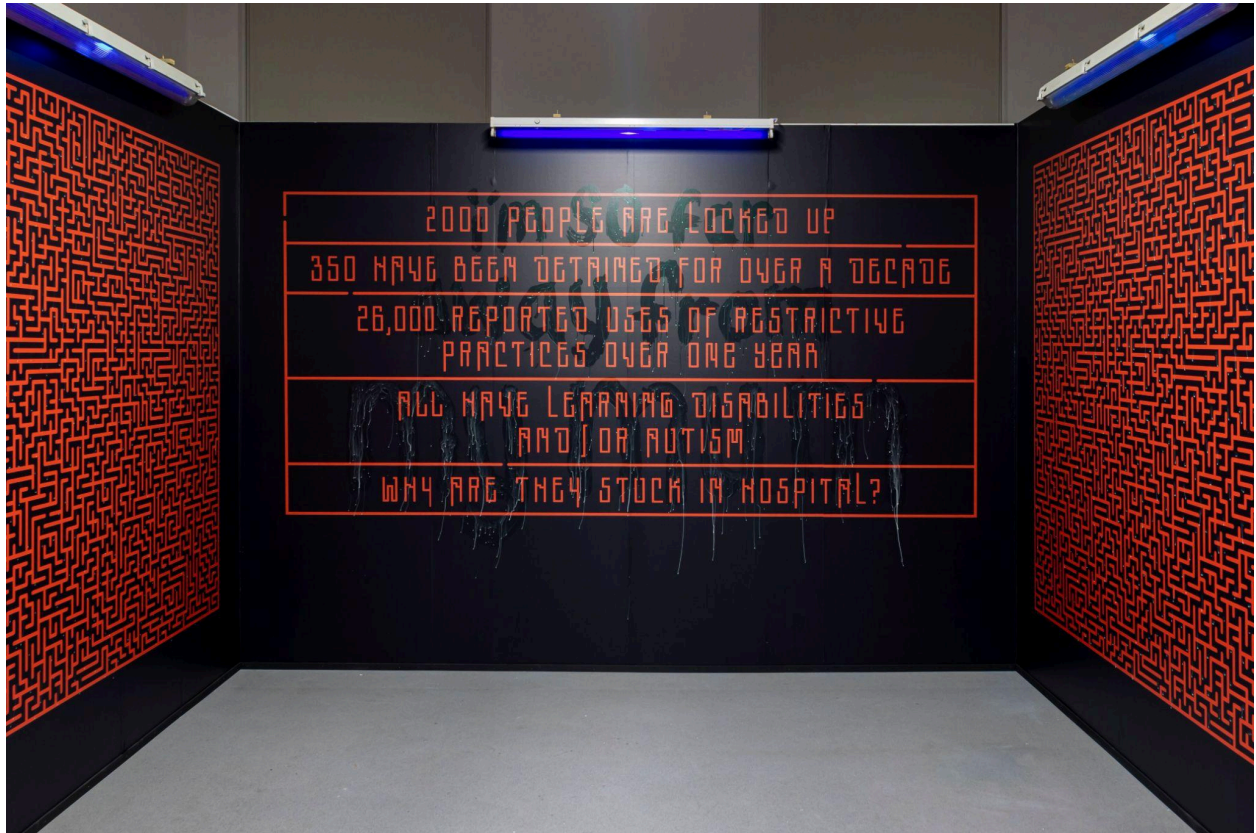


FOKA WOLF: *WHY ARE WE STUCK IN HOSPITAL?* COMES TO SITE GALLERY THIS MARCH



Foka Wolf, *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* (2023). Installation view, Ikon Gallery. Image courtesy of Ikon. Photographer Tegen Kimbley.

- *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* exhibition opens 21 March - 7 April at Site Gallery, Sheffield.
- The exhibition is produced by Ikon, Birmingham, in partnership with The Exchange and Jack Arts.
- Featured artist: Foka Wolf.
- Foka Wolf's artwork responds to research project *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* conducted by the School of Social Policy at University of Birmingham, in partnership with rights-based organisation Changing Our Lives.

EXHIBITION LAUNCH

- Tuesday 26 March, 4.30pm onwards

Why Are We Stuck In Hospital? exhibition opening will take place on Tuesday 26 March at Site Gallery in Sheffield. Join us from 4.30pm to tour the exhibition, with an introduction from Site Gallery and University of Birmingham. Site Gallery café Kollektive Kitchen will be open for drinks.

Press are invited to attend - please RSVP by emailing: rosie.thompson@sitegallery.org.

ABOUT WHY ARE WE STUCK IN HOSPITAL?

An impossible maze with no end forms the basis of a gallery installation and inner-city billboard campaign by artist and activist Foka Wolf.

Foka Wolf's installation *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?*, produced by Ikon, illustrates the invisibility of people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people in long-stay hospitals.

Why Are We Stuck In Hospital? is the title of a research project conducted by the School of Social Policy at University of Birmingham, in partnership with rights-based organisation Changing Our Lives. The project raises awareness of the 2,000 people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people who live in hospital settings for long periods of time, often for many years and with no planned date to leave. Foka Wolf's exhibition at Ikon Gallery in March 2023 coincided with the publication of policy guidelines based on the experiences of people with learning disabilities, their families and front-line staff which are available [here](#).

Responding to the project, Birmingham artist Foka Wolf's installation comprises graphic design and declarative captions, as well as a billboard campaign by Jack Arts around Sheffield. Known for his 'subvertisements', which parody corporate and political posters, Foka Wolf's interventions make us question our city's infrastructure and whether it is meeting the needs of our community.

The original research was funded by the National Institute for Health and Social Care Delivery Research Programme. Tour funded by NIHR School for Social Care Research. This project is produced by Ikon, Birmingham, in partnership with The Exchange and Jack Arts. *Why Are We Stuck in Hospital?* by Foka Wolf was originally exhibited at Ikon Gallery (7 – 19 March 2023) and The Exchange, Birmingham (7 March – 17 June 2023) and tours to Fabrica, Brighton (7-14 April 2024).

FOKA WOLF

Foka Wolf has created his subversive art for over a decade, mixing serious social & political commentary with lots of humour. His street art has garnered national attention & featured in media inc. The Guardian, BBC, Metro & Evening Standard.

SITE GALLERY

Sheffield's contemporary art space Site Gallery specialises 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. Site is supported by Arts Council England's NPO Investment Programme and Sheffield City Council.

Site Gallery works with early-career to established artists to commission new work, produce solo and group shows, deliver residencies, performances, events and community programmes. In recent years it has worked with artists such as Elizabeth Price (UK), Rafael Rozendaal (Netherlands), Phoebe Davies (UK), Sonya Dyer (UK), Sophia Al-Maria (US/Qatar), Georgina Starr (UK), Susan Hiller (US).

Site runs Society of Explorers throughout the year, a peer-led young people's group which makes unique connections with artists and gains new skills and learning.

IKON

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art gallery, situated in Birmingham's city centre. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2024. It is an educational charity with free entry for all, and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation.

The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom.

Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Ikon aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.

ikon-gallery.org / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [X](#)

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The University of Birmingham is ranked amongst the world's top 100 institutions. Its work brings people from across the world to Birmingham, including researchers, teachers and more than 8,000 international students from over 150 countries. The School of Social Policy carries out high quality and relevant research, and uses this as a starting point to make a practical difference in the real world through teaching, professional training, policy advice and working with local communities.

birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [X](#)

CHANGING OUR LIVES

Changing Our Lives is a rights-based organisation which challenges social injustice and health inequalities. They work alongside disabled people and people with experience of mental health difficulties to make an ordinary life achievable for all. Their work is rooted in the social model of disability and the belief that no one is too disabled and no one's mental health is too complex to lead an 'ordinary life'.

changingourlives.org / [Instagram](#) / [X](#) / [YouTube](#)

THE EXCHANGE

The Exchange is the University of Birmingham's city centre venue in Centenary Square, Birmingham's 'civic heart' that is home to many of our city's most iconic locations such as the Library of Birmingham, the International Convention Centre, Symphony Hall and the REP theatre. The Exchange was constructed in the early 1930s and is of historic importance to the city of Birmingham as it was formerly the headquarters of the Birmingham Municipal Bank. The Exchange brings together the University's research, teaching and networks to create a place of curiosity, celebration, collaboration and change. Through free public exhibitions and community engagement programmes our ambition is to enable people from the city and wider region to get involved in the University's work to address the complex challenges of our time.

birmingham.ac.uk/the-exchange

JACK ARTS

Jack Arts, part of the BUILDHOLLYWOOD family, are creative street advertising specialists – they love cities and believe they are the perfect place to promote the arts, generate conversation and spark meaningful change. Jack Arts specialise in creating inspiring street campaigns and experiences for the culture space. Working with galleries, exhibitions, publishers and many other institutions their specialist team understand the arts, the audience and the need to be creative; they believe city streets offer a unique canvas and context to showcase campaigns that connect with an informed and creative audience.

buildhollywood.co.uk / [Instagram](#) / [X](#)

ENDS

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

www.sitegallery.org

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**SITE
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IKON

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