

IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm / free entry

Events Diary

June – September 2019



Adrian Paci, *Per Speculum* (2006). Film.

Exhibition Opening

The Aerodrome

An exhibition dedicated the memory of Michael Stanley

Wednesday 12 June, 6–8pm – FREE

Join us to celebrate the opening night of *The Aerodrome* - An exhibition dedicated the memory of Michael Stanley. Pay bar.

Talks and Screenings

Committed Curating:

The achievement of Michael Stanley

Monday 22 July, 2.30–6.30pm – £3

Artists, curators and writers share their personal experiences of working with Michael Stanley. They consider the development of his curatorial approach through his programming at various venues – The Harris Museum, Compton Verney, Ikon, MK Gallery and Modern Art Oxford – distinguished by a close involvement in the production of new work, and an insistent pushing at the boundaries of space dedicated to art. Alongside archival footage of Stanley, speakers include David Austen, Paul Luckraft, George Shaw and Jonathan Watkins.

Films - David Austen and Shezad Dawood

Tuesday 16 July, 6–8pm – £5

Written and directed by David Austen, *Crackers* (2007) is set within a single room redolent of faded grandeur, somewhere in Hove. Sparsely furnished, it is where two protagonists, Tin and Heart (actors Toby Kebbell and David Leon), engage in an exchange that touches on themes that often occur in Austen's work – love, sex, death and the aches of human impulse and emotion.

Part documentary, part character-driven narrative, Shezad Dawood's film *Piercing Brightness* (2013, rated 12) considers the diverse and changing communities in Preston. Against the backdrop of the Lancashire landscape, which has the highest UFO sighting rate in the country, the film applies the lens of science fiction to fixed notions of race, migration and identity. Courtesy Thunderbird Releasing.

Revisiting wartime literature:

Surrealism, Anti-fascism and The Aerodrome

Monday 5 August, 6–8.30pm – £5

Dr Jeannette Baxter, reader in modern and contemporary literature at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, examines the relationship between Rex Warner's 'dark' surrealist novel *The Aerodrome* (1941) and World War II. She considers the influence of Warner's dystopic imagery on George Orwell and J.G. Ballard, producing a revision of the text in light of current affairs, including the rise of neo-fascist politics and culture, and global terrorism. Includes a screening of the 90 minute BBC adaptation of *The Aerodrome*, first screened in 1983, followed by a Q&A with by Director Giles Foster and Producer Ken Trodd. With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive.

Tours

Spotlight Tours

Every Friday, 12.30pm and Sunday, 3pm – FREE

Join a member of Ikon staff for a 15 minute spotlight tour focused on a key work in the exhibition. No need to book, meet in Ikon foyer.

Access Tours

Available on request – FREE

Booking essential

Ikon can provide British Sign Language (BSL) and audio described tours. Individual or group bookings are free but must be booked. Call Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email learning@ikon-gallery.org

Group Visits

Booking essential

Group visits, tours and creative workshops are available for each exhibition. For more information click [here](#) or call the Learning Team on 0121 248 0708.

Families and Schools

Free Drop-in Activities

**Suitable for all ages. No need to book; stay for as long as you like.
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.**

Family Saturdays

Saturday 6 July, 12–4pm – FREE

Saturday 3 August, 12–4pm – FREE

Saturday 7 September, 12–4pm – FREE

Spend some time making and experimenting as a family with creative, hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibition.

Brindleyplace Dragonboat Race

Saturday 15 June, 12–4pm – FREE

Join us in Brindleyplace for a fun, free drop-in workshop where you can get creative whilst authentic Dragonboats paddle race the canal.

Summer School

What I did this summer

Monday 5 August – Friday 9 August, 10am–3pm

£120 per child, payable in advance

Suitable for children aged 7–12

Ikon's Learning Team and exhibiting artists Simon & Tom Bloor lead a week-long summer school. Explore the galleries, be inspired by Ikon's group exhibition *The Aerodrome* and experiment with a range of materials and techniques to make your own artworks. The summer school includes canal trips on-board Ikon's floating arts space, *Slow Boat*.

School Visits

At Ikon your pupils can enjoy creative learning and develop key transferable skills such as problem solving, communication and literacy. We offer countless opportunities to think creatively and critically, engaging in cross-curricular learning, narrowing the achievement gap and raising attainment. There is a range of options available to suit your needs. For more information click [here](#) or call the Learning Team on 0121 248 0708.

Learning

Seminar

What is Refugee Week?

Monday 17 June, 11am–1.30pm – FREE

Celebrating Sanctuary ask what is Refugee Week (17–23 June) and why do we celebrate it? This is answered by members of the Refugee Week network in Birmingham who share their programme and activity around this year's theme 'You, me and those who came before.'

Screening

Mugging: A Case Study in Communication

Tuesday 2 July, 7.15–8.30pm – £3

Dr Kieran Connell (Queen's University Belfast) introduces a screening of Stuart Hall's film *Mugging: A Case Study in Communication* (Open University, 1974), focusing on the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies' work on the Handsworth mugging case that later led to the book *Policing the Crisis*. Followed by a discussion about reading *Policing the Crisis* in light of our current crises, led by Dr Nick Beech (New York University) and Ash Sarkar (Novara Media).

Ikon Slow Boat

Slow Boat is curated by Ikon's Learning Team with members of Ikon Youth Programme (IYP).

Slow Boat is accessible by wheelchair via a ramp and lift and crew are on hand to provide additional assistance for foot passengers boarding the boat. We advise visitors to call 0121 248 0708 to discuss any access requirements.

Performances

Andy Ingamells – *Barataria*

Wednesday 12 June, 5–6pm – £3

Coinciding with the opening of *The Aerodrome*, experimental musician Andy Ingamells performs on *Slow Boat* in response to the passing urban and rural landscapes, blurring the line between composer, performer and listener.

Fly the Flag

24–29 June

Fly the Flag is an ambitious collaboration between arts organisations and human rights charities to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On board *Slow Boat*, Ikon flies a flag designed by artist and activist Ai Weiwei, symbolising advocacy for and celebration of universal human rights.

World Music Voyage

Thursday 4 July, 6–8pm – £5

Join artists from Celebrating Sanctuary for a *Slow Boat* trip with live world music and creative activities.

Rie Nakajima LP Launch

Saturday 20 July, 2–4pm – £10

Presented in partnership with Supersonic Festival, Birmingham's internationally renowned experimental music and art festival (19–21 July), Rie Nakajima launches her new LP – *1 May 2018* – a pressing from a performance with saxophonist and marine biologist Akira Sakata during her 2018 Ikon exhibition. Includes a one hour boat trip with Japanese drinks and snacks. supersonicfestival.com

Workshops and Discussion

Meet the Artist – Dion Kitson

Thursday 11 July, 3–5pm – FREE

Dudley-based artist Dion Kitson exhibits his archival research and artistic proposals for William Shenstone's eighteenth century landscape, The Leasowes, Halesowen. This includes designs for the *Assignment Seat* by Ian Hamilton Finlay in the pastoral paradise Virgil's Grove, upon Lover's Walk.

Assignment Seat

Sunday 14 July, 2–3pm – FREE

Leasowes Lane, Halesowen B62 8DH

Dion Kitson leads a performance walk through The Leasowes with experts on Shenstone's poetical garden and members of Ikon Youth Programme. This includes the placement of a large cardboard obelisk, fabricated by Kitson with IYP and transported by *Slow Boat*.

Slow Moving Words: Writing for Performance

26 and 27 July, 10am–4pm and 10am–8pm

£40 for two days, including lunch and refreshments

Artists Hayley Newman and Sally O'Reilly host a two-day writing workshop on *Slow Boat*, taking the canals and environs as site and catalyst for text-based performances. On the first day, participants develop writing in response to prompts, exercises and particularities of selected waterside places. The second day involves feeding back on texts, devising modes of delivery and preparing for an evening performance to an invited audience. Two bursaries are available for artists; visit Ikon's website for further information.

Urban Retreat - Simon and Tom Bloor

Simon and Tom Bloor use *Slow Boat* as a floating studio to document the urban decline and development of Birmingham's waterways, making a series of drawings in response to their findings and available to purchase from Ikon Shop as limited edition prints.

Carrie Stanley and Angela Samata

Ikon is working with artist Carrie Stanley and campaigner Angela Samata to use *Slow Boat* as a sanctuary for discussion and creative activity that addresses family bereavement. If you have experience of bereavement, or are involved with a charity supporting the bereavement of children and young people, please contact Ikon's Learning Team for more information on programmed activity.

Ikon Youth Programme

Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) is a group of young people, aged 16–21 years old, who share an interest in visual art. IYP meets once a week at Ikon to tour the exhibitions, get to know the Ikon team, share ideas and work with artists. These sessions are relaxed, friendly and informal. Click [here](#) for more information or contact James Farwa Moledina on 0121 248 0708.

Open Social

Thursday 20 June, 6–8pm – FREE

Drop in, no need to book

A chance for young people to join members of Ikon Youth Programme for an evening exploring the current exhibitions and enjoy live music by local composer and performer Rosie Tee.

Flying the Flag with IYP

Thursday 27 June, 6–9pm – FREE

Drop in, no need to book

Find out more about IYP first hand by joining this flag making workshop with current members on board Ikon's *Slow Boat*. Then *Fly the Flag* in a procession marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Creative Careers

Thursday 18 July, 5–8pm – FREE

Drop in, no need to book

Free refreshments

Ever wondered what it's like to work in a contemporary art gallery and want to know how to get a foot in the door? Join Ikon staff to chat, ask questions and learn more about opportunities at Ikon and across the city. Hear from creative professionals about their own experiences of working in the industry, including Amahra Spence, multidisciplinary artist and producer, and meet Ikon's Front of House team in advance of recruitment for our forthcoming year of exhibitions.

All events take place at Ikon Gallery unless otherwise stated and can be booked online at ikon-gallery.org or by calling Ikon on 0121 248 0708.

Please consider making a donation for free events, Ikon is a registered charity and your support helps us with everything we do.

Note to Editors:

1. Ikon's Learning Programme is supported by Arts Connect West Midlands, Birmingham City University, Cass Art and The Rowlands Trust. Ikon's *Slow Boat* programme, *Looping the Loop*, is supported by Arts Council Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Canal & River Trust and Grantham Yorke Trust.
2. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity 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. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.
3. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free.
4. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
5. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
6. For more information and high-res images or to request interviews please contact Emily Luxford at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org

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Ikon Youth Programme



Ai Weiwei, Photograph by Camilla Greenwell



Ikon family workshop



David Austen, *Crackers* (2007)