

SITE GALLERY

Press Release / July 2021

PLATFORM 20 EXHIBITION OPENS AT SITE GALLERY, BLOC PROJECTS AND YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE, PERSISTENCE WORKS ON TUESDAY 27 JULY



Image: Victoria Lucas, Entanglement (2021), Video Still.

- **Platform 20 exhibition dates: Tuesday 27 July – Sunday 22 August 2021.**
- **Artists: James Clarkson, Maud Haya-Baviera, Victoria Lucas, Conor Rogers and Joanna Whittle.**

Platform 20

Multi-venue public opening event [TBC]

Platform 20 (27 July – 22 August) features the work of five Sheffield based artists: James Clarkson, Maud Haya-Baviera, Victoria Lucas, Conor Rogers and Joanna Whittle. The multisite exhibition and supporting public programme of talks, workshops and events presents a fascinating material and conceptual insight into artists' work developed during their two-year residency with Sheffield's visual arts organisations.

Platform is an established artistic development programme at Site Gallery which allows artists to explore new ideas in a public space, testing new thinking and research with

engaged audiences. For this edition, the exhibition will be presented at Site Gallery, Yorkshire Artspace and Bloc Projects.

The artists began their residencies in 2019 and are five of twenty from the Sheffield City Region, taking part in a rolling five-year initiative funded through the [Freelands Artists Programme](#). Each artist receives a two-year paid residency which includes investment in professional development, production as well as opportunities to exhibit.

Platform 20: Heavy Water at Site Gallery – Maud Haya-Baviera, Victoria Lucas and Joanna Whittle

- Group show at Site Gallery.
- Maud Haya-Baviera makes work characterised by themes of identity and cultural belonging and how one influences the other. She works with a variety of different mediums, ranging from sculpture to photography, drawing and new media.
- Victoria Lucas often incorporates sculptural elements with video, photography, sound and performance as part of an installation-based practice. She works in response to geographic place, undertaking fieldwork to reclaim associated cultural and material references.
- Joanna Whittle, is a painter who also uses ceramics as part of her practice. Her paintings unravel traditional landscape tropes; creating rich and seductive miniature paintings which draw the viewer into an uneasy world.

Platform 20: K-House at Bloc Projects – James Clarkson

- Solo show at Bloc Projects.
- James Clarkson is interested in understanding the relationship between everyday objects, culture and technology. This investigation is underpinned by a fetishised interest into materiality; his sculptures sometimes exist as a bricolage of hacked up, raw edged, repurposed objects and at other times are shiny, slick, glossy replicas.

Platform 20: Manor Boy at Yorkshire Artspace, Persistence Works – Conor Rogers.

- Solo show at Yorkshire Artspace, Persistent Works.
- Conor Rogers works primarily focus on painting though also translates into sculpture and poetry. His art practice is influenced by a very personal relationship he has with a time or place, combined with a critical approach towards painting as an object. The subjects of his ideas touch upon concerns/interests towards our everyday British environments, daily happenings, cultural identities, and the sense of self in Northern Britain.

Site Gallery Programme Director Angelica Sule says:

'Through shifting and difficult times, our five artists have worked hard to develop nuanced and complex work for what promises to be an outstanding interim exhibition. It will be a galvanising moment for the artists and partner venues, working collectively at a time of isolation.'



Platform 20 upcoming public events:

Memoria Technica-Memory Rope Making with Des Pawson and Joanna Whittle

Workshop, outside on the square

Saturday 31 July, 2-4pm

Join knot expert and ropemaker Des Pawson and artist Joanna Whittle in the creation of memory ropes in an exploration of the ritual of remembering in a response to recent times.

In-Conversation with Maud Haya-Baviera and John Bloomfield (Wysing Arts Centre)

InConversation, online

Tuesday 17 August, 6-7.30pm

Join Maud Haya-Baviera and curator John Bloomfield, Wysing Arts Centre, for an inconversation exploring Haya-Baviera's two new commissions for *Platform 20: Heavy Water*, currently showing at Site Gallery.

More information on public events coming soon. [Please keep an eye out on our website.](#)

For more information, images or interviews please contact Rosie Thompson at Site Gallery on rosie.thompson@sitegallery.org.

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**SITE
GALLERY**



**Freelands
Foundation**



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

SITE GALLERY EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11am–6pm
Wednesday	11am–6pm
Thursday	11am–6pm
Friday	11am–6pm
Saturday	11am–6pm
Sunday	11am–4pm

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12pm–5:45pm
Thursday	12pm–5:45pm
Friday	12pm–5:45pm
Saturday	12pm–5:45pm
Sunday	Closed

BLOC PROJECTS EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12pm–6pm
Thursday	12pm–6pm
Friday	12pm–6pm
Saturday	12pm–6pm
Sunday	Closed

Entry price: Free

LISTINGS

Site Gallery
1 Brown Street
Sheffield S1
2BS

Bloc Projects
71 Eyre Lane
Sheffield
S1 4RB

Yorkshire Artspace, Persistence Works
21 Brown Street
Sheffield
S1 2BS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Platform 20 is funded by The Freelands Foundation through the The Freelands Artists Programme. 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.

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

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

James Clarkson

[James Clarkson](#)'s practice is interested in the different scales of technology and the coded language of business data management. Exploring how information can have both global and bodily implications, his sculptural pieces are recombinations of disarticulated forms – modular steel frames, stationary trays, floating numbers and spreadsheet formulae – that give physical 'shape' to the immaterial systems undergirding our lives in late capitalism.

As communication and information pass through platforms, interfaces and users, they take on different forms for Clarkson. But what kind of power dynamics exist in these channels? How do online and digital spaces conceal information as much as they invite us to share intimate aspects of ourselves in an attention-grabbing economy?

For K-House, Clarkson will be exploring the architecture of the office space as the physical interface between our work, selves and these complex chains of information. The work will manifest itself as a series of desktop, wall-mounted and floor-based sculptures, turning the gallery at the Bloc Projects into an abstracted office environment. A uniform series of desks are designed to hold a mesh of fragmented language and diagrammatic visualisations, alongside

which a number of other strange bureaucratic assemblages are stacked, hung and shelved. While each of these elements will be conceptually specific, it is also not entirely important that they are fully understood; rather, they materialise just some of the unexpected intermingling between networks, labour and subjectivities.

Maud Haya-Baviera

[Maud Haya-Baviera](#) was born in France and currently lives and works in Sheffield, UK. She works with a variety of media and methods including video, photography, sculpture and installation employing the strategies of appropriation, performance and participation. Her recent works, *Things Fall Apart* and *Wish you were here*, respond to a sense of isolation heightened by recent times. Within these works, several depictions of cultural histories have been playfully appropriated to question past representations and to construct new narratives. Her current interest lies in collecting images that have migrated through different cultural perspectives; this includes postcards, films, advertisements, TV series and archives. This material is digitised to create moving images that are intense and emotional fabrications, able to convey both personal and social histories.

She has exhibited her work in both solo and group shows internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include, *Some Palaces*, Künstlerhaus Dortmund, Germany (2019). Other recent exhibitions and screenings include *Big Screen Southend*, Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, UK (2021/current), *Talking Sense*, The Portico Library, Manchester, UK (2020), *SALTO Verbindt*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2019), *Doc/Fest, Global Citizens Strand screenings*, Sheffield, UK (2019), *In Common*, The University of Derby, UK (2019), *Anonyme Zeichner*, Galerie im Körnerpark, Berlin, Germany (2018), *Moving Image Festival*, Balaclafa Carn, Caernarfon, Wales (2018), *Traverse Vidéo*, Institut Supérieur d'Arts, Toulouse, France (2017), *Objets Singuliers*, 34th Festival International De Court Métrage, Aix-en-Provence, France (2016), *Contemporary Art Ruhr*, Directors Lounge, Essen Zollverein, Germany (2016), *Obliqua*, Fábrica Braço de Prata, Lisbon, Portugal (2016).

In addition, Haya-Baviera was recently awarded a Dover Prize for the production of new works and preparation towards a solo show. She has received a number of other awards in relation to international projects and towards the production of new works. These include an Artist Residency at the prestigious Kuenstlerhaus in Dortmund, Germany in 2019 culminating in a solo show. Between 2018 and 2019 she was artist in residence at The University of Derby, UK, and in 2018, she was awarded a grant by Making Ways, for the Research and Development of a video work, which explores the repercussions of the Spanish Civil War over different generations.

Victoria Lucas

[Victoria Lucas](#) lives and works in Sheffield. Recent artworks reference the language of quarrying and material extraction, as creative processes deconstruct and reconstitute ravaged landscapes and notions of female experience. Photogrammetry, video editing and 3D modelling techniques are combined with sculptural, sound and photographic processes.

The artist's voice becomes central to these works, as women's experiences are symbolically dug out of the land through narration and performed action. These visual methods of remapping speak of a posthuman re-connection with the organic, as a reclamation of female subjectivity away from the dominating hold of extractive capitalism. This project also forms part of Lucas' practice-led PhD enquiry at the Culture & Creativity Research Institute, which she is undertaking part-time at Sheffield Hallam University. Lucas has also recently been accepted on to The Posthuman & New Materialism course at Utrecht Summer School (2021), directed by Rosi Braidotti.

Lucas won the SOLO award™ in 2016, and has artworks in public and private collections, such as the Tate Archive, MOMA New York, V&A museum and The Media Math collection. She has exhibited in solo exhibitions at Airspace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (2017); with Chiara Williams Contemporary at London Art Fair (2017); Haarlem Artspace, Wirksworth (2018) and HOME, Manchester (2017). She has exhibited in group shows at The Hepworth Wakefield (2010, 2021); Millennium Galleries, Sheffield (2017) and Caraboo Projects, Bristol (2019). Commissions include a permanent touchscreen artwork for the NHS Wilberforce Health Centre in Hull (2011); a neon artwork for the Leeds Arts University collection (2012); a video artwork for the National Portrait Gallery, London (2014); and an outdoor sculpture series for Threshold, Leeds (2021). She holds a BA in Fine Art Sculpture from Norwich University of the Arts (2004) and an MFA in Fine Art from The University of Leeds (2007). Victoria is a parttime Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Central Lancashire, and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Conor Rogers

[Conor Rogers](#) is an award winning Sheffield-based artist and graduate of Sheffield Hallam University. In 2019 he won the 1st Prize at the UK Young Artist of year award held at Saatchi gallery, London. His works primarily focus on painting though his work also translates into sculpture and poetry. Specifically for the work presented for Platform, he focused on using the paddling pool as an art object. His art practice is influenced by a very personal relationship he has with a time or place, combined with a critical approach towards painting as an object. The subjects of his ideas touch upon concerns/interests towards our everyday British environments, daily happenings, cultural identities, and the sense of self in Northern Britain.

He was shortlisted for the John Moores painting prize 2014, and exhibited as a part of Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2015 at Primary, Nottingham & ICA, London. Selected shows include Manchester and New York with Paper Gallery 2014, Scottish Queen Gallery, Sheffield 2015. He took part in UKYA's Festival in Derby 2016, and represented the UK at the 'Mediterranea 18 Young Artists Biennale', Albania 2017. He was Shortlisted for the John Ruskin Prize 2017 and exhibited in a group show for the British Council and UKYA in South Korea's National Assembly. In 2018, he presented work in 'Malevolent Eldritch Shrieking' curated by Paul Morrison at Attercliffe TM Sheffield. He was again shortlisted for the 'Agent of Change' John Ruskin Prize 2019 exhibition in Manchester. In October 2019 Conor was

named as the 1st Prize winner of the Robert Walters Group UK Young Artist of the Year Award held at the Saatchi Gallery London.

Joanna Whittle

[Joanna Whittle](#) is a painter who also uses ceramics as part of her practice. She is a member of the Contemporary British Painting Society and studied Painting at Central St Martins and the Royal College of Art. Her paintings unravel traditional landscape tropes; creating rich and seductive miniature paintings which draw the viewer into an uneasy world. They are highly detailed but also contain contradictions which erode certainty so that they become like hallucinations, which yet remain stubbornly painterly and viscous. The temporary structures she depicts such as tents, shelters, fairground facades and shrines describe fragile and moveable realities. But rather than moving, these makeshift structures sit in mud or water, vulnerable to time like weather brittle ruins. Within these works Whittle explores themes of ungroundedness and loss; of shifting perspectives and hidden activities and the residue of these in the landscape. Her ceramics emerge as artefacts from invented worlds and lost islands, taking the form of objects borne from rituals or ephemeral souvenir objects. In both practices Whittle presents the unreal as factual and explores different methods of display to authenticate this.

She has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of London and Agnews (London) and has taken part in numerous group exhibitions. In 2018 she was shortlisted for the John Moores Painting Prize, exhibiting at the Walker Art Gallery. In 2019 she was winner of the Contemporary British Painting Prize and Harley Open and in 2020 she was awarded the New Light Art Prize Valeria Sykes Award and is exhibiting as part of the New Light tour throughout 2021 at Biscuit Factory (Newcastle), Tullie house Museum and Art Gallery (Carlisle) and Bankside Gallery (London). She has taken part in numerous group exhibitions including Contemporary British Painting Prize at Huddersfield Art Gallery and ASC Gallery (London, 2019) and at Cello Factory (London, 2021), Scarborough Art Gallery (2020), Bloc Projects (Sheffield 2019), Collyer Bristow Gallery (London, 2017 & 2019) Sidney& Matilda (Sheffield 2019) and in 2019 she curated Flat+Earth at Sidney& Matilda. In 2020 she was awarded Arts Council funding to work with the Portland Collection and Welbeck estate (Nottinghamshire) which culminated in a solo exhibition, 'Between Islands', at the Harley Gallery.

ABOUT SITE GALLERY

Site Gallery, Sheffield is one of Yorkshire's leading international contemporary art spaces, supporting artists specialising in moving image, new media and performance. Pioneering emerging art practices and ideas, we work in partnership with local, regional and international collaborators to nurture artistic talent and support the development of contemporary art. At the heart of what we do, is to connect people to artists and to art, inspiring new thinking and debate through our exhibitions, projects, public programmes and participatory activity.

Our programme embraces new forms of artistic production, including public and social engagement; artists connecting directly with audiences and interaction with technology; performance, live art, film events; and projects developed with the communities of interest we support. Deep research and collaboration characterise our approach; as does tolerance, openness and commitment to the idea of culture as a human right. We support artists whose work reflects on the issues and concerns of our era and that is relevant to local, national and international communities.

www.sitegallery.org

ABOUT BLOC PROJECTS

Established in 2002, Bloc Projects is a contemporary arts organisation in the centre of Sheffield focusing on the support and development of contemporary artists at pivotal points of their careers. Bloc Projects provide a safe and stimulating environment that is free for the public to explore ideas and creative practices and regularly works closely with other local art organisations, universities and charities to ensure that their activities welcome a diverse and intergenerational demographic. An expansive programme provides opportunities for crossdisciplinary and participatory learning, meaningful arts engagement, and skill development for creative practitioners as well as wider publics. Over the past two decades, Bloc Projects has developed a range of pivotal projects led by artists such as Beatrice Gibson, Joy Labinjo, Joey Holder, Rachel Adams, Ben Jeans Houghton and Alex Farrar.

www.blocprojects.co.uk

ABOUT YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE

Yorkshire Artspace is a registered charity providing high-quality, affordable studio space for 160 artists and makers in Sheffield city centre. Established in 1977 by art graduates, Yorkshire Artspace was one of the first studio groups developed outside London. Since then, we've grown to become one of the largest and most established studio providers in the UK, described by Arts Council England as "one of the leading artist studio spaces in Europe".

They deliver a professional development programme in support of their vision: for visual and applied art to be thriving and accessible in South Yorkshire. The programme offers exhibition opportunities, training and subsidised Starter Studios for early career creatives, and creates opportunities for the public to engage with art through exhibitions, workshops and our annual Open Studios event.