

# SITE GALLERY

**Press release**  
10 July 2019

## **FIVE LOCAL SHEFFIELD ARTISTS TAKE PART IN CROSS-VENUE WORK-IN-PROGRESS EXHIBITION AS PLATFORM RETURNS.**

- **Platform 2019 exhibition opens at Site Gallery, Bloc Projects and Yorkshire Artspace, Persistence Works on Thursday 8 August 2019**
- **Artists: Alison J Carr, Yuen Fong Ling, Zoyander Street, Lucy Vann and Siân Williams**

### **Public opening, Thursday 8 August, 6 – 8pm**

Platform 2019 (8 August – 1 September 2019) highlights the work of five artists taking part in the Freelands Artists Programme – a rolling five-year initiative supporting two-year paid residencies for emerging artists in the Sheffield City Region, funded by The Freelands Foundation.

Alison J Carr, Yuen Fong Ling, Zoyander Street, Lucy Vann and Siân Williams are part of the first cohort in this new visual arts funding programme that provides over £1.5 million support to national institutions championing emerging talent.

Platform – an established artistic development programme at Site Gallery – gives the galleries over to an artist, or group of artists, to make new work in public. For this edition, the exhibition will be presented at Site Gallery, Yorkshire Artspace and Bloc Projects.

Artists exhibiting at Site Gallery are:

- **Zoyander Street** – an artist researcher and critic, with a practice that focuses on videogames but also involves other forms of media art and (mis)uses of technology.
- **Lucy Vann**, whose practice spans video, performance, installation and sculpture and involves the recording and reinterpreting of overlooked moments and behaviours within daily life; often using gathered or incidental material.
- **Siân Williams**, who works primarily with sculpture, performance, and film. Using found or domestic materials she creates playful objects that invoke props or remnants of stage or film sets.

Alison J Carr will be showing at **Bloc Projects**. Through her artwork she responds to the constant stream of images of women we are surrounded by in magazines, films and commercials that reiterate the connection between perfect female bodies and commodification.

Yuen Fong Ling is at Yorkshire Artspace, Persistence Works. Yuen's projects explore the construction of identity through the interpretation and production of others, where historical narratives and the artist's body and biography (as the 'tactical' life model) playfully intersect.

Site Gallery Artistic Director Sharna Jackson says

"Our five artists – and our partner institutions – have had a fascinating and enjoyable first year on the Freelands Artist Programme. The first work-in-progress exhibition promises to be exciting and we look forward to welcoming everyone – and receiving applications for year two."

Audiences are invited to an opening event across all three venues on Thursday 8 August, 6 – 8pm. Families will have the opportunity to explore the artists' creative process and make their own artwork in response, by participating in a family friendly workshop on August 24 at 1pm.

**ENDS**

**For more information, images or interviews please contact Kirsty Young at Site Gallery on [kirsty.young@sitegallery.org](mailto:kirsty.young@sitegallery.org) / 0114 281 2077**

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### **Listings**

Site Gallery

1 - 5 Brown Street,

Sheffield

S1 2BS

Opening hours

Monday – Wednesday: 11 - 6

Thursday: 11 - 8

Friday – Saturday: 11 - 6

Sunday: 11 - 4

Entry price: Free

### **Notes to editors**

Platform 2019 is funded by The Freelands Foundation. The Freelands Foundation was created to support artists and cultural institutions, to broaden audiences for the visual arts; and to enable all young people to engage actively with the creation and enjoyment of art.

**The second year of the programme is open for applications; deadline Monday 2nd September at 23:59.**

Partners on the [Freelands Artist Programme](#) are [Site Gallery](#), [Bloc Projects](#), [Museums Sheffield](#), [S1 Artspace](#), and [Yorkshire Artspace](#).

## **Artists' Biographies**

**Siân Williams** (1980, UK) works primarily with sculpture, performance, and film. Using found or domestic materials she creates playful objects that invoke props or remnants of stage or film sets. Williams is interested in the point between materiality and imagination and the narratives that emerge from those spaces. In 2017 Williams joined Katz Mulk; a collective working at the intersection of music, performance, and visual art who seek to inhabit the marginal spaces in-between improvisation and structure. Williams completed a BA in Fine Art at Falmouth College of Arts in 2002 and in 2015 graduated with an MA with Distinction from Sheffield Institute of Arts.

### **Zoyander Street**

I am an artist, researcher, and critic. My practice focuses on videogames, but also involves other forms of media art and (mis)uses of technology, including livecoding music, hardware hacking, and glitch art. I like to work with toxic garbage, be that through recycling old computers that were destined for landfill, or through recontextualising trauma in history and ethnography. I use a space at Replicast Art Studios to play with computers and electronics: I make interactive works using videogame creation tools, take apart old devices and make them do new things using Arduinos, and create non-fiction works using hypertext, video, and playful new media.

**Alison J Carr's** practice began as photographic, and now spills into videos, collages, and performances. Through her artwork she responds to the constant stream of images of women we are surrounded by in magazines, films and commercials that reiterate the connection between perfect female bodies and commodification. She consciously reframes the female body as glamorous and imperfect, imagining the pleasure of entertainment as a site for agency, radical thought, and disruptive intentions.

Carr studied at the California Institute of the Arts, absorbing both the critical dialogue and the lure of the Hollywood facade. Following this she completed a PhD at Sheffield Hallam University where she had gained her BA in Fine Art. Recently, her book *Viewing Pleasure and Being A Showgirl: How Do I Look?* was published by Routledge.

**Yuen Fong Ling** (b.1972, Salford, UK) is an artist, curator, researcher and lecturer. Graduated from the MFA at Glasgow School of Art, 2007, and completed the Fine Art PhD at University of Lincoln, 2016, titled "A Body of Relations: Reconfiguring the Life Class". Ling is based at Bloc Studios, Sheffield and lectures in Fine Art at Sheffield Institute of Arts, developing multi-disciplinary approaches to socially engaged and performance based art practice. Projects explore the construction of identity through the interpretation and production of others, where historical narratives and the artist's body and biography (as the 'tactical' life model) playfully intersect.

**Lucy Vann** (b.1987) studied at the Manchester School of Art and the Royal College of Art. Her practice spans video, performance, installation and sculpture and involves the recording and reinterpreting of overlooked moments and behaviours within daily life; often using gathered or incidental material. Recent works have referenced the habits, language and structures surrounding the construction, development and maintenance of the self. Lucy has exhibited nationwide, most recently at Bloc Projects for a solo show as part of their Test Bed series. She has a studio at S1 Artspace and lectures at the Manchester School of Art.

## **About Site Gallery**

Led by Co-Directors Judith Harry and Sharna Jackson, Site Gallery Sheffield's contemporary art space specialising in new media, moving image and performance. Pioneering emerging art practices and ideas, Site works in partnership with local, regional and international collaborators to nurture artistic talent and support the development of contemporary art.

It is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation with revenue funding from Sheffield City Council. Over the last few years it has presented solo projects by artists including established artists such as Mike Kelley (USA), Jeremy Deller (UK), Sophie Calle (Fr) and UK first with Eva and Franco Mattes (It) and Pilvi Takala (FN). The Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded Society of Explorers runs throughout the year supporting young people in the city to make unique connections with artists and gain new skills and learning. In 2015, Site Gallery presented its new commissioned work in over 40 cities in 20 countries including Sydney, Beijing, Thessaloniki and Basel. \_

In 2018 Site Gallery re-opened after a building programme, which trebled the scale of its public areas. In 2019 Site Gallery celebrates its 40th year.

[www.sitegallery.org](http://www.sitegallery.org)