

Media Release | September 2024

Press View: Friday 11 October 2024 from 11.00am

Advance viewings on request: emma@emmapybus.com

BALTIC

Leap Then Look: *Play Interact Explore*

12 October 2024 – 27 April 2025



Opening 12 October 2024 at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, *Play Interact Explore* is an exhibition developed by Leap Then Look– artists Lucy Cran and Bill Leslie, in collaboration with community groups in Eastbourne and Brighton. The exhibition explores play and collaboration creating new relationships with art objects and materials.

Leap Then Look's work is underpinned by the philosophy that contemporary art practice should and can be made available to everyone and that people of all ages can benefit from playful ways of making, thinking, and looking.

Play Interact Explore at Baltic brings together many of the ideas and approaches Leap Then Look have explored in recent years, through a process of collaborative workshops in community settings with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and mental health challenges, bringing materials together to play and reflect. The resulting exhibition is a welcoming, exciting and accessible environment for many people for whom art galleries are not a place they necessarily feel at home in.

The exhibition builds on the learning and relationships developed at Baltic during the Project Art Works *Residential* exhibition (September 2023 – February 2024) that embodied the visible traces of people often hidden from the world. Following awareness-raising and relationship building in the North East of England, the project included a programme of collaborative events for local people, families and caregivers.

To be enjoyed by everyone, every part of *Play Interact Explore* can be touched, picked up, rearranged and combined – a welcoming environment full of possibilities. Featuring large, tactile sculptural objects and colourful assemblages, everything in the space is interactive. Lively, exciting, and curiosity-filled, the exhibition is designed to support and encourage taking part in different ways to create sculptures, take photographs, move things around, rock, roll, stack, and play.

Artists Lucy Cran and Bill Leslie said

"We work with people of all ages and abilities, creating vivid experiences of contemporary art in all its forms; sculpture, photography, film, performance, mark-making and installation, through interactive art works, exhibitions, events and workshops. Our work aims to be engaging, thought-provoking and inclusive, bringing people together to explore the possibilities of art through active participation".

Alongside the exhibition, a dedicated studio and making area will be used for a series of collaborative interactions that bring different people, audiences and artists together in creative production and exploration. A programme of weekly events will follow for the duration of the exhibition.

***Play Interact Explore* is at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead from 12 October 2024 – 27 April 2025 with free entry.**

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the artists

Leap Then Look was established in Spring 2019 by artists Lucy Cran and Bill Leslie. Since then we have run participatory projects at institutions including; Tate, Towner Eastbourne, Royal Academy, National Gallery, Henry Moore Foundation, Turner Contemporary, Compton Verney, Young V&A, Orleans House, Watts Gallery, Photo Fringe, Brighton Festival, ACCA, John Hansard Gallery, Phoenix Art Space, Goldsmiths CCA, Brighton CCA, Black Mountain College Museum and Art Center, Glyndebourne, British Library, Folkstone Triennial, Now Play This, Somerset House, and London Festival of Architecture; universities including Bath Spa, Cambridge, Kingston, Brighton, Harvard Education, UCL Institute of Education, Westminster, Manchester, Nottingham and Goethemberg; and schools, Thomas Tallis, West Rise Juniors, Parliament Hill School, Thomas A Beckett, Carden Primary, Ratton School, Priory School, Guildford High School, City of London Freemans School, Brighton College, St Catherine's College, Eltham Hill School, Downs View Link College, Greenside School, Lady Zia Werner School, Gildredge House School, Hazel Court, Hangleton Primary.

About Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art

Baltic is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over eight million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, Baltic consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 460 artists of 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions to date. Baltic is supported by Arts Council England, Gateshead Council and Northumbria University.

www.baltic.art

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art
South Shore Road,
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Open Wed-Sun 10am-6pm
Free Entry

Baltic is supported by

