

The Art House

2023 SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT

The Art House in Wakefield is delighted to announce its 2023 Spring and Summer artistic programme, which features an exciting range of exhibitions, residencies, and artist support programmes.

The Art House (TAH) presents a season of bold exhibitions that proudly supports emerging or mid-career artists, most of whom are working in the field of sculpture or showcasing work for the first time. A major highlight includes the new collaborative project, **Her performance is taking place at the beginning and end of the world**. This exhibition features seven exciting emerging artists and recent Goldsmith's graduates; Farrah Akbarali, Hannah Moulds, Krystle Patel, Maria Joranko, Mariette Moor, Stela Brix and Vanessa Walters.

2023 will also see major firsts for artists, including the showing of Kate McDonnell's first solo exhibition, **Processing**, which explores how the symptoms of mental illnesses can act as a mechanism for creating artwork. A premier solo presentation of work will also come from Jessie Davies, following her 2021 residency at TAH. Davies is a predominately non-verbal artist who uses the language of paint to highlight the importance of the UK's fragile ecosystems, as seen in her show **Perspectives**.

TAH welcomes a new partnership with The Royal Society of Sculptors. Perfectly situated in Wakefield as a place with a renowned reputation as a city of sculpture, we will present the **Gilbert Bayes Award Exhibition**; a collaborative exhibition bringing some of the most outstanding practices of artists who work in the field of 3D production. The ten exciting artists include Catriona Robertson, Emily Woolley, Iwona Rozbiewska, Lewis Davidson, Louisa Johnson, Rosalie Wammes, Sasha Tishkov, Veronika Neukirch, Yambe Tam and Zara Ramsay.

Yorkshire-based Ryoko Akama will take up residency and present her new project, **Cultural Fluidity**. Describing herself as a 'culturally fluid' female of Korean-Japanese-British nationalities, the artist will explore her untold family history and collaborate with invited female artists of Asian heritage to develop new work for an exhibition later this summer.

TAH is committed to supporting and promoting the practices of artists who have not yet exhibited in the UK. Our international representation continues with the first major presentation by Nigeria-based Samuel Nnorom, who creates bold and colourful installations using Ankara fabric to explore African socio-political issues. TAH will also spotlight a brand-new solo project, **fragile / fragment / fermentation**, by Madhu Das, marking the artist's first and most comprehensive collection of new work in the UK. Das, who lives in Mumbai, India, creates work inspired by oral history and the uncovering of stories connected to geography, history and community. Our programme places artists at the heart of our community. Both Nnorom and

Das spent two months at TAH last winter as part of a partnership with The Royal Over-Seas League, and worked closely with the Studio of Sanctuary community to make new work for their shows.

The Studio of Sanctuary initiative plays an important role within our programme, using creative processes to bring people together in Wakefield, and contribute to building a cohesive community that values diversity and acceptance. We are delighted to present the new film and project, **The Time While Waiting**, by Mohamad Hafeda; an artist who focuses on issues of displacement, representation and rights. This new work, set in the backdrop of an asylum seekers' accommodation centre opposite a high-security prison in Wakefield, invites displaced protagonists to record their experiences, as well as coping mechanisms, during their time while waiting for settled status in the UK.

TAH is a hub for creativity, housing a wide variety of artists in over 50 studios throughout the building. This year we will support two new ambitious projects with our Studio Holders Tony Wade and the duo Dreaming Methods, led by artists Judi Alston and Andy Campbell.

Dreaming Methods will present their brand-new immersive experience, **The Abandoned Library**, combining virtual reality and gaming to introduce a futuristic world, adversely affected by climate change. Wakefield-based Tony Wade, who investigates missed moments and stories of everyday life in Yorkshire, will bring to life **Andromeda**; the fascinating true story of the community at Bagley Glass – a leading glass manufacturer in the Victorian era. Its workers would steal a small sought-after figurine, known as *Andromeda*, and attempt to hide them in the Knottingley canal. Wade's exhibition will creatively reveal this hidden story through musical composition, performance and sculpture.

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 as part of **Artwalk Wakefield**, which celebrates creativity across the city. Our Artist in Residence programme and Artwalk will make a return in the new year.

Damon Jackson-Waldock, Programme Director at The Art House, comments, *“At The Art House, we recognise and value the importance of supporting local and international artists at all stages of their practice. Having hosted Jessie Davies, Samuel Nnorom and Madhu Das as Residency Artists in 2022, I am thrilled to see their ongoing practices evolve into their first major exhibitions in the UK. To be a part of these journeys is incredibly special, and I am excited to build more relationships with artists in the new year.*”

The Spring/Summer exhibition programme presents an exciting platform for new collaborations in 2023. From supporting graduates of Goldsmith's University to a new partnership with The Royal Society of Sculptors, I feel honoured to build such important connections across the country for Wakefield, and am delighted to be presenting these shows alongside the work of such inspiring local talent next year.”

The start of 2023 offers the last chance to visit recent Leeds University graduate Hang Zhang's first major solo show **Through the Party Ring**, and **Reframing, Reclaiming**, an exhibition bringing together the works of seven artists living, or with roots, in Yorkshire. The artists include Amy D'Agorne, Caitlin Hall, Emily Ryalls, H. Feather, Joanne Coates, Níamh Donnelly, and Sally Barton. Both shows are not to be missed!

For further information on The Art House Wakefield's 2023 artistic programme, visit:
<https://the-arthouse.org.uk/>

ENDS

For further information please contact Olivia Savage at The Art House:
olivia@the-arthouse.org.uk / 01924 312002

See below for full listings of The Art House, Wakefield's 2023 artistic programme.

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.



Courtesy Hannah Moulds and Stela Brix

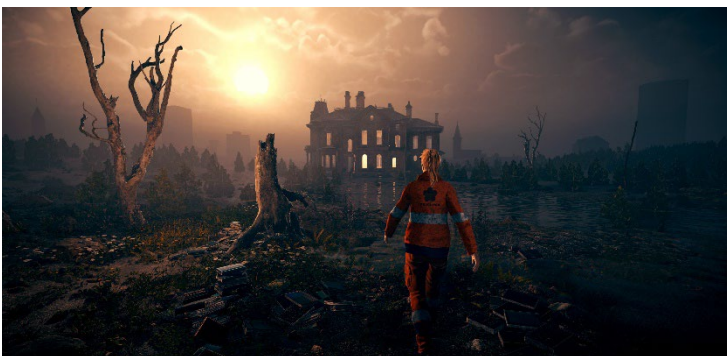
Having recently graduated from Goldsmiths University, London in July 2022, the seven female artists have come together to examine their shared interest in magic, language, and the body, and how deeply interwoven these themes are. Their long-term research project explores the experience and themes of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

This project looks closely at Clarice Lispector's novel *Agua 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)

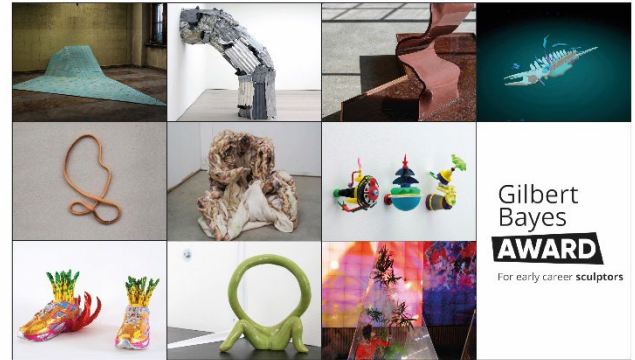
McDonnell creates a body of work rooted in Process art and influenced by Postminimalism, to reveal ephemeral and repetitive artworks that are both vulnerable and relatable to many.

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.

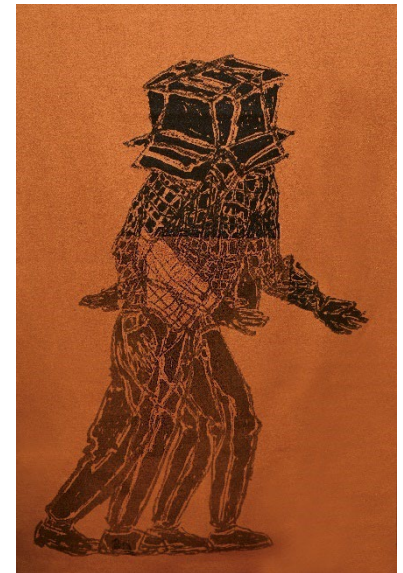
Madhu Das

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.

Notes to Editors

Press contact: Olivia Savage / olivia@the-arthouse.org.uk / 01924 312002

Images and interviews by arrangement.

The Art House

Drury Lane, Wakefield
WF1 2TE, 01924 312000

Opening times

Monday: 10 am–4 pm

Tuesday: 10 am–4pm

Wednesday: 10am–4pm

Thursday: 10 am–4pm

Friday: 10am–4pm

Saturday: 9:30am–4pm

Sunday: Closed

Social

Twitter: @TheArtHouseUK

Facebook: /theartouse.wakefield

Instagram: @theartouseuk

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 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.

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/>.