Events Diary

December 2019 – February 2020

All events take place at Ikon Gallery unless otherwise stated.

All events can be booked online at ikon-gallery.org unless indicated otherwise. Alternatively please call 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.

Meryl McMaster, Harborage For A Song (2019), Clicée Print. Courtesy of the artist and Stephen Bulger Gallery, Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain and The Baldwin Gallery
Launch Night

Meryl McMaster, John Walker and ZouZou Group
Wednesday 4 December, 6–8pm – Free
Join us to celebrate the opening of our new exhibitions – Meryl McMaster, John Walker and ZouZou Group. Pay bar.

Ikon Editions Showcase
Wednesday 4 December – Sunday 22 December, 11am – 5pm
Events Room, First Floor
Artists John Walker and Meryl McMaster have generously created new limited edition artworks to aid Ikon’s fundraising. Visit Ikon’s Editions Showcase or shop online for the full range of limited editions by artists including Polly Apfelbaum, Vanley Burke, Haroon Mirza and Cornelia Parker. By buying these works you are directly supporting Ikon.

Talks

Meryl McMaster and John Walker
Thursday 5 December, 6–7pm – £3
Booking essential
Artists Meryl McMaster and John Walker discuss their Ikon exhibitions, placing emphasis on the artistic representation of homelands and adopted landscapes, ecology and the possibility of capturing the essential nature of a place.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla
These Are a Few of My Favourite Things
Friday 13 December, 6–7pm – £3
Booking essential
Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Music Director, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, discusses her eight favourite works of art with Jonathan Watkins, Ikon Director. This is the latest in our series of These Are a Few of My Favourite Things, recently featuring horticulturist Alys Fowler, multi-award winning saxophonist and MC Soweto Kinch, and cellist and conductor Julian Lloyd Webber.

Book Launch

This Way to the Revolution
Tuesday 10 December, 6–9pm – FREE
No need to book, just drop in
Ian Francis, Director of Flatpack Festival, launches This Way to the Revolution, a publication which has emerged from this research, a slice of social history designed by Justin Hallström which includes photographs by Janet Mendelsohn and Nick Hedges as well as the story behind Birmingham Arts Lab, Mothers club, Black Sabbath and the Black and White Unite and Fight rally in Victoria Square.

The book’s author Ian Francis and a number of those who contributed memories and images will talk about this unique period. The evening is also an opportunity to see
Ikon's new exhibition of paintings by John Walker, who like Steve Ajao is an alumnus of Moseley School of Art. Steve and his band The Blues Giants will be playing in Yorks Cafe after the launch. Birmingham 68 is a Flatpack project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Winter Craft Market

Thursday 12 December, 5.30–8.30pm – FREE
Join us for our annual Winter Craft Market, expanded over both floors of the gallery. Take the opportunity to meet a range of local independent makers, with artisan food and drink alongside stalls selling jewellery, gifts, cards and books plus music from the Diskery and 20% off in Ikon Shop.

VR Film

Lindsay Seers, Care(less)
15–23 February 2020
Events Room, First Floor
Care(less) (2019) is an immersive 360 degree film using VR technology by British artist Lindsay Seers. This OPCARE artist commission responds to new research by the University of Birmingham, University of Brighton and University of Lincoln, supported by the Wellcome Trust Enrichment Fund, into the experiences of older people receiving care they pay for themselves. The installation is part of an ongoing exploration around the ethics of care in partnership with Fabrica gallery, Brighton and Frequency Festival. Please note this experience lasts for 20 minutes and has limited capacity.

Families

Free Drop-in Activities

Family Saturday
Saturday 7 December, 12–4pm – FREE
Saturday 4 January, 12–4pm – FREE
Saturday 1 February, 12–4pm – FREE
Spend some time making and experimenting as a family with creative, hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibition. Ikon’s Learning Programme is supported by Cass Art. 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.
February Half Term Workshops

Exploring our Landscape
Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 February, 12–4pm – FREE
Moseley Community Hub, Balsall Heath, B12 9AH
Drop in, stay as long as you like
We invite families to the former Moseley School of Art which inspired a generation of artists, including John Walker. Here we explore Walker’s abstracted landscapes through painting and printmaking workshops with local artists. Open to all ages. No need to book, just drop in.

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

Art at HMP Grendon
2019 – 2022

Dean Kelland is Ikon’s artist in residence for the next three years at Europe’s only wholly therapeutic prison. Practical workshops on each of the prison’s wings culminate in a Winter exhibition at HMP Grendon. If you are an artist, arts professional or work in criminal justice and would like to attend the exhibition, contact James Latunji-Cockbill: j.latunji-cockbill@ikon-gallery.org.

Funded by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust. For regular updates about Art at HMP Grendon visit ikon-gallery.org/blog

To be seen is to be perceived
Monday 17 February, 6–7pm – £3
Artist in residence Dean Kelland and other guests share slides from the Art and HMP Grendon exhibition, followed by a screen of Samuel Beckett’s Film (1965), which plays with the notion of self-perception. This screening will be repeated for residents of HMP Grendon with the support of Flatpack and BFI.
Ikon *Slow Boat*

2017 – 2019

Looping the Loop, Ikon’s ambitious programme of activity on *Slow Boat*, comes to a close this Winter. During this time, *Slow Boat* has become a space for encouraging greater understanding of the experiences of refugees and new arrivals to the city – recently collaborating with Celebrating Sanctuary to promote the exceptional talents of artists in exile. Over the Winter, Ikon and IYP hold conversations and produce presentations reflecting on the Looping the Loop programme.

Check Ikon’s website and social media for details of our Spring 2020 programme.

**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 Farwa Moledina: f.moledina@ikon-gallery.org.

**Group Visits**

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.

**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.
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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 mail to: ljaunzems@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.
Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla

Mike Westbrook Brass Band outside Birmingham Arts Lab (Tony Jones)