, performance still, 2019.
Photo Trần Thảo Miên, courtesy of the artist.

Moi Tran is an artist of Vietnamese/Chinese heritage, who is currently exploring sound and emotional politics through performance and unconventional archival methods. Her practice involves building relationships with communities who live in the spaces of the margins. Her work is a celebration of the lives and experiences of those communities and advocates for the voice of the diaspora to examine how voice shape’s identity.

During her time at The Art House, Tran will invite local diaspora communities in Wakefield to contribute sounds that usually fall outside of mainstream archives to help reshape how future histories are told, performed and experienced.

Christopher Hanson

The Art House, 2 May–28 May 2022 / International US Residency, 18 September–28 October 2022

Portrait and figurative Painter Christopher Hanson classically trained at the London Academy of Representational Art (LARA), an atelier school that employs traditional, time-tested ways of teaching. His works take the form of large-scale realistic portraits of subjects, using traditional painting methods that present representations of Black bodies, and investigate his interest in painting Black skin. His works often explore the fear and fascination associated with dark skin and the depiction of the Black body as exotic, hyper-sexual and hypermasculine.

The Art House will support Hanson on an International research residency at *The Bo Bartlett Center* in Georgia, USA. Hanson is inspired and influenced by the work of Bo Bartlett, an American realist painter with a modernist vision, whose works finds beauty in the everyday, and in America's people, stories and landscapes. The project aims to connect the artists for the first time during the residencies, and Hanson will create new work to be included in a major solo exhibition in 2023.



Christopher Hanson, *Dusk*, 2021.
Courtesy of the artist.

Madhu Das and Samuel Nnorom in Partnership with The Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) September–November 2022



Samuel Nnorom, *After the Pandemic*, 2021.
Courtesy of the artist.

Every year the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) and The Art House support international early-to mid-career artists with a fully funded two-month supported residency, which provides development, networking and exhibition opportunities for artists who have not yet exhibited or studied in the UK. We are delighted that this summer, Madhu Das and Samuel Nnorom will take up this exciting opportunity.

Madhu Das is an artist who lives in Mumbai, India. His practice incorporates project-

based multidisciplinary expressions that are filtered from his research, oral history and the uncovering of stories connected to geography, history, community, or an individual persona focus on investigating the projection of identity onto the social and natural world.

Born in Nigeria, Samuel Nnorom was influenced by his mother's tailoring workshop and as a child experimented with colourful fabrics, sewing needles, and thread. He is currently working with Ankara fabric to explore ideas surrounding bubbles while interrogating personal experiences that relate to socio-political issues in Africa.

Both artists will spend time in the community and plan to develop and research the history of materials and textiles in Wakefield and the wider region. They will also have the opportunity to stay at the Royal Overseas League in London and spend time in the capital during Frieze week 2022.



Madhu Das,
The landscape that is not ours, 2017.
Courtesy of the artist.

Notes to Editors

The Art House

Drury Lane
Wakefield
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Opening Times

Monday: 09:00 - 20:00
Tuesday: 09:00 - 16:00
Wednesday: 09:00 - 20:00
Thursday: 09:00 - 16:00
Friday: 09:00 - 16:00
Saturday: 09:30 - 16:00
Sunday: 10:00 - 15:00

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 was one of 10 organisations shortlisted for The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Award for Civic Arts Organisations 2021. It manages the Wakefield Artwalk on behalf of the city's cultural organisations, Makey Wakey - an ongoing partnership with The Ridings Shopping Centre to repurpose meanwhile retail spaces and is the UK's first Studio of Sanctuary, a role which sees them engage Wakefield's Asylum Seeker, Refugee, and Settled communities in creative projects.

Social

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