

Shanell James Vintage Fusion

Visual Art: Textiles

I am a creative practitioner, working with young people in a variety of capacities. Most recently, I have been delivering co-creation workshops allowing underrepresented young people to explore their creative talents and gain meaningful experiences connecting with the arts.

Delivering these sessions has inspired me to reconnect with my creative passions, and explore working in different ways. I have a love for British antique and vintage furniture, which I mostly source from charity stores and over the years I have been upcycling a variety of pieces. I also have a passion for sewing, and since my travels to Africa, I gained a love for traditional African fabric.

Therefore I wanted to create something that combined vintage furniture with African fabric. The first piece I completed was an antique armchair upholstered with African fabric, and for this exhibition I wanted to push the boundaries and explore fusing the African fabric with a vintage bedside cabinet using the decoupage method, whilst ensuring to keep as many of the original features visible. This led me to the name Vintage Fusion.

@shay_4@hotmail.co.uk



ITZATNA Arts Greenhouse

Visual Art

ITZATNA are an emerging artist collective based in the West Midlands that create intercultural collaborations between artists and diaspora communities from Mexico, Latin America, and the UK. Formed by the father-son artist duo Alfredo Hau (Visual Artist & Professional Chef) and Sebas Hau (Live Artist & Theatre-Maker), ITZATNA cultivate radical, decolonial, and cross-disciplinary approaches to creating cutting-edge projects that combine visual, culinary, and live arts to create unique, unforgettable experiences for all ages.

Our recent projects in 2021-2022 have included: 'Hanal Pixan: Food For All Souls' (2021) an immersive dining experience inspired by the Mexican Day of the Dead exploring life, death, and communal grief performed at Friction Arts' The Edge in Birmingham. 'Recipes of Resistance' (2022) a four-week community art workshop exploring food, hunger, activism, and community resistance funded by Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games at The Gap Arts Project in Birmingham. 'October Fiesta' traditional Mexican storytelling and games as part of a Day of the Dead festival at Twycross Zoo curated by OPUS Arts Events. We have presented projects in the UK and the EU, including Performance Platform London, OPEN Ealing Arts Centre, Coffin Works (Birmingham) Coventry Artspace, performance space (London), Sarean Centro Cultural (Bilbao), and MeinBlau Galerie at Month of Performance Art (Berlin), among others.



www.itzatna.org |  @itzatna_arts |  @itzatna.arts

Ilona Alyamani What If?

Visual Art: Conceptual portrait photography

My name is Ilona Alyamani, costume designer, surface pattern designer and visual storyteller. I have continually found myself drawn towards the arts and creativity in all its forms. I studied painting, fashion, costume design, mixed media, photography, and installation art.

My current project "What if?" is a conceptual portrait photography exhibition about human transformation, which takes an analytic view of social issues. It was ignited by one of the Forbes statistics which says that only eight per cent of the world's population manage to turn their dreams into reality. In my work, I am interested especially in studying the very first aspirations and dreams we had as children, and how they have been forgotten or transformed.

What was our dream job when we were children? And when did that dream die? Often in real life, we can't do what we love but instead, we have to do what needs to be done. Our inner child resides in creativity, spontaneity, intuition, and enjoyment. These are important qualities for resilience and living an authentic and fulfilled life. I choose to express these principles of life, transferring self-portraits made by children to an adult face, in this project.

www.ilonaalyamani.com |  @ilona_alyamani

 @ilona.alyamani.design



Daisy Sorrow

Visual Art: Sculpture

I'm a disabled queer self-portrait artist and curator. Sorrow is a tribute to my Dad who recently passed away. Both myself and Dad share a fascination with wings, mine began after his death and is related to my mobility, but Dad has always been fascinated with butterflies.

My distinctively dark and evocative self-depictions, intimately reflect my struggles with mental illness. My work is created within the same 2 by 1.5 metre space; my bed. My biggest barrier to developing my career is my confinement to bed. The rise of Zoom/remote working during the Covid pandemic removed this barrier. From bed I've undertaken remote residences with The New Art Gallery Walsall, QUAD Derby, Talking Birds Coventry and currently LEVEL Centre, Derbyshire. My work can be seen in the exhibitions 'Sorrow' (solo) at The George Marshall Medical Museum Worcester and 'Here & Queer' (group) at The New Art Gallery Walsall.



Matt Prentice Fragile Statements #2

Visual Art: 3D Print

I am an artist and educator whose primary creative practice is experimental filmmaking. I have also worked in theatre, 3D and interactive mediums exploring how contemporary technology can be used to develop work that encourages active engagement with technology. I am interested in the overt and subtle ways that society is shaped by technology and how it mediates many of our interactions. As an educator, I hope to engage learners in the development of their critical voice supporting them to question their relationships with technology.

A departure from my predominantly screen-based practice, Fragile Statements #2 is a 3D print that references architectural models and Brutalism. Through the printing process, an illusory digital model becomes tangible, and the forms and finishes are directly inspired by Brutalism. The regular modules of the work alluded to regular precast concrete components, and unfinished surface textures are reminiscent of board-marked concrete. Printed in transparent PLA I see the work reflecting on the fragility of Modernist Utopianism as iconic Brutalist buildings are replaced. The uneasy relationship between progress and tradition is impossible to completely reconcile but I hope this work encourages us to contemplate this tension.

www.mattprentice.co.uk |  bit.ly/3WC6TYB



Lisa Franklin Natural World Beings

Visual Art: Art & Ethnobotany

I am an artist and ethnobotanist based in Coventry. I work with the more than human as collaborator and explore the language of growing, connection, individualism and the everyday ordinary, within my practice. I have long been interested in sustainability, food growing and food sovereignty and feel passionately about working towards a more accessible, inclusive, and democratic arts sector.

This piece explores the commonalities between 'us' and 'them', in this case human and other. We often have more in common than we think.

Macro photography prints of natural world beings.

www.lisafranklinmakes.com |  [@lisfranklina](https://www.instagram.com/lisfranklina) |  lisfranklina@gmail.com



Karoline Rerrie Large Flower Screenprints

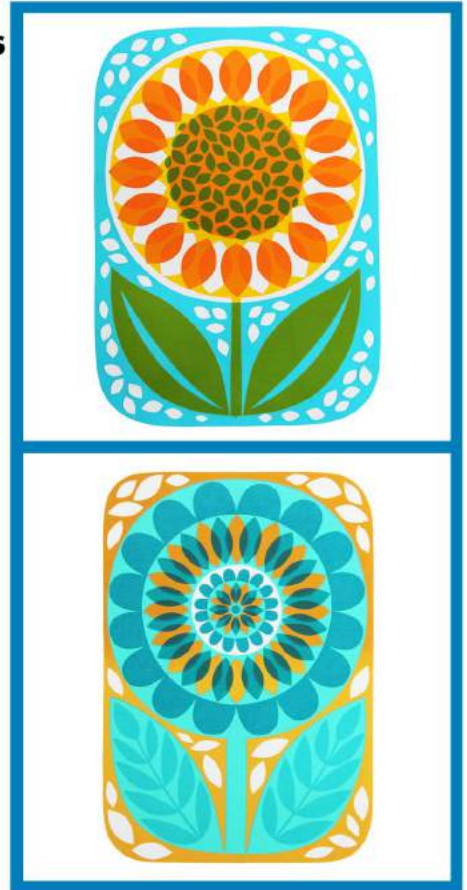
Visual Art: Screenprinting

I'm Karoline, an illustrator and printmaker based in Birmingham. I regularly exhibit my work in galleries and at print fairs throughout the UK. Alongside creating my own prints, I also work on commissions and licensing projects. Canns Down Press have published a series of my screen prints as part of their 'Wonderland' range of greetings cards. Ecoffee have also used my 'Morning Coffee' design on one of their reusable take away coffee cups.

I am an experienced workshop tutor and has delivered screen print workshops for many organisations including Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists and Leicester Print Workshop.

I have made three large flower screen prints for *Small is Beautiful*. My work is characterised by bold outlines, pattern and bright colours so it is particularly suited to the technique of screen printing. I drew the artwork by hand and then made the separate layers for each different colour. Using either photo stencils or simple hand cut stencils, I then screen printed each separate layer of colour to create the finished prints.

 @KarolineRerrie |  @karoline_rerrie |  @KarolineRerrie



Daya Bhatti Daya Illustrations

Visual Art: Painted and Collaged Textile

I am Daya Bhatti, a visual artist based in the West Midlands, under the name *Daya Illustrations*. I have a first-class Visual Communication: Illustration degree hence storytelling is the core of my practice.

Through my art, I explore my Indian cultural heritage and identity as well as learning and conveying stories from other South Asian communities, bringing light to underrepresented stories.

My practice varies from portraiture, fashion illustrations and animations to painting, textiles and the use of recycled materials. My art not only expresses my connection with culture, but also the value to generations before and alongside my own.

I aim to invite audiences into a world where visual stories are told through the eyes of a British Asian female who is reconnecting with her roots as well as creating a safe space for others to explore their own identity. I have exhibited in various galleries across the UK alongside facilitating workshops and taking on commissions from museums such as Manchester Museum and Preston Park and Museum which featured on BBC News.

www.dayaillustrations.co.uk |  @dayaillustrations

 dayadesigns@outlook.com



Richard Rudge Shapes in Colour

Visual Art: Ink on canvas

I am Richard Rudge, an artist and writer from Solihull. Inspired by science fiction, folklore and the changing world, I focus these creative inspirations into comics.

I have self published several print and web comics, ranging from thoughtful science fiction with my 'WAYFARER' series as well as more experimental projects such as 'An Unwritten Adventure'. My work has been part of several acclaimed comic anthologies, such as 'Video Games For Good', winner of the SICBA Best Single Issue for 2017, and "Off The Mark" in 2018. "Off The Mark" was kickstarted as part of the "Create the Break" art class run by veteran comic artist John McCrea.

I am also an experienced ink illustrator. For this series of paintings, I wanted to experiment with using paint pouring to create vibrant colour shapes to ink over the top of to create dramatic, colourful scenes that combine the best aspects of paint pouring and my own skills as an illustrator.

www.richardrudge.com |  @RLRudge |  @richrudgeart_



Katie Holtom Home in Solihull

Poetry Zine & Readings

I am Katie Holtom, a freelance Creative Producer and multi-disciplinary artist, specialising in work with youth and communities.

'Home in Solihull' is a collection of stories, memories, poetry and musings written by communities across Solihull to celebrate the iconic borough and the people in it.

These pieces were written in response to a series of creative writing workshops which I led across January 2023. Some works have also been submitted independently.

www.katieholtom.co.uk |  @kholtom_creative

 katieholtom@hotmail.co.uk



Jeremy Clay joined by Emily Dore Blythe Valley

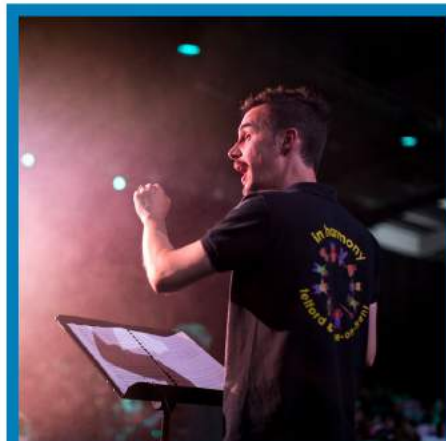
Music Performance

I am Jeremy Clay, a composer and sound designer. My work mixes acoustic instruments with voices, electronic synthesised sound, and ambient recordings. I take inspiration from varied sources – contemporary classical, 90s Trance, folk, urban and rural landscapes, funk and jazz. Recent works include Time Travel Tram written for Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Festival and pieces for Echo Eternal, a commemorative arts project inspired by Holocaust survivor testimonies.

I wrote the piece 'Blythe Valley' in response to the fascinating juxtaposition of nature reserve, motorway, housing and industrial estate found at Blythe Valley in Solihull. Ambient sounds from the nature reserve are triggered live to form the basis of a piece for solo viola, performed here by Emily Dore. The listener journeys through the park towards a more man-made environment. The ever-present motorway hums in the background before becoming more intrusive and prominent.

For 'Small is Beautiful' I will be joined by musician Emily Dore. Since graduating from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2020, Emily has had a wonderfully varied career as a freelance violist, violinist and practitioner. Emily has recorded and toured both nationally and internationally with many different ensembles including the LEAP Ensemble, Joe Broughton's Conservatoire Folk Ensemble, Ellie Gowers Trio, Roshni (an Indian Kathak group) and string quartet, The Sekine Quartet.

www.jeremyclaymusic.com | [@jeremyclaymusic](https://twitter.com/jeremyclaymusic) | [@jeremyclaymusic](https://www.instagram.com/jeremyclaymusic) | [@the.sekine.quartet](https://www.instagram.com/the.sekine.quartet)



Calico Look Sharp Dance Theatre

Calico is a Birmingham-based arts and activism company, founded by best friends Daz Scott and Martha Harrison. Calico creates campaigns which encompass live performances in public spaces, films, accessible workshops and online activism. Our projects are calls to action, and aim to inform, to reframe, to validate, and to raise awareness.

Look Sharp is our latest project, and part of our campaign to make spiking a separate criminal offence in the UK. Originally a campaign video, we released Look Sharp after the Government missed their deadline to publish an anti-spiking strategy. Almost 5,000 reports of needle and drink spiking were made to UK police in a year, and this is only a fraction of the estimated cases. On 11 January 2023, the Government refused advice to make spiking a separate criminal offence, but promised to make amendments to the law to cover spiking.

Look Sharp is an informative, political performance piece responding to the spiking epidemic in the UK and the lack of Government response. Combining dance, physical theatre and projected film, it combats victim-blaming narratives that victims should 'protect themselves' from spiking, including the absurd suggestion to 'wear leather and thick denim' to protect from needle spiking.

www.calicotheatre.co.uk | [@wearecalico](https://twitter.com/wearecalico) | [@wearecalico](https://www.instagram.com/wearecalico)



Gaby Songui joined by Shaq Shadare

Opossum Contemporary Circus

I am a circus/theatre artist and writer based in the West Midlands. In April 2020 I received Arts Council DYCP funding in which I used to develop a ground skills circus/theatre practice. From this practice I have facilitated workshops with a wide range of organisations, and have been developing performance, including a musical circus/theatre piece performed at RoguePlay's Tilt Festival. This circus practice looks less at circus skill and more at the power of storytelling. It uses ground skills circus, dance, music and theatre.

Shaq and I will be performing a theatrical circus piece based on the Mazatec legend that the opossum brought fire to humanity. Fire fell from a star and was kept by an old woman who only wanted it for herself. The opossum stole the fire from the woman and carried the flame on its tail and then gave the fire to the humans.

 @songuigaby |  @shaqshadare



Sarah Rabone

This is the sofa Dance

I am a performer and choreographer based in the West Midlands. I work across the genres of dance, film, and aerial performance. I am interested in telling stories through movement; creating performance that is understandable and accessible to all. Using a mixture of narrative, movement, speech, and gesture, I always combine humour with touching and moving stories.

Inspired by the true story of a family sofa bought in the early 80s, this solo performance is a physical journey through four decades and three generations. Everyday life of a living room is played out, as the performer becomes different characters from the family. The sofa becomes the centre which the family orbits around, becoming imagined places as children play, transforming to the place where bad news is given and where new parents take each day as it comes.

Expect to laugh, be moved, and go home with a different view on your own sofa.

www.sarahrabonedance.weebly.com |  @sarah_rabone_dance

 @SarahRaboneDance



Rachel Sambrooks

Well Wisher

Poetry & Comedy

Well Wisher is a work in progress show combining my poetry, storytelling and comedy, as a stand up comedian and writer. Bombarded with well meaning messages about wellbeing didn't help me but I'm on a mission to find fun ways to get out of anxiety, away from low mood and into the present moment. The ten-minute piece will use poetry and storytelling to explore these themes.

I am a writer/performer from Birmingham who uses humour to connect. I started out as an actor in theatre and TIE roles and since have giggered nationally as a poet and stand up comedian across community venues, schools and clubs. I have previously worked with BBC Radio, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and Apples and Snakes amongst others. Before the pandemic I was touring solo shows such as 'Stand By Your Nan' funded by Arts Council England, about sharing lost stories of grandmothers, which was a Birmingham Mail pick of Birmingham Comedy Festival. Since the pandemic I have turned the live show into a podcast series. In 2023 I was awarded Developing Your Creative Practice funding and am currently working on a novel in short stories.

www.rachelsambrooks.com |  @rachsambr00ks |  @rachelsambrooks



Foolsiz Theatre

Calling her home!

A Participatory Micro Cinema experiment.

Foolsiz Theatre are partners in art and life. Sparkling with play & seething with conflict (it takes courage to work with your partner!) yet bit by bit, we are making discoveries and finding understanding. We are interested in how art can support healing in the inner landscapes, inspire hope, and precipitate change in our collective behaviour to build a better relationship with the natural world.

In November 21' Joanne walked 300 miles to COP 26, 'Listening to the Land' and performing interactive improvised plays en route as a tool to generate discussion about climate change, care, and grief. At COP she lived with Indigenous Leaders, shared ceremonies, and supported actions. This project was inspired when her Maasai friend said, "The earth is no longer speaking to us in a language we can understand".

The Earth is having an out-of-body experience. She can see the light beckoning her. She must choose whether to return or let her body and all who live on her perish. She can hear our voices. What can we say to give her hope, and call her back to life?

The second half of this performance is a film made with year 5 children at Meriden CE Primary School. Using 'Micro Cinema' developed by Gavin Glover.

www.foolsizetheatre.com |  @foolsizetheatre |  foolsizetheatre@gmail.com



Anna Nierobisz

Juliet 2.0

Digital & Live Performance

I am Anna, a Polish-British artist based in Birmingham. I work across a spectrum of media: Theatre, Film, and Virtual Reality. Central to my work is bringing the authenticity, excitement, and experience of live performances into Virtual Reality (VR) environments. For this purpose, I work with game engines and the latest motion capture technologies and apply my knowledge of creating immersive theatre and storytelling to the XR media.

Juliet 2.0 is a live and digital performance that uses motion capture technology. The inspiration for the piece comes from Shakespeare's Juliet. As a character deeply embedded in the collective consciousness, she offers a rich canvas for re-imagination. In Juliet 2.0, a digital Juliet will be brought to life as an onscreen animation, via a live performer on stage and will recite beautiful verses from Shakespeare's works.

www.sensosis.co.uk |  @ANierobisz |  @sensosis_vr



Keisha Grant

Bot Girl Gone

Dance Film

I am a Jamaican – Birmingham born Dance maker. I am the Artistic Director of Keneish Dance, which I founded in 2009. With Keneish Dance, I collaborate with other artists to create high quality work across art forms. We sing and dance to make sense of our selves and the world around us.

I have an interest in the question of man made vs nature and how it intersects with society. Fuelled by truth, the human condition and liberation, I deliver and plan high quality experiences for health and educational organisations.

Bot Girl Gone is a dance film inspired by dehumanising experiences of trolling and cyber bullying through an emotional lens that explores response to technological worlds, reality, illusions and money.

Bot Girl Gone was filmed and edited by Umbra Motion Picture Company.

www.keneishdance.com |  @keneishdance |  info@keneishdance.com



