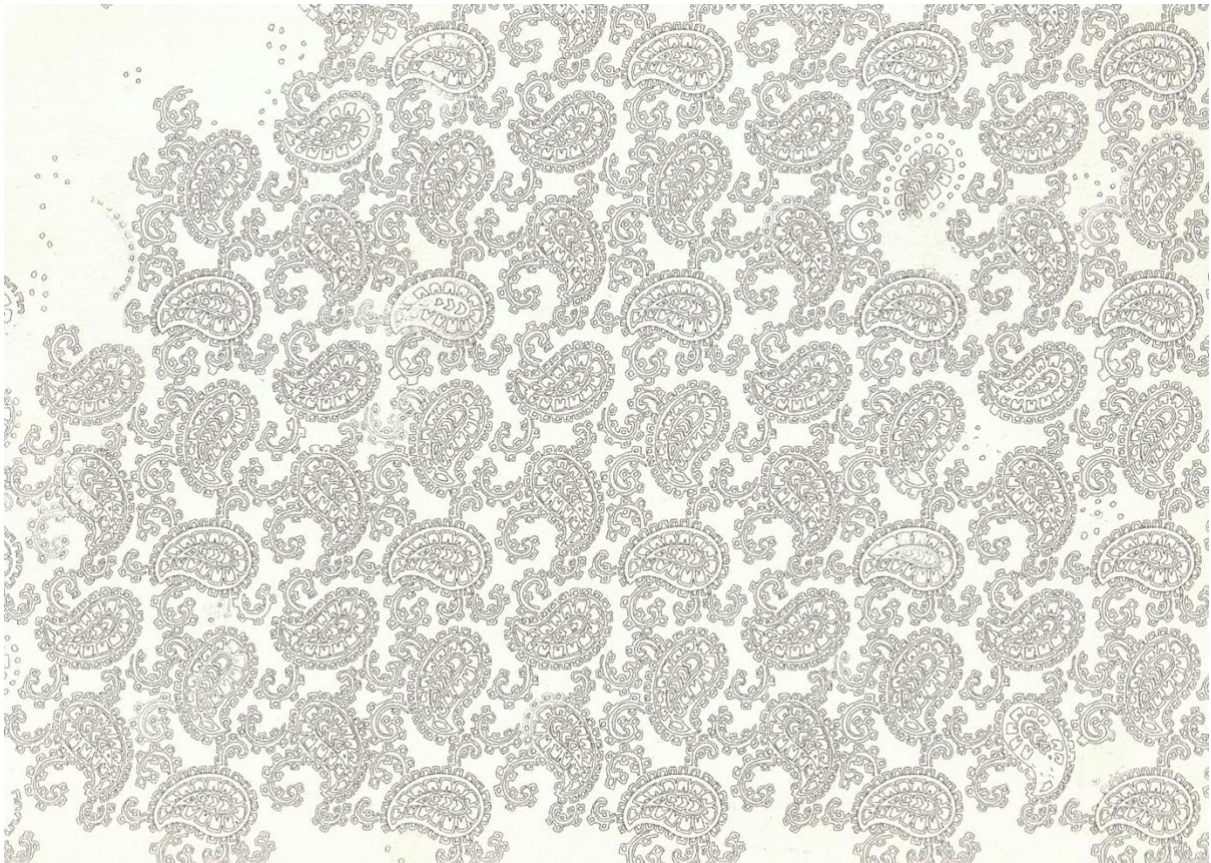


# SITE GALLERY

Press Release / January 2022

PLATFORM 21 EXHIBITION OPENS AT SITE GALLERY, BLOC PROJECTS AND YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE PERSISTENCE WORKS ON FRIDAY 21 JANUARY



Jan Hopkins, *Dad's Paisley Scarf* [c1963] Pencil on paper, 2021

## **PLATFORM 21**

- *Platform 21* exhibition dates: Friday 21 January – Sunday 20 February 2022
- Artists: Rachael Colley, Jan Hopkins, Seiko Kinoshita, Anisa Nuh-Ali and Lea Torp Nielsen.

## **OPENING EVENT:**

- Thursday 20 January, 4-8pm

To register your interest for the Thursday 20 January opening, please email [hello@sitegallery.org](mailto:hello@sitegallery.org)

## **ABOUT:**

*Platform 21* features the work of five Sheffield based artists: Rachael Colley, Jan Hopkins, Seiko Kinoshita, Anisa Nuh-Ali and Lea Torp Nielsen.

*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. It forms part of the Freelands Artist Programme, a five-year programme that supports emerging artists across the UK in partnership with g39, Cardiff, PS2, Belfast and Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh.

Exhibited across three Sheffield venues, *Platform 21* presents a fascinating insight into the artists' work developed during the first year of their two-year residency with Sheffield's visual arts organisations. This exhibition is presented at Site Gallery, Yorkshire Artspace and Bloc Projects.

The artists began their residencies in January 2021 and are five of twenty from the Sheffield City Region. Each artist receives a two-year paid residency which includes investment in professional development, production as well as opportunities to exhibit.

- **Rachael Colley's** art practice focuses on eating; using cutlery and tableware as tools to explore the ways in which we consume food through dining events, installations and visual art projects. Rachael has ASD and Systemic Sclerosis, a degenerative autoimmune condition, both of which have contributed to forming her issues around food. She aims to communicate aspects of these challenges through material experimentation and the creation of ambiguous artefact assemblages. Her developing body of work is underpinned by the exploration of Sheffield's metalworking heritage and the traditional making processes and techniques associated with the cutlery industry. She places particular focus on the roles of women, such as buffing (polishing), file cutting, knife handle application, quality control and packing.
- **Seiko Kinoshita** is a Japanese artist who creates sculptures and large installations for galleries and museums, often using traditional textile and craft techniques. She works on public art projects which make connections with the heritage behind the site as well as the architectural spaces, and social aspects. She is interested in how slow and dying craft techniques have a space and future in our ever-changing busy society, and how those old traditional techniques can exist within the contemporary art arena.
- **Jan Hopkins** is a visual artist and writer working in drawing, making and digital media. She is interested in the things that happen in the crossover space between technology and the mind, and the potential of this undefined space for novel

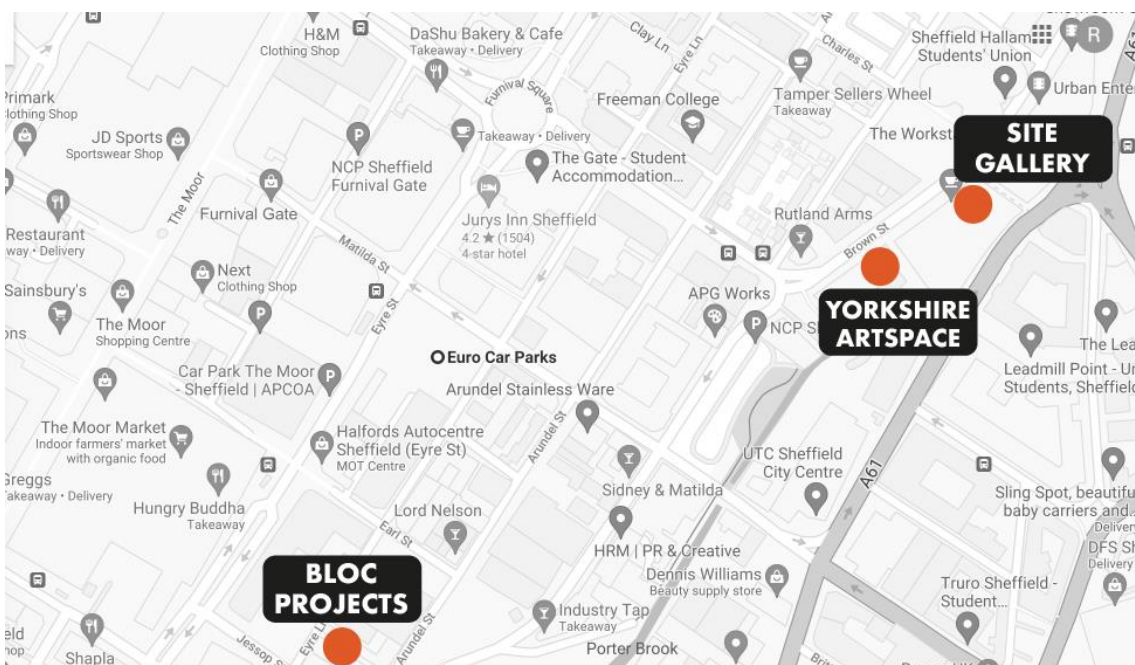
creative processes. She works with traditional art methods and materials alongside programming and physical computing. Language and communication are key elements of her practices as she searches for ways to communicate with machines as creative partners, using digital generative text and image in tandem with analogue methods such as drawing by hand and with robots.

- **Anisa Nuh-Ali** is a Somali conceptual artist, researcher and documenter who works in a wide variety of media - from painting, installation, film, sculpture and photography to sound and moving image. She is interested in Black liberation, Black feminist theory and post-colonialism. Her research reaches, examines and comments on Black athleticism, culture, aesthetics and politics, primarily working within the fields of installations creating sculptural ready-mades. She interrogates and explores the intersections of race, gender, religion and class, as her practice is intrinsically linked to her identity. She puts Black narratives at the forefront of her practice and looks to oral histories and communities, whilst utilising archives as a tool for re-imagining. As part of the *Platform 21* show, Nuh-Ali will present a collaborative event with Broomhall Community Centre.
- **Lea Torp Nielsen** is a Danish artist based in Sheffield, UK. Her practice encompasses performance, photography, film and sculptural installations, often structured around obscure texts. Lea has been a core member of the artist collective *TOTALLER* since 2014. *TOTALLER* works on the fringes of installation, ritual, performance, sound and is centred on making art with other people.

**Site Gallery Producer Robyn Haddon says:**

*'Each of the five artists will present new works that are a result of a year of material experimentation and, for some, exploring new directions with experimental technology. Platform allows artists to test ambitious ideas in a supportive environment, and we're proud that this show will provide a unique insight for our audiences into the process of making art.'*

Site Gallery will announce the public programme of talks, workshops and events soon.



## About Freelands Artist Programme

The Freelands Artist Programme is a landmark initiative to support emerging artists across the UK launched in 2018 by Freelands Foundation. The programme nurtures emerging artists' practices by fostering long-term relationships and collaborations with arts organisations and bolstering regional arts ecosystems.

In its first five-year phase, 80 artists have undertaken the programme across four partner organisations - g39, Cardiff, PS<sup>2</sup>, Belfast, Site Gallery, Sheffield and Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh. The programme offers studio space, career development workshops, talks, mentoring, an annual symposium, exhibition opportunities and an end-of-programme publication.

<https://freelandsfoundation.co.uk/freelands-artist-programme>

For more information, images or interviews please contact Rosie Thompson at Site Gallery on [rosie.thompson@sitegallery.org](mailto:rosie.thompson@sitegallery.org).

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Bloc  
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