

PRESS RELEASE  
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- Birmingham Contemporary Arts Network announces spring 2018 *Culture Feast* menu.
- *Culture Feast* is a £30 ticket that gives access to 7 world-class events in Birmingham.
- Events include contemporary art, music, dance, film and theatre from Grand Union, Birmingham Hippodrome, DanceXchange, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, The REP, Flatpack and Ikon Gallery.



BIRMINGHAM CONTEMPORARY ARTS NETWORK ANNOUNCES  
**CULTURE FEAST – SPRING 2018**  
A SEVEN COURSE MENU OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS  
[culturefeast.org](http://culturefeast.org)

**Birmingham’s leading contemporary arts organisations have joined forces to create the second *Culture Feast* menu: a joint ticket that gives access to seven theatre, dance, music, film and art events all for £30 total.**

With a single purchase, art fans will get tickets for an exclusive launch event at Grand Union with a guided tour of Digbeth First Friday, two world-class dance events from Birmingham Hippodrome and DanceXchange, four world premieres from Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, stunning new theatre at The REP, tickets to the launch of Flatpack Festival at Town Hall and a guided tour of Ikon Gallery.

In addition to entry to these specially-selected events, the lucky ticket-holders will be welcomed to each **Culture Feast** event by a member of the host’s team and afterwards they’ll get to let it all sink in with an “audience exchange”, where they can chat to fellow **Culture Feast** visitors about what they’ve experienced (much like a “book group” for the contemporary arts).

Culture Feast is another example of Birmingham’s arts sector working together. It has grown out of the Birmingham Contemporary Arts Network in response to findings from the Understanding Audiences for the Contemporary Arts project at the University of Sheffield.

Tickets are available from [culturefeast.org](http://culturefeast.org) – for £30.

***Seb Huckle, Marketing Manager, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group said:***

“This is the second Culture Feast menu – and it’s even bigger than before. We’re really excited to be launching the menu at Grand Union, and welcoming even more partners including Birmingham Hippodrome, The REP and Flatpack Film Festival.”

***Abbe Elliston, Operations Manager, Flatpack, said:***

“As members of the Contemporary Arts Network we jumped at the chance to be a part of the second Culture Feast menu by including our festival launch event. Culture Feast is a truly unique way to experience our great city’s art.”

**The events included in the Spring 2018 Culture Feast menu are:**

**Culture Feast Launch and Exclusive Tours - Grand Union and Digbeth First Friday ART**

Friday 2 February 2018, 6pm at Grand Union

Enjoy a drink on us as we kick off the Culture Feast spring menu at Grand Union at the launch of *Deeper in the Pyramid*, a project by Melanie Jackson. *Deeper in the Pyramid* is an expansive new body of work comprising of animation, sculpture, a filmed performance and a publication in a graphic novel format, written in collaboration with Esther Leslie. Then enjoy an exclusive guided tour of Digbeth First Friday where all of Digbeth comes alive with art.

**#JeSuis – Birmingham Hippodrome DANCE**

Thursday 15 February 2018, 8pm at Birmingham Hippodrome Patrick Centre

What is the relevance of a life in conflict? This European premiere of *#JeSuis* from the award-winning Aakash Odedra Company brings the lens upon a group of dancers whose place in the world is presented by the media as unwanted neighbours; countries where human catastrophes are a daily given. Wrapped up in wider issues of displacement, refuge, instability, both politically & geographically, it portrays their frustrations of life in a homeland that doesn’t know the meaning of “home” anymore.

**Terra Firma by National Dance Company Wales – DanceXchange DANCE**

Thursday 1 March 2018, 8pm at Birmingham Hippodrome Patrick Centre

A thrilling triple bill featuring *Tundra* by Marcos Morau, hailed as ‘The next big thing in dance’ and a fresh new work *Atalay* by Mario Bermudez Gil who wowed at Copenhagen International Choreography Competition, alongside *The Green House* from the company’s own Artistic Director, Caroline Finn.

**Le Tombeau de Debussy – Birmingham Contemporary Music Group MUSIC**

Sunday 25 March 2018, 4pm at Symphony Hall

In 1920, ten leading composers put pencil to paper for a moving homage to Debussy. Join Birmingham Contemporary Music Group as they perform five tributes from *Tombeau de Claude Debussy* interwoven with four specially-commissioned new works by leading composers from around the world.

**Häxan - Flatpack Festival Opening Event FILM**

Tuesday 17 April 2018, 7.30pm at Town Hall

Reece Shearsmith (The League of Gentlemen) and multi-instrumentalist Stephen Horne team up to create a live score for a supernatural oddity from cinema’s early years. Once banned in the USA and unseen for decades, *Häxan* blends horror, documentary, animation and woodcuts to paint a lurid picture of witchcraft through the ages.

**The String Quartet's Guide to Sex and Anxiety – Birmingham Repertory Theatre THEATRE**  
Saturday 12 May, 7.30pm at Birmingham Repertory Theatre

*The String Quartet's Guide to Sex and Anxiety* is an unmissable collision of music and drama featuring the award-winning string powerhouse The Heath Quartet, created and directed by one of Europe's most exciting theatre directors, Calixto Bieito.

**Exhibition Tour - Ikon ART**

Wednesday 23 May, 6pm at Ikon

Join us for an informal tour and chat about our current exhibitions. *Internet Giants : Masters of the Universe* by artists Langlands & Bell includes relief sculptures, installations and portraits exploring the influence of global technology companies such as Apple, Facebook, and Google. Rie Nakajima's exhibition *Cyclic* consists entirely of new work and includes sculpture made from kinetic devices, musical instruments and found objects.

--ENDS--

**ALL ENQUIRIES:**

Seb Huckle, Marketing Manager, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group  
0121 616 2619 [seb@bcmg.org.uk](mailto:seb@bcmg.org.uk)

**Notes to Editors**

**Culture Feast [culturefeast.org](http://culturefeast.org)**

A menu of contemporary arts.

For just £30, sample the best in Birmingham's contemporary scene with access to seven events from Grand Union, Digbeth First Friday, Birmingham Hippodrome, DanceXchange, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Flatpack Festival, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Ikon Gallery. That's seven theatre, dance, music, film and art events all for £30 total.

It's a truly unique experience – each evening you'll be greeted by a member of the team who will welcome you to the event and afterwards you'll get to let it all sink in in a post-event audience exchange, where you can chat to fellow Culture Feast visitors about what you've experienced (much like a "book group" for the contemporary arts).

**Birmingham Contemporary Arts Network**

Birmingham Contemporary Arts Network is a consortium of Birmingham-based arts organisations. Founded in 2015, the Network is a forum for collaboration, and includes members ranging from independent art galleries to international festivals, representing the full range of contemporary art, including music, film, art, dance and more.

**Birmingham Contemporary Music Group [bcmg.org.uk](http://bcmg.org.uk)**

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group is one of the world's foremost new music ensembles. Over three decades, BCMG has developed the music of today for the audiences of tomorrow. The ensemble has commissioned over 170 pieces of music from the world's finest composers and emerging international talent. Many of the works have been commissioned through its innovative pioneering Sound Investment crowd-funding scheme to which over 500 donors have contributed more than £300,000; many of these works have subsequently found their way into worldwide repertoire.

**Birmingham Hippodrome [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)**

Birmingham Hippodrome is an independent not-for profit cultural charity that reinvests its surpluses into building a better future through arts and culture for the region. All revenues from ticket sales to donations, from room hire and events, and from memberships to catering, help to fund Hippodrome Projects. This is our own curated programme of indoor and outdoor live performance, community work, and transformational learning projects. Unforgettable performance, powered by you.

**Birmingham Repertory Theatre** [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk)

Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company is one of Britain's leading producing theatre companies. Its mission is to inspire a lifelong love of theatre in the diverse communities of Birmingham and beyond. As well as presenting over 60 productions on its three stages every year, the theatre tours its productions nationally and internationally, showcasing theatre made in Birmingham.

**Digbeth First Friday** [digbethfirstfriday.com](http://digbethfirstfriday.com)

Digbeth comes alive on the first Friday of each month with exhibitions, late-night openings, special events, culture in unexpected spaces, live music, street food and more. With different things to see and do each month anything could happen on a First Friday night out. Digbeth First Friday runs from 6pm 'til late and event times vary. We recommend you check the listings in advance so you can make the most of your evening. Maps are available online a few days before the event and at participating venues on the day.

**DanceXchange** [dancexchange.org.uk](http://dancexchange.org.uk)

DanceXchange (dx) is an internationally known charity dedicated to producing, promoting and presenting the best of UK and international dance. dx produces International Dance Festival Birmingham, and creates innovative site-specific commissions and large-scale performance events in both professional and community contexts. dx coproduces a range of touring productions, and engages people from all backgrounds in dance activity, supports artist development and nurtures gifted young people to help shape the dance artists of the future

**Flatpack** [flatpackfestival.org.uk](http://flatpackfestival.org.uk)

Flatpack is a festival which takes over venues across Birmingham every spring. It draws people from far and wide with a mixture of films, performances, contraptions and surprises, and has been described as "magnificently eclectic" (Time Out), "joyously inventive" (the Guardian) and "the UK's most creatively curated film festival" (the Independent).

**Grand Union** [grand-union.org.uk](http://grand-union.org.uk)

Grand Union supports and presents innovative artistic and curatorial practice. We believe that a strong artistic community is an essential part of an integrated city.

We provide support by working with artists, curators and writers, placing an emphasis on commissioning new art, supporting career development and encouraging experimentation; engaging the public with this work through an ambitious programme of exhibitions, talks and events in our Gallery and elsewhere; providing contemporary visual artists in the city with affordable, purpose-built studio space; and developing curatorial talent through a programme of employment, mentoring and toolkits.

**Ikon** [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed art gallery situated in central Birmingham. Housed in a magnificent neo-gothic school building, it is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. It offers free entry to all.

**Understanding Audiences for the Contemporary Arts** [sparc.dept.shef.ac.uk/uaca](http://sparc.dept.shef.ac.uk/uaca)

*Culture Feast* will form part of Sheffield University's Understanding Audiences for the Contemporary Arts study; a national study funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council exploring how people engage with contemporary dance, theatre, music, visual art and everything in between.



Birmingham  
Contemporary  
Music Group



GRAND  
UNION



IKON

