

HUMBER STREET GALLERY

EXHIBITION GUIDE

HANNAH QUINLAN & ROSIE HASTINGS

IN MY ROOM

01 JULY – 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

Humber Street Gallery is pleased to present *In My Room* by artists Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings, bringing together film, fresco painting and works on paper. As a new body of work, *In My Room* develops the artists' enquiry into the politics, histories and aesthetics of queer spaces and culture. This enquiry builds on their travels across the UK whilst making "UK Gay Bar Directory (UKGBD)" 2016, a moving image archive of gay bars, responding to the systematic closure of LGBTQ+ dedicated social spaces.

To Quinlan and Hastings, it became apparent through this research that the gay scene caters predominantly to white gay men. This prompted them to consider how this scene strengthens the historic male access to capital and power within the urban landscape. Wishing to explore the question of access further in their new film, Quinlan and Hastings went location scouting in Birmingham's gay village, only to find that in fact many of the bars and clubs have recently closed or will close in the next few months, due to the area being rapidly redeveloped as luxury residential accommodation in anticipation of the new high-speed rail line. This gave the film –and Quinlan and Hastings' ongoing wider archival project –a new urgency to capture these historical LGBTQ+ spaces at a time of immense change, thereby highlighting the impact of gentrification upon the cultural substructures of a city and its gay communities. In conjunction with the archival impulse of the film, Quinlan and Hastings have used dance and the performing body as a way to think through and investigate the ways in which male interaction and power are consolidated, particularly in relation to male sex culture.

The film is set in three different locations: Bar Jester and the Core club in Birmingham and Shoeburyness Fort in Southend-on-Sea. Recently closed, Bar Jester had been open since the 1970s, transitioning from a predominantly men-only venue in the 1980s to a women-upstairs men-downstairs layout, and then into a mixed venue.

The Core club is a members-only, men-only venue which hosts monthly club nights: it will close in the coming months. The third location, Shoeburyness Fort, was used by the British School of Gunnery as a training and experimental base for the army since 1859, then re-armed during World War 2 as part of the coastal defence, but now in disuse. Another form of a male-only environment at that time, the imposing, yet desolate Fort is flanked by the Thames Estuary on one side, and by a recently built housing development on the other. Within these three locations, the camera focuses on the strict routine of the line dancing format which is performed by the dancers without any emotional connection to the music or communication with each other. In contrast, a specially choreographed shadow dance (a derivative of the line dance) allows for a much more charged mirroring of the dancers' bodies, whose interaction becomes intensely intimate and at times, almost violent. The film suggests a subconscious reproduction of power in public space through codes, gestures and behaviour. Wall rubbings of the stone relief that fronted the Bar Jester appear as a repeating motif throughout the film. These unique works are also presented on paper in the exhibition. A ghostly record of an iconic LGBTQ+ venue at the moment of its passing, the Jester takes on a life of its own as a folkloric and governing character.

Four smaller graphite drawings, shown in the entrance cabinet, depict the exteriors of gay venues in Birmingham, all of which have either closed already or are scheduled for closure before 2021, in front of which small groups of women congregate. Quinlan and Hastings have also created a major new fresco painting in the gallery, bringing this specialist, ancient technique into contemporary practice by engaging with the public and architectural nature of the medium. Depicting a high street populated by pedestrians, this imagery considers the role urban architecture plays in the formation of identities, and reflects on the ways in which movement is informed by a culture of male dominance. At a time of extreme and ongoing austerity, heightened surveillance and the privatisation of public spaces, the street is an increasingly contested and political zone.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

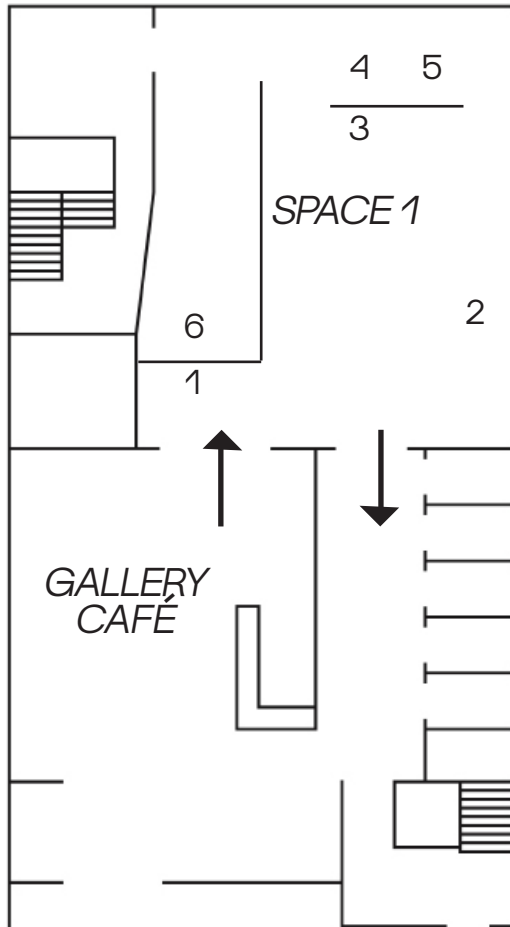
In making the film, the artists have worked with choreographer Les Child, singer Jesse Hultberg and dancers: Ted Rodgers, Matthew Hawkins, Paul Liburd, Christopher Sparkey, Gary O'Brien and Lucille Marshall. The soundtrack for the film is made by Owen Pratt. Rosie Taylor is the Director of Photography with colourist Philipp Morozov. The artists trained with Fleur Kelly to learn the classic Roman technique for fresco painting. Rosanna McLaughlin has been commissioned to write an accompanying essay, 'Now You See Me'.

Commissioned by Focal Point Gallery, *In My Room* is presented in partnership with MOSTYN Gallery, Wales and Humber Street Gallery, Hull.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings (both born 1991 Newcastle & London) live and work in London. They have participated in group shows including the recent *Cruising Pavilion: Architecture, Gay Sex and Cruising Culture*, ArkDes, Stockholm; *Kiss My Genders*, Hayward Gallery, London; and *Queer Spaces: London, 1980s – Today*, Whitechapel Gallery, London (all 2019). Solo presentations include *Something for The Boys*, Two Queens, Leicester (2018) and *Gaby*, Queer Thoughts, NYC (2018). Recent performances took place for Image Behaviour, ICA (2019), Art Night (2019), Move Festival, Pompidou Centre (2019), and Kiss My Gender Live, Southbank Centre (2019).

WORK DETAILS, GROUND FLOOR



4. Unit 2, 2020
Graphit on Paper
43cm x 55.5cm

Courtesy of Valeria Napoleone

5. Boltz, 2020
Graphite on Paper
43cm x 55.5cm

Courtesy of the artists and Arcadia Missa

6. In My Room, 2020
HD Video
17 mins 43 secs

Courtesy of the artists, Arcadia Missa and Galerie Isabella Bortolozzi

IN MY ROOM: SPACE 1

1. Jester #4, 2019
Graphite on Paper
190cm x 263cm

Courtesy of the artists and Arcadia Missa

2. Jester # 7, 2019
Soft Pastel on Paper
188.5cm x 263cm

Courtesy of the artists and Arcadia Missa

3. Republic, 2020
Fresco
256cm x 256cm

Courtesy of the artists and Arcadia Missa

RELATED ACTIVITY

Access our free in person and online public programme to learn more about the artists and the exhibition. You can book access all of the related activity by following the links on the [exhibition page](#).

AN EVENING WITH TAMAR & JO THU 22 JULY, 7PM – LATE SPACE 1 & GALLERY CAFÉ FREE BOOKING REQUIRED

An Evening with Tamar & Jo will be a chance to experience a brand-new performance work made up of a series of mini performances followed by a DJ set, all of which explore the women-led scene, LGBTQIA+ spaces, and various counter-culture themes that are inspired by *In My Room*.

The performances will incorporate contemporary dance and physical solo and duet work performed by Tamar & Jo, as well as ensemble performances by a supporting cast of their friends and collaborators. Providing a backdrop to the evening will be a soundtrack inspired by past and present cultural scenes from Hull and beyond, platforming the work of exciting, daring, and progressive individuals.

The performance will play with the relationship between audience and performer and finding ways of blurring the line between them by using the space in an exciting new way. Tamar & Jo want this to be an immersive experience for anyone attending, therefore after booking a ticket for the evening, expect to be sent additional details about the event, including a suggested dress code.

FOUND ME // 3AM, SAYANG THURS 09 SEPTEMBER, 7 – 9PM SPACE 1 & CAFE/BAR FREE

Responding to the exhibition *In My Room*, the artist and DJ, Sayang, will debut a live audio-visual installation in our café. Using modular synthesis and hardware, they'll create an immersive experience that embodies the 'before, during and after' emotions of freedom, sense of self and evolution of queer parties. Channelling their experiences, the set will be rooted in ambience and atmosphere, with glimpses of ecstasy and euphoria.

Sayang will perform within a fabric structure surrounded and covered by visuals created in collaboration with filmmaker Tony Lee. Merging sound and vision, Tony's visuals embrace, amplify and channel Sayang's experiences and the QTIPoC*, Trans and queer Disabled bodies and minds they see themselves in and stands on the shoulders of in queer party spaces.

*Queer, Trans and/or Intersex People of Colour

HULL QUEER SPACE STORIES
FROM 16 JULY
IN THE GALLERY & ONLINE
FREE

In response to the exhibition we are launching a new community outreach and digital project which aims to collect LGBTQI+ stories through the human history of Hull's queer club and bar spaces.

Bars such as Silhouettes, Polar Bear, Yorkshireman and Frankie's Vauxhall Tavern may be gone, but the lived histories of LGBTQI+ life in these spaces lives on in the memories of the clientele, the owners, their families, the bar staff, the drag queens, and performers. As we progress towards a greater sense of LGBTQI+ acceptance, how has the landscape of queer space adapted to new challenges and austerity? We ask what has been gained? What has been lost? And who is fighting to preserve our queer heritage?

We have been working with local writer, Kerrie Marsh, who is involved with the LGBTQI+ community in Hull, to transform the stories and contributions from members of the public into a creative piece of work that will be accessible via our website and on iPads at Humber Street Gallery.

*ARTISTS IN-CONVERSATION: HANNAH QUINLAN &
ROSIE HASTINGS WITH ROSANNA MCLAUGHLIN*
RECORDING AVAILABLE ONLINE
FREE

Rosanna Mclaughlin speaks with artists Hannah Quinlan & Rosie Hastings about the works within the exhibition, as well as further exploring some of the broader themes being explored by the artists.

A transcript of the conversation is also available online.

NOW YOU SEE ME: ROSANNA MCLAUGHLIN
TEXT AVAILABLE ONLINE
FREE

A new essay has been commissioned by Rosanna Mclaughlin to accompany the exhibition, titled "Now You See Me" which explores some of the themes within the exhibition.

ABOUT US

Humber Street Gallery is an Absolutely Cultured project. Originally established in 2017 as part of the City of Culture programme, it has developed into a vibrant, high-quality contemporary visual art space for Hull. It is now a significant contributor to the contemporary visual arts offer in the north.

Our ambition for Humber Street Gallery is to further develop the venue into a multi-artform and multi-functional creative centre, showcasing a wide range of art and activities providing something for everyone from visual art, dance, music to spoken word. Increasingly the space will be used to showcase more work by local as well as national and international practitioners.

OPENING TIMES

GALLERY

WED – SUN: 10:00 – 17:00

GALLERY CAFÉ

Wed – Sun: 10:00 – LATE

CONTACT US

Humber Street Gallery
64 Humber Street
Hull
HU1 1TU

absolutelycultured.co.uk/humberstreetgallery/
info@absolutelycultured.co.uk
01482 323 484

Get the latest updates by following Humber Street Gallery on our official social media channels.

INSTAGRAM [@humberstreetgallery](https://www.instagram.com/humberstreetgallery)
FACEBOOK [@humberstreetgallery](https://www.facebook.com/humberstreetgallery)
TWITTER [@humberstgallery](https://twitter.com/humberstgallery)

Absolutely Cultured is a registered charity. If you would like to support our work, you can do so at absolutelycultured.co.uk

Official Funding Partners



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

