

COVENTRY BIENNIAL 2025

3RD OCTOBER 2025 - 25TH JANUARY 2026



FESTIVAL GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE 5TH COVENTRY BIENNIAL!

Ryan Hughes, Artistic Director and CEO

Our programme this year is called *Obsessions, Possessions* and as in previous Coventry Biennial's, this title, theme, programme and the individual artists projects presented each respond, speak to, and engage with specific local developments as well as broader concerns in contemporary art and society.

At the local level, work on the **Coventry City Cultural Gateway** building continues apace. This exciting development will see **Arts Council Collection** and **British Council's** collection relocate to Coventry (from Yorkshire and London respectively). This of course offers endless opportunities for those of us that live and work in the West Midlands, and this major development is the immediate context that this 5th Coventry Biennial unfolds within.

We are especially pleased to have renewed and built upon our long term relationships with both of these national institutions, and to have been working collaboratively on the development of this year's programme with them both, presenting a pair of powerful group exhibitions at the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**.

At national and international levels, collections and archives have never been so closely scrutinised and hotly contested. What is included? Who does it represent? Who decides?

We are witnessing a president of the USA who is trying to remove references to the transatlantic slave trade from American museums. In the UK we have politicians stripping away all kinds of rights, and culture is so often their chosen battleground for this.

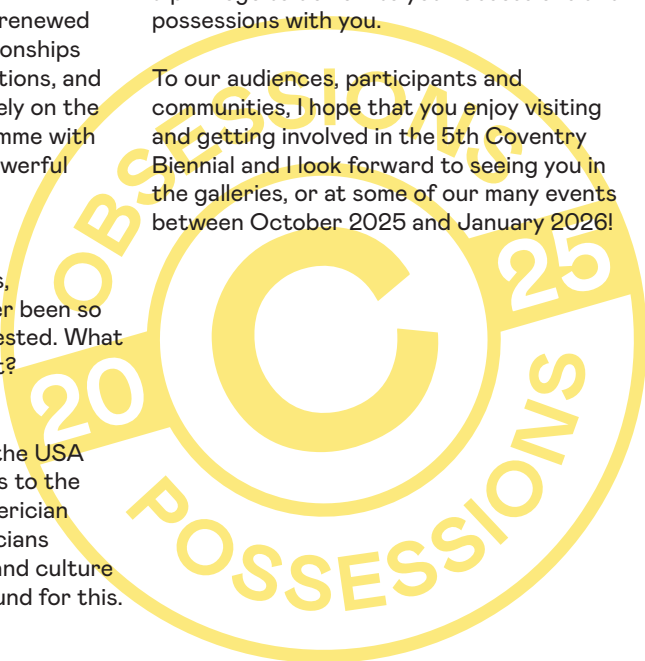
But collections and archives are also places of joy and care.

At all levels, from national collections, to stuffed-full shoe boxes lovingly stored under a bed, collections are how we form identity, they are how we remember, they are how we connect.

The *Obsessions, Possessions* programme has been built in a way that reflects the diversity of approaches to collecting and the myriad ways that institutions, groups, communities and artists are working with these dynamic practices today.

I'd like to extend our thanks to all of the artists in the exhibitions, to all of our partners and of course to the teams who have made this timely programme possible. It has been a privilege to delve into your obsessions and possessions with you.

To our audiences, participants and communities, I hope that you enjoy visiting and getting involved in the 5th Coventry Biennial and I look forward to seeing you in the galleries, or at some of our many events between October 2025 and January 2026!



OBSESSIONS, POSSESSIONS ARTIST LIST:

Andi	Rohini Devasher **	Tadiwa Madenga	Janice Tchalenko (With Spitting Image Workshop) **
Larry Achiampong	Suki Dhanda **	Tuomo Manninen	
Bjorn Andersen *	AK Dolven *	Bruce McLean **	Nicole Wermers *
Rasheed Araeen *	John Drysdale *	Lala Meredith-Vula **	Bedwyr Williams*
Keith Arnatt **	Sophia Ehrnrooth	Sophie Michael *	Zadie Xa **
Shirley Baker **	Duggie Fields *	E.N Mirembé & Rosie Olang' Odhiambo	Madame Yevonde **
Aubrey Beardsley **	Elizabeth Frink *		Ella Yolande
Sir Cecil Beaton **	Cerith Wyn Evans*	Jame Morris **	
Simeon Barclay	Carlos Noronha Feio	Hardeep Pandhal *	
Mustafa Boğa	Leah Gordon	Cornelia Parker**	
Derek Boshier **	Graham Gussin *	Shanti Panchal*	
Flo Brooks *	Patrick Heron **	Debashish Paul	
Angela Bulloch **	Iain Hetherington *	Katarzyna Perlak *	
Fahd Burki **	Lubaina Himid **	Liv Preston *	
Duncan Campbell *	Mustafa Hulusi **	Bob Robinson*	
Chris Clinton *	Claudette Johnson*	Connor Rogers *	
Katrina Cobain	Caitlin Kiely & Dr Jamie Larkin	Prasanta Sahu	KEY:
Marcus Cope*	Tegen Kimbley	SCARLETMOTIFF	* Artwork from Arts Council Collection
Marion Coutts *	John Kippin *	See Red Women's Workshop	** Artwork from British Council Collection
Jesse Darling *	L.S. Lowry *	Niall Singh	
Richard Deacon *			

OBSESSIONS, POSSESSIONS

The impulse to collect is tied to our desire for meaning, belonging and understanding of ourselves and of society.

Coventry Biennial 2025 facilitates a collective exploration of the roles and functions of collecting within the art, museum, heritage and knowledge production sectors, as well as in the wider community and the artists' studio.

This major group exhibition brings together new artworks that reimagine and take inspiration from collections and archives and the works in this exhibition are especially focused on family archives, and queer identities and practices.

A number of the artists additionally respond to the history and context of the site, ranging from its religious role as a medieval monastic house, to the work of its Georgian occupier who ran a seed distribution business, to its more contemporary use as parkland.

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This exhibition is generously supported by Arts Council England and Historic Coventry Trust.

Additional support has been kindly provided by New Art Gallery Walsall, Multi-Story, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Council, British Council, Emami Art and Warwickshire County Council.

**The Coach House,
Charterhouse, London Road, Coventry,
CV1 2JR**

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

**Thursday - Saturday: 11am - 4:30pm
Closed: Monday - Wednesday and Sunday.**

Free entry, donations welcome

Artists include:

Andi, Tegen Kimbley, Tuomo Manninen*,
Debashish Paul, Prasanta Sahu, Niall Singh,
Ella Yolande, Mustafa Boğa

*Tuomo Manninen's works can be found across a number of Coventry Biennial venues, please ask our Building Supervisors for more information.

*Debashish Paul, Body as a Landscape Body in a Landscape, Single-Channel Video, 2021/22.
Courtesy: Emami Art*

in transit under another sky

Since 2024, E.N. Mirembe and Rosie Olang' Odhiambo have worked together to co-curate *in transit under another sky* as a part of the British Council's Art Exchange Moving Image Programme.

For Coventry Biennial 2025, with the continued support of the British Council, E.N. Mirembe and Rosie Olang' Odhiambo present a further iteration of this exhibition at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum drawing together artworks from the British Council Collection with artworks and projects by a range of artists and researchers from their personal and professional networks.

in transit under another sky in Coventry will highlight and expound on the work of novelist Yvonne Vera whose words have been borrowed for the title of this exhibition. This is a curatorial response to Coventry Biennial's wider interest in "obsessions".

Previous presentations of this exhibition have happened at Afropocene StudioLab in Kampala (Uganda), Kamene Artist Residency in Nairobi (Kenya) and at The Africa Center in London (UK).

In Coventry, the project takes a new inflection. It primarily turns to the British Council Collection at a moment when the collection itself is in motion, relocating from London to Coventry. This migration becomes part of the exhibition's story; art as something continually moved and moving, geographically and affectively.

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This project has been co-commissioned by British Council Collection & Coventry Biennial.

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm

Sunday: 12pm - 4pm

Closed: Monday

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Admission Charges Apply

Artists include:

Larry Achiampong, Keith Arnatt, Shirley Baker, Aubrey Beardsley, Sir Cecil Beaton, Derek Boshier, Angela Bulloch, Fahd Burki, Rohini Devasher, Suki Dhanda, Patrick Heron, Lubaina Himid, Mustafa Hulusi, Tadiwa Madenga, Bruce McLean, Lala Meredith-Vula, Jame Morris, Cornelia Parker, SCARLETMOTIFF, See Red Women's Workshop, Janice Tchalenko (With Spitting Image Workshop), Zadie Xa, Madame Yevonde

James Morris, Mosque, Komio, Mali, Photography, 1999. Courtesy / Credit: Photo © British Council Collection.

KINDA BLU

Drawn from the Arts Council Collection and curated by artist Simeon Barclay, *Kinda Blu* explores Coventry's rich contradictions, reflecting on his early encounters with the city through television and popular culture.

As a child, television (or the “*box of delights*”) provided Barclay with a surrogate education and acted as a looking glass for the peculiarities of society; from the jubilant blue tide of Coventry City's 1987 FA Cup triumph to the haunting presence of the Two-Tone band The Specials' song Ghost Town, that captured Britain's social unrest in the early 1980s.

Coventry, despite the spectre of trauma, has in Barclay's words “*resisted the warm bosom of nostalgia, instead drawing energy from industry, migration, myth, reconciliation and architectural innovation*”. This restless spirit is echoed in the Arts Council Collection, a dynamic repository of modern and contemporary British art that remains ever relevant.

Barclay has selected works that capture humour, satire, the surreal and absurd, as well as inventive plays with language, that explore working-class life, representation, and the contested nature of Englishness and place. *Kinda Blu* is both a personal reflection and a broader meditation on how a city's stories resonate nationally.

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This project has been co-commissioned by Arts Council Collection and Coventry Biennial.

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm
Closed: Monday

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Admission Charges Apply

Artists include:

Bjorn Andersen, Rasheed Araeen, Flo Brooks, Duncan Campbell, Chris Clinton, Marcus Cope, Marion Coutts, Jesse Darling, Richard Deacon, AK Dolven, John Drysdale, Duggie Fields, Elizabeth Frink, Cerith Wyn Evans, Graham Gussin, Iain Hetherington, Claudette Johnson, John Kippin, L.S. Lowry, Sophie Michael, Hardeep Pandhal, Shanti Panchal, Katarzyna Perlak, Liv Preston, Bob Robinson, Connor Rogers, Nicole Wermers, Bedwyr Williams

Richard Deacon, Kind of Blue, 2001. Image credit: Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London.

879 HEROES BY HEART

During Coventry Biennial 2025, Sophia Ehrnrooth presents a major four screen moving image installation titled *879 Heroes by Heart*.

The work brings together a group of ordinary Scandinavian boys who were asked to recite the names of football players from around the globe.

This immersive work highlights the intensity of fandom and exposes the depth of obsessions that young people can develop around celebrity and sporting heroes. The work was originally made in 2016 and has been shown internationally but never in its intended four screen configuration.

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Sophia Ehrnrooth's participation in Coventry Biennial 2025 is generously supported by grants from Frame Contemporary Art Finland and Arts Council England.

This presentation of *879 Heroes by Heart* has been supported by Yue Yu, a Helsinki-based Independent Curatorial Advisor to the Coventry Biennial team.

The development of *879 Heroes by Heart* at Coventry Biennial 2025 has been supported by Spatial Practices in Art and Architecture for Empathetic Exchange (spaceX), a project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE).

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm
Closed: Monday

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Admission Charges Apply

Artists include:
Sophia Ehrnrooth

Sophia Ehrnrooth, 879 Heroes by Heart, Two-channel Video at Shimadaya Gallery, Kyoto (Japan), 2018. Courtesy: The Artist

MEADOW ARTS PRESENTS: MONUMENT TO THE VANQUISHED PEASANT

At Coventry Biennial 2025, Leah Gordon presents a solo exhibition of new and recent works commissioned by Meadow Arts, exploring the lasting impacts of the Enclosure Acts to build a critical understanding of the systems and politics we live with today.

Monument to the Vanquished Peasant includes works created over the last three years, as well as a new commission, Vagabonds, and a series of photographs made in collaboration with local allotment holders in Coventry.

The exhibition is further contextualised by the presentation of images from author and image-collector Stephen Ellcock's archive, alongside objects from the Museum of English Rural Life.

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm
Closed: Monday

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Admission Charges Apply

Artists include:
Leah Gordon (with a presentation by
Stephen Ellcock)

This is a Meadow Arts exhibition with
the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, in
association with Coventry Biennial.

RESURFACING

Caitlin Kiely and Dr Jamie Larkin have collaborated through a co-commission with University of Warwick to make a new project that explores a broad definition of the museum – considering it as a collection of processes connected to a place, as opposed to a static destination or specific point in time.

Called *Resurfacing*, this ambitious exhibition brings together material collected from a quarry in Staffordshire, content from various historic archives and newly produced images.

Through the use of art, storytelling and social engagement they have reimaged museums, their structures and functions, applying a range of lenses to engage and connect with overlooked fragments of the Cathedral's ecology and social history.

This collaborative methodology has been applied to the physical structure of the new Cathedral to create an immersive installation that explores the materials and labour that went into this iconic building.

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This collaborative project is generously funded by, and co-commissioned with Warwick Institute of Engagement and Research and Impact Services at University of Warwick.

Coventry Cathedral
Priory Street, Coventry, England, CV1 5FJ

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Monday - Saturday, 10am - 4pm
Sunday, 12pm - 3:30pm

Please note: This exhibition will be closed on the following dates:

10th October

25th October

17th - 21st November

18th December

Please note: This exhibition will operate different opening times on the following dates

19th December the Cathedral will open slightly later than usual at 12pm.

26th December - 4th January the cathedral will open 11am - 3pm

Free entry, donations welcome

Artists include:
Caitlin Kiely and Dr Jamie Larkin

Caitlin Kiely, Cutting of Stone 3, 35mm film, 2025. Courtesy / Credit: The Artist.

THE PLASTIC BAG MUSEUM

In 2020 Katrina Cobain began *The Plastic Bag Museum*, an online performative museum highlighting the social and design history of carrier bags, while exploring plastic's material qualities and the existential threat that they present.

During Coventry Biennial 2025, Cobain presents a "Coventry Edition" of *The Plastic Bag Museum*. Not only is this immersive installation closely related to the memories and experiences of local people, it represents the first full scale physical presentation of what Katrina describes as "*the institution under your kitchen sink*".

The Plastic Bag Museum has led to correspondence with collectors all over the globe, and an ever expanding collection of bags and related ephemera. This exhibition highlights how an artist can utilise and explore the languages and tools of the museum in a way that is both playful and provocative.

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This exhibition is generously supported by Arts Council England and Coventry University.

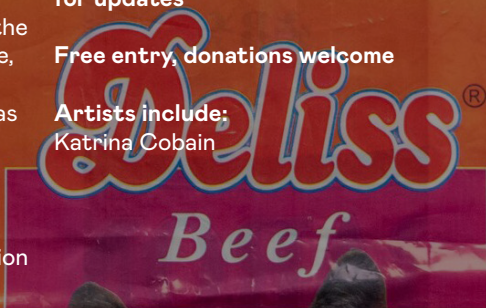
Coventry University's Delia Derbyshire Building
Cox Street, Coventry, CV1 5PH

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Monday - Friday: 10am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday: Opening times vary,
please check our social media channels
for updates

Free entry, donations welcome

Artists include:
Katrina Cobain



Katrina Cobain, *The Plastic Bag Museum* (Image from 'Notes on Bags'), 35mm Photograph, 2024. Courtesy: The Artist and Robert Carter

an Other World is possible

At Coventry Biennial 2025, Carlos Noronha Feio presents a significant presentation of Afghan War Rugs from his personal collection alongside one of his own monumental rugs that explores similar themes of politics and war as well as the impact of conflict on domestic life and the planet.

an Other World is possible makes reference to the city's history of textile production and it's relationship to peace and reconciliation.

These relationships are most immediately highlighted through the artwork's relationship with its exhibition space which includes an imposing architectural feature that references jacquard looms.

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This exhibition is generously supported by Arts Council England and Coventry University.

The development of *an Other World is possible* at Coventry Biennial 2025 has been supported by Spatial Practices in Art and Architecture for Empathetic Exchange (spaceX), a project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE).

Coventry University's Delia Derbyshire Building
Cox Street, Coventry, CV1 5PH

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Monday - Friday: 10am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday: Opening times vary,
please check our social media channels
for updates

Free entry, donations welcome

Artists include:
Carlos Noronha Feio

Carlos Noronha Feio, still time, make it better, our world is forever (good news guardian, wisdom, power, good luck), Wool (Rug in Arraiolos Technique), 2018. Courtesy: The Artist and Inês Valle

THE RECYCLOPAEDIA

Ahead of Coventry Biennial 2025, Niall has delivered collage and printmaking workshops with a wide range of local people that aimed to recycle materials from out-dated encyclopaedias into new artworks and publications.

In this exhibition, Niall and the group of workshop participants bring together the results of this summer of workshops to explore colonialism and how Britain records its history.

The project aims to replace the kinds of imperial, racist and sexist content that is often presented as so-called fact in these kinds of publications in a way that is collaboratively authored and rooted in skills development.

The Recyclopaedia project will continue during the 5th Coventry Biennial, and alongside this display are the tools and resources for visitors to produce their own collages inspired by, and contributing to, *The Recyclopaedia*.

We welcome you to get involved!

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This exhibition is generously supported by Arts Council England. Co-creation and production support has been kindly provided by Art Riot Collective and Coventry University.

Art Riot Collective
Unit 6, FarGo Village, Far Gosford
Street, Coventry, CV1 5ED

3rd October 2025 - 25th January 2026

Wednesday - Sunday: 12pm - 4pm
Closed: Monday – Tuesday

Free entry, donations welcome

Artists include:
Niall Singh

We would like to extend a huge thanks to the workshop participants who have creatively contributed to *The Recyclopaedia*:

Rushda Aarish, Paul Chokran, Tom Godwin, Ella Chia McCrea, Jaansi Setia, Alan Van Wijgerden, and people supported by Life Path Trust.

Niall Singh, The Recyclopaedia, Collage, Photo by the artist

EVENTS:

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

Coventry Biennial 2025 includes a vibrant public programme of events and activities that contextualise and provide insights into our exhibitions while offering new experiences in Coventry and Warwickshire.

A full, day-by-day schedule of events can be found at: www.coventrybiennial.com/events

A number of highlights of our events programme are listed on the following pages.

OPENING WEEKEND

Ahead of the public opening of the 5th Coventry Biennial, we're pleased to be hosting exhibition previews, a grand opening event and after party, all taking place on the 2nd October 2025. Full details on these events can be found on our website.

More information at:
www.coventrybiennial.com/events

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025

Coventry Biennial 2025 exhibitions open to the public from 10.00am.

A full list of exhibitions, venues and opening times can be found at:
www.coventrybiennial.com/exhibitions

CVAN WEST MIDLANDS & DASH PRESENT: OBSESSION, FOOTBALL & FANDOM, SOPHIA EHROOOTH IN CONVERSATION WITH HEATHER PEAK

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Saturday 4th October 2025, 12.30 – 2pm
This event will take place in-person & online.

This discussion brings together Helsinki-based artist Sophia Ehrnrooth with DASH Executive Director Peter Bonnell, chaired by artist and DASH Artistic Director/ CEO Heather Peak.

The conversation will delve into our cultural obsession with football, its power, passion, and pitfalls.

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This event is delivered by CVAN West Midlands and DASH as part of a short series of activities for CB25, celebrating regional artists, and exploring themes of obsession, collecting, and creative connection.

Booking essential, see our website for details.

EVENTS:

COVENTRY BIENNIAL 2025 GUIDED TOUR: OBSESSIONS, POSSESSIONS AT THE COACH HOUSE

The Coach House
Saturday 4th October 2025, 2.30 - 4pm

Join Ryan Hughes (Artistic Director & CEO, Coventry Biennial) for an intimate and informative tour of *Obsessions, Possessions* at The Coach House!

During this walking tour we'll explore projects by Andi, Mustafa Boğa, Tegen Kimbley, Tuomo Manninen, Debashish Paul, Prasanta Sahu, Niall Singh and Ella Yolande. Ryan will also be able to answer questions about these projects and the wider Biennial programme.

Booking essential, see our website for details.

COVENTRY BIENNIAL CYCLE CLUB MEETING: WICKED GAME AT KENILWORTH CASTLE

Eaton House
Sunday 12th October, 11am – 2.30pm

Coventry Biennial Cycle Club is designed to connect people with artists and cultural institutions in Coventry and Warwickshire in a social way that benefits health, wellbeing and promotes mutual support.

During this meeting the Cycle Club will ride from the carpark at Eaton House to Kenilworth Castle where we will visit Lindsey Mendick's major new installation "*Wicked Game*".

Booking essential, see our website for details.

MEADOW ARTS PRESENTS: ARTIST TALK & CELEBRATION WITH LEAH GORDON AND STEPHEN ELLCOCK

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Friday 24th October 2025, 5.30 - 9pm

Join us for an engaging artist talk and Q&A with Leah Gordon and author and image collector Stephen Ellcock, as they discuss Leah's solo exhibition *Leah Gordon: Monument to the Vanquished Peasant*.

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Presented as part of *Monument to the Vanquished Peasant*, a Meadow Arts exhibition with the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, in association with Coventry Biennial.

Booking essential, see our website for details.

SMALLPIECE HOUSE OPEN STUDIOS

Studios at Smallpiece House
Saturday 25th October 2025, 11am - 4pm
Sunday 26th October 2025, 11am - 4pm

Coventry Biennial offers artist studios, creative workspace and event space in Leamington Spa, supporting artists to develop their practices, to make new artworks and connect with each other and the wider community in Warwickshire.

Visit our slightly dilapidated, but safe and secure Georgian villa on Newbold Terrace East with views over Jephson Gardens to see what our studio members have been working on!

EVENTS:

LIVING BETTER TOGETHER: SPATIAL PRACTICES IN ART AND ARCHITECTURE FOR EMPATHETIC EXCHANGE (SPACEX)

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Thursday 13th November 2025, 9.30am - 6pm
Friday 14th November 2025, 9am - 6pm

Living Better Together conference concludes the Spatial Practices in Art and Architecture for Empathetic EXchange (SPACEX) project; a cross-continental and cross-disciplinary effort bringing together academics and cultural organisations to build stronger networks and maximise the ways in which art, architecture and design promote empathetic ways of living together.

Booking essential, see our website for details.

KINDA COLLECTING

LS2, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Thursday 8th January 2026

Join artist Simeon Barclay (curator of Kinda Blu) and Dr Ian Sergeant (Senior Curator, Global Majority Collections, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery) for a discussion around national collections and the ways that they have local relevance and meaning.

This event brings together Simeon's experience of working with the Arts Council Collection and Ian's West Midlands-based expertise for an insightful and discursive event.

STORIES THAT MADE US MEETS OBSESSIONS, POSSESSIONS

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
Tuesday 20th January 2026, 11am - 3pm

This informal and discursive event brings together the organisers and participants of the current exhibitions at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum to explore ideas around collections and how they relate to South Asian communities.

Co-hosted by Hardish Virk (Curator) and Ryan Hughes (Artistic Director & CEO, Coventry Biennial), this event welcomes audiences, communities and participants to come together to share and learn from each other.

ANDI

Andi is a Coventry-based trans woman and 'self-taught' artist who works in oil paint, graphite and pencil. They have a BA(Hons) in English Literature from the Open University.

For Coventry Biennial 2025 Andi has worked with the Warwickshire County Council Library Service and Warwickshire Pride to ensure opportunities for Queer people to learn about, discuss and to contribute to local collections and narratives. These engagement activities will result in an exhibition of paintings. She comments:

"I'm delighted to be given the opportunity to work on this project and tell Queer stories from across the region. It is really bold of the

Coventry Biennial team and Warwickshire Libraries to take the chance on a queer and trans artist to tell the stories of some of the most marginalised people in society, both historically and in today's political climate where the government is stripping away trans rights."

Andi was a top ten finalist for the Queer Britain Art Awards in 2023. She has previously exhibited at MK Gallery, at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum and with the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists and is currently working towards a solo exhibition in Manchester.

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This project has been co-commissioned by Warwickshire County Council and Coventry Biennial.



Andi, She was a homewrecker. She was a man-eater. And she was a BAD actress, Oil Paint, 2024. Courtesy: The Artist

SIMEON BARCLAY

Simeon Barclay is an artist based in Leeds, he spent the 1990s employed as a machine operative and was devoted to the transformative potential of clubs, music, fashion and youth culture movements across the UK. Channelling these alternative modes of expression, he attended night school before going to art school and in 2014 he completed an MFA at Goldsmiths.

Simeon works across performance, installation, sound, writing and sculpture. These various forms act as a catalyst for exploring modes of subjectivity, desire, inheritance, and the fictive possibilities of cultural and personal memory.

His work ranges from highly fabricated to intuitively handmade and is influenced by popular cultural forms, both iconic and historic. Disparate sources including collaborations with artisans, fragments of overheard conversations, investigative research as well as objects and images sourced from second-hand stores are combined to generate and embody different realities in his work.

For Coventry Biennial 2025, Simeon Barclay has curated an exhibition drawn from the Arts Council Collection.

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This project has been co-commissioned by Arts Council Collection and Coventry Biennial.



Simeon Barclay, At Home, Everywhere and Nowhere, Installation View at Gathering and Workplace Gallery, London (UK), 2023. Courtesy: The Artist and Gathering. Photo: Tom Carter

MUSTAFA BOĞA

Mustafa Boğa is based between Adena (Turkey) and London (United Kingdom). He holds two MAs, the first in Cinematography and Post-Production from Greenwich University, London and the second in Fine Arts from Central Saint Martins.

Mustafa's work frequently delves into the themes and rituals of his upbringing, incorporating manipulated videos and photographs of family members, ornate wreaths typically encountered at weddings and funerals, and quilts embroidered with subversive motifs. These images, often brought to life through freehand machine embroidery, serve as reflections of his childhood memories in the southern region of Turkey.

For Coventry Biennial 2025, Mustafa will present a new series of freehand embroideries based on film stills from home movies of family events, weddings and parties.

Mustafa has presented solo exhibitions at Nan Ke Gallery (Shanghai, China), Gulden Bostanci Gallery (Antalya, Turkey) and at Kun Art Space (Adena, Turkey). He makes strong use of international residency programmes and has recently completed residencies at the Swatch Art Peace Hotel (Shanghai, China), at Air Kvitbrakka (Berlevag, Norway) and at Viborg Kunsthall Riddergade (Viborg, Denmark).



Mustafa Boğa, Screenshots (Little Boy), Freehand Machine Embroidery, 2023. Courtesy: The Artist

KATRINA COBAIN

Katrina Cobain is a visual artist from the North of Ireland who is based in Glasgow. She has a degree in Sculpture and Environmental Art from The Glasgow School of Art.

Through the mediums of performance, sculpture, writing and video, Katrina's work tells stories from the late capitalist era, with a focus on the duplexity of materials and cognitive dissonance prevalent in our time.

Drawn to absurdity, and its usefulness to puncture darkness or hopelessness, her work has a subtle humour at times, which she considers a form of resistance.

In 2020 Katrina began *The Plastic Bag Museum*, an online performative museum

highlighting the social and design history of carrier bags, while exploring plastic's material qualities and the existential threat that they present. The Plastic Bag Museum has led to correspondence with collectors all over the globe, and an ever expanding collection of bags and related ephemera.

Coventry Biennial 2025 represents the first full scale exhibition of what Katrina describes as "*the institution under your kitchen sink*".



Katrina Cobain, *The Plastic Bag Museum* (Image from 'Notes on Bags'), 35mm Photograph, 2024. Courtesy: The Artist and Robert Carter

SOPHIA EHRNROOTH

Sophia Ehrnrooth is a Helsinki-based multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker. She is a graduate of the The Art Institute of San Antonio, Texas (USA) and the Academy of Fine Arts Helsinki (Finland) and has worked as a visual artist and facilitator of creative processes since 2000.

Sophia's practice spans painting, photography, and media art, with a particular focus on moving image and installation works that explore themes of community through dialogue and dreaming, situated at the intersection of play and games.

Her artistic approach is connected to contemporary social discourse, and she participates in projects that address current

societal issues through artistic means and at times, through forms of civic activism.

During Coventry Biennial 2025, Sophia Ehrnrooth will present a major four screen moving image installation.

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Sophia Ehrnrooth's participation in Coventry Biennial 2025 is generously supported by grants from Frame Contemporary Art Finland and Arts Council England.

This presentation of 879 Heroes by Heart has been supported by Yue Yu, a Helsinki-based Independent Curatorial Advisor to the Coventry Biennial team.



*Sophia Ehrnrooth, 879 Heroes by Heart, Two-channel Video at Shimadaya Gallery, Kyoto (Japan), 2018.
Courtesy: The Artist*

LEAH GORDON

Leah Gordon is an artist, curator, and writer working nationally and internationally. She is the co-director of the Ghetto Biennale (Haiti) and was co-curator of Kafou: Haiti, Art and Vodou at Nottingham Contemporary (UK).

Her work explores the intersectional histories of the Caribbean plantation system, the Enclosure Acts, and the creation of the British working-class. Her work recognises the role of carnival, folk traditions, and grassroots religion in both performing and sustaining radical histories.

At Coventry Biennial 2025, Leah presents a solo exhibition of new and recent works commissioned by Meadow Arts, exploring the lasting impacts of the Enclosure Acts to build

a critical understanding of the systems and politics we live with today.

Monument to the Vanquished Peasant includes works created over the last three years, as well as a new commission, Urban Vagabonds, and a series of photographs made in collaboration with local allotment holders in Coventry. The exhibition is further contextualised by the presentation of images from author and image-collector Stephen Ellcock's archive, alongside objects from the Museum of English Rural Life.

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Leah Gordon: Monument to the Vanquished Peasant (With a special presentation by Stephen Ellcock) is a Meadow Arts exhibition with the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, in association with Coventry Biennial.



*Leah Gordon, Ty-Rhos, Pentre Evan Wood (Pembrokeshire), Photograph, 2023.
Courtesy: The Artist and Meadow Arts*

CAITLIN KIELY & DR JAMIE LARKIN

Caitlin Kiely is a Birmingham-based artist, practice-led researcher, facilitator and educator. Alongside her practice, she teaches at a number of institutions including Coventry University. She holds an MA in Visual Communication from the Royal College of Art.

Dr Jamie Larkin is an Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick. He completed his PhD at the University College London's Institute of Archaeology, with a thesis that examined the history and development of commercial activity in the UK museum and heritage sector.

For Coventry Biennial 2025, Caitlin and Jamie have collaborated to make a new project that

explores a broad definition of the museum –considering it as a collection of processes connected to a place, as opposed to a static destination or specific point in time.

Through the use of art, storytelling and social engagement they will reimagine museums, their structures and functions, applying a range of lenses to engage and connect with overlooked fragments of a place's ecology and social history.

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This collaborative project is generously funded by, and co-commissioned with Warwick Institute of Engagement and Research and Impact Services at University of Warwick.



Caitlin Kiely, Stacks of Portland Stone, Scanned 35mm negative, 2019. Courtesy: The Artist

E.N. MIREMBE & ROSIE OLANG' ODHIAMBO

E. N. Mirembe is a cultural worker who is active as a curator, writer and researcher. They studied History at the University of the Western Cape and they are a Curatorial Fellow at the Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt (Germany).

Rosie Olang' Odhiambo is a curator, writer and bookmaker living and working in Nairobi (Kenya). She has previously worked in literary and art worker roles in Kenya and in the United States and is currently a resident at Lapa Brixton (South Africa) as part of the collective, *i continue to continue*.

Since 2024, E.N. Mirembe and Rosie Olang' Odhiambo have worked together to co-curate *in transit under another sky* as a part of the

British Council's Art Exchange Moving Image programme. Presentations of this exhibition have happened at Afropocene StudioLab in Kampala (Uganda), Kamene Artist Residency in Nairobi (Kenya) and at The Africa Center in London (UK).

For Coventry Biennial 2025, with the continued support of the British Council, E.N. Mirembe and Rosie Olang' Odhiambo present a further iteration of this exhibition at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum drawing together artworks from the British Council Collection and works by practitioners from East Africa.



Larry Achiampong, *Relic 2*, Installation View at Kamene Art Centre, Nairobi (Kenya), 2024. Courtesy: The Artist, The Curators and British Council

TEGEN KIMBLEY

Tegen Kimbley is a documentary photographer based in the Black Country. She graduated from the University of South Wales in 2018.

Exploring man-made environments, Tegen documents the people and objects that inhabit them, creating narratives around the everyday and over-looked. Through considered composition, she attempts to generate dialogue around current environmental, social and economic issues, while creating a sense of atmosphere and place.

For Coventry Biennial 2025, Tegen is presenting an amended version of *Whispering Reeds*, a documentary series of works about her father and his boat that she has been working on since 2014.

This new body of work consists of personal archival material, contemporary photographs and her first major moving image artwork.

The project reflects the emotional relationship between a man and his boat, and the trials and tribulations that come with it. The series explores the sentimental value we attach to objects and examines how emotional attachment, often connected to trauma or illness, can serve as a way to regain a sense of lost control.



Tegen Kimbley, Whispering Reeds, Photograph, 2025. Courtesy: The Artist

TUOMO MANNINEN

Tuomo Manninen is a Helsinki-based photographer who has been photographing self-identified “groups” of people around the world since 1995.

His photographs are a cross between documentary photography and dramatisation, and the expressions of his subjects convey pride, motivation, responsibility and determination in relation to their particular focuses and specialisms.

Tuomo has spent time in Coventry over the summer of 2025, getting to know and photographing local “groups”, these photographs will be presented across multiple Coventry Biennial venues as a part of the *Obsessions, Possessions* programme before becoming a part of Tuomo’s larger collection of “groups”.

Since starting this collection, collectively known as “*Me/We*” in Kathmandu in 1995, Tuomo has photographed “groups” in over 20 cities around the world and these artworks have been shown in over 100 solo and group exhibitions.

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The development of Tuomo Manninen’s participation in Coventry Biennial 2025 has been supported by Spatial Practices in Art and Architecture for Empathetic Exchange (spacex), a project that has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE).



Tuomo Manninen, *Discount Tombstones* (Meadowlands Zone 5, Soweto), Photograph, 2011. Courtesy: The Artist

CARLOS NORONHA FEIO

Carlos Noronha Feio is a multidisciplinary artist based in Oeiras (Portugal). He holds a PhD from the Royal College of Art (London, UK) and has completed postgraduate studies at both Middlesex University and University of Arts London (both London, UK).

Carlos consumes, juxtaposes and performs media as research into cultural, local and global identity, adopting culturally significant images, locations and symbols as a form of creative interference with meaning, demonstrating the almost arbitrary nature in which cultural significance is interpreted.

He works in a variety of media including video, painting, digital, textiles and book works and occasionally collaborates with specialist

craftspeople and industrial makers in the production of his works.

Carlos' participation in Coventry Biennial 2025 includes a significant presentation of Afghan War Rugs from his personal collection alongside one of his own monumental rugs that explores similar themes of politics and war and the impact of conflict on domestic life. This personal collection and Carlos' creative response will be presented at Coventry University's Delia Derbyshire Building where it will additionally make reference to the city's history of textile production and relationship to peace and reconciliation.



milk dew of haze, sustaining life liquid of Other worldliness (weaver; running water; star), 2024, Tapete na técnica de Arraiolos, lã e juta | Arraiolos rug technique, wool and jute 196 x 358 cm, Bruno Lopes and 3+1 Arte Contemporânea

DEBASHISH PAUL

Debashish Paul lives and works in Varanasi (India) and he completed an MFA in Sculpture at Banaras Hindu University in 2021.

He makes performance, video, drawings, paintings, sculpture and photography that address questions of sexuality and identity. His work explores the possibilities for repair, reconciliation, and consolation with a meaningful sense of identity and spirituality that is devised through dialogues with the self, society and nature. He explains:

"As an artist, I don't want to define myself with a particular gender or a particular type of body. My internal body has no boundaries; it transcends gender."

"My speculative, genderless figures are always in flux, undergoing emotional transformation within time and space. For me, a work is never really finished; it simply undergoes a change of being."

For Coventry Biennial 2025, Debashish presents new and existing works in a range of mediums. His participation in the programme is supported through our partnership with Kolkata-based organisations Emami Art, and Debashish is one of five Indian artists that we completed professional development focused studio visits with as a part of our British Council Biennials Connect grant funded programme.



Debashish Paul, *The Song for Peace*, Single-channel Video, 2023. Courtesy: The Artist and Emami Art

PRASANTA SAHU

Prasanta Sahu lives and works in Santiniketan (India) where he teaches in the Department of Painting in the Faculty of Fine Art of Visva Bharati University. Teaching is an important part of Prasanta's work and he has additionally worked as visiting faculty at institutions including the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts at Burapha University in Thailand as well as the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Prasanta's multi-dimensional practice includes painting, drawing, installation, sculpture and photography bringing together wide ranging cross-cultural influences including his small town upbringing and love for his ancestral village of Chaughari (Odisha, India) as well as

watching and assisting his father make survey maps and technical experience gained from his initial training in electrical engineering.

For Coventry Biennial 2025, Prasanta presents a series of recently completed works exploring traditions around sweet production. His participation in the programme is supported through our partnership with Kolkata-based organisations Emami Art, and Prasanta is one of five Indian artists that we completed professional development focused studio visits with as a part of our British Council Biennials Connect grant funded programme.



Portrait of Prasanta Sahu. Courtesy: Emami Art and Ujjal Dey

NIALL SINGH

Niall Singh is a Birmingham-based artist, musician and educator. He is a graduate of Birmingham School of Art, where he co-founded the Margaret Street Free Arts Council (MSFAC). Since then he has been a member of numerous collectives and bands and has engaged with local activist groups such as the Birmingham Occupation and the squatted Birmingham Social Centre.

Niall's practice utilises collage, assemblage, printmaking, textile, discussion, poetry and music, often as ways to break down social barriers that prevent access to art and education. Recurring features of his practice include producing zines, leading workshops and re-writing or re-citing traditional Folk music.

For Coventry Biennial 2025, Niall has delivered a participatory project with local people, called The Recyclopaedia, this project used collaborative collage and printmaking workshops to recycle materials from out-dated encyclopaedias into new artworks and publications.

The project aims to replace the kinds of imperial, colonial, racist and sexist content that is often presented as so-called fact in these kinds of publications in a way that is collaboratively authored and rooted in skills development.



Niall Singh, Sea Fog, Collage, 2021. Courtesy: The Artist

ELLA YOLANDE

Ella Yolande is a London-based artist who is currently studying towards an MA Art and Ecology at Goldsmiths University (London, UK) and in 2019 she completed a BA(Hons) in Intermedia at Edinburgh College of Art (Scotland).

Her practice is rooted in tangled thoughts about the vegetal, wildness, seeds and what she describes as *"our messy, multi-species bodies"*. Her work is additionally informed by queer ecologies, ideas of resilience, preservation and the more-than-human.

She works across video, 3D animation, sculpture and textiles, with reference to fieldwork, botanical architecture and protective wear.

Through her work she considers the history and medicinal properties of plants, as well as the need for mutual flourishing.

For Coventry Biennial 2025 she has reworked an older project that she made in collaboration with Zara Sands. Their work together focuses on exploring body-environment binaries through the lens of queer ecology, and how colonial botanical science practices feed into the continued stratification of bodies and lifeforms. This reworked presentation at The Coach House additionally references the nursery and seed business that John Whittingham and his son Charles ran while they leased the Charterhouse between 1745 and 1803.



Ella Yolande, *We Have Never Been Only Human*, 2023, Film Still, Courtesy: Ella Yolande

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Team:

Mark Cook (Building Supervisor)

Rachel Doughty (Building Supervisor)

Zoe Dickinson-Phillips (Executive Assistant
- Work Placement)

Dion Ellis-Taylor (PhD Candidate)

Emily Gardner (Assistant Curator)

Iness Ghaina (Designer - Work Placement)

Kurt Hickson (Technical Manager)

Ryan Hughes (Artistic Director and CEO)

Verity Jackson (Finance Manager)

Ruark Jon-Stevens (Marketing Manager)

Sevven Küçük (Operations Director)

Kirstie Lewis (Social Programme Manager)

Jessica Noble (Social Programme

Coordinator - Work Placement)

Zainab Willshire (Designer - Work
Placement)

And additional thanks to a number of
amazing freelancers and volunteers who's
support made this programme possible.

Partner Curators, Advisors and Producers:

Yasmin Canvin (CV Life)

Georgia Cowie (Coventry Cathedral)

Kyla Craig (Art Riot Collective)

Craig Ashley (Coventry University)

Sam Vale (Coventry University)

Alona Pardo (Arts Council Collection)

Alice Fyfe (Arts Council Collection)

Leah McGurk (British Council)

Anne De Charmant (Meadow Arts)

Rose Farrington (Meadow Arts)

Yue Yu (Independent)

Ushmita Sahu (Emami Art)

Marley Trelor (spaceX)

Alan Van Wijgerden (Independent)

We'd like to extend an additional, further
thanks to colleagues from across our
partner organisations who supported with
the production, fabrication and facilitation
of this 5th Coventry Biennial.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

PRINCIPLE FUNDERS:

Arts Council England, Arts Council Collection, British Council, British Council Biennial's Connect, University of Warwick Institute of Engagement, Frame Contemporary, DASH, CVAN/NAWM, Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council.



MAJOR PARTNERS:

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, CV Life, Meadow Arts, Coventry Cathedral, Historic Coventry Trust, Art Riot Collective, Coventry University, Emami Arts, SpaceX-Rise, Midlands 4 Cities, University of Warwick.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Coventry Artspace, English Heritage, Warwickshire Libraries, Birmingham Museums, Multistory, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Crown Fine Art.

VISITOR INFORMATION:

WALKING:

Coventry is a walkable city. 3 of the 5 Coventry Biennial 2025 exhibition venues are only minutes apart and the other 2 are easily walkable in under 20 minutes.

CYCLING:

All 5 of the Coventry Biennial exhibition venues can be easily reached by bicycle and all have some kind of storage facilities available. Bikes (including e-bikes) can be hired from: www.wmcyclehire.co.uk

TAXIS:

Taxis are available from Coventry Train Station and Pool Meadow Bus Station. Uber is widely used across the city.

BUS:

There are frequent bus services around the city. Day savers and family tickets offer the best value for money.

TRAIN:

Coventry Train Station is less than a mile from the city centre and is well served from both London and Birmingham with multiple trains running per hour.

EATING AND DRINKING:

Some of our favourite places include:

Farmers Fayre (Fab local cafe, right next door to The Coach House)

The Pod Cafe (Vegan, locally grown, recommended by The Guardian)

Forme & Chase (Cocktails in a former Coventry Biennial venue)

Bean and Leaf (Cake and the best coffee in town!)

Twisted Barrel Brewery (Vegan Beer, brewed locally)

CONTACTING US:

We'd love to hear from you. Please email us on:

info@coventrybiennial.com

We're also active on social media:

@CovBiennial

#CoventryBiennial

#CovBiennial2025

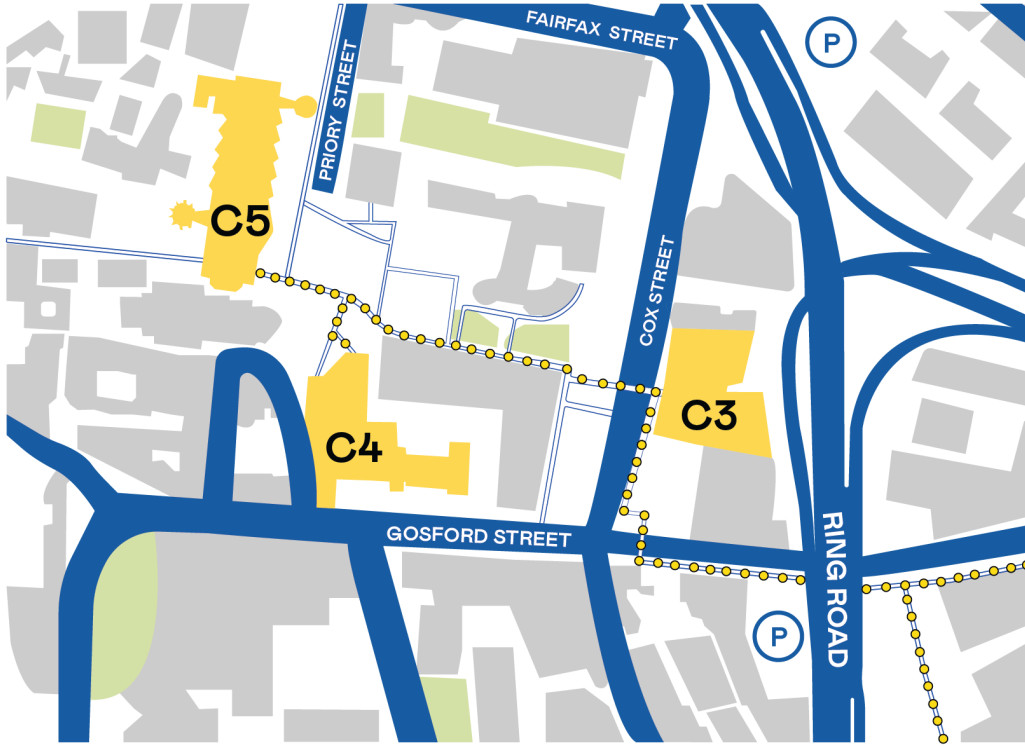
#ObsessionsPossessions

Full details on our organisation and programmes can be found at: www.coventrybiennial.com

COVEN



Pool Meadow Bus Station
3 Minute walk from C5



Coventry Train Station
16 minute walk from C4



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VENUES



WALKWAYS



DIRECTION



ROADS

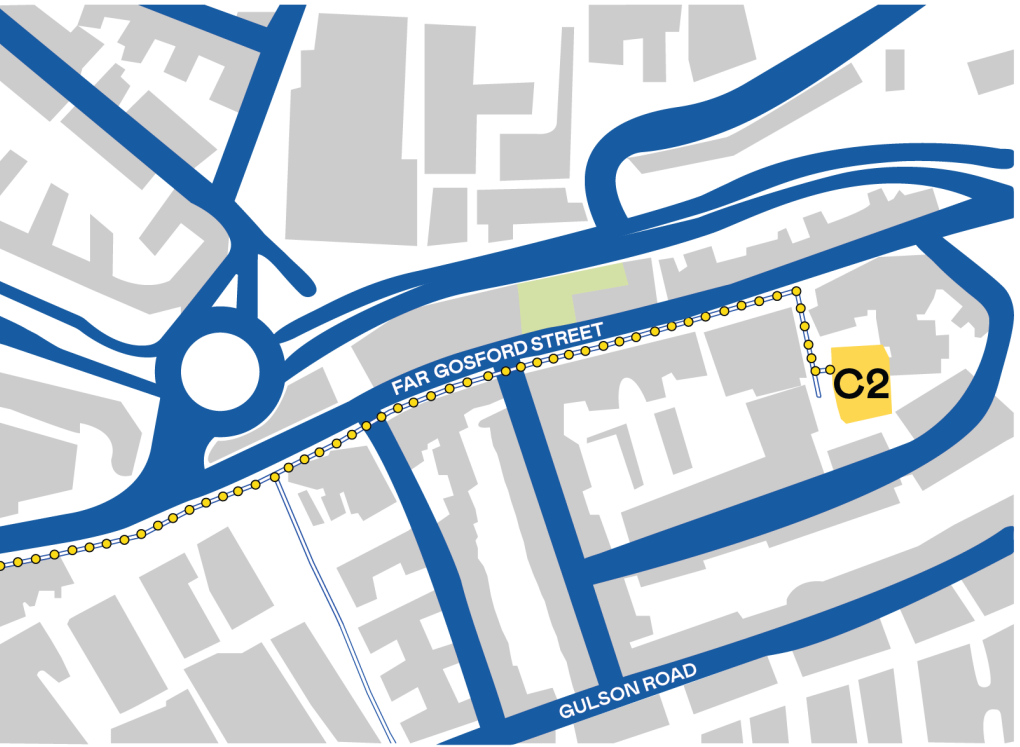


PARKING

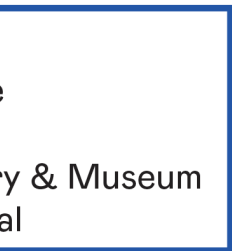
C1 The Coach House
C2 Art Riot Collective
C3 Delia Derbyshire
C4 Herbert Art Gallery
C5 Coventry Cathedral

N.B: Admission Charges apply at venue C4

TRY VENUES



e Coach House 17 minute
Walk from C3, down London Road



Directions to C1 venue
The Coach House

STAMP COLLECTION

Welcome to Coventry Biennial 2025! This year's theme is Obsessions & Possessions. Explore the venues and collect stamps along the way.



C1



C2



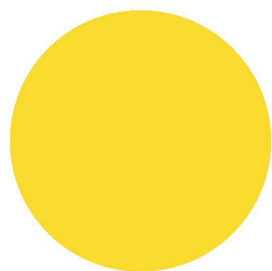
C3



C4



C5



COMPLETE