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Ker Wallwork announced as recipient of Baltic x Shape Arts Emergent residency

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead and Shape Arts, London are delighted to announce Ker Wallwork as the recipient of the first Emergent residency.

This summer, Baltic and Shape launched Emergent – a new hybrid residency and support programme for early-career disabled artists with a £5k bursary. The open call welcomed applications from disabled artists/creative practitioners in the first five years of their career who have met with significant barriers in developing their artistic practice. The three-month residency programme combines digital and physical elements of delivery, supported by both organisations.

The shortlisting process was competitive with a high volume of applications. The awarded artist, Ker Wallwork has a multi-disciplinary practice focusing on moving-image, also incorporating drawing, text, sculpture and archival projects. Recurrent themes in their work include language, queerness, sickness, and the welfare state.
Ker will take part in the residency online and at Baltic, where, in addition to receiving support and mentoring to inform their practice, they will use the facilities and have curatorial and technical input to extend their current research and develop new work. A showcasing or broadcast opportunity will also be provided as part of the programme.

Baltic and Shape are offering a package of support to a small number of shortlisted artists: Grace Fairley, Katayoun Jalilipour, Abigail Jacqueline Jones, Day Eve M Komet, Kaiya Waerea.

**Sarah Munro, Director of Baltic said:**
“We are thrilled to be announcing the selected artist for the Emergent residency, in collaboration with Shape Arts. Supporting artists is key to Baltic’s mission and it is vital that we continue to evolve our practice of providing that support in ways which are relevant to artists and to life today.

Ker’s work will have opportunities to grow, stretch creatively and develop technically through this new hybrid residency model. This will include both time spent online and at Baltic with access to curatorial and technical expertise and guidance. We congratulate Kerr and look forward to learning about and experiencing more of their work and practice”.

**David Hevey, CEO Shape Arts, said:**
“The quality and diversity of applications we received for this pilot year of Emergent was astounding. As such, awarding Ker Wallwork is a true testament to the quality of their practice as well as their vision for socially-engaged creativity. This is only the beginning, and we are incredibly excited to see how Ker’s work develops and the programme evolves as a result”.

The Baltic x Shape Arts Emergent residency is supported by The Foyle Foundation

For more information, media enquiries, or high-res images please contact elinor@shapearts.org.uk / 07745523822
Notes to Editors

Partners
The *Emergent* programme is a collaboration between Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead and Shape Arts, London, with key activity taking place in the North East of England, where Baltic is based. 2022 is the programme’s pilot year.

**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 8.2 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. [www.baltic.art](http://www.baltic.art)

**Shape Arts**
[Shape Arts](http://www.shapearts.org.uk) is a disability-led organisation breaking barrier to creative excellence. We deliver a range of projects supporting marginalised artists, as well as training cultural venues to be more inclusive and accessible for disabled people as employees, artists, and audiences. Running alongside this portfolio is the NLHF funded National Disability Movement Archive and Collection (NDMAC), a radical collecting and retelling of the Disability Rights Movement’s heritage story; and, until recently led by Shape, Unlimited, which, largely supported by Arts Council and British Council funding, provides a platform for disabled artists to develop, produce and show ambitious and high-quality work, and which aims to transform perceptions of how the work of disabled artists is received in the mainstream art world.

**Ker Wallwork Biography**
Ker Wallwork is a London-based artist with a multi-disciplinary practice spanning moving-image, drawing, text and sculpture. Recurrent themes in their work are language, queerness, sickness and the welfare state. They have worked with writers, scientists, academics and actors to develop work that explores materiality in relation to specific social and historic contexts.

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[Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art](http://www.baltic.art)
South Shore Rd, Gateshead NE8 3BA
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