

# IKON

Exhibitions/Events  
September – November 2019  
[ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)  
Free entry

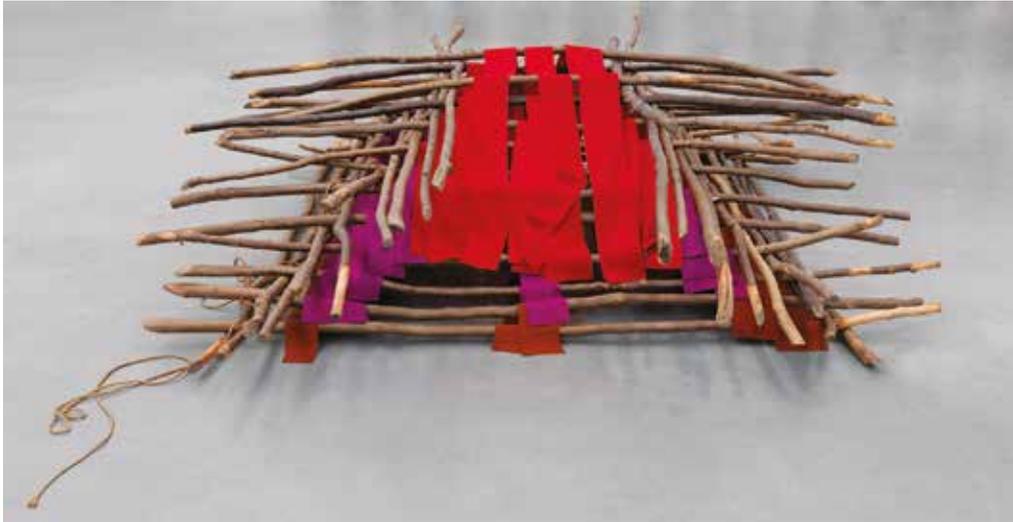


# Barry Flanagan

Exhibition

18 September – 24 November 2019

First & Second Floor Galleries



1

This is a major survey of work by Barry Flanagan, one of Britain's most inventive sculptors, filling Ikon's two floors of gallery space entirely. Curated by Jo Melvin, it brings together a selection of Flanagan's iconic bronze sculptures (1980s–90s) alongside earlier works, offering new insights into the interconnectedness of seemingly distinct aspects of his practice. Demonstrating an ongoing experimentation with materials and their properties and a symbiosis between abstraction and figuration, the exhibition challenges the supposition that Flanagan's later works represent a marked shift in his approach to art-making. Rather, they represent the distillation of his decades-long fascination with ontology, movement and the physicality of the various materials with which he worked.

Flanagan studied at Birmingham College of Arts and Crafts and the exhibition highlights his presence in the city, signified also by the placement of one of his bronze hares, *Large Troubadour* (2004) outside Ikon's premises in Brindleyplace.

For Flanagan, sculpture was as much performance, sound, light as it was bronze and carving. The exposure of process and method is something he consistently performed in every medium he used throughout his career. He frequently used casts of objects as components in sculptures and allowed bits of the armature to show through stripes of clay or plaster, thereby exposing and recording the processes of its making. The durational nature of his films is translated into the bronzes, as we bear witness to the processes of casting. It is aptly contradictory then, that the fleeting hare should become a monument to time and duration, channelling the quixotic, mysterious propositions implicit in the early work.

The exhibition is supported by Brindleyplace, The Estate of Barry Flanagan and Waddington Custot. Key loans have been made possible through The Ferryman Project: Sharing Works of Art which is supported by National Lottery players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the John Ellerman Foundation and Art Fund.



2

- Cover Barry Flanagan *Horse and Cougar* (1984), *Harebell on Portland stone piers* (1983) in production at A&A Fine Art Foundry, London (1984) ©The Estate of Barry Flanagan, courtesy Plubronze
- 1 Barry Flanagan *no. 5 '71* (1971) ©Tate, London 2019
- 2 Barry Flanagan *Figure in the Trees* (1993) ©The Estate of Barry Flanagan, courtesy Plubronze



3

## Stuart Whipps

### *The Kipper and The Corpse*

Exhibition  
11–15 September 2019  
Second Floor Gallery

Ikon presents an 'exposition' by artist Stuart Whipps, part of his long-term art project *The Kipper and The Corpse* (2004–ongoing). A vast body of work, it is a multifaceted reflection on the closure of the Longbridge motor works in Birmingham, the last British-owned volume car manufacturer. A 1979 Mini, fully refurbished by Whipps, is the focal point of the exposition alongside photography, texts and archival material from the period, exemplifying his interest in the ramifications of the past on the present through cycles of political and socio-economic change.

3 Stuart Whipps  
*Denim Blue 001* (2019)  
Courtesy the artist

4 Claudia Losi  
*Voce a vento* (2018)  
Courtesy the artist

## Claudia Losi

### *Being There*

Exhibition  
18 September – 24 November 2019  
Tower Room, Second Floor  
*Please note the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps*

*Being There* is a two-part project conceived and realised by the artist Claudia Losi in collaboration with Italian arts collective, Collettivo Amigdala. Exhibited for the first time in Ikon's Tower Room, *Poli Antartici Constitutio* (2019) is an intricately embroidered silk cloth featuring a depiction of the Antarctic as represented by Athanasius Kircher in *Mundus Subterraneus* (1664). Losi fabricated the artwork over a period of nearly two years, during studio visits and day to day encounters with friends and acquaintances where stories of life, different countries, chatter, secrets and laughter are rooted in every stitch.

## Associated Events



4

## Exhibition Openings

**Stuart Whipps**  
***The Kipper and The Corpse***  
**Wednesday 11 September, 6–8pm – FREE**  
Join us for the opening night of Stuart Whipps' new exposition.

**Claudia Losi**  
***Being There* performance**  
**Wednesday 18 September**  
**4–5.30pm – FREE, drop in**  
Claudia Losi's *Being There* includes this site-specific performance along Birmingham's canals. Developed with Collettivo Amigdala and vocal researcher Meike Clarelli, this performance featuring an assortment of local singers starts outside Ikon and continues canalside.

**Barry Flanagan**  
**Wednesday 18 September, 6–8pm – FREE**  
Celebrate the opening night of Ikon's new exhibition. Pay bar.

**Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)**  
**or call 0121 248 0708.**

## Film

***British Sounds***  
**Friday 13 September, 6–7.30pm – £3**  
Stuart Whipps discusses the restoration of a 1979 Mini and the impact of the closure of the Longbridge Motor Works. This is followed by a screening of Jean-Luc Godard's *British Sounds* (1969), which offers a political, non-narrative take on British car manufacturing. Supported by Film Hub Midlands, ITV, Kestrel Films and with thanks to the BFI.

**Franciszka & Stefan Themerson**  
**Wednesday 16 October, 6–7pm – FREE**  
**Medicine Bakery and Gallery, 69 New Street, B2 4DU**  
***Please note Medicine is only accessible via a steep staircase***  
Roma Piotrowska, Curatorial Officer at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, introduces three films by Polish-British artist duo Franciszka and Stefan Themerson, including *The Adventure of a Good Citizen* (1937), *Calling Mr Smith* (1943) and *The Eye and the Ear* (1944–5). In the early 1960s, Flanagan included the Themersons in an exhibition at the RBSA and continued to include their poetry in his magazine *Silâns* (1964–5). Supported by Film Hub Midlands and LUX.

# Associated Events

## Talks

### Public Art in Birmingham

**Monday 21 October, 6.30–7.30pm – FREE**  
**Aston Student's Union, 8 Coleshill Street, B4 7BX**  
Jonathan Watkins gives a keynote talk on twenty years of Ikon's off-site programme, including internationally renowned artists Gillian Wearing, Shimabuku, Katharina Grosse, Julian Opie and Marko Mäetamm. It reflects on a dynamic local context for Mäetamm's new public sculpture for Aston University, featuring a six foot pile of books carved in granite with the quotation "all the books I should have read, but I've been doing other things instead." Chaired by Professor Helen Higson, Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor at Aston University, Mäetamm discusses art in the public realm with Alistair Hicks, author of *The Global Art Compass: New Directions in 21st Century Art* (2014), Theresa Bergne, Art, Design and Culture Specialist for HS2, Roxanna Collins, Culture Officer at Birmingham City Council.

### Between Poetry and Sculpture

**Tuesday 29 October, 6–7pm – £3**  
Jo Melvin, Director of The Estate of Barry Flanagan, discusses the poetics of Flanagan's practice. She is joined by the artist Roger Moss who worked with Flanagan on sculptural processes, including dying rope and hardening canvas.



5

## Music

### Bach Cello Suites Nos. 1 & 3

**Sunday 29 September, 3–4pm – FREE**  
Cellist Jiaxin Lloyd Webber performs Bach's Cello Suites Nos. 1 & 3 in the company of Barry Flanagan's *Large Troubador* (2004), temporarily sited outside Ikon's premises in Oozells Square.

## OTO at Ikon

Keiko Yamamoto, founding member of OTOProjects, curates a series of concerts connecting Ikon, Centrala and the artistic community of Café Oto.

### Seymour Wright / Beatrice Dillon

**Saturday 5 October, 7–9.30pm – FREE**  
**Centrala, Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley St, B5 5RT**  
Seymour Wright performs an alto saxophone solo from his forthcoming publication *Rites* (2020), referencing a set of imaginary late-1960s Birmingham conditions and distortions. Followed by listening and ambient DJ sets by Beatrice Dillon who has released music on Hessle Audio and Timedance. Part of Birmingham Weekender in Digbeth.

### David Toop

**Tuesday 8 October, 6–7pm – FREE**  
In the early 1970s, Carlyle Reedy, Paul Burwell and David Toop were invited to perform in Flanagan's exhibition at the Rowan Gallery, London, though little remains of this improvised performance as it was not recorded or filmed. Toop explores the ghostliness of such events, disinterring memories from virtually nothing – a photograph, voices of living witnesses (if they can be persuaded) or perhaps instruments and gestures used over 45 years ago.

### Gavin Bryars and Morgan Goff

**Thursday 7 November, 6–7pm – FREE**  
Gavin Bryars presents seven one-minute pieces written in response to Flanagan's involvement in the College of Pataphysics, of which Bryars is also a member. This includes the premier of *Calendar* ("Le Calendrier Pataphysique") (days 1–7). Bryars is joined by session, chamber and solo violist/violinist Morgan Goff.

**Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)  
or call 0121 248 0708.**

# Families and Schools



6

## Families

### Workshop – Leaping Hares

**Thursday 31 October, 12–4pm – FREE, drop in**  
We invite Ikon Families to join this half term creative workshop. Taking inspiration from Barry Flanagan's *Leaping Hare*, our team design and cast a special version that families can paint, personalise and transform. Suitable for children over the age of 4, younger siblings always welcome.

### Family Storytelling

**Friday 1 November, 12pm & 1.30pm – £2**  
Storyteller Cath Edwards plays with the characters and myths associated with the current exhibition. Sessions last approximately one hour and include a drink and snack. Suitable for children over 5 accompanied by an adult, though younger family members are welcome.

### Family Saturday

**Saturday 2 November, 12–4pm – FREE, drop in**  
Join us for practical and creative activities inspired by Barry Flanagan's current exhibition. Spend some time as a family experimenting with 3D materials incorporating the image of the hare.

**Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)  
or call 0121 248 0708.**

### Storytelling – Leaping Hares

**Saturday 2 November, 4–5pm**  
**£5, includes a drink**  
**York's Café at Ikon**

Zimbabwean musician and storyteller Millicent Chapanda shares folklore of the common hare. Suitable for ages and in association with Celebrating Sanctuary.

## Schools

### Artists in Schools – Creative Connections

This academic year Ikon works with 13 Birmingham schools around our forthcoming John Walker and Meryl McMaster exhibitions. Each school collaborates with an artist, engaging in conversations and workshops, to explore visual art in new and different ways. Organised and funded in partnership with Arts Connect.

5 Jiaxin Lloyd Webber

6 Barry Flanagan  
*leaping hare, embellished, 23 jan '80* (1980)  
© Tate, London 2019

# Ikon *Slow Boat*

In 2011 Ikon launched *Slow Boat*, a unique floating space for communities and artists to make and experience art. *Slow Boat* is produced by Ikon's Learning Team with members of Ikon Youth Programme (IYP). Through autumn *Slow Boat* welcomes Czech artist Kateřina Šedá and Italian artist Claudia Losi who share a fascination with the physical and cultural relationships that evolve between environments and their inhabitants.



## Artist Residencies

**Artist in Residence – Kateřina Šedá**  
**17 September – 13 October 2019**  
***Slow Boat***

Kateřina Šedá's work is framed by social architecture. In 2018 she co-curated and presented UNES-CO for the 16th International Biennale of Architecture in Venice. Šedá will work with Birmingham residents to develop an ambitious proposal in response to her time here.

**Simon & Tom Bloor**

Following their *Slow Boat* retreat in August, a limited edition print by Simon and Tom Bloor is available to purchase in Ikon Shop and online, with 50% of proceeds donated to Andys Man Club, a charity aimed at encouraging men to speak openly about mental health. Visit [ikon-gallery.org/shop](http://ikon-gallery.org/shop)

## Talks & Discussion

**Meet the artist – Kateřina Šedá**

**Wednesday 25 September, 4–5pm – FREE, drop in**  
***Slow Boat***

Meet artist Kateřina Šedá and find about more about her art practice.

**Research Findings**

**Friday 11 October, 6–8pm – £3**

Šedá presents findings from her *Slow Boat* residency in Birmingham.

## IYP

Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) is a group of young people, aged 16–21, who share an interest in visual art. IYP meets once a week at Ikon to tour exhibitions, share ideas and work with artists. These sessions are relaxed, friendly and informal. For more information and details of how to join IYP, contact Farwa Moledina [f.moledina@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:f.moledina@ikon-gallery.org)

**Showcase: *Bollards Project***

**Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 November**

IYP and students from Birmingham School of Art respond to Barry Flanagan's *bollards project*. The results of this project, involving archival research, sculpture, performance and film, are displayed in this showcase which launches on Thursday 21 November, 6–8pm.

**IYP Exhibition Tour**

**Friday 8 November, 6–8pm – FREE**

If you're aged 16–21 and interested in contemporary art, join IYP for an informal tour of the Barry Flanagan exhibition.

**All events take place at Ikon or on *Slow Boat* as stated. *Slow Boat* is accessible by wheelchair via a ramp and lift. Crew are on hand to assist all passengers. For more information and bookings please visit [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org) or call 0121 248 0708.**

# Art at HMP Grendon



7 Dean Kelland

## Art at HMP Grendon 2019–2022

We are pleased to announce that Birmingham born artist Dean Kelland is Ikon's artist in residence for the next three years at HMP Grendon, Buckinghamshire. Funded by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust, his appointment follows Edmund Clark's residency (2014–2019).

*Art at HMP Grendon* is an opportunity for the development of artistic practice for both Kelland and the prison community. In consultation with the artist, prison residents will continue to make and submit work to the Koestler Awards, as well as holding annual exhibitions at HMP Grendon. The residency runs alongside a public programme of research symposiums and events at Ikon, allowing a platform for public discourse on arts practice and criminal justice.

**Learning Social – Art in Prisons**

**Monday 14 October, 5–7pm – £3**

Lisa Selby and Eliot Murawski, @bluebaglife, confront issues of addiction, mental health and incarceration, while Sarah McNally, Youth Programme Coordinator at The Hepworth Wakefield, shares experiences of working between youth offending and gallery spaces. The session is chaired by Dean Kelland, Ikon's artist in residence at HMP Grendon.

**For regular updates about Art at HMP Grendon visit [ikon-gallery.org/blog](http://ikon-gallery.org/blog)**



8

## Future Exhibitions



9

8 Meryl McMaster  
*On The Edge of This Immensity* (2019)  
Courtesy the artist

9 John Walker *Shift* (2018)  
Courtesy the artist

## Meryl McMaster *As Immense as the Sky*

4 December 2019 – 23 February 2020

This is the first UK exhibition of work by Meryl McMaster. From a rising generation of Indigenous artists, she uses staged photography with extraordinary visual impact in an exploration of First Nation identity and its distinct cultural landscapes. With an ecological proposition, McMaster presents herself in nature in order to assert a bigger world picture within which myth and narration go hand in hand.

## John Walker *It's there when I'm there*

4 December 2019 – 23 February 2020

John Walker was the first artist to show at Ikon when it moved to new premises above New Street Station in 1972, the same year in which he represented Britain at the Venice Biennale. This major exhibition features new "anti-scenic" paintings, inspired by the coastal landscape of Maine where Walker now lives. His response to the natural world in which he works is often evident in stripes and zigzags, graphic representations of the changing rhythms of how the ocean meets the shore.

## Thank you



**Ikon is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Ikon would also like to thank all those who make a donation during their visit.**

**Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered Charity no. 528892**

### Support Ikon

As a charity, Ikon needs your support. We rely on donations from individuals and businesses to fund what we do. If you would like to donate, become a patron or leave a legacy, call 0121 248 0708 or visit [ikon-gallery.org/support](http://ikon-gallery.org/support).

### Corporate Patrons

ARTiMBARC; Deutsche Bank; Emerson Press; EY; Glenn Howells Architects.

### Individual Patrons and Benefactors

Paul Aston; Lulu Badr; Adrian Bland; Simon Chapman; Angela Choon; Thomas Dane; Jean Denning; Victoria Denning; Carl & Didi Forster; Robert Goddard; Patzi Haslimann; John Hayes; Ian Hyde; Peter Jenkins; Tom Jones; Masood Khan; Stephen and Sigrid Kirk; Jeanette Koch; David and Mary Lodge; Oliver Longmore; Tom Merilion; Stephen Pallister; Jasmin Pelham; Mr & Mrs A E Taylor; Jonathan Watkins; Jonathan Wearing; Greville Worthington, Tricia Wright.

### Exhibition supporters

The exhibition is supported by Brindleyplace, The Estate of Barry Flanagan and Waddington Custot. Key loans have been made possible through The Ferryman Project: Sharing Works of Art which is supported by National Lottery players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the John Ellerman Foundation and Art Fund.

### Project and Event supporters

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. Artist in Residence at HMP Grendon is supported by Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

Copyright Ikon Gallery and artists. Printed in Warwickshire by Emerson Press, an ISO 9001 and 14001 certified print company.



