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# COVENTRY BIENNIAL 2023

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# FESTIVAL GUIDE

6 October 2023 - 14 January 2024

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FREE\*



## WELCOME:

Ryan Hughes, Artistic Director & CEO:

### Welcome to the fourth Coventry Biennial, taking place across Coventry and Warwickshire!

This year's programme reflects the city, its artists and creative practitioners while also offering an insight into broader concerns, issues and trends within artistic and curatorial practice.

Artists, groups, and academics from across the West Midlands and around the world have come together to connect, make and develop new projects. We are so excited to share the results of their labour with you through a vibrant programme of exhibitions, events and activities.

At the centre of the Biennial programme is a group exhibition presented over two venues. Taking place at the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum** and **The Old Grammar School** this exhibition includes sculpture, installation, print-making, photography, moving image, and textiles as well as several projects that are focused on process, experience, and relationships.

In addition to this large-scale group exhibition, we are thrilled to introduce two solo shows, each in collaboration with venues that are new to Coventry Biennial. *The silt has risen from the ocean floor and overturned everything* is one of the first exhibitions to take place in the brand-new gallery space in Coventry University's **Delia Derbyshire Building**.

Continuing our commitment to working in rural Warwickshire, we are excited to present one of our solo exhibitions in collaboration with **Compton Verney**, providing a unique

context for a socially engaged project.

Alongside our own programme, our friends at the **Mead Gallery** are presenting a dynamic and changing group exhibition of sculpture including works by 19 international, intergenerational artists.

Without our friends, partners and supporters this diverse, timely and exciting programme of contemporary art in Coventry and Warwickshire wouldn't have been possible and I'd like to extend my thanks to **Arts Council England, University of Warwick, Coventry University**, and all of our partners for their commitment and support.

I'd like to end this note by thanking our artists, you have all been a pleasure to work with and to learn from.

Finally, we hope that you all enjoy this year's Coventry Biennial programme and I look forward to seeing you at some of our events over the coming months!

*Front Cover:*

*Image Credit: Seungwon Jung, Ductile Deformation (Detail), Hand knotted tapestry based on digitally generated pattern, 2021. Courtesy: Seungwon Jung*

## ... LIKE A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE BRAMBLES

### HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

6 October 2023 - 14 January 2024

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

Interrogate your relationship to the world!

Starting with the broad themes of place, the human condition and the intersection of these, artworks and projects are displayed in galleries as well as in historic, public and non-traditional spaces in both venues.

### THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

6 October 2023 - 13 January 2024

Thursday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm

At the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum we are presenting ambitious, experimental and large-scale projects about water, dwellings, fuel, identity and raw materials.

While at The Old Grammar School a smaller number of artists present immersive and site-responsive installations.

Including works by:

A History of Frogs  
Can Altay  
Ania Bas  
Phoebe Boswell  
Alice Channer  
Jo Gane  
Seungwon Jung  
Yva Jung  
Dinh Q. Lê  
Paul Lemmon & Graeme Macdonald  
Rene Matic  
Mothers Who Make & Alice Wood  
Jem Southam  
Janet Tryner

Motherhood and its role in artistic practice is explored throughout this exhibition, particularly at The Old Grammar School where there are opportunities for mothers to get involved in gardening.

Buried, flowing, growing. Rising, extracted, discarded. Our relationships to the world around us are dense and tangled.

*Image Credit: Janet Tryner; Post-Excavation Scan (Blue Rec Project), Digital Image, 2021. Courtesy: Janet Tryner*



## THE SILT HAS RISEN FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR AND OVERTURNED EVERYTHING

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### DELIA DERBYSHIRE BUILDING

6 October 2023 - 13 January 2024

Monday - Friday: 10am - 5pm  
Saturday: See Website for details

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Clémence Lollia Hilaire's moving image installation presents a unique insight into the Atlantic Ocean.

*The silt has risen from the ocean floor and overturned everything* will be displayed at Coventry University's new Delia Derbyshire Building and explores sargassum seaweed.

This type of invasive algae proliferates in the Atlantic Ocean as a direct consequence of global warming. Clémence's work explores the seaweed's presence on Caribbean coasts and its impact on flora and fauna, economies, and people's health.

Alongside environmental themes, Clémence's installation also addresses issues created by colonialism, its histories and impact.

## LIQUID SILVER \*

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### COMPTON VERNEY

21 October 2023 - 11 February 2024

Tuesday - Sunday: 10am - 5pm

\* Compton Verney Admission Prices Apply

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Jo Gane has created a series of portraits and artworks inspired by the rich heritage of manufacturing in Birmingham and the archive of Victorian photographic pioneer George Shaw. The portraits have been co-produced with residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth at Nuneaton library.

The fluid potential of silver as a material, its qualities and form used in photography is explored through the work created for this exhibition.

A new artwork for the exhibition has also been made in the lake at Compton Verney.

This project has been commissioned by Coventry Biennial and Compton Verney, made possible by funding from Arts Council England and Coventry City Council.



## PHANTOM SCULPTURE

*Phantom Sculpture* is taking place alongside Coventry Biennial 2023. It is curated by Thomas Ellmer and Sarah Shalgosky for the Mead Gallery at Warwick Arts Centre.

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### MEAD GALLERY

6 October 2023 - 10 March 2024

Tuesday - Sunday: 11am - 8pm

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Including works by:

Rebecca Ackroyd  
Jonathan Baldock  
Joseph Buckley  
Phoebe Collings-James  
Redd Ekks  
Kira Freije  
Mona Hatoum  
Barabra Hepworth  
Kim Lim  
Sarah Lucas  
Philip Lai  
Veronica Ryan  
Richard Deacon  
Jesse Darling  
Dominique White  
Rachel Whiteread  
Nicole Wermers  
Jala Wahid  
William Turnbull

*Phantom Sculpture* brings together sculptures by some of the most important artists working today and puts them into conversation with key works by their predecessors.

During the exhibition, several works that are present at the beginning of the project will disappear and be replaced with new sculptures, to create different interactions and connections.



Image Credit: Olivia Bax, *Off White, Sculpture. 2020.*  
Image courtesy of the Artist and Holtermann Fine

## PUBLIC PROGRAMME:

Coventry Biennial 2023 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](http://www.coventrybiennial.com/events)

Most events and activities take place between Thursdays and Saturdays and are run on a *Pay What You Can* basis.

Where possible we have grouped events to coincide over a span of a few days, offering the ideal occasion for attendees to enjoy multiple events within a single weekend or revisit our exhibitions at their convenience.

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

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## PREVIEWS:

Join us on the 5th of October 2023 for previews, the Grand Opening at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum and an After Party.

**More information at:**

[www.coventrybiennial.com](http://www.coventrybiennial.com)



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PUBLIC PROGRAMME:

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### DROP-IN PLACARD MAKING WORKSHOP WITH ANIA BAS:

**Herbert Art Gallery & Museum  
25 November 2023. 1pm - 4pm**

Craft a unique personal placard with Warwickshire-based artist Ania Bas.

This event is a drop-in so you can arrive anytime and take as long as you like to create and march with your placard.

This workshop is co-commissioned with the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum.

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*Image Credit: Sinéad Patching, Mothers Who Make a Garden Dahlia planting Workshop, 2023.  
Courtesy: Sinéad Patching*

### COVENTRY BIENNIAL CYCLE CLUB MEETINGS:

**29 October 2023. 11am - 3pm  
26 November 2023. 11am - 3pm**

Engage with this year's Coventry Biennial while also boosting your health and well-being.

Coventry Biennial Cycle Club is designed to connect people with artists and cultural institutions in a social way while riding between a selection of exhibition venues. Curators will be on hand to share information about the fantastic artworks and projects on display.

It's more than just a bike ride; it's a cultural adventure that'll leave you inspired, connected, and feeling great!

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### GARDEN SESSIONS:

**The Old Grammar School  
Various Fridays, check website for details. 9:45am - 11:15am**

Learn about plants, make art, and relax together with Mothers Who Make Coventry coordinator Adele Mary Reed.

An inclusive, relaxed and friendly session for any kind of mother and any kind of maker.

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### CRITICAL CURATING:

**Herbert Art Gallery & Museum  
10 November 2023. 10am - 4pm**

International curators and researchers will be discussing some of the key areas of curatorial practices. Join us in unpacking these questions:

1. How does curating imagine the world and generate knowledge differently?
2. How does curating provide critical tools to re-situate colonial collections and archives?
3. What is the critical work of the Biennial today?

This event is curated by Carolina Rito with the European Artistic Research Network.

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### IKON YOUTH PROGRAMME & SEUNGWON JUNG:

**Herbert Art Gallery & Museum  
27 October 2023. 10am - 4pm  
28 October 2023. 10am - 4pm**

Join Ikon Youth Programme at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum for a showcase of weaving made in collaboration with artist Seungwon Jung and members of the Weaving Workshop.

This project is co-created with Ikon Youth Programme on *Slow Boat*, supported by Freelands Foundation.

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## VISITOR INFORMATION:

### WALKING:

Coventry is a walkable city and 3 of the 5 Coventry Biennial 2023 exhibition venues are less than a 10-minute walk from each other.

### CYCLING:

4 of the 5 Coventry Biennial 2023 exhibition venues can be easily reached via bicycle.

Compton Verney is further away but can comfortably be cycled to from Coventry city centre in a couple of hours.

Bikes (including e-bikes) can be hired from: [www.wmcyclehire.co.uk](http://www.wmcyclehire.co.uk)

### TAXIS:

Taxis are available from Coventry Train Station and the University of Warwick Campus.

Uber is widely used across the city, but less often in Warwickshire.

### BUS:

There are frequent bus services from Coventry city centre to the University of Warwick.

Bus numbers 12X, 11 and 11U are the main buses serving the campus.

### 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:

**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)

**My Dhabba** (Fantastic curry, great location, BYOB)

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### CONTACTING US:

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

[info@coventrybiennial.com](mailto:info@coventrybiennial.com)

We're also active on social media:

@CovBiennial

#CoventryBiennial  
#CovBiennial2023  
#ThroughTheBrambles

Full details on our organisation and programmes can be found at:

[www.coventrybiennial.com](http://www.coventrybiennial.com)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

### THE TEAM:

Mark Cook (Building Supervisor)  
Joy Corcec (Marketing Manager)  
Rachel Doughty (Building Supervisor)  
Dion Ellis-Taylor (PhD Candidate)  
Anneka French (Curator)  
Emily Gardner (Assistant Curator)  
Kurt Hickson (Technical Manager)  
Ryan Hughes (Artistic Director & CEO)  
Verity Jackson (Finance Manager)  
Tegen Kimbley (Marketing Officer)  
Sevven Kucuk (Operations Director)  
Adele Mary Reed (MWM Coordinator)  
Ian Sergeant (Curator)

And thanks to a number of amazing freelancers and volunteers.

### PARTNER CURATORS & PRODUCERS:

Dominic Bubb (CV Life)  
Kirstie Lewis (CV Life)  
Alice Swatton (CV Life)  
Craig Ashley (Coventry University)  
Oli McCall (Compton Verney)  
Hannah Taylor (Compton Verney)  
Thomas Ellmer (Mead Gallery)  
Sarah Shalgosky (Mead Gallery)  
Persilia Caton (Artangel)

### THE ARTISTS:

A History of Frogs  
Can Altay  
Ania Bas  
Phoebe Boswell  
Alice Channer  
Jo Gane  
Clémence Lollia Hilaire  
Seungwon Jung  
Yva Jung  
Dinh Q. Lê  
Paul Lemmon & Graeme Macdonald  
Rene Matic  
Mothers Who Make & Alice Wood  
Jem Southam  
Janet Tryner

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### PRINCIPLE FUNDERS:



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



### MAJOR PARTNERS:

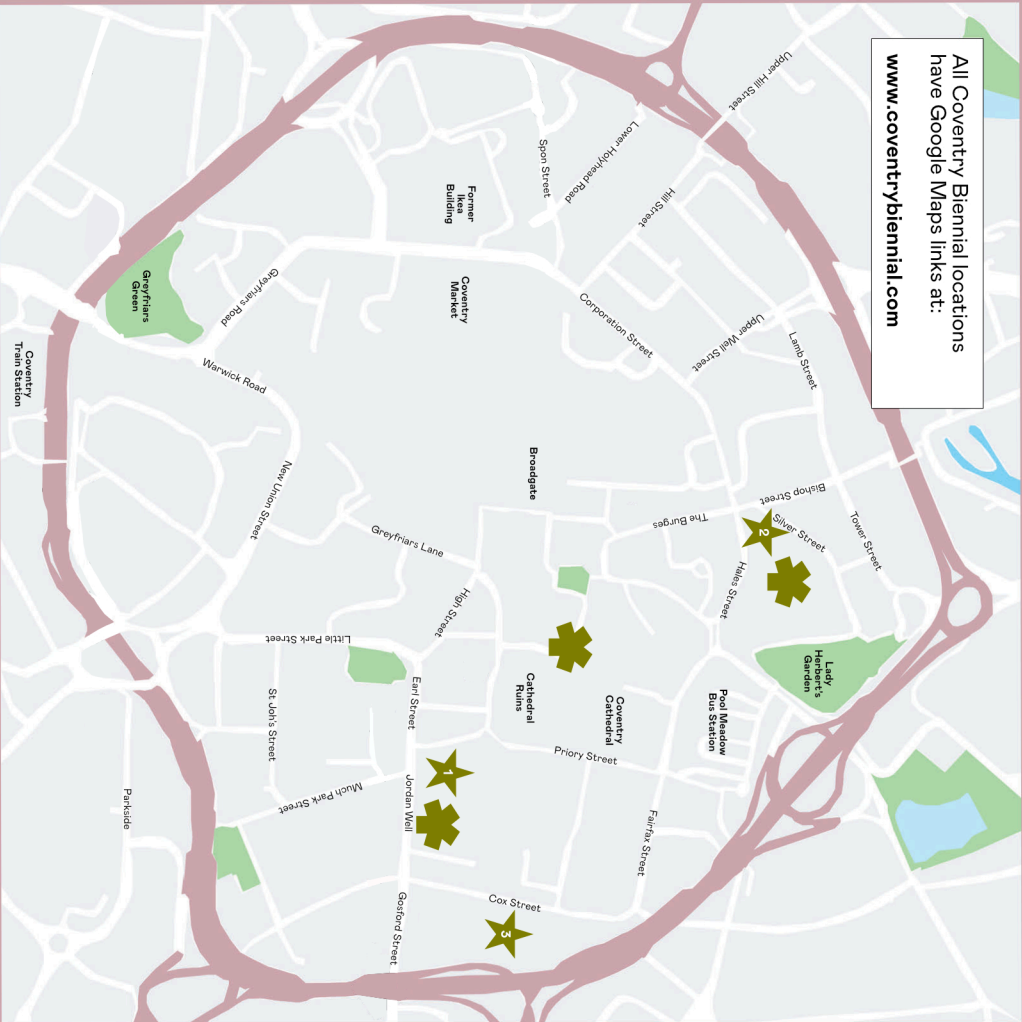
British Council, Artangel, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Compton Verney

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Arcade, Arts Council Collection, Coventry Building Society, Coventry Business Improvement District, Coventry Cultural River Consortium, European Artistic Research Network, Freelands Foundation, Historic Coventry Trust, Historic England, Ikon Youth Programme, Midlands 4 Cities, Mothers Who make Coventry Hub, Nuneaton Library and Information Centre, Open Theatre, SpaceX, Screening Rights Film Festival, Warwick Arts Centre, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



All Coventry Biennial locations have Google Maps links at: [www.coventrybiennial.com](http://www.coventrybiennial.com)



**COVENTRY BIENNIAL CITY CENTRE LOCATIONS:**

**1** HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM  
JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY, CV1 5QP

**2** THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
HALES STREET, COVENTRY, CV1 1FN

**3** DELIA DERBYSHIRE BUILDING  
COX STREET, COVENTRY, CV1 1SPH

**+** LOCATIONS WHERE MOTHERS WHO MAKE HAVE PLANTED FLOWERS

**COVENTRY BIENNIAL NON-CITY CENTRE LOCATIONS:**

MEAD GALLERY  
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, COVENTRY, CV4 7AL  
COMPTON VERNER  
COMPTON VERNER, WARWICKSHIRE, CV35 9HZ

[WWW.COVENTRYBIENNIAL.COM](http://WWW.COVENTRYBIENNIAL.COM)

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#CovBiennial2023  
#ThroughTheBrambles