



Press Release: June 2022

THE UK'S LARGEST EVER SHOWCASE OF DISABLED ARTISTS IS COMING TO SITE GALLERY



On 2 July, *Site Gallery* will join 29 museums and galleries across the UK to host *We Are Invisible We Are Visible (WAIWAV)*, presented by DASH, the disabled-led visual arts organisation.

31 disabled artists will disrupt 30 museums and galleries across the country with surreal interventions in recognition of the 102nd anniversary of the first Dada International Exhibition. The project, which won the 2021 Ampersand Prize, is the most ambitious showcase of work by d/Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent artists to be presented in the UK.

Sonia Boué - *The Artist is Not Present*

Sonia Boué's intervention at Site Gallery, *The Artist is Not Present*, explores conditional visibility and invisible disability. Objects of autobiographical significance including a suitcase from her family archive and a childhood toy present an intimate stage set. Joke noses and party moustaches will form part of a studio ritual of performative collage making.

Audiences will be invited to experience Sonia's installation grow. In this work Sonia seeks to critique the neurotypical gaze and assert performance as a radical act of neurodivergent healing and transformation.

The work will be live-streamed to Site Gallery and on Instagram Live @s_boue

Angelica Sule, Site Gallery's Artistic Director said:

"For Site Gallery, to work with Sonia Boué and present a fascinating insight into her working practices to our Sheffield audiences is a great opportunity. To do that with DASH as part of a national celebration of d/Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent artists is urgent, timely and incredibly important."



The museums and galleries taking part include: Arnolfini, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Centre for Contemporary Art Derry, Firstsite, Focal Point Gallery, Golden Thread Gallery, Grizedale Arts, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, HOME, The Hepworth Wakefield, IKON, John Hansard Gallery, Leeds Art Gallery, Liverpool Biennial, Manchester Art Gallery, MIMA, MK Gallery, Modern Art Oxford, Newlyn Art Gallery, Nottingham Contemporary, The Pier Arts Centre, Site Gallery,

Tate Britain, Tate Liverpool, Tate Modern, Tate St Ives, Towner Art Gallery, Turner Contemporary and VOID.

The Artists: Stav Meishar; AIM (Art In Motion); Tony Heaton /Terry Smith; Bel Pye; Kristina Veasey; Chris Tally Evans; Porcelain Delaney; Nicola Woodham; Grace Currie; Alice Quarterman; Dora Colquhoun; April Lin 林森; Lisette Auton; Caroline Cardus; Jenette Coldrick; Ashokkumar Mistry; Cheryl Beer; Sonia Boué; Christina Lovey; Alex Billingham; Luke 'Luca' Cockayne; Andrea Mindel; gobscure; Jo Munton/Stephanie Finegan; Mianam Bashir/Emma Powell; Aaron Williamson; Sam Metz; Hayley Hindle; Anahita Harding; Chisato Minamimura; Alistair Gentry.

Mike Layward, DASH's Artistic Director said:

"To be awarded the Ampersand award for this surreal intervention will not only have a massive impact on Disability arts but will show that the visual arts institutions are now open and willing to change. DASH has a long history of producing provocative interventions that continue the legacy of Dada, Absurdism and Surrealism into the 21st century."

The WAIWAV selection panel: Lois Keidan: ex-Live Art Development agency director; Ryan Hughes: Director of Coventry Biennial; Linzi Stauvers: Head of Learning at IKON; Ashokkumar Mistry: Disabled Curator/artist; Aidan Moesby: Disabled curator/artist; Heather Sturdy: Head of National Partnerships at Tate; Ceri Barrow: Plus Tate Coordinator and Mike Layward: DASH Artistic Director.

Press Enquiries:

Erica Bolton, Bolton & Quinn
Tel: +44 (0)7711 698 186
Email: erica@boltonquinn.com

Twitter: @DASH_ARTS
Facebook: @DASHDISABILITYARTS
Instagram: @dashdisabilityarts

Notes to Editors

DASH

DASH is a Disabled led visual arts charity. It creates opportunities for Disabled artists to develop their creative practice. These opportunities take many forms, from high-quality commissions to community-based workshops, the work it creates is centred around its vision and mission.

With a history of work including visual arts, dance, theatre, live arts and festivals in Shropshire since the mid 1990's, DASH became a limited company and registered charity in 2001 and in 2004 secured revenue funding from Arts Council England. In 2009 DASH took the decision to specialise its work in visual arts, while expanding its geographical boundaries.

During the last ten years DASH has undertaken truly ground-breaking work – projects that have challenged perceptions, fostered and mentored new Deaf and Disabled artists, encouraged professional development and helped to engineer change in the sector.

The Ampersand Foundation

The Ampersand Foundation was founded in 2011 by businessman, collector, and philanthropist Jack Kirkland to support the visual arts. The Foundation supports high-quality exhibitions and projects,

provided they are free to the public at least one day per week. It also supports public collection expansion. The Foundation is focused mainly on supporting institutions and projects within the UK.

The Ampersand Award

The Ampersand Award is open to the 48 members of the Plus Tate network. It aims to enable the winning institution to realise its dream project in the form of an exhibition, new commission, public space intervention or any other kind of project. There are no restrictions on the subject or format of the proposal except that it must be delivered by a curator, director or a team of curators working within the institution. The winner is awarded £125,000 to realise their proposal, and an additional £25,000 to produce a related publication. The remaining shortlisted institutions each receive £5,000.