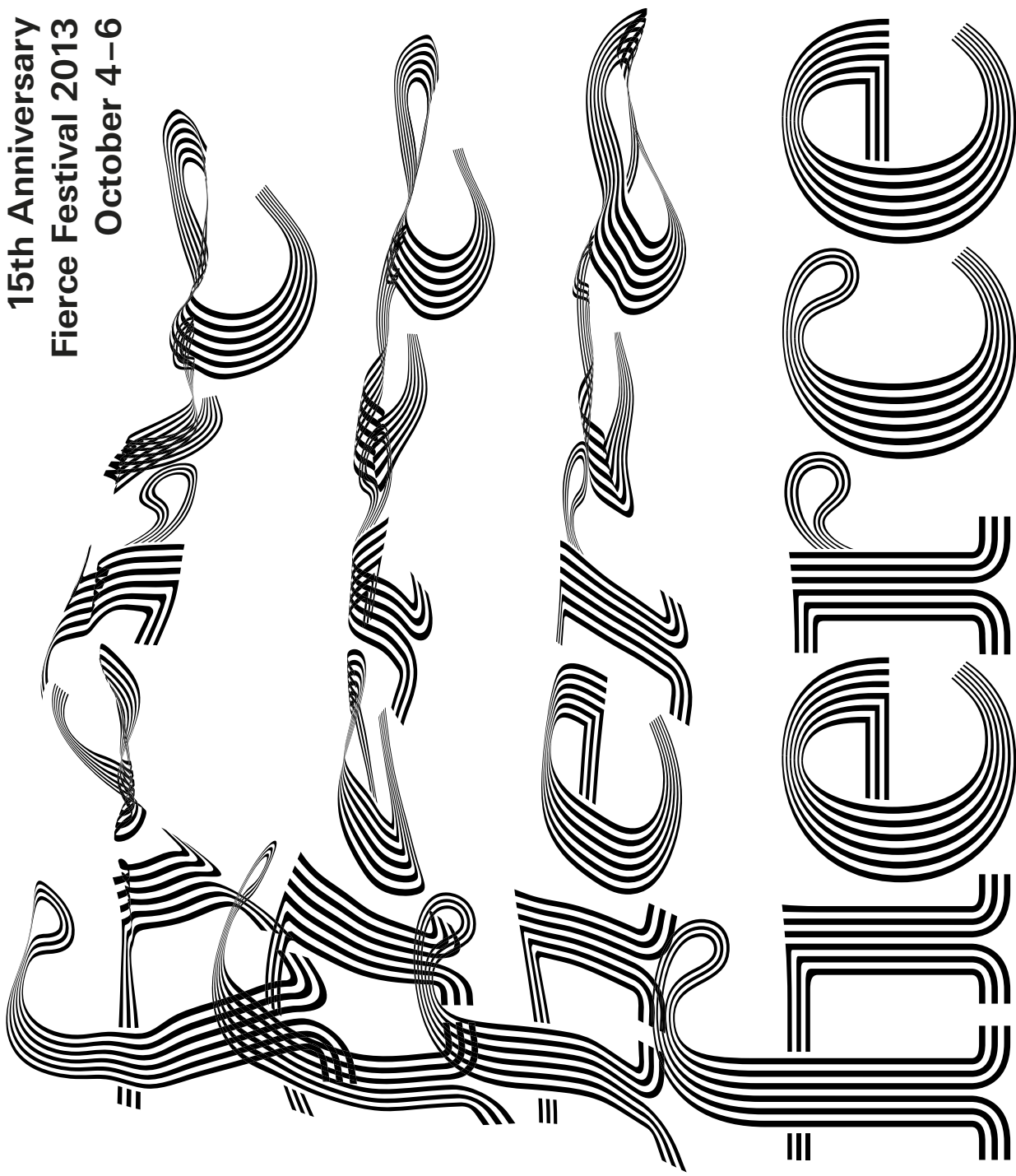


15th Anniversary
Fierce Festival 2013
October 4-6



Live art. Collision. Hyperlocal. Supernow.

Fierce Festival Programme Schedule

Venues

1. @AE Harris

110 Northwood Street
Birmingham, B3 1SZ

2. Birmingham

Ormiston Academy
1 Grosvenor Street
Birmingham, B4 7QD

3. ARTicle Gallery

School of Art,
Birmingham Institute
of Art & Design
Birmingham City University
Margaret Street
Birmingham, B3 3BX

4. Birmingham Town Hall

Victoria Square
Birmingham, B3 3DQ

5. Edible Eastside

at the rear of
122 Fazeley Street
Birmingham, B5 5RS

6. Minerva Works & STRYX (Festival Hub)

158 Fazeley Street, Digbeth
Birmingham, B5 5RT

7. DanceXchange

Birmingham Hippodrome
Hurst Street
Birmingham, B5 4TB

8. Club PST

71 Lombard Street
Digbeth
Birmingham, B12 0QU

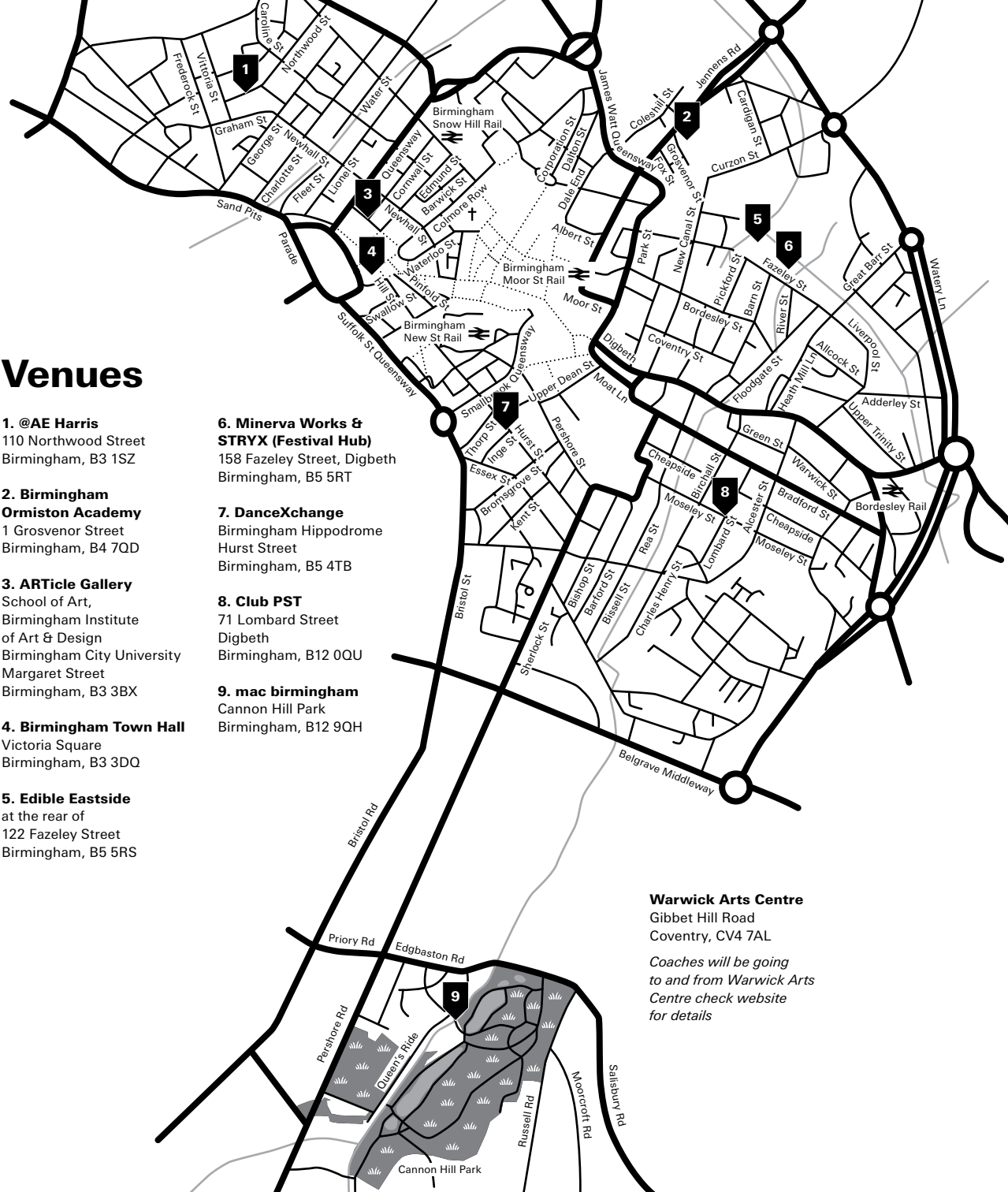
9. mac birmingham

Cannon Hill Park
Birmingham, B12 9QH

Warwick Arts Centre

Gibbet Hill Road
Coventry, CV4 7AL

Coaches will be going
to and from Warwick Arts
Centre check website
for details



Thursday 3 October	Venue	Times
Kate McIntosh	Minerva Works	12pm – 5pm
Friday 4 October	Venue	Times
Denis Tricot, <i>A Sculpture for Birmingham</i>	Birmingham Town Hall	All day
Festival Hub at Stryx	STRYX, Unit 13, Minerva Works, Digbeth	10pm – 12pm
Kate McIntosh, <i>Worktable</i>	Minerva Works	12pm – 5pm
Panel Discussion: Live Art in 2113	mac birmingham	5pm – 6pm
Blanch & Shock, <i>Blood Moon Feast & Wolf in the Winter, The Blind Leading the Blind</i>	Edible Eastside, Digbeth	6.30pm – 8.30pm
Saturday 5 October	Venue	Times
Denis Tricot, <i>A Sculpture for Birmingham</i>	Birmingham Town Hall	All day
Festival Hub at Stryx	STRYX, Unit 13, Minerva Works, Digbeth	10am – 12pm
Kate McIntosh, <i>Worktable</i>	Minerva Works	12pm – 5pm
Eva Meyer-Keller, <i>Sounds Like Catastrophes</i>	Birmingham Town Hall	2pm* & 5pm**
Iona Kewney & Joseph Quimby, <i>Knights of the Invisible</i>	DanceXchange	4pm
Atlanta Eke, <i>Monster Body</i>	Birmingham Ormiston Academy	5.30pm
Heather Cassils, <i>Becoming an Image</i>	AE Harris	7.30pm
Club Fierce: Eat My Noise	AE Harris	8pm – 11pm
Club Fierce: XXX	Club PST	11pm – late
Sunday 6 October	Venue	Times
Denis Tricot, <i>A Sculpture for Birmingham</i>	Birmingham Town Hall	All day
Festival Hub at Stryx	STRYX, Unit 13, Minerva Works, Digbeth	10pm – 12pm
Kate McIntosh, <i>Worktable</i>	Minerva Works	12pm – 5pm
Action Hero, <i>Slap Talk</i>	Warwick Arts Centre 🚌	11.30am – 3.30pm
Lundahl & Seidl, <i>Four Stages of Conversations</i>	Warwick Arts Centre 🚌	12pm – 5.30pm
Franko B, <i>Because of Love</i>	Warwick Arts Centre 🚌	6pm
Fierce Festival Closing Concert: Joshua Light Show & Nicolas Jaar	Warwick Arts Centre 🚌	7.30pm

* For see-everything and day pass holders

** For single show purchases

🚌 A return coach service from Birmingham City Centre – Warwick Arts Centre will run on Sunday 6 October. Please check www.wearefierce.org for details



Photo: Heidrun Lohr

About Fierce Festival

Fierce Festival is an annual international festival of live art centred in Birmingham. This includes theatre, dance, performance art, music, installations, digital practices and parties. Fierce animates the city with performance: in out-of-the-ordinary spaces, including: iconic buildings, a canal-side community garden and a former metal factory. At the same time we continue to present work in established art centres like Birmingham Town Hall, DanceXchange and mac birmingham.

Since 2009, Harun Morrison and Laura McDermott have been joint artistic directors of Fierce. The duo continue to mix a 'slow burn' model of programming (developing works site-specifically in Birmingham with artists throughout the year) with special performances of recently commissioned touring works restaged for the festival.

www.wearefierce.org

Live Art

This includes performance art, theatre, dance, music, installation, public intervention, digital and interactive practices.

Collision

Fierce believes a good festival should celebrate collision – of artforms; of artworks and contexts; of ideas in salons, debates, workshops and talks and of strangers in late night parties...

Hyperlocal

Artists from across the globe showing work in Birmingham, developed in Birmingham. Performances sited in locations that re-imagine the city; in car parks, legendary clubs, the Brutalist Central Library and @AE Harris (a venue in an old metal factory), alongside established art centres like IKON, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Symphony Hall, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and mac birmingham.

Supernow

adj. [soo'per nou]

1. an intense sense of presence or awareness in a moment
2. an emergent or contemporaneous form
3. an attitude provoking new ways of seeing, being, feeling and thinking



Photo: Simon Richardson

Fierce 2013

Fierce Festival 2013 is the collision of many dialogues, ideas, slow cooked ambitions and unexpected twists. We see the festival as the public manifestation of a diverse set of artistic activities (workshops, site visits, conversation, collaboration, inspiration) that build throughout the year and culminate in this celebratory communal gathering.

To open the festival (Friday 4 October) culinary wizards Blanch & Shock will serve a feast made with with seasonal ingredients grown at Edible Eastside, Digbeth's urban allotment. These vegetables were originally planted at our Start Party back in April. Gardening is a useful metaphor for our approach to producing a festival.

Fun With Cancer Patients by Brian Lobel, or *Sounds Like Catastrophes* by Eva Meyer-Keller & Sybille Müller, have involved extensive workshops with young people in Birmingham several months in advance of the exhibition or performances that you'll see. In both cases the projects are elevated by the beautiful idiosyncrasies of their participants.

The festival changes shape annually to find a form that best accommodates the work we are presenting. The programme this year is an intensified weekend of one-offs. This spirit is embodied by the 'pack' *Wolf in the Winter*, who descend on a city, wilfully uncertain of exactly what they will do and how long it will last.

In 2013, for the first time, In Between Time, SPILL and Fierce Festivals occurred in the same calendar year. Collectively we have named this 'A Year of Live Art'. We have marked this by inviting one international highlight from each of the preceding festivals to perform at Fierce.

Worktable, by Kate McIntosh from In Between Time in Bristol and Heather Cassils' *Becoming An Image* from SPILL in London. We will also be inviting writer Diana Damian to consider how our festivals resonate with each other, culminating in a text to be published later in the year.

As recipients of a grant from the European Commission Culture Fund for festivals, we have been able to expand our international outlook. This year our programme includes artists from Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Spain, Netherlands, France and Switzerland. Beyond Europe we are working with artists from Lebanon, the United States and Australia. Our ongoing exchange with Next Wave festival in Melbourne continues to be enriching.

Our partnerships, ranging from Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Teenage Cancer Trust to Warwick Arts Centre, bring multiple textures to the programme. At Warwick, the festival finale unites the seductive glitchy beats of Nicolas Jaar with the symphonic psychedelia of New York's Joshua Light Show, an ambitious co-presentation with the Barbican, London.

2013 is Fierce's 15th Anniversary! The festival has taken many turns since its founding as Queerfest by Mark Ball in 1998. We've celebrated our birthday by delving into Fierce's archive. We're also looking to the future, with a series of projects made with teenagers that include Rehearsing Revolution by Authentic Boys, and the continuation of our young people's digital journalism project Fierce Press Gang.

See you at a feast, a performance or on a dance floor soon.

Laura McDermott + Harun Morrison
Autumn 2013



Exhibition: What Happens at the Festival Stays at the Festival

DATE

24 SEPTEMBER – 16 OCTOBER

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

ARTICLE GALLERY, SCHOOL OF ART, BIRMINGHAM INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN, BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY, MARGARET STREET. B3 3BX

Over the last six months, Fierce has been delving into its storage unit, drawing together paperwork, documentation, marketing material and arranging meetings with founding figures, in its first step towards building an archive of fifteen years of activity.

This process has thrown up challenging questions as to how to represent a performance festival. The ephemeral nature of live performance defies the act of archiving. In this first sharing of a selection of this content we have focused on the posters, brochures and other festival literature that has represented the festival over the years.

We think of this exhibition as the first in a series of public explorations and experiments in sharing Fierce's history.

Supported by BIAD, Birmingham City University and The University of Warwick.

www.articlegallery.info/

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI (1828-1882) THE LADY-OF-PITY PURCHASED 2465/85

Photo: Briony Campbell



Photo: Jaskirt Dhalwal



Photo: Jaskirt Dhalwal

Festival Hub at STRYX

DATE
4 – 6 OCTOBER
(SAT 5 FIERCE BRUNCH 10AM – 12NOON)
VENUE
STRYX, UNIT 13, MINERVA WORKS, DIGBETH

Pop in to meet the festival team, grab a cup of tea, a map and find out more about what's happening in Birmingham.

On Saturday 5 October we host a festival brunch from 10am – noon. This is a chance to informally meet and mingle with other festival attendees, festival artists and staff. We will serve a selection of locally sourced cheeses, breads, meats and sauces. There will also be a selection of publications relating to artists in the festival.

www.stryx.co.uk

Discussion: Live Art in 2113

DATE
FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER, 5 – 6PM
PRICE
FREE, BOOKING ESSENTIAL
VENUE
MAC BIRMINGHAM

A gathering exploring the future and live art's relationship to chance across various spheres in our lives as part of 2113, the Live Art UK Associated Gathering 2013. The public part of this day will involve self-organised clusters of conversations picking up on themes explored earlier in the day. Guest speakers include Heather Cassils, Brian Lobel, Alinah Azadeh and Dr Catherine Lambert who will speculate on how future changes might affect live art practice and vice versa.

Presented in conjunction with the Live Art UK. Live Art UK is a national network of 22 venues, festivals and facilitators, engaged with all aspects of the development of the Live Art sector across the UK. The network is coordinated by the Live Art Development Agency. www.liveartuk.org

www.liveart2113.eventbrite.co.uk

Paper Stages Curated by Forest Fringe (UK)

Paper Stages is a festival of performance contained within the pages of a beautifully designed book. Each page contains a completely new work by a different artist. Collectively, these artists invite you to perform their creations in various locations around the city, from side streets and parks to your own home. Local artists Cody Lee-Barbour and Antonio Roberts are representing Birmingham in this project, which is a nationwide collaboration.

To get a copy of *Paper Stages* you need to volunteer an hour of your time. Find out more about how to do this on our website or ask a member of the Fierce Team at the festival hub. Copies of *Paper Stages* will be available to view at STRYX, the festival hub.

Originally presented at the Edinburgh Festival 2012. Supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

www.forestfringe.co.uk

Directors Thoughts...

In 2012 when Forest Fringe lost their home on Bristo Place for the Edinburgh Festival, the idea for *Paper Stages* was born: 'a performance space built not of bricks and mortar but paper and ink'. This project captures the irrepressible inventiveness of Forest Fringe. We're excited to have brought two Birmingham artists into this nationwide edition of *Paper Stages*.

– Laura McDermott



Photo: Christa Holka

THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Exhibition: Fun with Cancer Patients, Birmingham 2013 Brian Lobel (UK)

DATE
7 SEPTEMBER – 6 OCTOBER,
DURING MAC OPENING HOURS

PRICE
FREE

VENUE
MAC BIRMINGHAM

Brian Lobel has drawn on his own experience of cancer treatment as a young adult to facilitate a series of 'actions' by Birmingham teenage cancer patients. These actions are self-initiated, designed to be of value to the teenagers themselves in processing their experience of cancer. These actions took place following a workshop process over the summer of 2013. The exhibition presents the documentation of these activities, alongside reflections from medical professionals.

Thursday 12 September 6 – 8pm, mac birmingham
'Cancer Disco' opening party conceived by participating teenage cancer patients.

Thursday 19 September 6.30 – 7.30pm, mac birmingham
Workshop exploring the personal social impact of cancer from the patients' perspective.

Produced by Fierce Festival. Supported by the Wellcome Trust, Teenage Cancer Trust (Birmingham) and the University of Chichester.

www.blobelwarming.com

Fierce Thoughts...

I think this project's power lies in how boldly it challenges the taboo around speaking about cancer. It also challenges the knowledge hierarchy that typically exists between patient and medical professionals. Brian argues those with cancer are experts in their own experience and that expertise should be valued, shared and acted upon.

- Harun Morrison



Photo: Kate McIntosh

THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Worktable Kate McIntosh (BE)

DATE

3 – 6 OCTOBER, 12 – 5PM

NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST DROP IN

PRICE

PAY WHAT YOU CAN

VENUE

MINERVA WORKS

Worktable is a live installation, open to visitors for several hours or days.

Worktable takes place in a series of rooms – the visitor must sign in to enter, and can stay as long as they like. Once inside you are given instructions, equipment and safety goggles so you can get to work – it's up to you to decide how things come apart, and how they come back together. Sign in and get to work!

Concept and realisation – Kate McIntosh. Production – SPIN
With thanks to – Bruno Roubicek, Hester Chillingworth, Caroline Daish, Palli Banine, Ant Hampton, Joe Kelleher, Tim Etchells, Adrian Heathfield, Simon Bayly. *Worktable* was commissioned in the frame of the event Performance Is a Dirty Work funded by Roehampton University.

Fierce Thoughts...

Worktable was a highlight of this year's In Between Time festival in Bristol. The installation was hugely popular and I loved watching it unfold. There is an understated radicalism in the work, as each participant experiences what it means to dismantle something and decide how to put it back together again. For me: a cassette and an Adidas shell toe trainer.

– Laura McDermott



A Sculpture for Birmingham Denis Tricot (FR)

DATE

4 – 6 OCTOBER, CONTINUOUS
(CAN BE VIEWED DAY OR NIGHT)

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL, VICTORIA SQUARE

Denis Tricot creates intricate looping structures from strips of poplar wood. His delicate interventions create new ephemeral relationships with their site. In the past these structures have been used as instruments with wire strung between them, stage sets for dancers to interact with and even set on fire.

Only a few months ago Birmingham City Council made a call for a discussion about a new public sculpture in the city. There was lots of debate. Where could it be sited? Does it need to be attention grabbing? How might it define a city? One current of thinking strongly emphasised place-making, Angel of the North style. Whereas one panelist referenced an artist who made a dent in the ground, that would become a puddle in the rain!

Denis Tricot's temporary interventions collapse this binary, being monumental while akin to live performance embracing impermanence.

Produced by ArtsAgenda. Town Hall Symphony Hall and Birmingham City Council.

www.denis-tricot.com

Fierce Thoughts...

Poplar wood and stone. Tricot gives wood a liquid quality. In a practice honed over decades, the range of buildings and structures Tricot has worked with is staggering.

From small hamlets in the French countryside to a Korean lake house, his structures become part of the landscape while making it anew.

– *Harun Morrison*



Photo: Antonio Roberts

FESTIVAL LAUNCH

**Blood Moon Feast
Blanch & Shock (UK)
The Blind Leading
the Blind
Wolf In The Winter
(ES/DE/NL/UK)**

DATE

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER, 6.30 – 8.30PM

PRICE

£15/£12

(ENTRY INCLUDES MEAL AND COMPLIMENTARY DRINK)

VENUE

EDIBLE EASTSIDE, DIGBETH

The festival opens with a feast by radical food designers Blanch & Shock in a canalside urban garden. It has been directly inspired by and sourced from the garden at Edible Eastside and the agricultural environs of Birmingham. In the run up to the feast they have made several preserving trips to the garden to take advantage of the produce in its prime, including tomatoes red and green, cucumbers, courgettes, coriander, dill, fennel and bergamot. For the feast they will serve a combination of fresh and preserved produce, focusing mostly on fruit and vegetables grown in the garden and nearby, accompanied by freshly made cheese and their homemade bread and butter. In addition to the produce, they will be using Edible Eastside's wood-fired oven and much of the food will be prepared in this or grilled over wood.

In parallel, performance collective Wolf In The Winter will create an intervention inspired by Bruegel's 'Blind leading the Blind', a painting of six ragged figures stumbling across a rural landscape. (Read more about Wolf In The Winter overleaf)

www.blanchandshock.com



Photo: Anet van de Elzen

The Blind Leading The Blind/Solos The Wolf in the Winter (ES/DE/NL/UK)

DATE

4 OCTOBER, EDIBLE EASTSIDE AS PART OF THE BLOOD MOON FEAST FESTIVAL LAUNCH, 6.30 – 8.30PM

5 OCTOBER, AE HARRIS AS PART OF CLUB FIERCE: EAT MY NOISE, 8 – 11PM

The Wolf In The Winter is a international performance collective of six artists who, given the call, come together to form a pack. At each manifestation they invent solo works and make a combined pack performance. These occur in galleries and museums, on the street and in open fields. At each venue they invite a guest wolf (another artist) to join them.

The Blind Leading the Blind Tour was inspired by the Bruegel painting of six ragged figures stumbling across a rural landscape. This proverbial metaphor of desperate trust and hopeless failure seems as relevant now as it was in biblical times. The Birmingham date of the tour combines with the Blood Moon Feast on 4 October. On Saturday 5 October they will perform solo acts as part of Club Fierce: Eat My Noise.

The Wolf In The Winter are Anet van de Elzen, Aaron Williamson, Denys Blacker, Kirsten Norrie, Matthew Luck Galpin and Brian Catling.

Guest Wolves: Simon Raven, Eloise Fornieles and Stephanie Pan.

The Blind Leading the Blind Tour includes:

Modern Art Oxford: 13 – 14 September

The Abbey at Dorchester Upon Thames: 28 September

www.wolfinthewinter.com

Fierce Thoughts...

The Wolves at Fierce capture how the programme evolves. In 2012 we invited Harminder Judge to put together the Holy Mountain party. Brian Catling was one of the participating artists on the night. We subsequently invited him to perform this year and, in turn, he invited The Wolf In The Winter. This receptivity to chance and change is something we're often trying to balance with hard and fast plans.

– *Harun Morrison*



Photo: Anja Beutler

Sounds Like Catastrophes & Screening of 'Made by Humans' Eva Meyer-Keller/ Sybille Müller (DE)

DATE

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER, 2PM
(FOR SEE-EVERYTHING AND DAY PASS HOLDERS)

5PM (FOR SINGLE SHOW PURCHASES)

PRICE

£10/£7

VENUE

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL

Sounds Like Catastrophes is a performance with children for adults, born of intuitive research of disasters between the artists and kids. The children build models of catastrophes and display the 'making of' disasters and accidents through sonic reenactments. They orchestrate a series of catastrophes with simple everyday objects, e.g. matches, sugar cubes, salt, water, beans, hairdryer, paper played by the children and amplified with microphones; accompanied by a self-narrated text.

After the performance, the film – *Von Menschen Gemacht (Made by Humans)* will be shown. All the material was taken during the performance project *Building After Catastrophes* (2009) in Berlin. The children that participated did everything themselves – filming, lighting, made models and talked about their future.

Sounds Like Catastrophes is a collaboration between Eva Meyer-Keller, Sybille Müller, Kay Grothusen and Rico Repotente together with Birmingham children between 10 – 12 years : Celine Dass, Liya Binyam, Cait Elcock, Vita Aaron Pearl, Jade Graham and Niamh Elcock.

Supported by Vivid Projects and Town Hall Symphony Hall.

Bookings are taken through Town Hall and Symphony Hall: www.thsh.co.uk | 0121 345 0600. A £2.50 transaction fee, plus £1 (optional) postage, will be charged on all bookings except purchases made in person at the Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box Office.

www.evamk.de

Fierce Thoughts...

As a young kid in the 80s the Chernobyl disaster featured heavily in the news. London is a long way from Russia, but it permeated my imagination and still does.

I think the way disasters seize your mind as a child is different from how it affects you as an adult.

Eva Meyer-Keller and Sybille Müller have found a method to 'stage' the interior imaginations and concerns of the children they have worked with.

– Harun Morrison



Photo: BrunoClement

Knights of the Invisible Iona Kewney and Joseph Quimby (UK)

DATE

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER, 4PM (DURATION 35 MINS)

PRICE

£12/£8

VENUE

DANCEXCHANGE, BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

Iona Kewney is a Scottish dance-theatre artist whose frenetic, visceral movement evokes images of hysteria, fits and contortionism. This extreme physicality jousts with a live sound score heavy with distortion and electronic noise, created by Joseph Quimby. Iona Kewney memorably performed Self-Interrupted Exhibition at Ikon Eastside, Birmingham in the the British Dance Edition 2010.

Iona studied dance in the Netherlands and later Cirkuspiloterna Circus school in Sweden. Throughout 15 years of performing her own work internationally, she has also toured the world for many years with major Belgian directors Alain Platel (Les Ballets C de La B) and Wim Vandekeybus (Ultima Vez).

Joseph Quimby's bands have included Take a Worm for a Walk Week, Remember Remember, Loss Leader, and his own drone outfit HIVVER. Joseph has toured the UK extensively with his bands and has supported major groups such as Mogwai. Iona and Joseph have worked live as a duo company since 2010.

Presented by Fierce Festival and DanceXchange.

Supported by Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe/Circus Next, Les Migrateurs, National Pole Arts du Cirque, Strasbourg. LaBreche, National Pole Arts Cirque, Cherbourg. Circus Centrum (B), Subtopia (SE), Creative Scotland/ Creative Futures(UK), British Dance Edition, Crying Out Loud (UK) and Les Ballets C de la B (B).

www.ionakewneyandjosephquimby.com

Fierce Thoughts...

Sometimes a performance leaves a moment of dumbstruck silence in its wake. When I first saw Iona and Joseph at Chisenhale Dance Space, the audience shared one of these rare moments afterwards. Iona throws herself to the mercy of a performance trance as she moves to the hypnotic wall of sound produced by Joseph's drone guitar. It is electric to watch them perform together.

– Laura McDermott



Photo: Sam Ackroyd

Monster Body Atlanta Eke (AU)

DATE
SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER, 5.30PM (DURATION 1 HOUR)

PRICE
£12/£8

VENUE
BIRMINGHAM ORMISTON ACADEMY PRESENTED
BY DANCEXCHANGE. SUITABLE FOR 16 +

A graphically direct and intense dance-theatre piece, *Monster Body* is a saturation of textures, tones, noises, rhythm and shapes created through a number of imaginative situations drawing from strong and haunting connections between local and global images that shape the female identity in contemporary culture. Through this raw and exposed work, Atlanta Eke subverts the conventional images of the female body and through deeply affecting, and often darkly funny, choreography, plans to broaden this representation in society.

Atlanta Eke proposes the mystery, energy and physicality of a dancing body can be a resource to ultimately expose the "monster" that hides in the space between the audience and the performer. This work is presented as part of an ongoing collaboration between Fierce Festival and Next Wave Festival in Melbourne, Australia.

Presented by Fierce Festival and DanceXchange.

Monster Body was originally presented at the New Wave Festival, Melbourne in May 2012 in partnership with Dancehouse and has been developed and supported through Next Wave Kickstart Program, Dancehouse, Arts Victoria and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts and advisory body.

This performance is supported by the Australia Council Hopscotch Live Art Touring Initiative.

www.atlantamaryeke.wordpress.com

Fierce Thoughts...

Atlanta Eke is a fierce feminist and an artist of bravery and vision. She instantly stood out to us when we visited Australia for Next Wave festival in 2012. Atlanta has a real gift for mashing performance elements together. In *Monster Body*, surreal, sculptural stage imagery and a pop-political soundtrack are underscored by a palpable, sense of anger derived from personal experience.

- Laura McDermott



Photo: Eric Charles

Becoming an Image Heather Cassils (CA)

DATE

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER, 7.30PM

PRICE

£10/£7

VENUE

AE HARRIS

Becoming An Image is a performance designed for the camera, specifically the act of being photographed. Taking place in a blacked out room, the only elements in the space are the audience, a photographer, the performer and a block of clay weighing 2000 pounds.

'In the darkness, I use my skills as a boxer/MMA fighter to unleash an assault where I literally beat the material, moulding the form.' A "sculpting" process results on account of my blows. For the duration of this performance I am blind, as is the audience, as is the photographer. The only light source emitted comes from the flash mounted on the photographer's camera. This burst of temporary light allows the audience to glimpse at suspended moments of the performance, much like a "live" photograph, burning this image into their retina. The act of photographing is the only way in which the performance is made visible.'

Heather Cassils is originally from Montreal and now lives and works in Los Angeles. An internationally renowned multidisciplinary artist, Cassils is also founding member of the Los Angeles based performance group the Toxic Titties.

Becoming An Image is one of Fierce Festival's selected highlights from SPILL Festival of Performance, London/Ipswich as part of our partnership for a 'Year of Live Art 2013'. Originally commissioned by the ONE Archives

www.heathercassils.com

Fierce Thoughts...

Having seen this work earlier this year at SPILL Festival I was struck by how it electrified the audience.

There was excited chat and stunned silences. It was a work talked about for weeks afterwards. The breathing, the shuffling in the dark, illuminating flashes, sparse, flinty movements, the punches, the kicks, they call to mind countless scenarios while deftly resisting any final statements. The performance exists through the unseen as much as seen.

The audience are challenged to work their imagination as hard as any athlete in the gym.

- *Harun Morrison*



Photo: Miki Barlok

Club Fierce: Eat My Noise

DATE

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER, 8 – 11PM

PRICE

£10 ON THE DOOR / £8 IN ADVANCE SINGLE TICKET
(£15/£12 ADVANCE FOR BOTH CLUB FIERCE:
EAT MY NOISE + XXX)

VENUE

AE HARRIS

The first half of a two part night of club performances. The night takes its name from the Cork based music collective **Eat My Noise** performing 'Moeity Remixed'. This intense immersive event headlining the night, features two live drummers, a percussive electro-acoustic score, specially made projections and light effects. From 8pm the performance pack, **The Wolf in The Winter** return, this time performing a series of independent individual works. There will also be a rare performance from **Bob Parks** who also has a solo show at the exhibition space Grand Union in Digbeth. Throughout the evening you will also be able to experience the one-on-one work Songs of Rapture and Torture (#1: Surabaya Johnny) by **Sarah-Jane Norman**. This is the first in an ongoing series of works that defamiliarize and recontextualize popular songs.

Drinks will be available at the AE Harris bar and food from a mobile unit in the courtyard.

www.fonkhmer.tumblr.com

www.wolfinthewinter.com

www.sarahjanenorman.com

www.soundcloud.com/eatmynoiseproductions



Photo: Matt Lambert

Club Fierce: XXX

DATE

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER, 11PM – LATE

PRICE

£10 ON THE DOOR / £8 IN ADVANCE SINGLE TICKET
(£15/£12 ADVANCE FOR BOTH CLUB FIERCE:
EAT MY NOISE + XXX)

VENUE

PST, DIGBETH

A night of live music. A rush of alternative hip-hop, grimey beats and electro-glitchy-pop, DJs and short films from KINO 10.

Fluro-electro-punk **Quilla Constance** fuses poppy-beats, with colourful stage outfits and a compelling live presence; playfully subverting a bubblegum pop aesthetic. **RoxXxan** is a female MC originally hailing from Birmingham, who has been generating a buzz across national music press for the last few years.

We are also super excited to be presenting New York based rapper **Cakes Da Killa** alongside a mesmeric backing dancer. His impossibly fast tongue lashes out violently over glitzy beats. His content: fellatio and shopping sprees is causing his own brand of mayhem in the hip-hop community. Cakes brags that he can, "spit that shit to make a homophobe a hypocrite." His flow is densely packed with jokes mixed with underground gay culture and deliciously filthy sexual innuendo.

Quilla Constance: www.quillaconstance.com

Cakes Da Killa: www.mussymayhem.tumblr.com

Roxxxan: www.rotriplex.com

KINO 10: www.kino10.com



Photo: Bios

Slap Talk Action Hero (UK)

DATE

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER, 11.30AM – 3.30PM

PRICE

FREE, DROP IN

VENUE

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

Slap Talk is an exhaustive verbal confrontation between Gemma Paintin and James Stenhouse, who comprise Action Hero. During the performance the duo will ritualistically insult each other while reading from autocues. In doing so they call to mind not only the 'trash-talking' between boxers at a televised weigh-in or jousting politicians, but the latent violence in everyday conversation.

Slap Talk is part of the performance program of *The World Turned Upside Down; Buster Keaton, Sculpture and the Absurd* Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre. An exhibition examining, through the work of over twenty international artists, the influence of Buster Keaton on modern and contemporary artists' thinking and approaches to making.

Slap Talk has been developed with the support of Caravan and BIOS, Athens. It emerged from an idea that began in The Darkroom, China Plate's development space for writing and performance. Action Hero are supported by Theatre Bristol's company producer. They are members of Residence. Thanks to Nick Walker who sowed the seeds of the project.

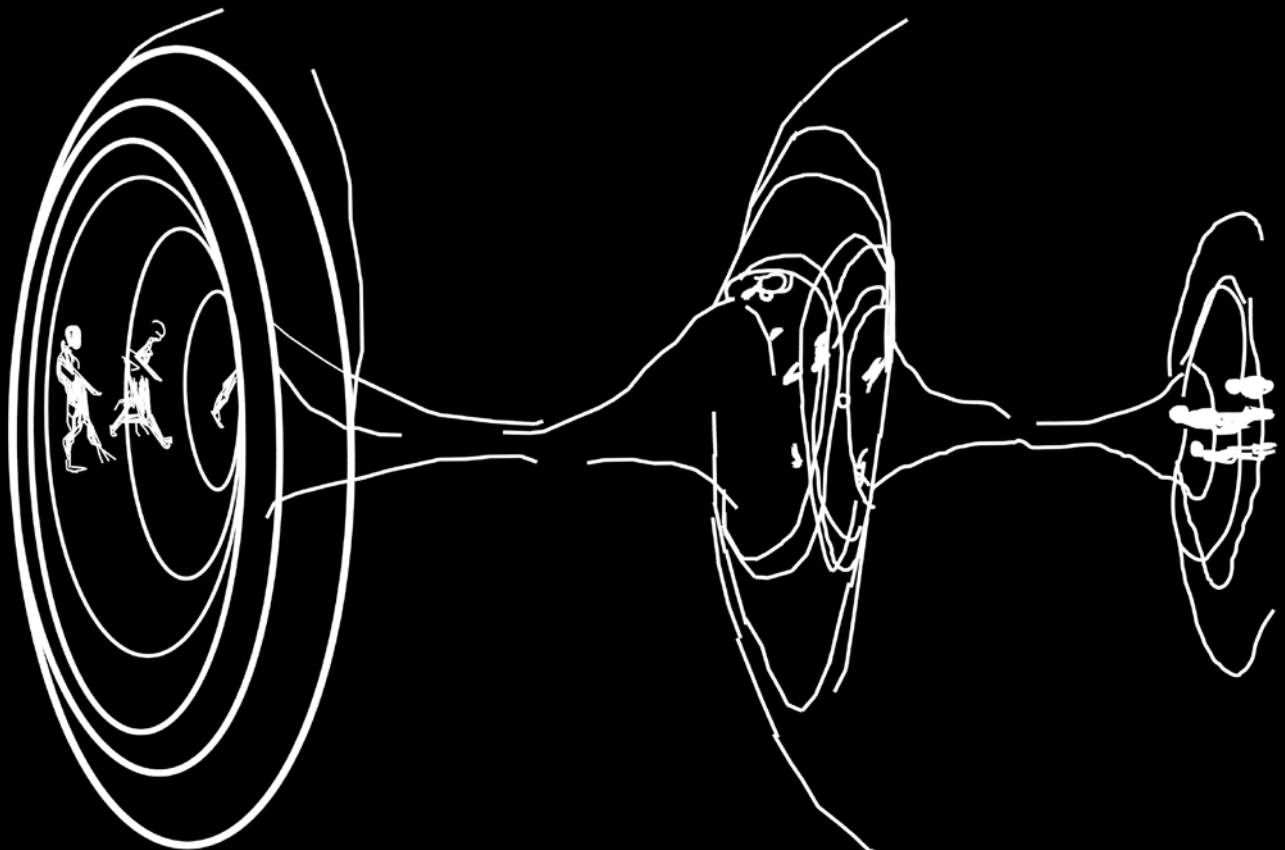
www.actionhero.org.uk

Fierce Thoughts...

The first work-in-progress showing of what would eventually become Slap Talk took place at Pilot, a nomadic West Midlands platform to develop new work (which kicked off Fierce last year 18 months ago).

8 months later, in Athens I saw a more developed piece that lasted about an hour. Since then Gemma and James have settled on an extended durational version that takes the piece even further, bout after bout of linguistically pummeling slugfest.

– Harun Morrison



LIGHT < > 1200 - 1220 < > 1240 - 1240 < > 1240 - 1300 < > 1310 - 1330
 TOWARDS DARK DARK TOWARDS LIGHT TOWARDS DARK

Four Stages of Conversations Lundahl & Seidl (SE)

DATE
 SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2013 12 – 5.30PM
 (ON 1 HOUR 30 MIN CYCLES: 12PM/1.30PM/3PM/4.30PM)
PRICE
 £10/£7
VENUE
 WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

Christer Lundahl and Martina Seidl create immersive, participatory environments, often involving intimate binaural recording, touch and prolonged darkness. Their last performance in the West Midlands was the critically acclaimed Symphony of a Missing Room at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, at Fierce Festival 2011. This new work involves a collaboration with Sue Fox, a renowned hypnotist, who worked with Ron Athey on Gifts of the Spirit in Fierce 2012.

This work takes conversation itself as a medium. The dialogues will be enriched by a series of experts from a range of disciplines invited to participate from academic departments across the Warwick University campus.

Commissioned by Fierce Festival. Developed with Warwick Arts Centre.

www.lundahl-seidl.com

Fierce Thoughts...

"Lundahl & Seidl are pioneering a new kind of artwork in which the viewer's perception is both the medium of the work and its potential content, as well as the means to receive it." This quote from a visitor to their work succinctly captures the 'red thread' that courses through Martina and Christer's work.
 - Harun Morrison





Photo: Hugo Glendinning

Because of Love Franko B

DATE

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER, 6PM

PRICE

£15/£13

VENUE

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

This theatrical work represents a departure in Franko's practice, moving away from the tableaux vivants of his previous work. The piece was developed in dialogue with Tim Etchells and Gilles Jobin. Here, multiple elements (including live presence, original music, animation, video projection, lighting and scenography) are brought together to weave a loose, non-linear narrative, guiding the audience through a dynamic journey that unfolds over an hour. The centrepiece of the work is a choreographed duet with Franko B and a life-sized animatronic polar bear.

Franko B has a long association with Fierce Festival, perhaps most memorably performing I Miss You – painted white, Franko walked up and down a long catwalk, bleeding onto a white canvas below.

Supported by Arts Council England.

www.franko-b.com

Fierce Thoughts...

It's a privilege to have Franko in the festival programme – he is a Fierce Institution. *Because of Love* is a lyrical work, full of intensity; love, grief, memory and Franko's meditations on the personal relationships in his life. It is epic and beautiful.

– *Laura McDermott*



Photo: Martin Genz

Fierce Festival Closing Concert Nicolas Jaar/ Joshua Light Show

DATE

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER, DOORS OPEN 7.30PM,
PERFORMANCE STARTS PROMPTLY AT 8PM

PRICE

£15/£10

VENUE

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

New York's legendary Joshua Light Show is noted for creating the hallucinatory visuals behind the psychedelic mythic rock acts of the late 1960s including The Doors, The Jimi Hendrix Experience, The Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin. Reformed by founder Joshua White with a new team of artists in the 2000s, the light show combines classic analog effects – including the “liquid light” for which it is best known – with contemporary digital approaches. This is one of only three performances in the UK in a rare European outing.

Joshua Light Show will be accompanied by rising electronica star Nicolas Jaar who fuses minimal techno beats, deep house, off-kilter jazz-funk rhythms into symphonic dreamscapes. His debut album ‘Space Is Only Noise’ has become one of the most successful debuts of recent times, garnering praise from the likes of The Guardian (‘One feels drawn into a fully formed, self-contained world of his making’) and Dazed & Confused (‘Nicolas Jaar has achieved something that few electronic musicians have achieved before – bringing geeky techno fiends, jazz lovers and chav ravers into an unholy union’).

Co-presented with Barbican, Fierce Festival, Birmingham and produced in association with ArKtype, New York.

Post concert, you will comfortably be able to get late trains to London or Birmingham from Canley or Coventry.

www.nicolasjaar.net | www.joshualightshow.com

Fierce Thoughts...

I first saw Joshua Light Show at Transmediale Festival in Berlin in 2012. Their performance was coupled with live music by Manuel Göttsching, it created an unforgettable all-too-rare wave of transcendence... The pairing with Nicolas Jaar was almost incidental and came from casually asking Laura one Sunday what music she was listening to... I followed up her recommendation and we came to realise this was the elusive combination we were looking for. Chris Sharp at the Barbican and Matt Burman at Warwick Arts Centre were equally enthusiastic and the pairing was born.

– Harun Morrison



Photos: Authentic Boys

Residencies

Authentic Boys (DE/CH/NL)

Authentic Boys will be extending and developing a project called Rehearsing Revolution, that invites teenagers to test their 'revolutionary potential' through a mental and physical course of activity. Rehearsing Revolution is also taking place in Rotterdam, Nyon and Berlin. The outcomes will form a touring exhibition that will visit each host city in 2014.

Authentic Boys is an international collective of artists: the performers Gregory Stauffer and Johannes Dullin (Geneva/Berlin) and the filmmakers Boris van Hoof and Aaike Stuart (Rotterdam/Berlin). The group has been experimenting with the interconnections between film, the visual arts and theatre for the last five years. The most varied of works were created in this period. All of them are based on an intuitive, humorous approach to the direct surroundings.

www.authentic-boys.com

Tania El Khoury (LB)

Tania is a Lebanese based artist who also works with The Dictaphone Group. Tania is developing a project called Garden Speaks which explores how the treatment of the dead protesters and activists and protesters across Arab states has become an instrument of threat and institution of power.

Supported by British Council Australia, as part of the exchange between Fierce and Next Wave Festivals.

www.taniaelkhoury.com

Laura Delaney (AU)

Laura Delaney is a visual artist based in Melbourne, Australia. Delaney has exhibited at various Melbourne galleries, presented site-specific projects with Next Wave Festival in 2010 & 2012, created public commissions throughout Melbourne and co-run SEVENTH Gallery in Fitzroy, Melbourne, Delaney's practice examines society and its nature, its habits, environments and systems of communication. It incorporates icommunity narratives both past and present, underpinned by a culmination of social, cultural and historical references. Delaney's projects respond intimately to site and the reciprocal relationships she forms within a site's community. Laura will be exploring Birmingham's Victorian public baths.

Supported by Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

www.lauradelaney.net

Sarah-Jane Norman (AU)

Sarah-Jane Norman is a cross-disciplinary artist and writer, originally from Sydney, Australia. Her practice is grounded in performance. As such, her core interest is in the body: the body as a spectacle of truth and a theatre of fantasy; a siphon of personal and collective memory; an organism with which we are infinitely familiar and eternally estranged; a site which is equally loaded and empty of meaning, where histories, narratives, desires and discourses converge and collapse.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and supported by British Council Australia, as part of the exchange between Fierce and Next Wave Festivals.

www.sarahjanenorman.com

Elsewhere in Birmingham during Fierce

Birmingham Literature Festival

3 – 12 October

Highlight events feature UK Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy with Imtiaz Dharker, writers Lionel Shriver, Will Self, Catherine O'Flynn, Jonathan Coe, Germaine Greer, Robert Edric, Amanda Smyth, Jenn Ashworth and William Palmer and Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty.

www.birminghamliteraturefestival.org

Eastside Projects

Haze and Fog

Cao Fei

21 September – 16 November 2013

Cao Fei 'Haze and Fog' is a new type of zombie movie set in modern China made by one of the most important Chinese artists working today. This new video commission explores how the collective consciousness of people living in the time of what the artist calls "magical metropolises" emerges from seemingly tedious, mundane, day-to-day life.

Black Pleasure

Heather & Ivan Morison

From 20 September 2013

'Black Pleasure' is the new public space within Eastside Projects, by artists Heather & Ivan Morison, formed from the meeting and merging of two of the artists' long term, large scale artworks – 'Pleasure Island' and 'Black Cloud'.

www.eastsideprojects.org

Grand Union

Bob Parks: And The Heavens Cried

6 September – 27 October 2013

Open Thursday to Saturday 12–5pm

And the Heavens Cried is the most comprehensive presentation to date of work by artist Bob Parks. Showcasing Parks' diverse practice this exhibition includes painting, sculpture, poetry and performance. Taking its title from Ronnie Savoy's Rhythm and Blues song *And the Heavens Cried* it charts Parks' vast autobiographical output from the 1960s to the present day.

www.grand-union.org.uk

Library of Birmingham

To celebrate the opening of the Library of Birmingham, a vast programme of exciting events and activities have been planned. See the Library's website for full schedule.

www.libraryofbirmingham.com

Ikon

Hurvin Anderson

Reporting Back

25 September – 10 November 2013

Ikon's exhibition of paintings by British artist Hurvin Anderson includes work made shortly after he graduated from the Royal College of Art, London in 1998, through the acclaimed Peter's Series, inspired by his upbringing in the Handsworth area of Birmingham, and ongoing works originating from time spent in Trinidad in 2002.

www.ikon-gallery.co.uk

VIVID Projects

SLIDE TAPE

co-curated by VIVID Projects and Mo White

Friday 4 October, 6 – 8pm (preview)

Saturday 5 October, 12 – 5pm (exhibition + curators talk at 2pm)

A fresh appraisal of an abandoned media featuring key works in the UK since the 1970s. Artists include: Black Audio Film Collective, Nina Danino (part I), Bill Furlong, Sunil Gupta, and Cordelia Swann (part II).

Exhibition Part I runs Sat 5 – Sat 19 Oct, open Thu – Sat, 12 – 5pm

Exhibition Part II runs Thu 31 Oct – Sat 16 Nov, open Thu–Sat, 12 – 5pm

www.vividprojects.org.uk

mac birmingham

Vered Lahav: The Garden

Saturday 21 September – Sunday 17 November

Featuring echoes and fragments of a career spanning the best part of 20 years, Vered Lahav's exhibition plays upon the notion of the 'garden' to explore conflicting issues around gender, identity, relationships and migration.

Sounding the River

Thursday 3 October – Sunday 6 October

from 7pm, Tickets from £8

A magical journey of sound, light and performance on the River Rea and into Cannon Hill Park. Sounding the River is conceived by Jony Easterby and features work by Mark Anderson, Kathy Hinde, Anna Lucas, Ulf Mark Pedersen and Red Earth.

www.macarts.co.uk

Fierce day of the dead

DATE

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 9PM – LATE

VENUE

BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

Join us for Fierce's take on the Mexican Day of the Dead. We ask you to come dressed up for an intoxicating brew of club performance, horror-themed films, live music, eerie DJ sets and specially made cocktails.

Team Fierce

Joint Artistic Directors

Laura McDermott & Harun Morrison

Associate Festival Producer

Nicole Schuchardt

Festival Coordinator

Sadie Newman

Producing Assistants

Liz Howell and Alastair Flindall

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Regional Press and PR

Helen Stallard

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Graphic Design

Julie Kim with Jonathan Rabagliati

Graphic Patterns

Josef Musil

Additional Graphic Design

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Deborah Kermode (Ikon)

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Alexandra Tomkinson (CBSO)

Acknowledgements & Thanks

Alison Gagen and Arts Council England, Ellie Morgan, Hannah Sharpe, Harminder Judge, Helen Walker, Rosalie White, Ely Clarke, Briony Campbell, Caitlin Rogers, Olivia Ware, all our parents, Yasmeen Baig Clifford, Laura Coult, Aldgate Press, Richard Hawley and Nick Loveland and all at THSH, Katie Banks, Craig Ashley, Dan Whitehouse at mac, Amy Martin, Zoe Alton, Sarah Turley at Teenage Cancer Trust, Jayne Bradley, Cathy Wade at Edible Eastside, Mona Casey, Dave Chatten, Sue Ball, Helen Cole, Lynn Goh, Jo Bannon, Anna Rutherford at In Between Time, Robert Pacitti, Jen Walke, Sally Rose, Charlene Katuwawala, at SPILL festival and Pacitti Company, Andy Field, Sam Howey Nunn and the Forest Fringe community, Bettina Linstrum, Lois Keidan, CJ Mitchell, Aaron Wright at LADA, Di Wiltshire, Abby Corfan, Paul Burns and David Massingham at DanceXchange, Emily Sexton, Paul Gurney and the Next Wave team, Kirsten Freeman at British Council Australia, Pepita Hanna at BOA, Graeme Howell at Heath Mill Studios, Charlotte Martin, James Yarker, Craig Stephens at Stans Cafe, Matt Burman at Warwick Arts Centre, Alex Holt, Emma Leach, Chris Sharp, Paul Keene at Barbican, Electric Stage, Ian Francis, Selina Hewlett, Sam Groves, at Flatpack, Cheryl Jones at Grand Union, Gavin Wade, Ruth Claxton and Eastside Projects, Lisa Meyer, Sarah Lafford and Caitlin Griffiths at Capsule, Sue Hoyle, Sharon Armstrong-Williams, William Warrener, Sir John Tusa and all Clore 9, Ellie Rance, Tim Manson at Marketing Birmingham, Ginnie Wollaston, Roxanna Collins, Alison Goodman, Val Birchall, Symon Easton, Albert Bore at Birmingham City Council, Shonagh Manson, Jon Opie, at Jerwood Charitable Foundation, Regis Cochefert, Robert Dufton at Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

About Graphic Patterns

Architect and computational designer, Josef Musil, has generated a remarkable site specific installation that magnetises the whole Fierce Festival brochure. The graphic patterns transform the entire brochure into a performance space that responds uniquely to each of the artist's images. Using the visual programming environment Processing, a virtual wind is let loose across the pages which ebbs and flows, streaks and swirls creating dynamic currents.

Funders



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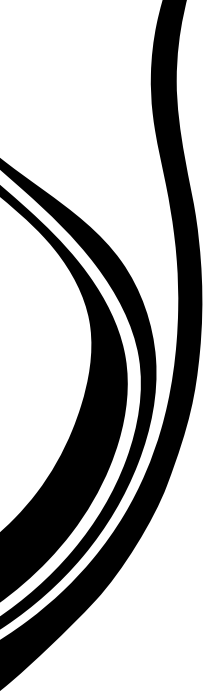


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this is tomorrow

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