

Press release

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Images: [HERE](#)

British Art Show 9 comes to Manchester this May



IMAGE CREDITS IN 'NOTES TO EDITORS'

Hayward Gallery Touring's landmark exhibition **British Art Show 9 (BAS9)** opens in Manchester from **27 May – 4 September 2022**. British Art Show is recognised as the most pertinent and ambitious recurrent exhibition of contemporary art produced in the UK, taking place every five years and bringing the work of some of the most exciting contemporary artists to **Castlefield Gallery, HOME, Manchester Art Gallery** and **the Whitworth**. This presentation will also mark the return of the British Art Show to Manchester which originally hosted British Art Show 4 in 1995 and *British Art Show 6* in 2006.

British Art Show 9 is curated by Irene Aristizábal and Hammad Nasar and focuses on work made since 2015. The exhibition reflects a precarious moment in Britain's history, which has brought politics of identity and nation, concerns of social, racial and environmental justice, and questions of agency to the centre of public consciousness. The artists presented in the exhibition respond in critical ways to this complex context. Through their works, they imagine new futures, propose alternative economies, explore new modes of resistance and find ways of living together. They do so through film, photography,

painting, sculpture, and performance, as well as through multimedia projects that don't sit easily in any one category.

The exhibition is structured around three main themes – **Healing, Care and Reparative History, Tactics for Togetherness, Imagining New Futures** – and has been conceived as a cumulative experience, adapting and changing for each city, and presenting different combinations of artists and artworks that respond to their distinctive local contexts.

In Manchester, the exhibition will showcase 19 artists whose works directly address *BAS9's* three main curatorial themes. Their projects aim to extend our understanding of identity to beyond the human, often blurring the boundaries between art and life. Through their works, they propose alternative futures, economies and ways of living together. The presentation will feature many ambitious immersive installations, five new works and two new commissions made specifically by artists in response to local histories and cultures in Manchester.

Selected highlights of *BAS9* Manchester:

- The culmination of **Simeon Barclay's** commission for *British Art Show 9* is displayed at **Manchester Art Gallery**. *Precariously Perched on the Edifice of Ruins* (2021-2022), made possible by Art Fund support, consists of video, sound, sculpture and neon works which touch on sampling, de-industrialisation, cultural hierarchy, self fashioning, class and taste. The neon work reimagines one of Auguste Rodin's most famous sculptures, *The Age of Bronze* (1877) which is displayed in the entrance hall of Manchester Art Gallery.
- An audio-visual installation, *ZEMEL* (2021), from experimental rapper, producer, writer, visual and performance artist **GAIKA** is also shown at **Manchester Art Gallery**. In the piece, **GAIKA** draws on his Caribbean heritage, sound system culture and it also serves as a shrine to his late uncle and other Windrush-generation deportees. Supported by Hayward Gallery Touring for *BAS9*.
- **Anne Hardy's** spectacular large-scale installation *Liquid Landscape* (2018) is displayed at **the Whitworth**, the first time this work has been presented in the UK. It combines objects, lights, sounds and special effects into a sensory experience that uses the idea of a city almost underwater, and an interloping climate, as a way to consider fragility, resilience and shifting emotions.
- An installation by **Joey Holder**, shown at **Castlefield Gallery**, incorporates the extended reality video and 360-degree film *The Abyssal Seeker* (2021) which charts the journey to a deep-sea lake that has so far remained undiscovered by science.
- **Caroline Walker** presents at **HOME** her new emotive series of paintings portraying the work of female midwives and maternity nurses and the life-affirming events that take place at maternity wards around the country. Caroline will also present her 'home' series of portraits which feature women living in temporary accommodation in exile from their families, friends and the homes they left behind.
- **Andy Holden's** *The Estate of Hermione* (2021) – An extensive exhibition of work by self-trained artist Hermione Burton (1925–c.1990) and new film displayed at **the Whitworth**. Burton's paintings were found by Holden by chance in a flea market and since then, he has obsessively collected, researched, restored and exhibited them.
- **Heta Patel's** ambitious new film *Trinity* (2021) at **Manchester Art Gallery**, developed with

dance, martial arts and sign language collaborators, centres on the discovery of a martial language that once united humanity. Supported by Arts Council England, John Hansard Gallery, New Art Exchange, Sadler's Wells, Gulbenkian, Motwani Jadeja Family Foundation, and Hayward Gallery Touring for British Art Show 9. Produced by Tilt Films

- **Katie Schwab** presents *blueprint of an emotion* (2022), a **new commission for British Art Show 9 at the Whitworth**, made possible by Arts Council England's Project Grant for National Activities. Katie's presentation takes its cue from public artworks by mid-century artists Hans Tisdall and Mitzi Cunliffe that feature on educational buildings in Manchester. The installation has evolved through research and community discussion on ideas of repair, alchemy and civic identity. It comprises a new wall painting and collaborative tile work, shown alongside a large-scale tapestry, maquette and weaving samples from the Whitworth's rich textile collections.
- **Patrick Goddard's** *RAW (spelt backwards)* (2019), an experiential intervention, displayed at **HOME**, created using paving designed to deter rough sleepers. This work is shown alongside an installation of his new film commission *Animal Antics* (2021), an absurdist commentary on the Anthropocene featuring a woman and her talking dog. The film piece is co-commissioned with Hayward Gallery Touring for *BAS9* by Film and Video Umbrella, FLAMIN London, and EWERK Freiburg.
- At **Manchester Art Gallery**, **Than Hussein Clark** will present a new set of objects related to the artist's ongoing intervention of the text of the German Realist drama *The Weavers* by Gerhard Hauptman. Continuing the artists explorations of the intersections of theatrical and design history, these new sculptures queer the classic notions of both labour and resistance, asking how both might necessarily be reframed in the present. Clark will also exhibit two works from his 2019 exhibition *A Little Night Music (And Reversals)*. Both works relate to the artist's ongoing research into the life and work of the French writer Jean Genet, and the complicated intersections of queer liberation and anti-colonial struggle.

List of artists presented in Manchester:

Hurvin Anderson
Michael Armitage
Simeon Barclay
Oliver Beer
Than Hussein Clark
Oona Doherty
Sean Edwards

GAIKA
Patrick Goddard
Anne Hardy
Andy Holden
Joey Holder
Elaine Mitchener
Grace Ndiritu

Hardeep Pandhal
Hetain Patel
Abigail Reynolds
Katie Schwab
Caroline Walker

The exhibition includes a programme of artist films and a dedicated website which enables artists to share works online. A schedule of events, talks and activities for visitors of all ages, both in person and online, will extend the reach of *British Art Show 9* throughout Greater Manchester and the North West.

One of these is **Art Agents**, a programme of activity that uses the art and themes in *BAS9* to make change by working with groups and individuals and their communities in live projects. A series of six community projects led by residents of Manchester address issues around hidden homelessness, poverty, disability and agency within the art world. Community representatives and partner organisations are working together to revolutionise our city and our institutions.

Hammad Nasar and Irene Aristizábal, Curators of British Art Show 9, said: "We are pleased to present the third iteration of BAS9 in Manchester. In their response to our complex times, the work of BAS9 artists showing in Manchester deploys art's capacity to be multiple things at once – imagining more hopeful futures, employing historical inquiry as a form of repair and exploring new modes of resistance. We support the different positions of resistance that have been articulated by BAS9 artists - the withdrawal of participation and the amplification of voices in solidarity with Palestine - and share the artists' call for reparative action. We are committed to BAS9 being a platform for action and exchange, and for these, and other difficult but important conversations BAS artists are engaged with, to move beyond the realm of the visual arts into the wider public sphere in Manchester and beyond."

Brian Cass, Senior Curator, Hayward Gallery Touring, said: "We're delighted to be working with Castlefield Gallery; HOME; Manchester Art Gallery; and the Whitworth on British Art Show 9. This major exhibition has a long history with Manchester, and previous iterations have been of huge importance for the city and its many communities. British Art Show 9 features remarkable artists whose work help us expand our understanding of who we are and how we engage with the world. We're committed to presenting this exhibition of the most inventive and relevant contemporary art being produced in the UK today to everyone who lives in, and visits Manchester and we hope the show will be an opportunity for expansive experiences and conversations between artists, artworks and people across the city. We acknowledge the withdrawal of several artists from the show, however, we're confident that all our partners are absolutely committed to artistic and academic freedoms and ensuring freedoms of expression and speech."

Alistair Hudson, Director of Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth, The University of Manchester said: "For the third time, Manchester welcomes the British Art Show to the city. The world has changed dramatically since this landmark survey exhibition last visited our city in 2006, and this iteration is particularly poignant given the difficulties the world is facing right now and the challenges of culture in dealing with them. In its making, the curators and artists of BAS9 have been especially conscious to question Britishness, concepts of art and even the very idea of a 'show'. That we ask such testing questions here is fitting for a city that has, since its birth, embraced radicalism, difference and the complexities of modern life. All the four partner venues in our city have been united in our wish for the presentation of BAS9 to be part of our working out of the challenges we face, and what kind of culture we make for the people who live here. This is a city created by making and doing things together, and doing things differently. The British Art Show in Manchester will not be like any other and all the better for it."

British Art Show 9 is a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition presented in collaboration with the cities of Aberdeen, Wolverhampton, Manchester and Plymouth. Curated by Irene Aristizábal and Hammad Nasar.

Four of the new works in the *British Art Show 9* tour are made possible with the generous support of the Art Fund and these will be acquired by museum partners in each city for their own collections, as a marker of the lasting legacy of this ambitious touring show. *BAS9* also benefits from the support of Arts Council England's Project Grant for National Activities which is allowing partners to produce ambitious and wide ranging programmes of creative learning, civic engagement and participation that will further extend the reach of *BAS9* across the four partner cities.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Hayward Gallery Publishing, which includes two wide-ranging curatorial essays, over 200 colour illustrations and original texts on all 47 artists featured in the *British Art Show 9* tour.

www.britishartshow9.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

A number of artists have decided to withdraw their participation from *British Art Show 9* in Manchester following recent media reports that the Whitworth's Director Alistair Hudson had been asked to resign by the University of Manchester following alleged external pressures. [The University of Manchester has publicly responded to these reports](#). Alistair Hudson remains as Director of the Whitworth, as well as Director of Manchester Art Gallery.

Image Credits (L-R)

Anne Hardy, *Liquid Landscape*, 2018. © Anne Hardy. Courtesy Maureen Paley, London. Commissioned by Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam. Tate: Presented by the artist and Maureen Paley 2020
Joey Holder, *Semelparous*, 2020, installation view. Photo: Damian Griffiths. © the artist. Courtesy the artist.
Caroline Walker, *Abi, Midday, Brixton*, 2017. © the artist. Courtesy the artist and GRIMM, Amsterdam/New York, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, and Stephen Friedman Gallery, London. Photo: Peter Mallet
Simeon Barclay, *As a Precursor to Folly*, 2021 © Simeon Barclay. Installation view, *British Art Show 9*, 2021-22, Wolverhampton Art Gallery Photo © Stuart Whipps

About Castlefield Gallery

At Castlefield Gallery (Est. 1984), we make new art possible. We are artist facing. We work with artists and creatives in Greater Manchester and beyond, at all career stages. We support them to develop their practice and careers and to find ways not just to make art but to make a living. We do this through our gallery, and its free exhibitions and events that are open to all; through tailored career and practice development support; through our 200-strong artist Associates scheme; through the provision of low-cost studio and project space; through commissions and co-commissions; and through collaboration with universities, including annual graduate programmes that provide mentoring, coaching and more. For 38 years, we have supported young and older artists, new graduates right through to established artists, connecting them to each other, and to our international network of curators, arts organisations, artists and collectors. Castlefield Gallery's international work is focused on exchange between artists in the North West of England, and the rest of the world. We have an established track record in public art commissioning and public realm animation and activation. We are a female led organisation and a registered charity. Castlefield Gallery is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and Manchester City Council Cultural Partner. Our Artist Patron is the celebrated Ryan Gander, OBE. www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk

About HOME

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in May 2015, HOME has welcomed over three million visitors to its two theatres, five cinemas, art gallery, book shop and restaurants. HOME works with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary theatrical experiences, producing an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance, and festivals, with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and talent development. HOME's ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun, take risks and share great new art with the widest possible audience. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay CBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif

Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. www.homemcr.org | Twitter @HOME_mcr | Facebook HOME_mcr | Instagram @homemcr

About Manchester Art Gallery

Manchester Art Gallery is the original useful museum, initiated in 1823 by artists, as an educational institution to ensure that the city and all its people grow with creativity, imagination, health and productivity. The gallery is free and open to all people as a place of civic thinking and public imagination. It promotes art as a means to achieve social change with its origins from the Royal Manchester Institution for the Promotion of Literature, Science and the Arts. It has been at the centre of city life for nearly 200 years and has been proudly part of Manchester City Council since 1882. The gallery is for and of the people of Manchester. Through its collections, displays and public programmes it works with all our constituents to ensure creativity, care and consideration infect all aspects of the way we live. This is an art school for everybody and for life. www.manchesterartgallery.org

About the Whitworth

The Whitworth is proudly part of The University of Manchester, operating as a convening space between the University and the people of the city. It was founded in 1889 as The Whitworth Institute and Park in memory of the industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth for “the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester” and continues this mission today in new contexts. In 2015 the gallery undertook a £17 million redevelopment by architects MUMA, which doubled the public space, creating new facilities to house the collection of over 55,000 works of art, textiles and wallpaper. Along with expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and collections care centre, the gallery reconnected with its park, with communal gardens and outdoor programmes. The gallery is driven by a mission to work with communities to use art for positive social change, and actively address what matters most in people’s lives. This new vision has been developed as part of an international dialogue about how to evolve and adapt museums to a constantly changing world. This work is underpinned by three key concepts: learning together, through making and doing; creating a place of care, consideration, and community; taking action. www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

About Hayward Gallery Touring

Hayward Gallery Touring organises contemporary art exhibitions that tour to galleries, museums and other publicly funded venues throughout Britain. In collaboration with artists, independent curators, writers and partner institutions, Hayward Gallery Touring develops imaginative exhibitions that are seen by up to half a million people in over 45 cities and towns each year. www.southbankcentre.co.uk/touring-programme/hayward-gallery-touring

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK’s largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London’s most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). www.southbankcentre.co.uk/

About Irene Aristizábal

Irene Aristizábal is the Head of Curatorial and Public Practice at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, where she has curated Judy Chicago’s first major survey in the UK and Abel Rodríguez first solo exhibition. Before BALTIC, Irene worked as Head of Exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary (2013–19), where she curated exhibitions and commissioned projects by Lis Rhodes, Pia Camil, Steffani Jemison, Otobong Nkanga, Simon Starling, Michael Beutler, Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, Sun Ra, Rana Hamadeh, Danai Anesiadou, Danh Võ, Carol Rama and Asco. Recent group exhibitions include *Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender Resistance* (2018–9) and

States of America: Photography from the Civil Rights Movement to the Reagan Era (2017). She was curator at the FRAC Nord Pas de Calais, Dunkirk in 2010–1, and was the recipient of the H+F Curatorial Grant (2010). Prior to that she co-directed the not-for-profit space Bétonsalon in Paris (2005–6). She has also curated exhibitions at the Fundació Miró, Barcelona; Maison Rouge, Paris; Form Content, London and the Museum of Health Sciences, Bogota.

About Hammad Nasar

Hammad Nasar is Lead Curator at Herbert Art Gallery and Museum during Coventry's City of Culture year (2021-22) where he recently curated the Turner Prize 2021 exhibition. He is also Senior Research Fellow at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and Principal Research Fellow at the University of the Arts, London. He was the inaugural Executive Director of the Stuart Hall Foundation, London (2018-19); Head of Research & Programmes at Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong (2012-16); and, co-founded (with Anita Dawood) the non-profit London art space, Green Cardamom (2004-12). Known for collaborative, research-driven and exhibition-led inquiry, his recent exhibition projects include: *Speech Acts: Reflection-Imagination-Repetition* (2018-19 – with Kate Jesson); *Structures of Meaning | Architectures of Perception* (2018-19 – with Sophie Persson); *Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play* – the UAE's national pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017); *Excessive Enthusiasm: Ha Bik Chuen and the Archive as Practice* (2015 – with Michelle Wong, Ingrid Chu and Vivian Poon); and *Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space* (2005-2013 – with Iftikhar Dadi, Ellen Avril, Nada Raza, Sophie Persson and Justine Blau). Nasar is a member of the board of Mophradat (Belgium), of the editorial board of Tate's magazine, *Tate Etc*, and is an advisor to numerous organisations including the Lahore Biennale Foundation (Pakistan); Alserkal Avenue (UAE); and Delfina Foundation, Manchester Art Gallery and Whitechapel Gallery (UK).

About Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund has made £2 million in adapted funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 159,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. In a unique edition of the prize for 2020, Art Fund responded to the unprecedented challenges that all museums are facing by selecting five winners and increasing the prize money to £200,000. The winners are Aberdeen Art Gallery; Gairloch Museum; Science Museum; South London Gallery; and Towner Eastbourne www.artfund.org

Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from the Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's unprecedented £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Funds. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19



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