

**Press release**

Date: Friday 9 July 2021

Contact: [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

Images: [HERE](#)



**HAYWARD  
GALLERY**  
TOURING

## The UK's largest touring exhibition, the British Art Show 9 opens at Aberdeen Art Gallery



Hardeep Pandhal, *Purity*, 2021 © Hardeep Pandhal; Paul Maheke, *We took a sip from the devil's cup*, 2020 © Paul Maheke.  
Installation view: *British Art Show 9*, 2021-22, Aberdeen Art Gallery. Photo: Mike Davidson

- *British Art Show 9* (BAS9), curated by Irene Aristizábal and Hammad Nasar opens to the public on Saturday 10 July 2021 at Aberdeen Art Gallery, offering a barometer of the UK's contemporary art landscape today.
- Taking place every 5 years, the British Art Show is Hayward Gallery Touring's landmark exhibition, having begun in 1979 – this will be its ninth edition.
- The exhibition will explore the themes of healing, care and reparative history; tactics for togetherness; and imagining new futures.
- BAS9 launches in Aberdeen and goes on tour to spaces in Wolverhampton, Manchester and Plymouth.
- The exhibition is unique to each city, and features a number of new commissions and ambitious recent work previously unseen in the UK.

This weekend, Hayward Gallery Touring's landmark exhibition, **British Art Show**, will open its **9th** edition in Scotland at **Aberdeen Art Gallery**. Widely acknowledged as the most important and ambitious recurrent exhibition of contemporary art produced in the UK, the British Art Show brings the work of artists defining new directions in contemporary art to four UK cities. Following its launch in Aberdeen this summer, the exhibition will continue its national tour to multiple venues across the cities of Wolverhampton, Manchester and Plymouth throughout 2022.

*British Art Show 9* is curated by Irene Aristizábal and Hammad Nasar and will showcase the work of 47 artists in total – with 33 presented in Aberdeen, including many significant new commissions and site-specific installations. Focusing on work made since 2015, the exhibition reflects a precarious moment in Britain's history. During this time, the politics of identity and nation, and concerns of social, racial and environmental justice have pervaded public consciousness. The artists presented in the exhibition have responded in critical ways to this complex context. Through their works, they imagine new futures, propose alternative economies, explore new modes of resistance and find ways of living together. They do so through film, photography, painting, sculpture, and performance, as well as through multimedia projects that don't sit easily in any one category.

The exhibition is structured around three main themes - **Healing, Care and Reparative History; Tactics for Togetherness; Imagining New Futures** - and has been conceived as a cumulative experience, adapting and changing for each city, and presenting different combinations of artists and artworks that respond to their distinctive local contexts. In Aberdeen, the exhibition will focus on the effort to develop alternative systems for ethical cohabitation in the world. The presentation centres on exploring different forms of knowledge – including spirituality – to heal the earth, to resist the injustices of extractivism, and develop non-exploitative ways of living with the non-human.

The participating artists for *British Art Show 9* in Aberdeen include: Michael Armitage, Simeon Barclay, Zach Blas, Kathrin Böhm, Maeve Brennan, James Bridle, Helen Cammock, Cooking Sections, Jamie Crewe, Patrick Goddard, Anne Hardy, Celia Hempton, Joey Holder, Marguerite Humeau, Lawrence Lek, Ghislaine Leung, Paul Maheke, Elaine Mitchener, Grace Ndiritu, Uriel Orlow, Hardeep Pandhal, Florence Peake, Joanna Piotrowska, Abigail Reynolds, Margaret Salmon, Hrair Sarkissian, Katie Schwab, Tai Shani, Marianna Simnett, Sin Wai Kin (fka Victoria Sin), Hanna Tuulikki, Alberta Whittle, Rehana Zaman.

Over half of the works will receive their UK premiere, including many significant new commissions and site specific installations, such as:

- **Maeve Brennan's** new iteration of *The Goods* (2018-ongoing); a series of moving image works and photographs which take an in-depth look at the international traffic in looted cultural objects.
- A new presentation of **Cooking Sections'** long-term research project, CLIMAVORE (2015–ongoing) that involves a selection of restaurants in Aberdeen replacing farmed salmon on their menu with a CLIMAVORE dish, featuring local bivalves and seaweeds that filter and oxygenate the water.
- **Patrick Goddard's** new film commission *Animal Antics* (2021), an absurdist commentary on the Anthropocene featuring a woman and her talking dog. In this film, the two species wander around a zoo encountering the forlorn caged inhabitants while reflecting on man's relationship with the natural world. The work is co-commissioned with Film and Video Umbrella, FLAMIN London, and EWERK Freiburg.
- A new participatory project by **Grace Ndiritu** will take place for the closing of the exhibition in October 2021. *Plant Theatre For Plant People* (2021), aims to create a community of people who will learn from plants through bonding exercises, meditation classes and workshops, connecting with plant spirits, and exploring ecological activism. The project culminates in a processional performance through the streets of Aberdeen. This work is made possible by Arts Council England support.

- **Florence Peake's** trio of new works, *CRUDE CARE*; a ceramic sculpture, a performance and a film informed by Aberdeen's landscape and the treatment of precarious workers in the care sector. This work is made possible through Art Fund support and will be acquired into the collection of Aberdeen Art Gallery.
- A new instalment of **Tai Shani's** experiential installation *Neon Hieroglyph* (2021), calling on Shani's research into ergot, a fungus with toxic and psychoactive properties.
- **Abigail Reynolds' Elliptical Reading** at Aberdeen Central Library. This will be a regular reading hour at libraries in each of the BAS9 cities. Readers meet to share short sections from a favourite book, creating between them an unruly text or word collage, which builds over time. In Aberdeen, visitors to the Central Library can find books selected by nine local readers which have been re-bound by the artist and re-shelved in alternative locations chosen by the readers.

The exhibition includes a programme of artist films and a dedicated website which enables artists, including those not showing works in Aberdeen, to share works online. The online programme will launch with works by Andy Holder, Mandy El-Sayegh, Hannah Tuulikki and Abigail Reynolds. The exhibition is also accompanied by a publication that includes curatorial essays and individual artist texts.

A varied programme of events and activities for visitors of all ages, both in person and online, will extend the reach of *British Art Show 9* beyond the walls of Aberdeen Art Gallery. A group of locally-recruited Ambassadors will help make connections between groups and communities and this major exhibition of the best recent art from the UK.

*British Art Show 9* is a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition presented in collaboration with the cities of Aberdeen, Wolverhampton, Manchester and Plymouth. Curated by Irene Aristizábal and Hammad Nasar.

Four of the new works in the *British Art Show 9* tour are made possible with the generous support of the Art Fund and these will be acquired by museum partners in each city for their own collections, as a marker of the lasting legacy of this ambitious touring show. In Aberdeen this is *CRUDE CARE* by Florence Peake which was made in the city. BAS9 will also benefit from the support of Arts Council England's Project Grant for National Activities which is allowing partners to produce ambitious and wide ranging programmes of creative learning, civic engagement and participation that will further extend the reach of BAS9 across the four partner cities. BAS9 in Aberdeen is supported by Aberdeen City Council and Creative Scotland.

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication published by Hayward Gallery Publishing which includes two wide-ranging curatorial essays, over 200 colour illustrations and original texts on all 47 artists.

**Councillor Marie Boulton, Aberdeen City Council's culture spokesperson said:**

"Aberdeen Art Gallery has a long history of collecting contemporary art. From its foundation in 1885 to the present day this commitment has brought unique and internationally significant artwork to the city. We are thrilled that British Art Show is visiting Aberdeen for the first time, where BAS9 is being presented in the award-winning Aberdeen Art Gallery and at the Central Library. We are excited that local people and visitors to the city will be the first to enjoy this landmark exhibition which opens up the work of a new group of extraordinary artists to the widest audience."

**Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts, Creative Scotland** said: "It's always a great delight to welcome the British Art Show to Scotland and we're especially pleased that Aberdeen Art Gallery will be hosting its UK launch this weekend. British Arts Show 9 is an ambitious and expansive exhibition that gives the public a great opportunity to experience, in real life, the diversity and vitality of contemporary art across the UK. With the generous support of National Lottery funds through Creative Scotland the show will also provide new opportunities for people to develop their own creativity through an ambitious community engagement and outreach programme."

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For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:

Fiona Russell, Sutton Communications

[fiona@suttoncomms.com](mailto:fiona@suttoncomms.com)

### Notes to Editors

Tour details:

- 10 July – 10 October 2021, Aberdeen: Aberdeen Art Gallery
- 22 January – 10 April 2022, Wolverhampton: Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Wolverhampton School of Art
- 13 May – 4 September 2022, Manchester: Castlefield Gallery; HOME; Manchester Art Gallery; and the Whitworth, The University of Manchester
- 8 October – 23 December 2022, Plymouth: KARST; The Levinsky Gallery, University of Plymouth; The Box, Plymouth; and Mirror Plymouth College of Art

*British Art Show 9* Catalogue:

RRP £20 Paperback (special exhibition price £16.99)

192 pages

170 x 240 mm

ISBN: 9781853323713

Design by Johanne Lian Olsen

Published by Hayward Gallery Publishing

The publication is available for pre-order from the [Southbank Centre shop](#).

### About Hayward Gallery Touring

Hayward Gallery Touring organises contemporary art exhibitions that tour to galleries, museums and other publicly funded venues throughout Britain. In collaboration with artists, independent curators, writers and partner institutions, Hayward Gallery Touring develops imaginative exhibitions that are seen by up to half a million people in over 45 cities and towns each year.

### About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

### **About Irene Aristizábal**

Irene Aristizábal is the Head of Curatorial and Public Practice at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, where she has curated Judy Chicago's first major survey in the UK and Abel Rodríguez's first solo exhibition. Before BALTIC, Irene worked as Head of Exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary (2013–9), where she curated exhibitions and commissioned projects by Lis Rhodes, Pia Camil, Steffani Jemison, Otobong Nkanga, Simon Starling, Michael Beutler, Pauline Boudry/Renate Lorenz, Sun Ra, Rana Hamadeh, Danai Anesiadou, Danh Võ, Carol Rama and Asco. Recent group exhibitions include Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender Resistance (2018–9) and States of America: Photography from the Civil Rights Movement to the Reagan Era (2017). She was curator at the FRAC Nord Pas de Calais, Dunkirk in 2010–1, and was the recipient of the H+F Curatorial Grant (2010). Prior to that she co-directed the not-for-profit space Bétonsalon in Paris (2005–6). She has also curated exhibitions at the Fundació Miró, Barcelona; Maison Rouge, Paris; Form Content, London and the Museum of Health Sciences, Bogota. Irene is a member of the Advisory Board of La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre in Noisy-le-Sec, France.

### **About Hammad Nasar**

Hammad Nasar is Senior Research Fellow at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and Principal Research Fellow at the University of the Arts, London. He was the inaugural Executive Director of the Stuart Hall Foundation, London (2018-19); Head of Research & Programmes at Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong (2012-16); and, co-founded (with Anita Dawood) the non-profit London art space, Green Cardamom (2004-12). Known for collaborative, research-driven and exhibition-led inquiry, his recent exhibition projects include: Speech Acts: Reflection-Imagination-Repetition (2018-19 – with Kate Jesson); Structures of Meaning | Architectures of Perception (2018-19 – with Sophie Persson); Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play – the UAE's national pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017); Excessive Enthusiasm: Ha Bik Chuen and the Archive as Practice (2015 – with Michelle Wong, Ingrid Chu and Vivian Poon); and Lines of Control: Partition as a Productive Space (2005-2013 – with Iftikhar Dadi, Ellen Avril, Nada Raza, Sophie Persson and Justine Blau). Nasar is a member of the board of Mophradat (Belgium), of the editorial board of Tate's magazine, Tate Etc, and serves on the expert panel for Art and Design, History, Practice and Theory as part of the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021). He is an advisor to numerous organisations including the Lahore Biennale Foundation (Pakistan); Alserkal Avenue (UAE); and Delfina Foundation, Manchester Art Gallery and Whitechapel Gallery (UK).

### **About Art Fund**

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund has made £2 million in adapted funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 159,000

members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. In a unique edition of the prize for 2020, Art Fund responded to the unprecedented challenges that all museums are facing by selecting five winners and increasing the prize money to £200,000. The winners are Aberdeen Art Gallery; Gairloch Museum; Science Museum; South London Gallery; and Towner Eastbourne [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)

### About Arts Council England

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's unprecedented £1.96 billion **Culture Recovery Funds**. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19).

### About Aberdeen Art Gallery

Aberdeen Art Gallery has a long history of collecting contemporary art. From its foundation in 1885 to the present day this commitment has brought unique and internationally significant artwork to the city. Between 2015 and 2019 Aberdeen Art Gallery underwent a landmark transformation, supported by Aberdeen City Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The redevelopment invested in the fabric of the Grade II listed building, increased the amount of space for the display of the Recognised Collection of National Significance and special exhibitions, and dramatically improved visitor facilities. Aberdeen Art Gallery is proud to be a joint winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2020.

### About Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. They distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. Further information at [creativescotland.com](http://creativescotland.com). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).