Events Diary
September – November 2019

Exhibitions

Barry Flanagan
18 September – 24 November
First & Second Floor Galleries

Claudia Losi Being There
18 September – 24 November
Tower Room
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 Development Officer and Public Art Lead 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.

Film

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.
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 Troubadour (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.
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.

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 all 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.
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

Talks & Discussion

**Meet the artist – Kateřina Šedá**

Wednesday 25 September, 4–5pm – FREE, drop in

*Slow Boat*

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

**Research Findings**

Friday 11 October, 6–8pm – £3

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

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

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.

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 Motesciczky 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.
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 Laura Jaunzems or Rebecca Small at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email l.jaunzems@ikon-gallery.org or r.small@ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm / free entry
Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 528892.
Marko Mäetamm’s sculpture for Aston University, all the books I should have read, but I’ve been doing other things instead.

Jiaxin Lloyd Webber
David Toop performing *The Myriad Creatures will be Transformed of Their own Accord* at White Cube Bermondsey (2015)

Prisoner's Artwork from the Koestler Awards

Family Saturday