

Liverpool Biennial

PRESS RELEASE

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LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL REVEALS THEME AND PARTICIPATING ARTISTS FOR 2025 FESTIVAL

- **'BEDROCK'**, curated by Marie-Anne McQuay, is inspired by the physical and social foundations of Liverpool and the people, places and values that ground us.
- **UK's largest free festival of contemporary visual art returns to Liverpool 7 June – 14 September 2025.**
- **30 artists and collectives including Antonio Jose Guzman & Iva Jankovic, Dawit L. Petros, Elizabeth Price and Kara Chin will respond to the theme of the 13th edition of Liverpool Biennial.**
- **New commissions and existing artworks will be unveiled across the city at galleries including the Bluecoat, FACT Liverpool, Open Eye Gallery, and Tate Liverpool + RIBA North.**
- **Venues added for the 2025 festival include Liverpool Cathedral, Walker Art Gallery and Liverpool Central Library.**

Today, Liverpool Biennial reveals the theme and participating artists for its 13th edition. The Biennial festival, titled 'BEDROCK', will take place 7 June – 14 September 2025, curated by Marie-Anne McQuay.

'BEDROCK' draws on Liverpool's distinctive geography and the beliefs which underpin the city's social foundations. It is inspired by the sandstone which spans the city region and is found in its distinctive architecture. 'BEDROCK' also acts as a metaphor for the social foundations of Liverpool and the people, places and values that ground all of us.

The participating artists for Liverpool Biennial 2025 are:

Alice Rekab (Ireland/Sierra Leone); **Amber Akaunu** (UK/Nigeria); **Amy Claire Mills** (Australia); **Ana Navas** (Venezuela/Ecuador/Netherlands); **Anna Gonzalez Noguchi** (Spain/Japan/UK); **Antonio Jose Guzman & Iva Jankovic** (Netherlands/Panama/Serbia); **Cevdet Erek** (Turkey); **ChihChung Chang** 張致中

(Taiwan/Netherlands); **Christine Sun Kim** (USA); **DARCH** (India/Somaliland/Wales); **Dawit L. Petros** (Eritrea/Canada/USA); **Elizabeth Price** (UK); **Fred Wilson** (USA); **Hadassa Ngamba** (Democratic Republic of the Congo/Belgium); **Imayna Caceres** (Peru/Austria); **Isabel Nolan** (Ireland); **Jennifer Tee** (Netherlands); **Kara Chin** (UK/Singapore); **Katarzyna Perlak** (Poland/UK); **Karen Tam 譚嘉文** (Canada); **Leasho Johnson** (USA/Jamaica); **Linda Lamignan** (Nigeria/Norway); **Maria Loizidou** (Cyprus); **Mounira Al Solh** (Lebanon); **Nandan Ghiya** (India); **Nour Bishouty** (Lebanon/Jordan/Palestine/Canada); **Odur Ronald** (Uganda); **Petros Moris** (Greece); **Sheila Hicks** (France/USA); **Widline Cadet** (Haiti/USA).

Marie-Anne McQuay, Curator, Liverpool Biennial 2025, said:

“The city’s geological foundations and its psyche have provided the starting point for the conversations of Liverpool Biennial 2025, with the invited artists bringing us their own definition of ‘BEDROCK’. Definitions which include family and chosen family, cultural heritage carried across the generations, and the environments that nurture and restore them. Central to this understanding of BEDROCK is the sense of loss that comes from the ongoing legacies of colonialism and empire so formative to Liverpool’s foundations.

In responding to the city, artists have taken inspiration from Liverpool’s archives and histories, from its communities and civic spirit, and from taking time to dwell in its green spaces which support plant, insect, and bird life in unexpected ways through planned and unplanned urban developments.”

Dr Samantha Lackey, Director, Liverpool Biennial, said:

“This festival deliberately explores and visibly exposes the foundations of Liverpool, connecting international artists with our histories, people and the very ground we walk on. Working with Marie-Anne McQuay, with her long-standing knowledge of the city and its communities, has allowed us to dig deeper into the things that make us a Biennial that could only be created in Liverpool.

We’re excited to have forged new relationships with local organisations including First Take and At The Library, alongside our work with longstanding partners at Tate Liverpool, National Museums Liverpool, FACT, Bluecoat and Open Eye Gallery, consolidating the city’s cultural connections between the local and the global and looking to its foundations to support growth and possibility for the future.

We look forward to sharing BEDROCK with visitors from our city and wider region, as well as those visiting from across the UK and internationally.”

Liverpool Biennial is the UK's largest free festival of contemporary visual art. Taking place in historic buildings, unexpected spaces and art galleries, the Biennial has been transforming the city through art for over two decades. A dynamic programme of free exhibitions, performances, screenings, community and learning activities and fringe events unfolds over 14 weeks, shining a light on the city's vibrant cultural scene.

The Biennial programme is presented in locations across Liverpool, working in public, historic and community spaces, and with the city's leading art venues including Bluecoat, FACT Liverpool, National Museums Liverpool, Open Eye Gallery and Tate Liverpool + RIBA North. Venues added for the 2025 festival include Liverpool Cathedral, Walker Art Gallery and Liverpool Central Library, with further venues and sites to be announced in Spring 2025.

Click [here](#) to register for the Liverpool Biennial 2025 previews and opening programme on 5 and 6 June.

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

Liverpool Biennial 2025

BEDROCK

7 June – 14 September 2025

Venues and sites across Liverpool, free entry

www.biennial.com

Social Media

Join the discussion online at:

Instagram [@liverpoolbiennial](#)

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Press enquiries:

For further information, including full artist biographies and images, please contact:

Lucinda Riding, Marketing & Communications Manager, Liverpool Biennial

lucinda@biennial.com

Matthew Brown, Sam Talbot matthew@sam-talbot.com (For UK & International press)

Catharine Braithwaite cat@we-r-lethal.com (For regional press)

About Marie-Anne McQuay, Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2025

Marie-Anne is Guest Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2025 and is based in Liverpool, UK. She is currently part of the Arts Council Collection Acquisitions Committee 2022-25; Jury Panel for Arts Foundation Awards Futures (Visual Art) 2025; Advisory Board Member, At The Library, Sefton and External Examiner for Art Museum and Gallery Studies MA, University of Leicester 2023-26.

She is on secondment from Arts&Heritage (A&H) as Director of Projects and was previously Head of Programme at the Bluecoat, Liverpool (2015 - June 2022) where she curated exhibitions and commissions by Larissa Sansour, Adham Faramawy, Suki Chan, Jade

Montserrat, Serena Korda, Jonathan Baldock, Elaine Mitchener, Frances Disley, Rosa-Johan Uddoh, Sumuyya Khader, Frances Disley and Grace Ndiritu.

She was Guest International Curator for Wales in Venice 2019 with artist Sean Edwards (Turner Bursary 2020) and Tŷ Pawb, Wrexham. Previously Marie-Anne was Curator at Spike Island, Bristol (2007-2014), working with artists including Elizabeth Price, Laure Prouvost, Can Altay, Sonia Boyce, Cevdet Erek, Haroon Mirza, Cezary Bodzianowski, Melissa Gordon, Sean Edwards, Uriel Orlow and Jesse Jones.

About Dr. Samantha Lackey, Director of Liverpool Biennial

Dr. Samantha Lackey has held the position of Director at Liverpool Biennial since late 2020. She joined the Biennial from her role as Head of Collection and Exhibitions at the Whitworth at the University of Manchester. Before this she was curator at The Hepworth Wakefield (2010-16), where she was part of the team that opened the gallery in 2011 to critical acclaim. Her background is in academia, receiving a PhD in 2005 in the subject of surrealism, which was the context of her work as a lecturer, research fellow and her first co-curated exhibition at the Whitworth, 'Subversive Spaces: Surrealism and Contemporary Art.' She has published on surrealism and contemporary art and worked on multiple group and solo exhibitions with artists including Cecily Brown, Susan Hefuna, Linder and Eva Rothschild. Sam also sits on the Executive Board of the International Biennial Association and is a Co-Director of Contemporary Visual Arts Network North West.

About Liverpool Biennial

Liverpool Biennial, established in 1998, is the UK's largest free festival of contemporary visual art. Taking place in historic buildings, unexpected spaces and art galleries, the Biennial has been transforming the city through art for over two decades. A dynamic programme of free exhibitions, performances, screenings, community and learning activities and fringe events unfolds over 14 weeks, shining a light on the city's vibrant cultural scene.

Since its inception, the Biennial has commissioned 392 new artworks, presented work by over 560 leading artists, delivered 34 collaborative neighbourhood projects, and received over 50 million visits. Permanent public artworks commissioned by Liverpool Biennial include 'Ngialibalibade – to the Lost Myth' by Eleng Luluan (2023), 'Liverpool Mountain' by Ugo Rondinone (2018), 'Evertro' by Koo Jeong A x Wheelscape (2015) and 'Everybody Razzle Dazzle' by Sir Peter Blake (2015).

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. They have set out their strategic vision in 'Let's Create' that by 2030 they want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences.

From 2023 to 2026 Arts Council England will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. This year the National Lottery will celebrate 30 years of supporting good causes in the United Kingdom through raising £49 billion and awarding over 690,000 individual grants since the first draw was held in 1994.

Visit www.artscouncil.org.uk to learn more.

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.



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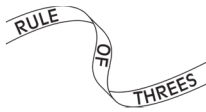
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