

PRESS RELEASE

Bethlem Gallery announces 2022 programme, marking 25 years of the contemporary art organisation situated in the grounds of Bethlem Royal Hospital

Care in all its forms - as political action, response to injustice, as support, community or living well together - is at the core of Bethlem Gallery's 2022 programme, which marks 25 years since the space opened in 1997 in the grounds of the Bethlem Royal Hospital in south east London. Artists, scientists, therapists and other practitioners will work together on sound, sculpture, video and textile works exploring ideas relating to mental health, climate change, racism, the home, and the power of music.

5 February 2022 – 14 April 2022

In this Moment

**Gawain Hewitt and musicians from City of London Sinfonia | India Harvey
with young people from Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital Schools**



In this Moment is an immersive sensory installation exploring ideas of nature and the cosmos through interactive sound sculptures, furniture and textile works.

For the last 4 years, artist and composer Gawain Hewitt and musicians from the City of London Sinfonia (CLS) have been collaborating with young people at Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital Schools to create a series of extraordinary improvised soundscapes. *In this Moment* presents the soundworks together for the first time, in the form of large interactive sculptures and a new online work made via Zoom during lockdown.

Drawing on themes from the CLS repertoire such as bird song, astronomy and the seasons, together with pieces from classical composers including Vivaldi and JS Bach, the musicians responded directly to sounds made by the young people on bespoke instruments and technologies produced by Hewitt, who has transformed these new works into sculptural installations. The works are part of *Sound Young Minds*, an award-winning music-making project originated by CLS designed to evaluate the effects of complex music intervention at Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital Schools.

In this Moment also showcases furniture and textile works by artist and researcher India Harvey, in collaboration with young people from Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital Schools. Working with the students, Harvey has investigated relationships and responses to texture and the unusual materiality of our lived environments.

In this Moment gives an insight into the processes used by artists working in psychiatric settings to encourage young people to refocus their attention away from illness towards more immediate and spontaneous improvisation.

27 April 2022 – 7 May 2022

Black Men's Minds

Stephen Rudder



Presented for the first time in a mental health setting, the audio-visual installation *Black Men's Minds* by artist and psychotherapist Stephen Rudder is a stream-of-conscious exploration of masculinity, power and culture, social pressures and lived experience. Interweaving spoken word with a musical score developed from the frequencies of psychotropic medications, the work bears testimony to the psychological tensions present in Black men's minds, voices that are often missing in the conversations around mental health.

Black Men's Minds was developed in response to statistics illustrating the disproportionate numbers of Black men sectioned under the Mental Health Act. These show that Black people are four times more likely to be detained under the Act, and seventeen times more likely to be diagnosed with a serious mental health condition than their white counterparts.

18 May 2022 – 27 August 2022

An Ecology of Mind

Bethlem Gallery, Bethlem Royal Hospital and The Maudsley Hospital

Various artists



Ecology of Mind explores art, ecology and mental health to re-imagine the grounds of the Bethlem Royal Hospital in Beckenham and The Maudsley Hospital in Camberwell as a 'commons', making cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of society.

Ecology of Mind unfolds as a series of exhibitions, outdoor commissions spanning 270 acres of green space, a one-day festival, and a symposium, linking to recent research suggesting that developing our sense of agency around climate change can be beneficial to mental health. Artists, mental health service-users and Climate Science academics will work together on and off-site

exploring the relationship between our inner and outer worlds to present creative responses mapping change, building on the local knowledge of hospital staff and residents.

3 September 2022 – 11 November 2022

Lifestyle (working title)

Raymond



Lifestyle is a solo exhibition of pencil drawings spanning a 10-year period in the life of Raymond, an artist who has exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts and the Southbank Centre. Working from images in glossy lifestyle and interior design magazines and the world around him, Raymond creates stylised drawings of people, domestic interiors and objects, characterised by an individual sense of perspective, heavy outlines, and flat blocks of colour.

26 November 2022 – 20 January 2023

Bethlem Art Fair

Various artists

Bethlem Gallery's 14th annual open exhibition showcases work by over 100 artists connected to South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust to offer paintings, prints, drawings, ceramics, photographs, textiles and sculpture for sale at affordable prices.

Director Sophie Leighton said, "Bethlem Gallery has an important role to play with, and for our communities, a role that has come to the fore during the pandemic, as we all think about mental health, society and the importance of care. We are working with artists, the hospital and local communities to open conversations that can be difficult and messy, but also playful and healing."

Bethlem Gallery was founded in 1997 by Karen Risby, an Occupational Therapy Technical Instructor working at Bethlem Royal Hospital during its 750th anniversary commemorations. To mark the event, a BBC Radio 4 announcement asked for submissions from artists who had had contact with mental health services linked to Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust. The resulting exhibition – *Beyond Bethlem* – presented the work of over 70 artists working with textiles, painting, sculpture, drawing, photography and animation, and established Bethlem Gallery.

Today Bethlem Gallery works with around 200 emerging and established contemporary artists each year, many with lived experience. Recent exhibitions and collaborations include *RIP SENI* (2022); *Metaphysical Conundrums* by Sara Haq (2021); *Switching Perceptions* (2019) by Eleanor Minney; *It's how well you bounce* (2017) with Grayson Perry, Sara Haq and Corali Dance Company; *What remains: Anatomy of the artist* (2017) by Mr X, Michaela Ross and Olga Masleinnikova at Siobhan Davies Dance Company; *Redefining Bedlam* (2016) in collaboration with Wellcome as part of *Bedlam: The Asylum and Beyond*; *Behold Contonues to Retreat* (2015), curated by Mark Titchner including works by Paul Noble, Chantal Joffe and Anna Barriball; and *Sanctuaries* (for *Anxiety Festival* 2014 in collaboration with Gasworks) with a collaboration by Christina Kral and 'Patient X'.

ENDS

For further information, images and interview requests, please email janette@janettescottartspr.com or call 07966 86156.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Bethlem Gallery, Bethlem Royal Hospital, Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BX.
Open Wednesday – Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm and first and last Saturdays of the month. Free admission. Telephone 020 3228 4101. Email info@bethlemgallery.com www.bethlemgallery.com

Exhibitions 2022

In this Moment, 5 February 2022 – 15 April 2022

Black Men's Minds, 27 April 2022 – 7 May 2022

An Ecology of Mind, 18 May 2022 – 27 August 2022

Lifestyle (working title), 3 September 2022 – 11 November 2022,

Bethlem Art Fair, 26 November 2022 – 20 January 2023

Bethlem Gallery

From its early beginnings working directly with inpatients fulfilling a need for an exhibition space, to the building it shares with the Bethlem Museum of the Mind today, Bethlem Gallery have worked alongside artists on site and across the UK and beyond to support artistic development and enable the conversations artists want their art to provoke, to support NHS staff in their work, and to provide a Gallery that everyone can visit to connect, talk and learn. The Gallery works with partners including Goldsmiths College (UoL), Tate, Wellcome and Southbank Centre. It is currently working on the research project Mental Health & Justice Project and with researchers from Kings College London, collaborating with Primary studios in Nottingham, commissioning artists to make new artworks for two new hospital buildings, and participating in Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022. www.bethlemgallery.com

