

Bow Arts reveals programming details for its Shaffesbury Avenue take over during Frieze



Bow Arts Shaffesbury Avenue Takeover

Launch Dates: Tues 8 Oct, 6-9pm *Take a Seat* private view

Wed 9 Oct, 6-9pm *Absurd Visions* Live Performance Evening (performances will be durational)

Exhibitions run to 3 November 2024 (10am-6pm during Frieze Week)

East London-based arts organisation Bow Arts unveils its first central London project space this Frieze Week, with two site-specific and interactive exhibitions ***Take a Seat*** and ***Absurd Visions***, together with an immersive evening of live performance.

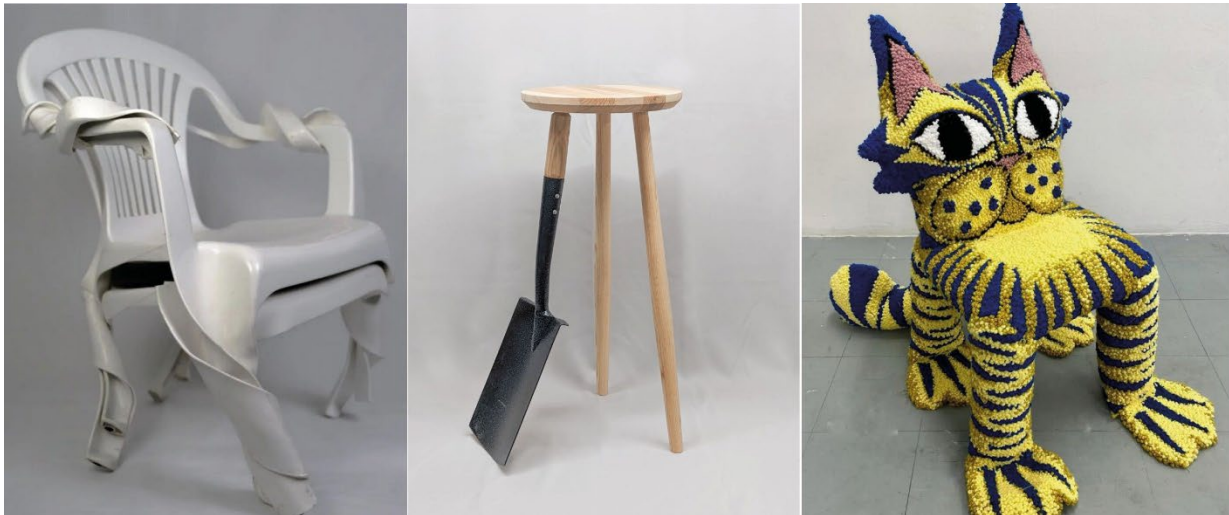
Collaborating with 'non-fair' **Minor Attractions** as an offsite event, participating artists include **Rosie Gibbens, Tim Spooner** and **Mette Sterre**. Billed to be the grassroots alternative to Frieze this October, don't miss the chance to catch Bow Arts and their community of London-grown talent as they take over the vast ex-office space of 125 Shaffesbury Avenue.

Take A Seat presents over 40 unique and sculptural artist-made chairs that mischievously merge the aesthetics of form and functionality, inviting audiences to both play and sit down across Shaffesbury's vast open plan space. *Absurd Visions* will see mechanised sculpture, film and performance create a labyrinth of bizarre and technological discovery throughout Shaffesbury's ex-offices.

Performances will include internationally renowned Mette Sterre's *G-string Theory - Attempting to Rise*, 200 Imperfect fingers modelled on a full-body soft armour are pointing at someone...is that you? While Tim Spooner will present his chaotic little puppet show, an experiment in measuring the

causes and effects between particular coordinates: the walls of the building, the fingertips, the shoulder blades, the toe-tips and the floor.

Take A Seat is a collaboration between Bow Arts and curatorial duo ha.lf, (Haydn Albrow and Flora Bradwell). Several of the participating artists have created their sculptural chairs at Shaffesbury as part of a residency, responding to the building by both assimilating and rejecting the desolate office environment. Each day the artists' chairs will be set out in a grid formation with visitors invited to reconfigure the show by pulling up a chair and taking a seat.



Absurd Visions features work from Gibbens' *Parabiosis* series and Spooner's *A New Kind of Animal*. *Parabiosis* unpacks the pregnant body with sculptures that combine 'puppets' and machinery. The title refers to the surgical technique of joining two living organisms together to share a physiological system. Spooner's animal forms will be tangled and tethered by electrical cables, trapped under bits of remaining furniture, vibrating on empty lockers, and showing off in conference rooms. Originally made for Southwark Park and Bluecoat's gallery spaces, this new iteration of *A New Kind of Animal* will be reborn to relate and inhabit the office spaces at Shaffesbury, alongside Gibbens' various 'birthing' contraptions.

Bow Arts' new meanwhile building 125 Shaffesbury Avenue is over 50,000 square foot of ex-office space, moments from Tottenham Court Road Station. Known for its boundary-pushing exhibitions and events, usually based at the Nunnery Gallery and HQ in Bow, for the first time the charity will go west, inviting audiences to a programme not to be missed on this year's Frieze Week circuit.

Take a Seat exhibiting artists: Milly Aburrow, Haydn Albrow, Henrietta Armstrong, Isobel Attacus, Jack Barford, Mat Barnes, Eleanor Bedlow, Flora Bradwell, Benjamin Arthur Brown, Polam Chan, Tom Coates, Boudicca Collins, Sophie Cunningham, Alice Dawson, Annique Delphine, Emmely Elgersma, Ruth Falkner, Srabani Ghosh, María Camila Cepeda Gnecco, Caitlin Hazell, Flora Hunt, Selby Hurst Inglefield, Sophie, Lourdes Knight, Hathaikan Kongaunruan, Ty Locke, Daisy McClay, Lindsey Jean Mclean, Eleanor McLean, Heidi Pearce, Ned Prizeman, Moe Redish, Drew Richards, Beatriz Santos, Marten Schech, Alice Sheppard Fiddler, Naj Shirazi, Katie Sturridge, Roisin Sullivan, Sean Synnuck, Imrana Tanveer, Henryk Terpiłowski, Erika Trotzig, Arlene Wandera, Ella West, Poppy Whatmore, Chen Yang, Danny Young.

Absurd Visions exhibiting artists: Rosie Gibbens, Hongxi Li, Tim Spooner, Mette Sterne.

Images: top, Rosie Gibbens *Parabiosis*, photo Jon Baker; bottom, from left to right chairs, Ty Locke, Moe Redish, Selby Hi for *Take a Seat*.

ENDS



For interviews, more info and images contact

Sophie Hill, Director of Arts & Events shill@bowarts.com | 07764 232 167

Leah Jun Oh, Marketing Officer loh@bowarts.com | 07360 176 919

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Notes to editors

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Exhibitions will run until 3 November 2024

Opening hours: Wed 9 to Sun 13 Oct, 10-6pm; then Thurs-Sun, 12-6pm until 3 Nov.

Admission: Free

Venue: 125 Shaffesbury Avenue, WC2H 8HR

Tube: Tottenham Court Road, Covent Garden

Contact: 020 8980 7774 / nunnery@bowarts.com

About Bow Arts

We create inspirational, supportive environments where artists and communities interact, learn and flourish. Since 1994, Bow Arts has nurtured London's diverse creativity and talent. We've provided artists and creative practitioners with affordable workspace, connecting them with local communities and supporting their professional development. We give communities throughout London greater access to and interaction with the arts, through our schools programme, workshops, exhibitions and events.

Housed in a former 19th-century convent building, surrounded by our artist studios, the Nunnery Gallery is our not-for-profit art space. Our programme pushes boundaries with an original and creative approach that explores the stories of east London and celebrates today's artistic talent.

About Minor Attractions

[Minor Attractions](#) is a week-long art fair hosted in The Mandrake Hotel inviting global commercial galleries and not-for-profit art spaces taking place from the 8-13th October 2024. The fair is designed as a space where art and nightlife meet, allowing the swells of international collectors in the city to mingle with the art workers and artists that make the art world tick. Galleries are encouraged to bring exciting and daring work, creating a new context for London's buzzing art scene.

About Rosie Gibbens

Rosie Gibbens (b.1993, London) makes performances, videos, sculptures and photographs that feature her body. Using absurd humour, she explores the slippery overlaps between identity, labour and consumer desire. She often makes sculptures that combine household gadgets with sewn body parts. These are brought to life through low-tech chain reactions in the performances/films. Rosie playfully blends bodies with objects to unpack and question the prospective future body as it becomes increasingly 'optimised' by technological augmentation. The mindset behind her work is of a nonsensical product demonstration combined with a perverse children's TV show.

Rosie studied 'Contemporary Art Practice' at the Royal College of Art (2018) and 'Performance Design and Practice' at Central Saint Martins (2015). Solo shows include: 'Parabiosis' at the Bomb Factory (2024), 'The New Me' at Shoreditch Arts Club with Daata (2023), 'Skin of my teeth' at



Midlands Arts Centre for Fierce Festival (2022) and 'Soft Girls' at the Zabłudowicz Collection (2021). Recent group show highlights include: 'Body Poetics' alongside Helen Chadwick at Giant (2023), 'Eye Body' at TJ Boulting (2023), 'The Amber Room' at Matt's Gallery (2023) and 'Are you working now' at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art. In 2022 Rosie won the Ingram prize and was awarded a Sarabande residency. In 2023 she was chosen as one of nine 'best young artists working in London' by Eddy Frankel from Time Out.

About Tim Spooner

Tim Spooner works in a mix of performance, drawing and sculpture, aiming for new strong flavours which are strange and alluring. Fundamentally interested in unpredictability, his work is an exercise in balancing control with a lack of it in the handling of the materials and processes he is working with.

His work has been presented extensively in theatres and galleries in the UK, Europe and Asia including Battersea Arts Centre (London), b-side festival (Isle of Portland), Cambridge Junction, Mayfest (Bristol), MAC Belfast and DCA Dundee (for Hayward Touring), Barbican Art Gallery (London), Whitstable Biennale, Alfred ve Dvoře (Prague, Czechia), Terni Festival (Italy), TJP Strasbourg (France), Actoral Festival (Marseille, France), Internationales Figurentheater Festival (Erlangen, Germany), STUK (Leuven, Belgium), Teatro Maria Matos (Lisbon, Portugal), Culture Station Seoul (South Korea), Pesta Boneka Festival (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) and Macau Arts Festival (China). Many of his performance works are produced by Artsadmin.

Over the last few years he's focussed on making several large-scale installations of moving sculpture. Most recently, *A New Kind of Animal*, a retrospective exhibition of painting, drawing, sculpture and objects used in performances, which was shown and co-commissioned by Southwark Park Galleries, London and Bluecoat, Liverpool. He lives and works in Cornwall, UK.

About Mette Sterre

Let me recuperate The dance isn't always the beginning The drive is never the winning
Mette Sterre's creations escape fixed definitions. They exist in the in-between-spaces where our brain fills in the blind spots, the twilight zones; exceeding performance, installation and body masks. Diving into robotics, patterns as captured narratives of time and somatic disruptive experiences, we are cast into the materialisation of her mind processes. She's a Rijksakademie Alumna and has shown her work internationally at Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Seoul, Manifesta 14 Biennale in Kosovo, the Kunstverein in Hamburg, the Watermill Center in New York and the Frieze evening of performances at David Roberts Art Foundation in London. Her work has been published in the New York Times, Hyperallergic, Berlinartlink, Wall Street Journal, Wallpaper Magazine, Vogue, Dezeen, Hollywood Reporter, El Pais, Channel 4 and others.

About ha.lf

ha.lf was born out of an artistic convergence between artists Haydn Albrow and Flora Bradwell during their time on the Slade MFA. The pair found delicious crossovers in their bombastic, irreverent works, which have grown both in ambition and scale since their graduation in 2021. This nascent creative partnership has continued to flourish in their shared studio at Bow Arts: each artist's work calls to the other's across the studio floor. After curating shows in partnership with Staffordshire St, Somers Gallery and The Crypt, the duo now join forces with Bow Arts to bring you *Take A Seat*.