

# Exhibitions

## Samuel Nnorom

### THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Main Gallery, 11 February–12 March 2023

Nigeria-based Samuel Nnorom presents his first-ever solo exhibition in the UK this February, following his 2021 residency at The Art House in partnership with the Royal Over-Seas League. The emerging artist spent his time here building upon his use of Ankara fabrics as a catalyst for exploring culture, identity and in particular, his personal experiences in relation to socio-political issues in Africa.

Reinvention and critical questioning are integral to Nnorom's creative process. Alongside a series of new, bold, and colourful textile sculptures, his exhibition will showcase a series of works embracing new mediums for the very first time, including performance photography and using synthetic latex to emulate skin as a fabric we wear. Key themes of migration and new and segregation run throughout his work, and the artist has created a new and exciting hanging installation to be revealed, that has been co-created with members of Wakefield's refugee and asylum-seeking community.



Samuel Nnorom, **After the Pandemic** (2022)  
Photo Robin Footin

Nnorom has a growing international reputation. He was a fellow at Guest Artist Space (GAS), a fellowship and residency selected by the Yinka Shonibare Foundation in summer 2022, and last December he was awarded the Art for Change Prize by M&C Saatchi and the Saatchi Gallery.

## Jessie Davies

### PERSPECTIVES

Tiled Gallery, 4 March–9 April 2023



Jessie Davies, **Climate Change - Encroaching**  
Courtesy the artist

Concerned with the UK's fragile and threatened wetland environments, artist Jessie Davies uses acrylic and mixed media to encourage conversations around the impact of global climate change on these fragile ecologies.

Living with autism and multiple disabilities, including spending her life in a wheelchair, Davies' access to and view of the rural environment is from a particular angle. By immersing herself in the reeds and foliage around Yorkshire, the artist spotlights her acute observation of overlooked and small details that nestle in the landscape.

Since February 2022, Davies has taken part in a year-long residency at The Art House, which has offered her time to reflect and move forward with her practice.

Although Davies is predominantly non-verbal, her artworks powerfully speak through her use of dynamic, bold and impressive textured techniques, which she has been able to build upon during her time at The Art House. This exciting new exhibition is the first major retrospective of the artist's work and journey, presenting her largest and most ambitious work to date, which include extending her practice into printmaking, ceramics and photography – all mediums that the artist has been able to work with for the very first time.

**Farrah Akbarali, Hannah Moulds, Krystle Patel, Maria Joranko,**

**Mariette Moor, Stela Brix, Vanessa Walters:**

**HER PERFORMANCE IS TAKING PLACE AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE WORLD**

Main Gallery, 29 March–14 May 2023

This new collaborative project brings together the work of some of the most exciting emerging talents working today, including Farrah Akbarali, Hannah Moulds, Krystle Patel, Maria Joranko, Mariette Moor, Stela Brix, and Vanessa Walters.

Having recently graduated from Goldsmiths University, London in July 2022, the seven female artists have come together to examine their shared interest in magic, language, and the body, and how deeply interwoven these themes are. Their long-term research project explores the experience and themes of tactile communication.



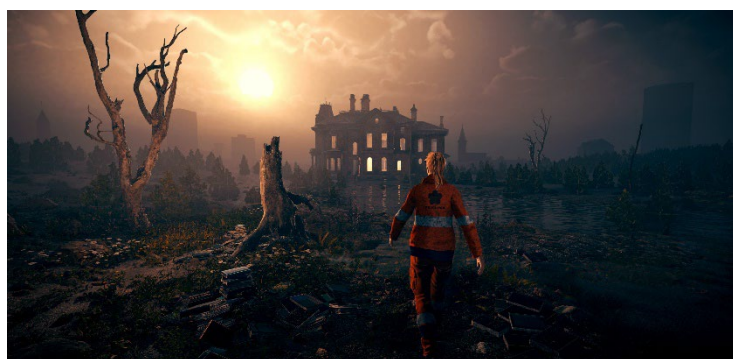
Courtesy Hannah Moulds and Stela Brix

This project looks closely at Clarice Lispector's novel *Água Viva* (1973), known for its innovative and unconventional writing process which transforms language into an emotionally charged, sensory experience. Inspired by this, the artists have developed a long-term research project exploring how humans experience the world, and attempt and fail to express their identity through words, using more fictional or poetic forms of language instead, as well as non-verbal communication, such as body language, touch or other sensory behaviour.

## **Dreaming Methods**

### **THE ABANDONED LIBRARY**

Tiled Gallery, 22 April–14 May 2023



Courtesy the artist.

Dreaming Methods present their brand-new immersive experience, which combines literature and gaming to navigate through a future world adversely affected by climate change.

Dreaming Methods are an award-winning creative studio, led by artists Andy Campbell and Judi Alston and based at The Art House. Their aim is to engage people of all ages with timely and important contemporary global issues through their unique and compelling

fictional experiences. With a strong focus on reimagining writing and literacy, audiences can interact in their immersive worlds, driving the narrative to make changes.

**The Abandoned Library** is set 80 years from now in the North of the UK and narrates a derelict library that has been affected by years of catastrophic environmental impact. Audiences are invited to enter the fictional experience and interact in their immersive world. Dreaming Methods focus on reimagining writing and literacy, and present a genre of immersive storytelling that is incredibly powerful in engaging with people of all ages, in accessible ways. Players will be guided by an AI Librarian to ultimately construct a better outcome for this work, which acts as a provocation to get people thinking about climate change and the consequences of not acting now.

## Mohammad Hafeda

### THE TIME WHILE WAITING

Tiled Gallery, 27 May–25 June 2023

Mohamad Hafeda is an artist, writer and academic whose practice focuses on issues of borders, refuge, displacement, representation, and spatial rights.

**The Time While Waiting** is a brand-new film centred around the experiences of Wakefield's refugee and asylum-seeking community. Shown for the first time, the film is set in the backdrop of an asylum seekers' accommodation centre opposite a high-security prison in Wakefield. Displaced protagonists were invited to record their experiences through discussions and activities based on their skills and pastimes. Through this, they demonstrated subtle resistance practices as well as coping mechanisms during their time while waiting for settled status in the UK.



Mohammad Hafeda, **The Time While Waiting**  
Image courtesy the artist.

The stories they chose to share with the artist expose how time is mechanised as a 'border', trapping people in the country's legal system, while the city's urban setting and support network become boundaries for both their legal and temporal confinements. Collectively, the protagonists construct a timeline of refuge, alongside the artist weaving a parallel timeline of legislation that shapes their experiences; dating back to the first UK immigration law in 1971 and ending with the latest Borders Bill in 2022. An incredibly eye-opening interpretation of immigration in the UK, this film will be screened alongside related material and resources.



## Kate McDonnell

### PROCESSING

Main Gallery, 31 May–9 July 2023

The Art House will stage the first major solo show by Kate McDonnell, an installation artist and sculptor whose work is informed by her ongoing investigation of how the symptoms and behaviours of mental illness can act as a mechanism for creating artworks.

**Processing** brings together a series of works investigating the act of repetitive movements to self-soothe, and is evident of purposeless activity and restless movement, impulsiveness and agitation. Fascinated by the understanding of art as a tactile coping mechanism for mental illness,

Kate McDonnell, **Spendthrift** (2021)



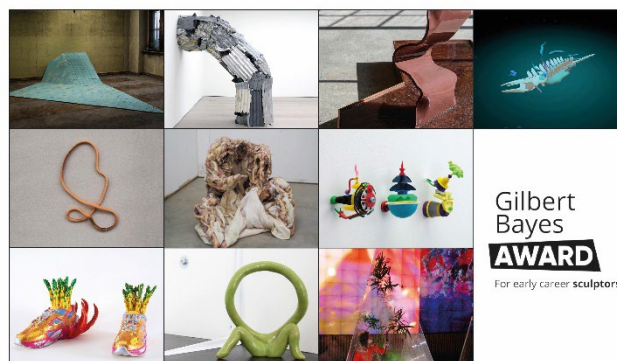
McDonnell creates a body of work rooted in Process art and influenced by Postminimalism, to reveal ephemeral and repetitive artworks that are both vulnerable and relatable to many.

Shown together for the very first time, the works in the exhibition will invite viewers to consider the sublime qualities of mania, or the translation of thought to physical action in relation to mental illness, and how these are incorporated into everyday life. McDonnell's sculpture and wall-based works are impressive feats of endurance, physical exertion and repetition.

**The Royal Society of Sculptors presents:  
THE GILBERT BAYES AWARD  
(2022 Exhibition)**

Main Gallery, 15 July–13 August 2023

The Art House is delighted to collaborate with The Royal Society of Sculptors (RSS) to stage **The Gilbert Bayes Award (2022 Exhibition)**. The collaborative exhibition brings some of the most outstanding talents working within the field of sculpture production to Wakefield – a place with a renewed reputation as a city of sculpture.



Collage of each artists' work

The annual Gilbert Bayes Award provides vital support for early-career sculptors during what can be a difficult transition from their studies to professional practice. The exhibition brings together the 2022 awardees, including ten exciting artists; including Catriona Robertson, Emily Woolley, Iwona Rozbiewska, Lewis Davidson, Louisa Johnson, Rosalie Wammes, Sasha Tishkov, Veronika Neukirch, Yambe Tam and Zara Ramsay.

We are also excited to announce that the final works will be selected and curated by Thorp Stavri, a London-based curatorial platform, comprising exciting curators Eric Thorp and Nicholas Stavri. The exhibition will bring together an incredibly wide range of themes, from investigations of space and architecture to commentary on culture and social issues, from the environment to other-worldly realities, and much more.

**Tony Wade  
ANDROMEDA**

Tiled Gallery, 8 July–27 August 2023



Tony Wade, **Andromeda Figurine**  
Courtesy the artist.

As well as welcoming national and international artists to Wakefield, The Art House is dedicated to supporting the work of local creatives. Wakefield-based artist and TAH Studio Holder Tony Wade investigates the communities and stories within the city and the wider Yorkshire area, translating his findings into original paintings, sculpture, installation and music for his latest project, **Andromeda**.

For this exhibition, Wade will bring to life the story of *Andromeda*, a popular glass figurine developed by the bottle factory, Bagley Glass, in Knottingley in the 1800s. As the town gained popular status for glass-making throughout the Victorian era, workers began smuggling the figurine out of the factory due to such high demand, and reportedly

threw the glass into a canal bed nearby to avoid being caught by their employer.

In the development of **Andromeda**, Wade embarked on a 28km canal-side walk from Knottingley bridge to Goole, documenting the journey. Using his own images of the figurine being thrown into the water, Wade collaborated with composers and musicians to interpret a musical score by overlaying a musical stave on the glass's entry point and the splash of the water, thus generating its own piece of original music. Inspired by both the story and the artist's experience of visiting the sites, the exhibition will feature relevant material, maps and documentation. These will accompany a brand-new sculpture and a film featuring musicians performing the musical scores on the top deck of a barge as it sails from Goole to Knottingley.

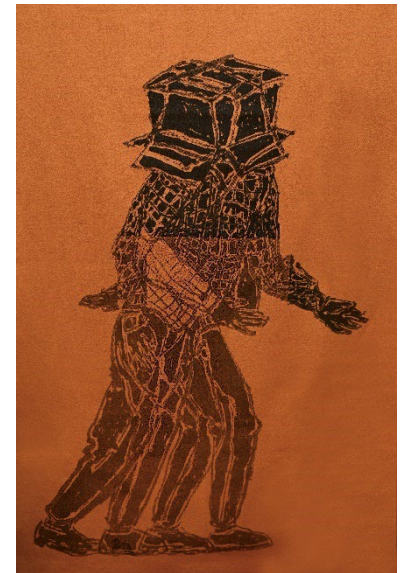
## Madhu Das

### FRAGILE / FRAGMENT / FERMENTATION

Main Gallery, 19 August–1 October 2023

Artist Madhu Das presents his first ever solo exhibition in the UK at The Art House this Summer. Following his time as TAH's Artist in Residence in 2022, **fragile / fragment / fermentation** brings together a new body of work inspired by the relationships Das built while getting to know and working with the local community in creative workshops at TAH.

In an ongoing investigation of how cultural and political factors can impact one's life, Das uses a multitude of mediums to explore how trauma, anxiety and belief is connected to geography, history and community. For this exhibition, the artist has created a series of new algraphy, ceramics, drawings, photographs and textile sculptures. The collection of work speaks of the divergent, yet deeply intertwined stories from the refugee and asylum-seeking community.



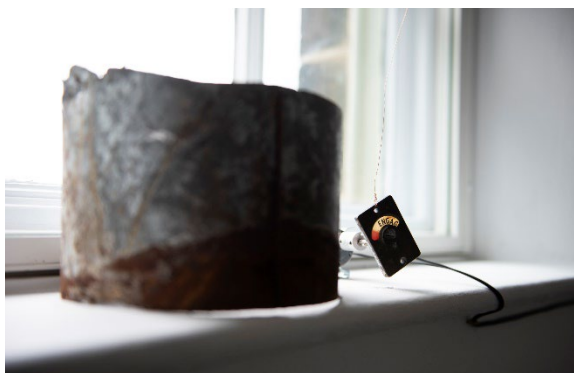
Courtesy the artist.

The artist aims to highlight the importance of the composite and blended cultural fabric of diverse communities, such as the community that has emerged in Wakefield. The exhibition is a first-chance opportunity to present brand new sculpture using knitting gestures and techniques from his friendly skill-sharing encounters with groups accessing TAH. As the participants come from different backgrounds and have language as a barrier, Das created a new work inspired by and dedicated to the community bond experienced, through the act of and passion for sharing different cultural knitting processes.

## Ryoko Akama

### CULTURAL FLUIDITY

Residency and exhibition, Summer



Ryoko Akama, **the way they are** (2019)

Photo: Stephen Harvey

This summer, Huddersfield-based artist Ryoko Akama will present a new body of work following a residency of exploration into her untold Zainichi (Korean immigrant in Japan) family history.

Describing herself as 'culturally fluid' with Korean-Japanese-British nationalities, Akama will work with her family and women with similar backgrounds, to investigate Korean immigrant stories and how her own personal cultural 'root' has shaped her as a female artist.

The project will explore the ideas and stories of loss, identity, injustice, contradiction, and pride. Akama will use this residency at The Art House to explore 'Cultural fluidity'; a term coined to describe those who do not grow up in a homogeneous cultural environment, or without a sense of pride in one's culture, nationality and common background with fellow citizens. The outcomes of the project will be translated into photography and film, a new expansion to the artist's current practice which includes installation and performance. The artist to create new work in TAH's Community Darkroom, and will go on display later this year.