

Liverpool Biennial

NEWS RELEASE

LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL TODAY OPENS NINE EXHIBITIONS PRESENTING THE COMPLETE 11TH EDITION: *THE STOMACH AND THE PORT*

On Wednesday 19 May, Liverpool Biennial opens nine new exhibitions, bringing together the complete presentation of the 11th edition, *The Stomach and the Port*, which runs until 27 June. This final chapter complements the outdoor sculptures, installations, sonic and digital commissions, and online event programme on the [Biennial Online Portal](#), which launched in March. Now, in line with Government guidance, the Biennial is opening more doors to Liverpool, welcoming visitors to safely enjoy the UK's largest free festival of contemporary art.

The Stomach and the Port is curated by Manuela Moscoso and showcases the work of 50 leading and emerging artists and collectives from 30 countries around the world, including 47 new commissions for the Liverpool Biennial.

The participating artists include: Larry Achiampong, Black Obsidian Sound System, Erick Beltrán, Diego Bianchi, Alice Channer, Judy Chicago, Ithell Colquhoun, Christopher Cozier, Yael Davids, Ines Doujak & John Barker, Dr. Lakra, Jadé Fadojutimi, Jes Fan, Lamin Fofana, Ebony G. Patterson, Sonia Gomes, Ane Graff, Ayesha Hameed, Camille Henrot, Nicholas Hlobo, Laura Huertas Millán, Sohrab Hura, Invernemuto & Jim C. Nedd, Rashid Johnson, KeKeÇa, Jutta Koether, SERAFINE1369, Ligia Lewis, Linder, Luo Jr – shin, Jorgge Menna Barreto, Haroon Mirza, Neo Muyanga, Pedro Neves Marques, Roland Persson, Anu Pöder, Reto Pulfer, André Romão, Kathleen Ryan, Zineb Sedira, Xaviera Simmons, Teresa Solar, Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, Jenna Sutela, Martine Syms, UBERMORGEN, Leonardo Impett and Joasia Krysa, Luisa Ungar, Alberta Whittle, Zheng Bo, David Zink Yi.

Exploring concepts of the body, the Biennial draws on non-Western thinking that challenges our understanding of the individual as a defined, self-sufficient, entity. Instead, the body is seen as fluid, being continuously shaped by, and actively shaping its environment. At the heart of this Biennial is Liverpool's history as a port city, an active agent in the process of modernisation, change, and colonialism. Through the visible and invisible dynamics of the port's past, this Biennial envisions different forms of being human and explores what bodies have the potential to be.

Presented across the city, in new and historic locations, the Biennial has taken over the Lewis's Building, Dr Martin Luther King Jr Building, the Lush Building, Liverpool Central Library and Cotton Exchange to install site-specific exhibitions, while new exhibitions have been created with the city's leading art venues, Tate Liverpool, FACT, Bluecoat and Open Eye Gallery.

The Biennial's series of outdoor sculptures and installations by seven artists celebrate Liverpool's iconic architecture and public spaces. Connecting bodies and experiences to key places, past and present, together they speak of the movement of humans across the sea and propose new understandings of the relationships between the body and nature.

To navigate the breadth of the Biennial and to make connections between the artworks, a free Guide is available to pick up around the city and [online](#), and a series of suggested [trails](#) gather exhibitions, outdoor sculptures and installations around 3 curatorial entry points – Stomach, Porosity and Kinship.

Underpinning the physical festival is the [Biennial Online Portal](#), a platform presenting an introduction to each of the artists and entry points, along with a dynamic digital programme *Processes of Fermentation*. This combines an inspiring line-up of live performances, artist interviews, curatorial videos, artist-led discussions and workshops, a film programme and podcasts, providing ever-changing, rich and engaging multimedia content. In addition, a vibrant selection of online and physical resources is available for children and young people, bringing the Biennial into the home, the classroom and the community.

To coincide with the launch of the exhibitions, the Biennial is releasing work for sale by Liverpool Biennial 2021 artists: a special edition vinyl by Neo Muyanga, produced in collaboration with SAVVY Contemporary and a limited-edition print by Teresa Solar, alongside a trio of prints by Dr. Lakra. Also available at www.biennial.com/shop is *The Stomach and the Port* book, featuring essays by selected artists and written narratives by Manuela Moscoso and Keyna Eleison, Co-Director of Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro. Proceeds from every sale support future programming with artists and communities.

Dr. Samantha Lackey, Director, Liverpool Biennial, said: "This Biennial's creative vision, developed by Manuela Moscoso with our artists, has produced a vital and thought-provoking edition with *The Stomach and the Port*, addressing some of the big questions of our times and overcoming significant challenges which the pandemic has presented along the way".

Manuela Moscoso, Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2021, said: "*The Stomach and the Port* reflects on systems of exchange, how borders are not only geographic but also political and subjective constructs. Rooted in decolonising our experience of the world, the artists collaboratively present a re-calibration of the senses and a catalyst for change."

Running alongside Liverpool Biennial's 2021 programme, exhibitions at partner venues will include: the UK's biggest painting competition, the John Moores Painting Prize, at the Walker Art Gallery; the retrospective of acclaimed photographer Don McCullin, together with Aliza Nisenbaum's paintings of Merseyside's NHS Frontline workers at Tate Liverpool; *Soft Boys*, the solo presentation of the Liverpool-based artist Kiara Mohamed at FACT; and *AI: More Than Human* at the World Museum. In addition, 18 local, regional and national artists will be represented by the Independents Biennial, delivered by Art in Liverpool.

Further information, images and biographies are available [here](#) .

- Dates:** *The Stomach and the Port* runs until 27 June 2021 (with the exception of Open Eye until 6 June, Tate Liverpool until 20 June, FACT until 29 August, Bluecoat until 5 September)
- Opening Times:** Wednesday to Sunday 11am – 6pm (with the exception of Open Eye closing at 4pm, Bluecoat closing at 5pm and Central Library open Wednesday to Friday 10am – 3pm)
- Booking:** Booking is strongly recommended at the majority of venues; for further information visit: liverpoolbiennial2021.com/visit/bookings/tickets
- Admission:** Free Entry

To receive weekly updates about the Public and Learning Programme and for priority access to event bookings, sign up to the weekly Biennial [newsletter](#). For more information and to make an online booking, visit liverpoolbiennial2021.com.

Public and Learning Programme – Forthcoming Events include:

Online Programme: talks, tours, films, conversations, commissions, study group

Artist Instagram Talks

A new pop-up series of live interviews with artists from *The Stomach and The Port* and Curator Manuela Moscoso alongside special invited local curatorial guests will take place every week via Instagram Live, starting with Luisa Ungar (21 May at 5.30pm), Invernemuto (23 May at 7pm) and Jorge Menna Barreto (26 May at 5.30pm). Free, online, no booking required.

LightNight Premiere: *Pathology in Three Parts* (2021) by Haroon Mirza

21 May, 5pm

For [LightNight 2021: Play](#), alongside our exhibitions staying open late until 10pm, the Biennial will premiere online a new commission by Haroon Mirza. The three-part video work, *Pathology in Three Parts* includes a new choral performance *The Three M's* (2021), an ongoing performance featuring Liverpool singers Anne Taft, Emma Bispham, Jennifer John, Steve Boyland and Tayo Aluko. *Pathology in Three Parts* will be included on Mirza's forthcoming album released in digital format on the TAKUROKU label as part of a collaboration with [Café OTO](#) on 21 May 2021.

Online Curatorial Tours

Join 2021 Liverpool Biennial Curator Manuela Moscoso alongside guest curatorial voices to go behind the scenes of *The Stomach and The Port*. Journey through the entry points to the venues, the artists and the creative practices involved in putting together a Biennial through these informal and informative online tours. Free, online, pre-book a slot via [Eventbrite](#).

Thursday 27 May, 5pm: Curatorial Tour featuring Diana Jeater, Associate Dean (Education), University of Liverpool

- Thursday 3 June, 7pm: Curatorial Tour featuring Keyna Eleison, Co-Director, Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro (Co-editor *The Stomach and the Port* book)
- Thursday 10 June, 5pm: Curatorial Tour featuring Vid Simoniti, Director, MA Art, Aesthetics and Cultural Institutions, University of Liverpool (producer of Art Against the World podcast)
- Thursday 17 June, 5pm: Curatorial Tour featuring Sam Lackey, Director, Liverpool Biennial
- Thursday 24 June, 5pm: Curatorial Tour featuring Sarah Demeuse, Writer and Translator (wrote three-part communiqué for the entry points to *The Stomach and the Port*)

Curatorial Study Group

This Curatorial Study Group will digest different perspectives and practices to aid the production, absorption and transformation of ideas - supporting our collective gut intelligence in response to the Biennial. A working group of 15-20 early-career curators, educators and other practitioners will be formed through an open call and invited to participate in 2 online gatherings with Curator Manuela Moscoso and guest speakers: Anthropologist Pedro de Niemeyer Cesarino and Curator Keyna Eleison. Each session will last between 2-3 hours. Participants will be invited to engage with one form of reading material for each session and encouraged to digest freely the content offered on the Biennial Online Portal.

Tuesday 1 June, 3-6pm: Pedro de Niemeyer Cesarino and Manuela Moscoso

Pedro de Niemeyer Cesarino will lead a discussion on the contemporary crisis of global capitalism through an anthropological perspective. Theoretical perspectives of Western scholars such as Anna Tsing, Donna Haraway and Marilyn Strathern will be connected to reflections developed by American native intellectuals on shamanism, exchange and kinship, offering potential alternatives to the understanding of the body and its relations. The discussions will be based on the text "Kinship and the Collapse of Civilisation: Bodies and Skins from the Forest", produced by Pedro Cesarino for *The Stomach and the Port* and available to read online.

Tuesday 8 June, 3-6pm: Keyna Eleison and Manuela Moscoso

How do we think of a Curator's book? How do we create a Biennial? How do we think from within practice? How do we work with the choices that artists have made? How do we make a vulnerable book? How do we assume the error? How do we stop compartmentalising?

These are some of the questions that Moscoso and Eleison asked while producing the curatorial reader as a catalogue for this Biennial edition. The workshop will focus on curatorial methodologies, processes of production and the exhibition format in an expanded form.

Free, online, application required. For more information on how to apply visit liverpoolbiennial2021.com/programme/curatorial-study-group.

The Liquid Club

The Liquid Club invites collective exploration of the ideas and practices inherent in the 11th edition of the Liverpool Biennial *The Stomach and the Port*.

Thursday 27 May, 7pm

New York based artist Xaviera Simmons will host the Biennial's monthly Liquid Club. Joined by Sally Tallant, a previous Director of Liverpool Biennial who currently is Executive Director at Queens Museum New York, the conversation will explore the unique position of Liverpool in the world's history and the construction of whiteness in relation to the history of the institution of slavery and its legacy. Xaviera Simmons photographic and moving image installation can be seen at Liverpool Cotton Exchange Building co-presented with Photoworks.

Free, online, pre-book a slot via [Eventbrite](#).

Thursday, 17 June, 7pm

Artist Daniel Steegmann Mangrané will explore the sound of the Brazilian rainforest which influences his multidisciplinary practice in this one-off event for Liverpool Biennial 2021. Mangrané's *Le Pensée Férale* can be seen at Crown Street Park and his film *Fog Dog* is on display at The Bluecoat.

Free, online, pre-book a slot via [Eventbrite](#).

The Refracted Body

The Refracted Body film programme is curated by Margarida Mendes. Running throughout the Biennial, forthcoming films available to watch online for free include:

Refracted Body, Part 5

Wednesday 19 May – Tuesday 1 June

Features *Imperial Valley (cultivated run-off)* (2018) by Lukas Marxt, *Aequador* (2012) by Liverpool Biennial 2021 exhibiting artist Laura Huertas Millán, *The Great Silence* (2014) by Allora & Calzadilla (in collaboration with Ted Chiang) and Heba Y. Amin's *As Birds Flying* (2016).

Free, online, no booking required.

Refracted Body, Part 6

Wednesday 2 June – Tuesday 15 June

The final session, featuring five short films including Deborah Stratman *...These Blazing Stars!* (2011), followed by *Under Saturn (Act I)* (2018) by Alexandra Navratil, *Isle* (2013) by Diogo Evangelista, *The New Sun* (2017) by Agnieszka Polska and Ana Vaz's *Atomic Garden* (2018).

Free, online, no booking required.

Live Programme: commissions, tours and performances

Luisa Ungar: *A Regurgitation is a Song is a Spell (Consultations to recreate the colonial disease)*

Every Thursday – Saturday, 30 minute slots between 7-9pm until 26 June

For *A Regurgitation is a Song is a Spell (Consultations to recreate the colonial disease)*, the artist has worked with a group of clairvoyants around various types of material from collections and archives in the city of Liverpool. The experts will be available to the public to answer questions via 1:1 phone calls. Ask a question, share a concern or an urgency.

Free, online, pre-book a slot via [Eventbrite](#)

Live Weekend

Friday 18 – Sunday 20 June

A series of varied and inviting satellite performances and activations of works bring *The Stomach and the Port* to life through informal pop-up performances involving local groups, alongside guided tours and the opportunity to meet some of the artists involved in this year's festival, including Haroon Mirza, Ligia Lewis, SERAFINE1369, Linder and Lamin Fofana. Full details to be announced soon. Highlights include:

Haroon Mirza: *The Three W's* live performance

Friday 18 June, 4-5pm

Venue: To be announced

For the Live Weekend join in the observance of Haroon Mirza's newly commissioned choral work *The Three W's* (2021) which explores social gatherings and ritual, informed by the Fibonacci sequence and golden ratio. In collaboration with Mirza, Liverpool based choir leader Jenifer John leads an ensemble of performers, made up of Anne Taft, Emma Bispham, Jennifer John, Steve Boyland and Tayo Aluko to evolve the vocal interpretations of the ritual.

Ligia Lewis at Toxteth Reservoir

Friday 18 June 6 – 7pm & Saturday 19 June 6 - 7pm

Ligia Lewis presents a newly commissioned choreographed performance at Toxteth Reservoir. Incorporating elements of interdependence, disorder and play, Lewis disrupts institutionalised ways of understanding, offering embodied knowledge as another way to sense and be in the world. Lewis' performance is site-specific, using the distinctive and cavernous infrastructure of Toxteth Reservoir as a site for an intimate encounter with narratives, both found and fabricated. Lewis builds a piece against the grain of colonial time and its legacies, bringing the subtle manoeuvrings of walking through a dreamscape where the haunting echoes of the past permeate each step.

Free, in-person, pre-book a slot via [Eventbrite](#)

SERAFINE1369 at The Bluecoat

Sunday 20 June, 2-8pm

SERAFINE1369 will present live audio sets in a durational performance in The Bluecoat Courtyard.

Linder at Liverpool ONE, College Lane

Saturday 19 June

Throughout the Live Weekend, Linder will present a series of activations throughout the day in front of her monumental mural *Bower of Bliss* (2021). These activations will seek to draw out

some of the key concepts of the work, and reinforce its status as a safe, deeply pleasurable space.

Public Sculpture Tours

Join the Liverpool Biennial team on a series of tours around the city centre, exploring a selection of this year's public sculptures, including Rashid Johnson's *Stacked Heads*, Teresa Solar's *Osteoclast*, and Linder's *Bower of Bliss* amongst others. Free, Booking essential via [Eventbrite](#) as places limited.

Saturday 19 June, 10am	Guided tour with Hyun Seo Chiang, Biennial Programme Team, Meet at Blundell Lane
Sunday 20 June, 11am	Guided tour with Abi Mitchell, Biennial Programme Team, Meet at Blundell Lane

Learning Programme: creative workshops, performances, tutorials and readings

KeKeÇa Online Tutorials

KeKeÇa Body Percussion Ensemble are delivering a series of interactive tutorials and performances at key moments throughout the Biennial. Acknowledging the body as a place of lived experience, audiences will be encouraged to participate using their own bodies as percussive and musical instruments. Tutorials are uploaded weekly to the Online Portal and YouTube Channel.

KeKeÇa Camp at Half Term

Monday 31 May – Sunday 6 June

KeKeCa Camp is a week-long half-term programme, with different practical sessions and live performances running each day which are specially tailored to different groups and communities.

On Friday 4 and Saturday 5 June at 11am and 2pm, KeKeÇa will be offering fun family days for everyone to get moving with practical sessions and live performances, suitable for all ages and abilities. Participants will learn from with the artists about how to create music with their bodies in these 40-minute bitesize drop-in sessions - Connecting to the voice, sound and other people, body percussion is a fun and easy practice for everyone!

On Sunday 6 June at 11am, all participants from KeKeCa Camp week are invited back to share what they have learnt by performing alongside the artists on an optional one-off, live-streamed event.

More information and booking details are available on the Biennial Online Portal <https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/learn/artists-activities/get-moving-with-kekeca/kekeca-camp/>

The Stomach and the Studio: Creative workshop for 14-19 year olds

Wednesday 19 May, 4 – 6pm: Teresa Solar

For up-and-coming young creatives, from GCSE students to undergraduate level, this unique opportunity to take part in artist-led workshop Teresa Solar will provide an intimate setting to get creative and ask questions about the Biennial's artists' individual practices.

Free, online, pre-book a slot via [Eventbrite](#).

The Stomach and the City: Creative workshop for 14-19 year olds

Wednesday 2 June, 4 – 6pm: 'Kinship' with Phosphorus Theatre Group

This community-based workshop will investigate the Biennial's curatorial entry point - Kinship - in collaboration with refugees and asylum-seeking communities.

Free, online, pre-book a slot via [Eventbrite](#).

Jorgge Menna Baretto: Digesting Life Systems

Tuesday 15 June, Tuesday 22 June & Tuesday 29 June, 6-8pm

Enzyme Magazine was created in 2020 by artists Joélson Buggilla and Jorgge Menna Barreto as a periodical and an ongoing artwork. Thinking of the periodical as part of an intellectual work of digestion, the artists proposed a second issue as their project for Liverpool Biennial and invited curator Sarah Kristin Happersberger to join them as co-editor. Artists Abbie Bradshaw, Bonnie Ora Sherk, Cos Ahmet, Linda Jane James and Newton Harrison, as well as LJMU Art students, collaborated on the challenge of turning Enzyme #2 into Life Systems, the title for this issue. This series of events will translate their contributions to the magazine into diverse formats such as lectures, cooking sessions, lab experiments and other delicacies to share and digest. Join for a walk across the page to learn more about the secrets of scouse, the hidden ways of the water and the town of a possible future.

Eventbrite details to be announced.

Peer Programme: support, research and development

LB x a-n Artists Bursaries

As part of a shared commitment to supporting artists across the UK, Liverpool Biennial 2021, a-n The Artists Information Company and Open Culture joined forces to offer five support and research bursaries of £1500 each for artists between March – June 2021, within the 11th edition of Liverpool Biennial. Delivered as part of the public programme, and in partnership with a-n during their 40th anniversary year, these bursaries have been awarded to Youngsook Choi and Taey lohe, Grace Collins and William Laing, Daksha Patel, Sophy King and Rain Wu to support their practice through self-determined professional development activity that responds to their own unique needs. Artists will benefit from dedicated time with the festival exhibitions team, plus assistance from marketing and other Biennial staff to support their research and development, help make connections and create opportunities for sharing or showcasing work or practices within the framework of the festival.

Notes to Editors:

Social Media

Join the discussion online at:

Facebook /liverpoolbiennial

Instagram @liverpoolbiennial

Twitter @biennial

Press Enquiries

For further press information or images contact:

Susie Gault, Press and PR Advisor, Liverpool Biennial, susie@biennial.com

Lucinda Riding, Scott & Co: lucinda@scott-andco.com

Catharine Braithwaite: cat@we-r-lethal.com

About Liverpool Biennial

Liverpool Biennial is the largest and longest-running festival of contemporary visual art in the UK. Since its inception in 1998, the Biennial has become renowned in the international contemporary art world, bringing together a wide array of international voices and artistic practices. Taking place every two years, Liverpool Biennial activates public institutions, historical sites and extraordinary locations across Liverpool, ensuring major commissions in the public realm. Pioneering an innovative approach underpinned by a year-round programme of research, education, residencies, projects and commissions, each biennial edition introduces renewed thinking and scale of production. Having commissioned over 380 new artworks and presented work by over 530 celebrated artists from around the world, the Biennial is built on a longstanding commitment to connecting international artist with local practitioners, communities and the general public. Liverpool Biennial is supported by Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council and founding supporter James Moores. A full list of supporters and partners for the 11th edition is located at the end of this press release. For more information visit: www.biennial.com.

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. For more information visit: 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 £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.

About Liverpool City Council

Liverpool City Council is one of the largest local authorities in the UK serving a population of 491,500. Culture Liverpool is the city council department which aims to maintain the city's

reputation as a cultural and sporting destination, positioning Liverpool as the most exciting place in the UK in which to live, visit, work, study and invest. Through the production and delivery of events, and championing creativity via funded projects across Liverpool City Region, Culture Liverpool pushes boundaries and inspires audiences, ensuring everyone has access to arts and culture. For more information, visit www.cultureliverpool.co.uk.

About Dr. Sam Lackey, Director of Liverpool Biennial

Dr. Samantha Lackey initially joined Liverpool Biennial as Interim Director in late 2020 and following a wide recruitment exercise was appointed Director in April 2021. She joins the Biennial from her role as Head of Collection and Exhibitions at the Whitworth at the University of Manchester and Senior Lead on the Leadership Team. Before this she was curator at The Hepworth Wakefield (2010-16), where she delivered 40 exhibitions over 4 years, and was part of the team that opened the gallery in 2011 to critical acclaim. Her background is in academia, receiving a PhD in 2005 on the subject of surrealism, which was the context of her work as a lecturer, research fellow and her first exhibition at the Whitworth, *Subversive Spaces: Surrealism and Contemporary Art*. She has published on surrealism and contemporary art and worked in multiple group and solo exhibitions with artists including Cecily Brown, Susan Hefuna, Linder and Eva Rothschild.

About Manuela Moscoso, Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2021

Manuela Moscoso (b.1978, Ecuador) joined the Biennial from Tamayo Museo in Mexico City, where she was the Senior Curator. She is part of Zarigüeya, a programme that activates relations between contemporary art and the pre-Columbian collection of the Museo de Arte Precolombino Casa del Alabado, Ecuador. Moscoso was the adjunct curator of the 12th Cuenca Biennial and the co-curator of the Queens International 2011 biennial. In 2012 she was appointed co-director of Capacete, a residency programme based in Brazil where she also co-ran the curatorial programme Typewriter. Moscoso has collaborated with CA2M, Di Tella, MAM Medellin, Museo de Rio, RedCat and Fundac.

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