

## Constellations ° Cohort Public Art Practitioners Development Programme

Amina Lawal Agoro  
(she/her)



Amina Lawal Agoro is a researcher and cultural producer whose work is rooted in the African and African Diasporic experience. Her ongoing research sits at the intersection of architectural history, urban heritage, and African epistemologies. It considers the ways in which extended ideas of the curatorial and participatory art practices can act as catalyst for the reconstitution of lapsed architectural forms.

Website: [www.theskz.xyz](http://www.theskz.xyz)

**Benedict Rutherford**  
(he/him)



Benedict Rutherford is an artist, printmaker and researcher based in Preston, Lancashire.

He is a founding Director of the Birley Artist Studios and Project Space, an artist-led project that provides studios for 30 artists and a gallery in the city centre of Preston.

He is also a Research Assistant at the In Certain Places public art research project at the University of Central Lancashire, where he has supported several public realm projects.

His artistic practice includes printmaking, and self-publishing. His work explores semantics, utopian optimism, and imagining alternative economic and social structures.

He is part of printmaking group Constructure Collective with which he has exhibited regularly, including Leeds Print Workshop, Mostyn Gallery, and The Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal. He was awarded AA2A printmaking residencies at Artlab Contemporary Print Studios in 2014-15 and 2017-18 and undertook a residency at the Harris Museum and Art Gallery in 2016.

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**Jordan Rowe**  
(he/him/they/them)



*Credit: James Curwen*

Jordan Rowe is a writer, curator and researcher on urban culture, heritage and identities. He is currently serving as the first ever Urbanist in Residence at the Museum of London, pursuing an ongoing project on civic night spaces and the museum's planned development at Smithfield Market. Alongside this he has been appointed Research Fellow at Theatrum Mundi, a centre for experimentation in the public culture of cities, based between Paris and London. Previous roles have included managing UCL's Urban Laboratory, leading on an institutional race equality implementation plan for University College London, and last year completing a curatorial residency at Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik in Berlin after being awarded an Arts Council England grant. Jordan is a member of Museum Detox and a Young Urbanist at the Academy of Urbanism, whilst also regularly contributing to talks, panels, roundtables and crits on the creative city, situated practices, night spaces, gentrification, the urban essay film, and queer urbanisms.

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**Kate Mahony**  
(she/her)



Kate Mahony makes work in front of people. Her practice has come out of framing performance within a 'gig' economy that is artistically unrestricted and often unpaid platform. By catering to the 'gig' at hand, Mahony's performances are quick, cheap and site responsive.

For the past ten years she has been creating and curating live performance and moving image works that have embraced immediate 'DIY' ways of making. Exhibiting nationally and internationally at intuitions such as SET, Nottingham Contemporary, SPILL Festival, The Bluecoat Gallery, The Goethe University and UICA, USA. Mahony's practice is cross-disciplinary in approach, from co-curating a performance programme out of a 'lock up' single car garage in Bethnal Green (LUPA); to creating a DIY crew of amateur filmmakers to capture a Live Action Roleplay (LARP); as well as fronting two post-punk bands Rainham Sheds and Shake Chain. Mahony is in her fourth year as lead artist for 'City as Studio' at Modern Art Oxford, a professional development programme for young artists creating lo-fi performance and moving image works. She is interested in themes spanning from class identity, art-school bands, alternative education, and normative behaviours.

Mahony graduated from Goldsmiths College with her BA in Art Practice in 2012, School of the Damned 2016, and MFA from the Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford in 2017. She is an Associate lecturer at Oxford Brookes University.

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**Laura Eldret**  
(she/her)



Laura Eldret's work explores the commonalities that bring groups together, and the productive tensions in social encounters. Her art offers a gentle nudge to social consciousness and action, bringing alternative voices to the foreground. Eldret's works have included sculptural fabric installations, posters and drawings, videos and events. She explores aesthetic patterns as emblems of forms of social behaviours. Her practice is a means of investigating the world, learning alongside others, centred on a civic concern to bring diverse publics together.

Her projects have involved working locally and transnationally, in both metropolitan and rural places around the world. Drawing on her studies in anthropology, ethnography and sociology, her work contests art's autonomy and affirms the value of conversation and social encounters. In 2019 she established More Than Ponies, an ambitious artist-led programme of new commissioned art works centred on the New Forest, advocating for cultural/aesthetic diversity in the region.

Exhibitions include: God's House Tower, Southampton (2020-1); Karst/The Box, Plymouth (2019); Firstsite, Colchester (2018); Turf Projects, Croydon (2017); CCA Derry, NI (2016); Fig-2, ICA, London (2015); South London Gallery (2013). She is currently an Associate Artist in the 'Schools of Tomorrow' project at Nottingham Contemporary. She was awarded a Gasworks-URRA residency in Buenos Aires (2016). Eldret is a visiting tutor at Arts University Bournemouth.

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**Manon Awst**  
(she/her)



Manon Awst is an artist based in Caernarfon, Wales, who makes sculptures and site-specific artworks woven with ecological narratives. Her interdisciplinary approach to sites and materials is moulded by her upbringing in North Wales and her academic studies in Architecture (Cambridge University) and Artistic Research (Royal College of Art, London). For ten years she focused on the artistic collaboration Awst & Walther, working with PSM gallery in Berlin and exhibiting widely in the UK and Germany including at Cass Sculpture Foundation, New Art Centre, National Museum Cardiff, Mostyn, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Georg Kolbe Museum, Kunstverein Braunschweig and Sammlung Boros. Permanent installations by Awst & Walther are located on the Wales Coastal Path (Nant Gwrtheyrn) and Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Berlin. In 2015 she was recipient of an Arts Council of Wales Creative Wales Award.

She's currently part of Cambridge Conservative Initiative's Endangered Landscapes Residencies with artist/poet collective TAIR, working with communities in Mid-Wales to develop land management ideas for wildlife. At Bangor University, she works as Public Spaces Creative Coordinator at Pontio Arts and is a part-time PhD candidate exploring the expanded field of sculpture.

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**Monica Tolia**  
(she/they)



Monica Tolia is an Asian American and neurodivergent visual artist, choreographer & organiser, based in London. Her multidisciplinary practice culminates into sensory installations and performances drawing on communal ritual acts, ecological, animist & Taoist spiritual themes as decolonial spaces. Her research is based on how non-Western knowledge practices can inform collective-building, deep connections & healing amongst human and more-than-human worlds.

Recent performance commissions and awards include Lewisham Creative Happenings Grant to produce Lunar New Year Festival (2022), a-n Artists Bursary (2021/22), Deptford X Festival (2021), Trinity Laban Ignite Award (2021), Deptford X Residency 'how to be together again' (2020), ACE National Lottery Projects Grant for 'Future Present' (2019), and Chalton Gallery x Art Night 2019.

Since 2021, she is co-founder of Have you eaten yet? Collective, an artist-led ESEA diaspora project organising events on the intersections of food, migration, art/activism & creating affectionate space.

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**Nisha Duggal**  
(she/her)



Nisha Duggal explores expressions of freedom in the everyday. She is interested in the transformative qualities of making and doing, engineering situations that uncover deep-seated primitive impulses to connect.

Nisha works internationally including installations at ArtNight and Watermans (London), Arnolfini (Bristol), Ginza Art Lab (Tokyo), Baltic (Gateshead) and Oriel Mostyn (Llandudno) with screenings at Videobabel (Cusco, Peru), European Media Art Festival (Osnabrueck, Germany), Rekalde (Bilbao, Spain), Cornerhouse (Manchester) and Iniva (London). She has been awarded commissions by Site Gallery (Sheffield) and Contemporary Art Forum (Kitchener, Ontario) and was shortlisted for the Jerwood Moving Image Awards in 2008 and the Jerwood/Umbrella Moving Image Awards in 2013. Between 2018-21 Nisha was artist-in-residence for Walthamstow Wetlands, The National Trust at Powis Castle in Wales and the Royal Overseas League in London. She is currently working as artist-in-residence for Collective Matters, London.

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**Rebecca Moss**  
(she/her)



Rebecca Moss' practice involves site-responsive absurdist gestures and interventions, which can take a wide variety of forms across video, performance and sculpture. She adopts a psychogeographic approach, where she teases out and responds to qualities in the landscape that have emotional and political potential.

She is interested in the space of the shared joke to challenge power, and is especially inspired by slapstick comedy as a means to critique heroic narratives. She has worked with very diverse groups of people across different projects, from workers at a concrete garden ornament factory in Somerset, to the crew of a bankrupt container ship in the Pacific Ocean. She enjoys encountering art in unexpected places.

Moss strongly believes that artists should not be isolated from wider society, and that art should be a part of everyday life, accessible to everybody. In her work as an artist and educator, she emphasises the importance of democratising artistic processes so that all voices are heard.

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Taey lohe  
(them/her)



Born in Seoul, Taey lohe is an artist and writer based in London working in text, moving images, sound, performance, learning and social practice. Her work engages with intimate and relational moments in racialised gender materiality, unattainable eloquence and loss of language both colonial and personal.

Currently, she focuses on the possibility of a collective imagination towards decolonising botany through an Asian queer feminist lens, challenging and complicating the colonial system of knowledge making around nature, science, migration and reproduction.

Taey is a co-recipient of the Arts Council England Project Grant (2020-22) for her collective solidarity project for the Southeast and East Asian diaspora, *Becoming Forest*, building a care infrastructure through creative workshops and seasonal forest walks. She founded a critical platform, *Care for Collective Curatorial*, completing an online and metaverse project, *Ecotone of Collective Lives* (2021-22) funded by Arts Council Korea. She completed her PhD in the programme of Gender, Identity and Culture, funded by *Writing on Borders*, at University College Dublin. She is a working member of @feministduration and an artist-researcher associate at @asia.art.activism.

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