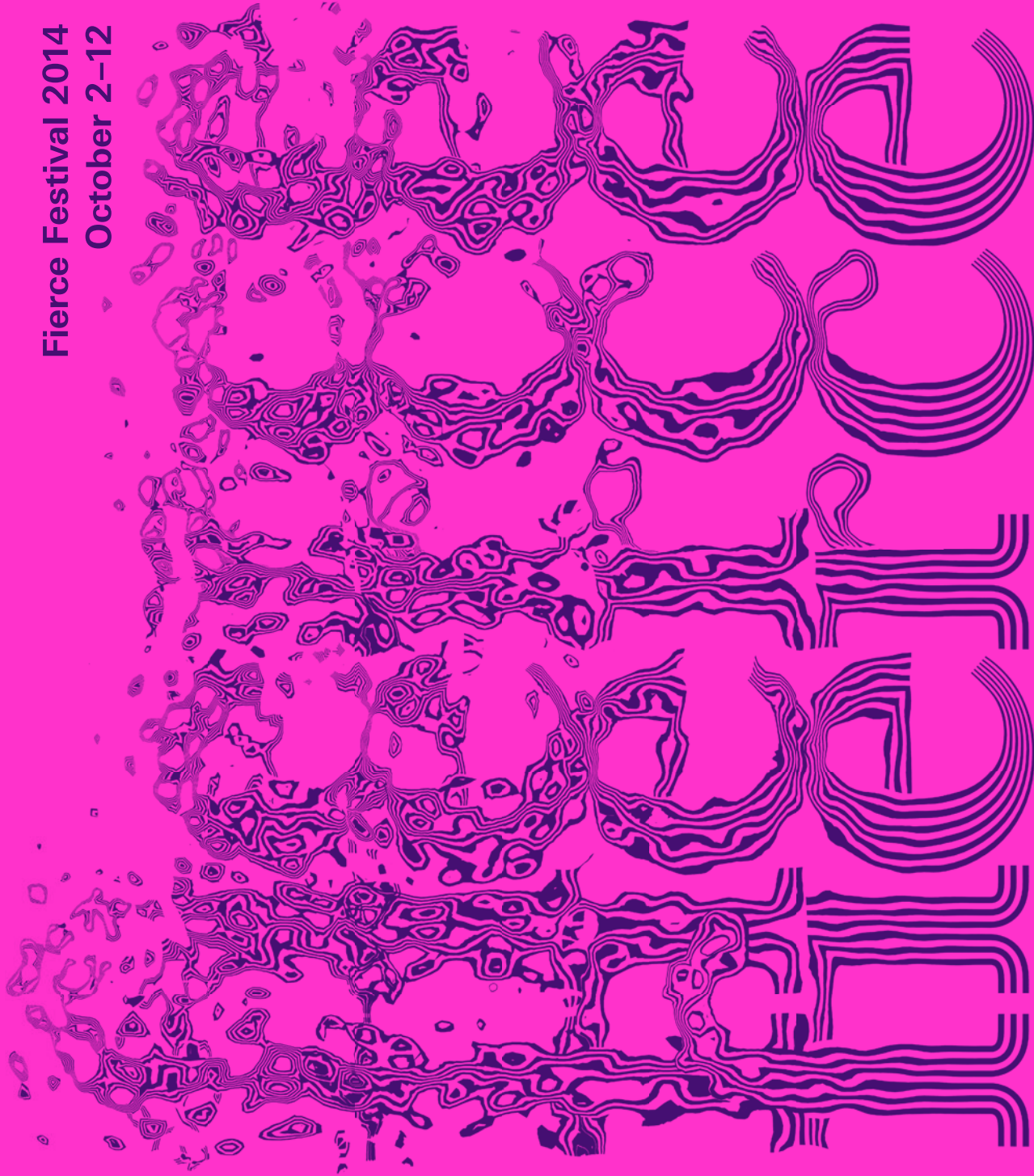


Fierce Festival 2014
October 2-12



Live art. Collision. Hyperlocal. Supernow.

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: Narcissister

Venues

1. Fierce Festival Hub @The Edge

79 – 81 Cheapside
Birmingham, B12 0QH

2. @AE Harris

110 Northwood Street
Birmingham, B3 1SZ

3. Millennium Point

Curzon Street
Birmingham, B4 7XG

4. Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Street
Birmingham, B1 2HS

5. Library of Birmingham

Centenary Square
Broad St
Birmingham, B1 2ND

6. Birmingham Conservatoire

Paradise Place
Fletcher's Walk,
Birmingham, B3 3HG

7. Polish Centre

Bordesley Street
Birmingham, B5 5PH

8. Grand Union

Minerva Works
158 Fazeley Street,
Birmingham, B5 5RS

9. Eastside Projects

86 Heath Mill Lane
Birmingham, B9 4AR

10. DanceXchange

Thorp Street
Birmingham, B5 4TB

11. The Mockingbird Theatre and Bar

The Custard Factory
Gibb Street
Birmingham, B9 4AA

12. Moseley Road Baths


Moseley Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham B12 9BX

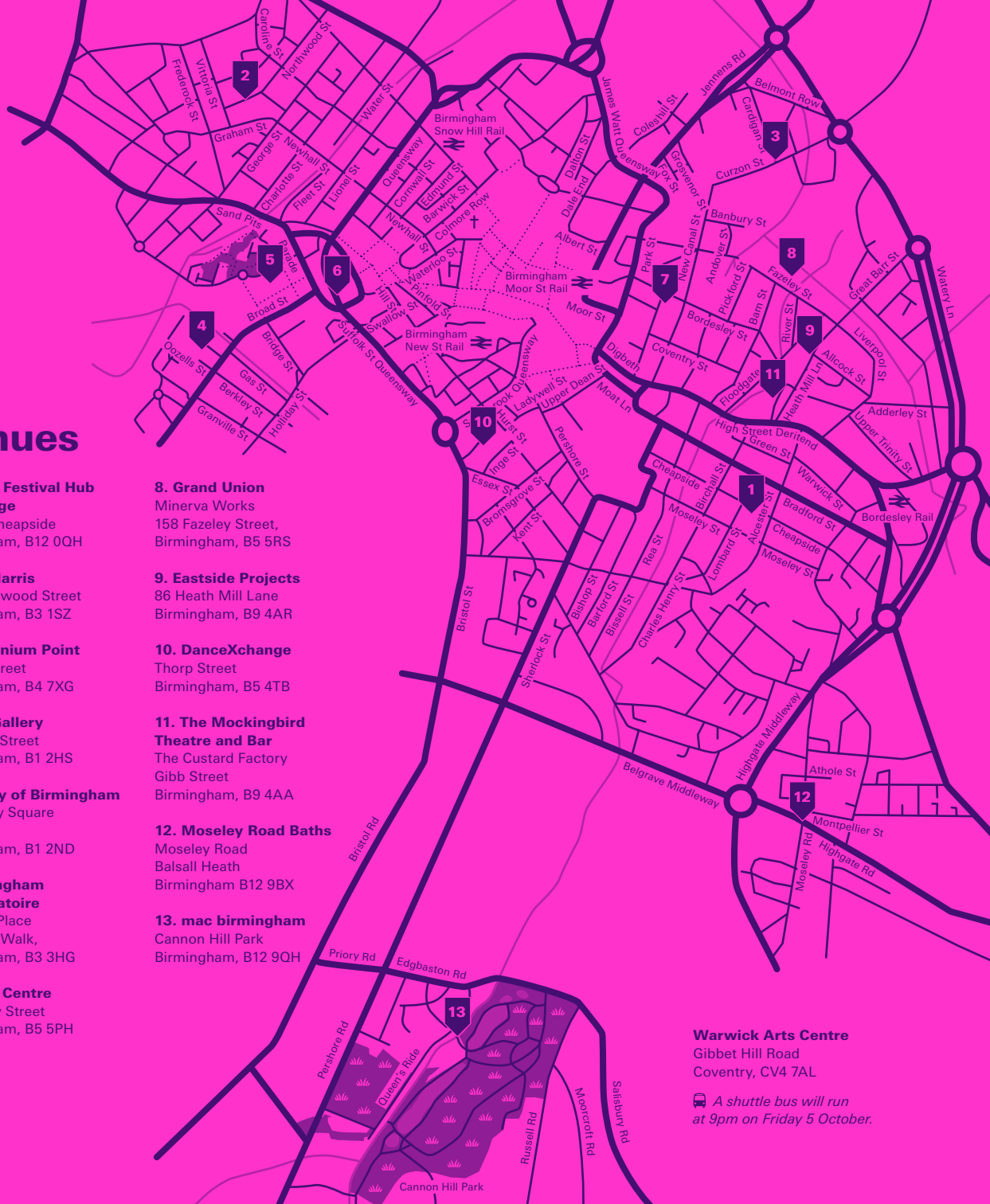
13. mac birmingham

Cannon Hill Park
Birmingham, B12 9QH


Warwick Arts Centre

Gibbet Hill Road
Coventry, CV4 7AL

 A shuttle bus will run
at 9pm on Friday 5 October.



Fierce Festival Programme Schedule

Thursday 2 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Tania El Khoury, <i>Gardens Speak</i>	@AE Harris	3, 4 & 5pm
Forced Entertainment, <i>The Last Adventures</i>	Warwick Arts Centre	7.30pm
Friday 3 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Tania El Khoury, <i>Gardens Speak</i>	@AE Harris	3, 4 & 5pm
Festival Hub Opening	Festival Hub @The Edge	5pm–late
Phoebe Davies, <i>Influences</i>	Festival Hub @The Edge	5–8pm
Dina Rončević, <i>Car Deconstructions</i>	Eastside Projects	6–8pm
Forced Entertainment, <i>The Last Adventures</i> [WKND1]	Warwick Arts Centre 	7.30pm
Saturday 4 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Tania El Khoury, <i>Gardens Speak</i>	@AE Harris	11am, 12, 2, 3, 4 & 5pm
Eric & Mia, <i>Council of Community Conveyors</i>	Various Locations	11am & 4pm
Dina Rončević, <i>Car Deconstructions</i>	Eastside Projects	11am–5pm
Jo Bannon, <i>Exposure</i>	Festival Hub @The Edge	12–2pm & 3–5pm
Phoebe Davies, <i>Influences</i>	See Website	12–5pm
Narcissister, <i>Narcissister: Performance & Video Wrks</i> [WKND1]	Festival Hub @The Edge	8pm
Club Fierce: Algorave [WKND1]	Festival Hub @The Edge	9.30pm–late
Sunday 5 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Eric & Mia, <i>Council of Community Conveyors</i>	Various Locations	11am
Sarah Jane Norman, <i>Concerto No 3</i>	Birmingham Conservatoire	11am–11pm
Dina Rončević, <i>Car Deconstructions</i>	Eastside Projects	11am–5pm
Jo Bannon, <i>Exposure</i>	Festival Hub @The Edge	12–2pm & 3–5pm
Miguel Gutierrez, <i>HEAVENS WHAT HAVE I DONE</i> [WKND1]	DanceXchange	7pm
Monday 6 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Tuesday 7 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Wednesday 8 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
the vacuum cleaner & Hannah Hull, <i>Madlove – A Designer Asylum Talk</i>	Festival Hub @The Edge	6.30pm

Thursday 9 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Tania El Khoury, <i>Gardens Speak</i>	@AE Harris	3,4 & 5pm
Laura Delaney & Lisa Stewart, <i>Parting Waters: Floating Forum*</i>	Moseley Road Baths	4.30–6.30pm
Friday 10 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Amy Sharrocks, <i>Museum of Water</i>	Moseley Road Baths	12–5pm
Tania El Khoury, <i>Gardens Speak</i>	@AE Harris	3,4 & 5pm
Steven Cohen, <i>SPHINCTEROGRAPHY</i> [WKND2]	Mockingbird Theatre	6pm
Dana Michel, <i>Yellow Towel</i> [WKND2]	DanceXchange	8pm
Trevor Pitt, <i>This is Your Tomorrow</i>	Festival Hub @The Edge	10pm
Saturday 11 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Amy Sharrocks, <i>Museum of Water</i>	Moseley Road Baths	10am–5pm
Eric & Mia, <i>Council of Community Conveyors</i>	Various Locations	11am
Tania El Khoury, <i>Gardens Speak</i>	@AE Harris	11am, 12, 2, 3, 4 & 5pm
Laura Delaney & Lisa Stewart, <i>Parting Waters: Sound Bath*</i>	Moseley Road Baths	1–2pm
Mammalian Diving Reflex, <i>Eat the Street Award Ceremony</i>	Mocking Bird Theatre	5pm
Ian Johnston & Gary Gardiner, <i>Dancer</i> [WKND2]	mac birmingham	8pm
Sherwin Sullivan Tjia, <i>Fierce Slow Dance</i> [WKND2]	Polish Centre	9pm–late
Sunday 12 October	Venue	Times
Authentic Boys, <i>Rehearsing Revolution</i>	mac birmingham	All day
Amy Sharrocks, <i>Museum of Water</i>	Moseley Road Baths	10am–1pm
Eric & Mia, <i>Council of Community Conveyors</i>	Various Locations	11am
Tania El Khoury, <i>Gardens Speak</i>	@AE Harris	11am, 12, 2, 3, 4 & 5pm
Various Artists, <i>Unlimited Salon</i>	mac birmingham	1.30–3pm
Manuel Vason, <i>Double Exposures</i> Book Launch	Ikon Gallery	4–5.30pm
The Cyborg Foundation, <i>Cyborg Day</i> [WKND2]	Millennium Point	6.30pm

**Parting Waters* by Laura Delaney & Lisa Stewart is series of events at Moseley Road Baths from 5–12 October, full details at: partingwaters2014.tumblr.com

Weekend Multi-Show-Ticket Passes **WKND1** & **WKND2**

There will be a chance to dine alongside the child restaurant critics from Mammalian Diving Reflex's *Eat the Street* from Friday 3 – Wednesday 8 October, please see www.wearefierce.org for details.

 A shuttle bus will leave Warwick Arts Centre at 9pm on Friday 3 October – bringing audiences to the Fierce Festival hub in Digbeth.

All venues except the Polish Centre are wheelchair accessible. *Dancer* at mac Birmingham on Saturday 11 October is BSL interpreted. Please contact us at contact@wearefierce.org if you have specific access needs or queries.

Fierce Festival 2014

An Act of Sharing

Fierce Festival is an act of sharing. Ten days full of the performances, artists and ideas that we have encountered across the globe. We made discoveries in a myriad of studios, theatres, project spaces, on websites, in warehouses and rehearsal rooms. Other projects have been developed from scratch – born of residencies or walks around Birmingham's idiosyncratic quarters.

The festival is a space and span of time to share the energy that allowed it come into being – an energy that is continually replenished and totally contingent on your presence and engagement. It distills countless hours of conversation between ourselves (over late night curries, in bars, in our office, on trains), with our venue partners, with our audiences, with our board and above all with our artists.

Sharing Knowledge

How is knowledge shared? By what means? From who? and to who? These questions are evoked by many of this year's projects. Dina Rončević's *Car Deconstructions* introduces the basics of car mechanics to local Birmingham girls; directly challenging presumptions of which genders occupy which space. Mammalian Diving Reflex

embolden Birmingham kids to become food critics, inviting you to dine with them during the festival. They mischievously ask us to reconsider the connections between taste, judgement, expertise and authority. Phoebe Davies invites young women to identify and create their own pantheon of icons and role models as part of the process for *Influences*. These nominations are debated down to a final eight, who create a unique set of nail wraps – to be worn and discussed in a space of alternative cultural expression.

Activating Space

The use of nail wraps is a potent model for how space can be activated, reminding us of the capacity of performance to charge what might otherwise be ignored. Moseley Road Baths is a beautiful Grade II listed building (opened in 1907), beloved by the community, but due to close imminently. We're proud to spotlight this invaluable social resource through Amy Sharrock's *Museum of Water* and Laura Delaney & Lisa Stewart's *Parting Waters*. The former explicitly invites donations of stories and precious water, while the latter brings the building alive with dusk 'til dawn projections on its elegant facade and underwater music for those who bring their swimming costumes.

Over the two weekends, Fierce festival attendees will knock on over 1500 front doors – wearing bright yellow sashes

in the guise of The Council of Community Conveyors. The festival will come to the city's doorsteps – passing messages from one house occupant to another. We're bussing audiences beyond the city centre to areas that wouldn't otherwise be on their itinerary. This work by Canadian artists (first seen in Calgary) exemplifies how international and local activity can be reconciled.

More overtly political is Tania El Khoury's *Gardens Speak* – a work that demands not just your spectatorship but your physical uncovering of the stories it offers. These are the reclaimed stories of Syrian people who have lost their lives in the conflict. A piece that leaves you with dirt under fingernails, an earthly trace of the disembodied voices to whom you bear witness.

Questioning

Neil Harbisson and Moon Ribas, founders of The Cyborg Foundation eloquently challenge preconceived notions of what is natural.

"Having an antenna makes me feel closer to insects, hearing through bone conduction makes me feel closer to dolphins, perceiving ultraviolet makes me feel closer to bees."
— Neil Harbisson

This questioning of what we presume to be natural is an ongoing project that never

ceases. There are always new norms being asserted for various agendas. Fierce wants to contribute to this ongoing project of questioning such presumptions. Ian Johnston and Gary Gardiner's *Dancer* bring this to the fore, asserting and embracing their difference from the typical 'dancer'. Miguel Gutierrez and Dana Michel advance these essential destabilisations, ever seeking, ever subverting, in their assertion of the value of their own subjectivity as the subject matter of their works.

Messy Complexities

All these messy complexities are thankfully never resolved, but perhaps the noise they generate is momentarily subsumed by the dancefloor.

Our contrasting Saturday night parties are in a tango of their own. The first includes an *Algorave* (with music coded live by Alex Mclean) – a skittish, glitchy, thumping new musical genre; whilst the following weekend Sherwin Sullivan Tija hosts a slowdance – a timely reminder of gentler modes of intimacy as we accelerate faster than we can evolve.

Laura McDermott + Harun Morrison
Autumn 2014

Fierce Talks

Dina Rončević

DATE

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER,
6.30PM

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

EASTSIDE PROJECTS

The artist shares her thinking and process behind *Car Deconstructions* – an ongoing series of interventions involving girls disassembling vehicles to their nuts and bolts. The talk will open up themes of gendered space, females in relation to car mechanics and garages; and the politics of sharing knowledge.

Tania El Khoury

DATE

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER,
6.30PM

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

FESTIVAL HUB

Artist and activist Tania El Khoury discusses her extensive and ongoing research process happening across the Middle East, in conversation with Loyal Ftouni. This has involved gathering testimonies from friends and families of deceased activists involved in the Arab

Spring movements. Tania will also discuss her interdisciplinary research group *The Dictaphone* Group that includes and architect and urbanist Abir Saksouk.

Authentic Boys: Rehearsing Revolution

DATE

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER, 4PM

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

MAC BIRMINGHAM
(HEXAGON THEATRE)

Members of Authentic Boys collective discuss how their *Rehearsing Revolution* project has manifested across Europe in Rotterdam, Nyon and Birmingham. The talk will include a screening of the short film made with teenagers in collaboration with Far Festival, Nyon.

the vacuum cleaner & Hannah Hull: Madlove

DATE

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER,
6.30PM

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

FIERCE FESTIVAL HUB
@THE EDGE

The artists share their reflections on the Madlove research process; a series of workshops based around the question 'If you could design your

own asylum, what would it be like?'

Floating Forum

DATE

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER,
4.30–6.30PM

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

MOSELEY ROAD BATHS

Australian artists Laura Delaney and Lisa Stewart will facilitate a discussion event in the swimming pool of Moseley Road Baths. How will thinking and interaction change when in water? In collaboration with Eastside Projects.

Unlimited Salon

DATE

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER,
1.30PM

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

MAC BIRMINGHAM

Aaron Williamson, Nicola Canavan and Noemi Lakmaier join curators from mac birmingham and Fierce Festival to discuss their research and development projects within the Unlimited programme.

weareunlimited.org.uk

Fierce Lates

Digbeth First Friday

Friday 3 October

The festival hub opens with a live performance from BITERS (David Blandy & Larry Achiampong), a nail bar (Phoebe Davies' *Influences*), DJs and Fierce cocktail hour.



Photo: James A. Holland & Wumi Olaosebikan

Club Fierce Algorave

Saturday 4 October

Live coding music generated by Alex McLean/ My Panda Shall Fly/Visuals by Antonio Roberts/Performances Art Musiques – exclusive DJ set by Aaron Wright.



Photo: Masha Mel

This Is Your Tomorrow

Friday 10 October

Trevor Pitt will perform songs that he wrote in his bedroom during the 1970s. The songs were recorded onto tape cassettes and a selection have been re-scored to form an EP that tells the tale of boredom, glamour and teenage exile from a Birmingham council estate. The EP will be available on the night as a limited edition vinyl EP and tape cassette.



Photo: Michael Chittleborough

Fierce Slow Dance

Saturday 11 October

A night of dance cards, slow dances and performance-enhancing hugs, hosted by Sherwin Sullivan Tjia.



Illustration: Sherwin Sullivan Tjia





Rehearsing Revolution Authentic Boys (DE/CH/NL)

DATE

13 SEPTEMBER – 12 OCTOBER

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

MAC BIRMINGHAM (ARENA GALLERY)

In *Rehearsing Revolution*, the Authentic Boys created a 'performative training ground' for groups of Birmingham teenagers in the outdoor arena at mac in July 2014. These 100-minute workshops focused on change and rebelling against personal habits. They were a light-hearted experiment to test the 'revolutionary potential' of Birmingham teenagers.

The artistic outcomes of the workshops will be displayed alongside work created with teenagers in Rotterdam and Nyon in the Arena Gallery at mac, leading up to and during Fierce Festival 2014.

Authentic Boys is an international collective of artists: the performers Gregory Stauffer and Johannes Dullin (Geneva/Bern) and the filmmakers Boris van Hoof and Aaike Stuart (Rotterdam/Berlin). The group have experimented with the interconnections between film, the visual arts and performance since 2007.

Created in collaboration with TENT Rotterdam (NL). Developed in collaboration with Fierce Festival and mac in Birmingham (UK), Far Festival of Performing Arts and College Le Marens in Nyon (CH). Supported by the Goethe-Institut London, CBK Rotterdam (NL), Fierce Festival and mac in Birmingham (UK), Far Festival of Performing Arts, College Le Marens and RegioNyon in Nyon (CH). Guest contributions by Ariel Garcia (music) and Peter Bijl (producer)

Artists' Talk: Sunday 5 October, 4pm, Hexagon Theatre
at mac birmingham, free

www.authentic-boys.com

Fierce Thoughts...

I met Gregory Stauffer at Belluard Bollwerk festival in Fribourg. He told me about a collective he was part of. I was struck by the name: Authentic Boys (which sounded like an ironic boy band). At the time they had completed the first chapter of their *Rehearsing Revolution* project, working with over 500 teenagers in Rotterdam. Since then they have worked in Nyon and now Birmingham – exploring this subject with the teenagers of each city, working with a balance of serious conviction and deadpan humour.

— **Laura McDermott**



Photo: Hugo Glendinning



The Last Adventures Forced Entertainment (UK) in collaboration with Tarek Atoui (LB)/ Live performance by KK NULL (JP)

DATE

WEDNESDAY 1 – FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER, 7.30PM
(DURATION 80 MINS)
POST SHOW TALK: WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER

PRICE

£18.50/£16.50 (UNDER 26 £13.50)

VENUE

WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

** UK Premiere **

Forced Entertainment collaborate with Lebanese sound artist Tarek Atoui to create a compelling performance on an epic scale. Sounds swarm and storm in the air as performers in homemade costumes create a pageant of giant sea monsters, ghosts, fighting kings, marching robots and dancing trees. Before our eyes Forced Entertainment transform a haunted forest into a sky of portentous clouds, or the aftermath of a terrible war.

Working with a cast of twelve, artistic director Tim Etchells leads Forced Entertainment into challenging new territory. This production is part of Forced Entertainment's 30th anniversary season in 2014, and also marks the opening of Warwick Arts Centre's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Presented by Warwick Arts Centre in association with Fierce Festival

A production of Forced Entertainment and Ruhrtriennale – International Festival of the Arts. Co-produced by Fierce Festival, Birmingham; Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt; Tanzquartier, Wien; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry. Design: Richard Lowdon, Lighting Design: Nigel Edwards, Production: Jim Harrison.

www.forcedentertainment.com

Fierce Thoughts...

There is very little text in this piece (especially for a Forced Entertainment show). Instead, a living tapestry is woven through an alternative language: flocking movements, repetition, chaotic tableaux and cardboard props.

The Last Adventures reaches for a form for something inexpressible. For these performances, the action will be scored by an eviscerating wall of white noise created live on stage by KK NULL.

— *Laura McDermott*



Photo: Jesse Hunniford

Gardens Speak

Tania El Khoury (LB/UK)

DATE

2-5 & 9-12 OCTOBER,

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 3PM, 4PM, 5PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 11AM, 12PM, 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, 5PM

(DURATION 40 MINS)

PRICE

£10

VENUE

@AE HARRIS, JEWELLERY QUARTER

Across Syria, many gardens conceal the dead bodies of activists and protect the living from the violent thrusts of the regime. These domestic burials play out a continuing collaboration between the living and the dead, the dead protect the living by not exposing them to further danger at the hands of the state and the living protect the dead by conserving and nurturing their identities and their stories in the ground, by not allowing their deaths to become instruments to the regime through potential disappearance, anonymity and forgotten history.

Gardens Speak is an interactive sound installation containing the oral histories of 10 ordinary people who have been buried in Syrian gardens. Each narrative has been carefully constructed with the friends and family members of the deceased to retell their stories as they themselves would have recounted it. They are compiled with archival audio that bears witness to their final moments.

Co-commissioned and produced by Fierce Festival, Next Wave and Live at LICA. Supported by Artsadmin. Supported by Arts Council England, British Council Australia and Keir Foundation.

Artists' Talk: Saturday 4 October, 6.30pm, free

www.taniaelkhoury.com

Fierce Thoughts...

I don't often dig soil with my bare hands. Living in a city the smell of soil can easily be forgotten. The act evokes childhood games, unearths memories, very opposite to the context of digging in this work.

I am reminded bearing witness is a political act, that mainstream news is produced and constructed and individuals can equally gather stories and construct news of their own. The narrative war is as vital as the corporeal one.

— *Harun Morrison*



Photo: Mammalian Diving Reflex



Eat the Street Mammalian Diving Reflex (CA)

DATE

SATURDAY 4 – THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER, VARIOUS TIMES

PRICE

FREE (PAY FOR YOUR OWN MEAL)

RESERVATION REQUIRED IN ADVANCE

VENUE

VARIOUS LOCATIONS – RESTAURANTS ACROSS THE CITY
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Eat the Street is an intervention into the city, in which a group of twelve-year-olds are trained as restaurant critics and make stops at several of Birmingham's most notable eateries. They will be feted and fed, and charged with offering their brutally honest, uncensored opinions on the food, the service, the decor, the state of the washrooms and the charm of the waiters.

For the mere cost of a meal, the public are invited to sit amongst the kids for an embedded view of the youthful connoisseurs in action.

On Saturday 11 October, join the panel of pre-adolescent adjudicators for an uproarious awards ceremony where awards are bestowed for everything from 'Most Delicious' and 'Coolest Chef' to 'Least Graffiti in the Bathroom.'

Founded in 1993, Mammalian Diving Reflex is a research-art atelier dedicated to investigating the social sphere, always on the lookout for contradictions to whip into aesthetically scintillating experiences. In all its forms, the company's work dismantles barriers between individuals of all ages, cultural, economic and social backgrounds.

The company has presented work in venues and festivals all over the world. Fierce was the first festival to bring Mammalian Diving Reflex out of Canada, for *Haircuts by Children* in 2006.

www.mammalian.ca

Fierce Thoughts...

Most children have about 10000 active taste buds, to the 5000 of adults. A cadre of children food critics would seem to make common sense. Of course there is a difference between sensitivity and the communication of what you are responding to isn't there? But then who and how is good communication qualified? To what degree is taste political? On what basis do adults generally have more authority than children... Life experience? Moral example? They're older?

— *Harun Morrison*



Influences

Phoebe Davies (UK)

DATE

FRIDAY 3, 5–8PM & SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER, 12–5PM

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

FIERCE FESTIVAL HUB @THE EDGE

In her *Influences* series, Phoebe Davies collaborates with groups of women to explore current attitudes to gender equality, feminism, female expectations and individual agency. Drawing upon the contemporary culture of nail art, these dialogues result in a series of printed nail designs depicting people of personal influence or significance, specific to participating groups.

Members of the public can come and get nail wraps applied in a nail bar run by participants. The nail bar acts as a site to exchange opinions and ideas, questioning what feminism means to young women today.

Before Fierce Festival, Phoebe will be meeting and working with Sister Act (a group of women from Birmingham, linked to the One Mile Away Foundation). *Influences* nail bar will be open in the festival hub on the first weekend of Fierce.

Supported using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Produced by Artsadmin

www.phoebedavies.tumblr.com

www.artsadmin.co.uk/projects/influences

Fierce Thoughts...

Phoebe's *Influences* project is a brilliant example of social practice: a simple proposition that grabs your imagination and creates a site for conversation.

This conversation – about what feminism means to us in 2014 – will happen at the Influences Nail Bar, but also in depth (and with complexity and contradiction) in the weeks before the festival amongst the group of local women from Birmingham.

— **Laura McDermott**



Photo: Pekka Mäkinen

Car Deconstructions

Dina Rončević (HR)

DATE

3–5 OCTOBER, FRIDAY 6–8PM,
SATURDAY 11AM–5PM, SUNDAY 11AM–5PM
DROP IN DURING THESE TIMES

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

EASTSIDE PROJECTS

This work involves a group of seven Birmingham based girls aged between 10 and 12 years old disassembling a car to its nuts and bolts over three days. Prior to this, the girls have undergone a basic introduction to car mechanics under the guidance of Amsterdam based Dina Rončević.

Dina Rončević is an artist, textile designer, film animator and car mechanic from Croatia. She graduated in Animation and New media from the Art Academy in Zagreb, Croatia. For her graduate work she made a professional retraining to be a car mechanic. During this three-year-long project (2007–2010) she worked on issues of social identity and gender roles in this male dominated socio-cultural niche.

Supported by Eastside Projects

Artists' Talk: Tuesday 29 September, 6.30pm, free

Fierce Thoughts...

It's not by chance the highest concentration of garages in the city is alongside the biggest cluster of artists' studios and project spaces. We walked through Digbeth with Dina this February. Peering into the multiple car garages, spare part warehouses, limousine hirers and taxi repairs. Birmingham's coat of arms features an artist and blacksmith, this unusual pairing is vividly brought to life by this overlap of art and mechanics.

— *Harun Morrison*

Moseley Road Baths

A specially curated programme of live art to celebrate the beautiful Grade II listed Moseley Road Baths (due to close in 2015/16) and the communities gathered around and within the building.

Supported by Friends of Moseley Road Baths and Arts Council England.

Photo: Laura Delaney

Parting Waters Laura Delaney & Lisa Stewart (AU)

DATE

5–12 OCTOBER, SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL TIMINGS

Australian artists Laura Delaney and Lisa Stewart have been working in conjunction with Moseley Road Baths and members of its community, such as Friends of Moseley Road Baths, Ort Cafe, local practitioners, since October 2013 to develop a series of site and community specific interventions across the building. These included a video projection onto the buildings Grade 2 listed facade, an underwater soundscape for those swimming and a Floating Forum – a themed discussion designed to take place in the baths. You are advised to bring your swimming costume.

Supported by Ort and Friends of Moseley Road Baths, The Old Print Works, Soesen Edan of The Musery

Floating Forum: Thursday 9 October, 4.30–6.30pm

Sound Bath: Saturday 11 October, 12–1pm

<http://partingwaters2014.tumblr.com>

Museum of Water

Amy Sharrocks (UK)

Photo: Amy Sharrocks

DATE

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER, 10AM–9PM

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER, 10AM–5PM

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 10AM–12PM

Museum of Water is a collection of publicly donated 'precious water' and accompanying stories. There are now over 500 bottles in the collection, ranging from water from a holy river in India, a melted snowman, a newborn baby's bath water, Norwegian spit, two different breaths and water from a bedside table said to be infused with dreams.

Amy Sharrocks is a live artist, sculptor and filmmaker who invites people to come on journeys in which their own experience, communication and expression are a vital part.

Produced by Artsadmin. The tour of *Museum of Water* is funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

www.museumofwater.co.uk





Record of Things to Be Said
Council of Community Convoys

State why don't you tell my neighbour

NAME	TELEPHONE	STREET	POST CODE
Mr. John	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Ms. Jane	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Mr. John	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Ms. Jane	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Mr. John	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Ms. Jane	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Mr. John	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Ms. Jane	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Mr. John	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD
Ms. Jane	01234 567890	123 Main St	AB1 2CD

NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE

Photo: Courtesy of the Artists

Council of Community Conveyors

Eric Moschopedis,
Mia Rushton, & Sharon
Stevens. Facilitated
by Eric & Mia (CA)

DATE

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER, 11AM & 4PM

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER, 11AM

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER, 11AM

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER, 11AM (DURATION 150 MINS)

PRICE

£5

VENUE

VARIOUS LOCATIONS,

MEET AT FIERCE FESTIVAL HUB @THE EDGE

Not unlike census takers (they've got clipboards, sashes, and serious looking forms to fill out), members of the Council arrive in a neighbourhood and begin knocking on doors with the intention of registering what one neighbour has to say to the next. The Council invites participants to become temporary members by participating in a two-hour version of this playful but politically engaged project, which attempts to establish dialogue within a community.

Depending on the day you sign up to join the Council you may find yourself bussed to places beyond the city centre, including Balsall Heath, Edgbaston and Perry Barr.

During the past decade Rushton and Moschopedis have collaboratively developed an exciting catalogue of community-specific and participatory works in offsite contexts. The utilisation of public space, participation, intervention, performance, and crafting to interrogate local day-to-day life has been primary to their practice.

Supported by Canada Council for the Arts and Calgary Arts Development.
Thanks to Magnetic North.

www.ericmoschopedis.com

www.miarushton.com

Fierce Thoughts...

"I'm the oldest resident on this street, but I've been ill and unable to get out – I noticed a young couple with a baby have just moved in – so from the person who's been here longest to the newly arrived please welcome them for me." Magnetic North Festival, Calgary, Canada, 2012. I recall wandering through a Sicilian neighbourhood in Alberta, now carrying our clipboards, pens and papers, while wearing our yellow sashes. We must have looked odd, but more than happy to relay this elderly woman's message.

— *Harun Morrison*



Photo: Manuel Vason

Exposure

Jo Bannon (UK)

DATE

SATURDAY 4 & SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER,
12-2PM & 3-5PM

(ONE ON ONE PERFORMANCE – SLOTS EVERY 12 MINS)

PRICE

£3

VENUE

PIERCE FESTIVAL HUB @THE EDGE

Exposure is an intimate one to one performance which gently examines the politics of the gaze. *Exposure* asks how fully we can reveal ourselves – to ourselves, to another, with another.

“It comes out of a tentative enquiry I am making into autobiography and into how I look and appear in the world, this is informed by my relationship to the fact that I have albinism. Albinism, a condition which affects my pigmentation and also my sight, affects both how I physically see and experience the world and how I am seen and perceived within it.”

Jo Bannon has presented work across the UK and in Europe – at Arnolfini, The Barbican, Southbank Centre, Forest Fringe, Mayfest and Ovalhouse. Jo is an In Between Time associate artist and founder member of Residence.

Exposure was made with the support of Rules and Regs and South Hill Park.

Supported by Unlimited; celebrating the work of disabled artists, Bristol Ferment, Residence, Dartington Hall Trust, Royal West of England Academy, Arnolfini and BAC. Produced by MAYK. Funded by Arts Council England.

Fierce Thoughts...

Jo's work has a delicate power that seems to land like a feather but impact like a blow. It is careful and considered and delivered with grace and poise. This one-on-one performance will make you think deeply about how you look and how you are seen. It will also give you a taste for Jo's practice and the very exciting projects she is developing in future.

— **Laura McDermott**



Photo: Narcissister



Narcissister: Performance & Video works Narcissister (US)

DATE

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER, 8PM (DURATION 40 MINS)

PRICE

£10/£7

VENUE

FIERCE FESTIVAL HUB @THE EDGE

Narcissister is a Brooklyn-based artist and performer. Wearing mask and merkin, she works at the intersection of performance, dance, visual art, and activism. She actively integrates her prior experience as a professional dancer and commercial artist with her current art practice in a range of media which also include photography, video art, and experimental music. She has presented work in New York at The New Museum, Moma PS1, The Kitchen, Abrons Art Center as well as many nightclubs, galleries, and alternative art spaces. *Narcissister* was a re-performer of Marina Abramovic's *Luminosity* piece as part of The Artist is Present retrospective at MoMA.

Narcissister has also presented her work internationally at the Music Biennale in Zagreb, Croatia, at Chicks on Speed's Girl Monster Festival, at The Festival of Women in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at Copenhagen's first live art festival, and at the Camp/Anti-Camp festival in Berlin, among many others.

Fierce Thoughts...

I saw Narcissister, during my first visit to New York. The new city and her performance are indelibly linked. It was at the Abrons Art Centre, a stage work titled *Organ Player* – dance, cabaret and more all intermingled freely. Narcissister maintains a persistent anonymity. Her iconic masked persona amplifies the same curiosity we have of the stranger passing by in the street.

We see how the body moves – but what is the mind thinking?

— *Harun Morrison*

[9,26]

```
uniform vec2 resolution;  
uniform float oct[18];
```

```
define PI 3.14159
```

```
int4 main() {
```

```
    resolution) / min(resolution.x, resolution.y);  
    solution);
```

```
    vec2 t = vec2(1.0, 1.0);  
    vec3 c = vec3(oct[7]+0.0001);
```

```
    int i = 0; while (i < 500000000.0 + 0.3); i++;
```

```
    float t = 0.1 * PI + float(i+1) / 50.0 * 0.0007;
```

```
    float a = tan(PI * 0.5 * oct[12] * t) * oct[6] +
```

```
    float p = pow(fract(x-y*t), 2.0) * 10.0;
```

```
    float r = 0.5 - r + oct[3];
```

```
    float a1 = (length(sin(p)-a)) * vec3(
```

fps: 56.9784

st: 56.9784

Club Fierce: Algorave

DATE

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER, 9.30PM–LATE

PRICE

£12 (£15 ON THE DOOR)

VENUE

FIERCE FESTIVAL HUB @THE EDGE

Club Fierce returns with an eclectic selection of DJs, AV sets and live music. Highlights include Sri-Lankan born Londoner Suren Seneviratne aka *My Panda Shall Fly*; electronics, folk instruments and noise-making are blended to compelling effect.

The evening will also feature a Fierce hosted 'Algorave'. This is an emerging genre of music, where emphasis is placed on the live coding of what you're dancing to! Leading proponent Alex Mclean will be in situ writing music on software such as pure data and MAX/MSP. The algorave will be accompanied by glitch visuals from *Antonio Roberts* and *Notendo*.

Performance Art Musiques scour the planet (internet) in search of long forgotten and obscure tracks from underground legends, nightclub icons and performance art royalty from the 1970s to the present day, dusting them off for a much overdue spin on special occasions. Expect explicit language and a sudden and overwhelming desire to move.

Look out for a special guest lip-synching performance from 'Disco Derek'!



Photo: Jesse Hunniford

Concerto No 3

Sarah-Jane Norman (AU)

DATE

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER, 11AM-11PM

*THIS IS A DURATIONAL PERFORMANCE,
AUDIENCES CAN COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE
THROUGHOUT THE PERFORMANCE.*

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE, CITY CENTRE

Of all the works in the classical piano repertory, Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 3 has perhaps one of the most fearsome reputations: it is a work of cruel and unusual technical difficulty. Feared and made famous through performers such as Joseph Hofmann and David Helfgott, the so-called Rach 3 has become darkly mythologised as one of the most difficult, even dangerous, pieces of piano music ever written.

So, what if a group of non-pianists, failed pianists and traumatised former child prodigies were challenged to play it publicly, entirely by sight-reading? Sarah-Jane Norman is joined by five other "post-virtuosic" pianists working in shifts to sight-read their way through this mammoth score in a gruelling 12-hour musical experiment.

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; where histories, narratives, desires and discourses converge and collapse. Sarah-Jane has presented her work at In Between Time Festival, Forest Fringe, and Performance Space, Sydney.

Assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Co-commissioned and produced by Fierce Festival and Next Wave. Supported by British Council Australia.

www.sarahjanenorman.com

Fierce Thoughts...

At Next Wave festival 2012, in Melbourne, I encountered Sarah Jane Norman's *Bone Library*. I am still the guardian of the word 'dhirrara', (meaning necklace), from that project. *Concerto No 3* is a new durational work that Fierce has co-commissioned with Next Wave. We are happy to be presenting it at Birmingham Conservatoire, examining the idea of the "post-virtuosic". This is a deceptively simple piece, a gesture that starts from a personal place and resonates widely.

— **Laura McDermott**



Photo: Ian Douglas

HEAVENS WHAT HAVE I DONE

Miguel Gutierrez (US)

DATE

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER, 7PM (DURATION 55 MINS)

PRICE

£12/£8

VENUE

DANCEXCHANGE, CITY CENTRE

**** UK Premiere ****

Provocative New York choreographer Gutierrez makes works that translate the experiential nature of performing into a sensory experience for the audience. In this solo a rambling and comic monologue unspools into a bold and ferocious dance. Set to music sung by renowned soprano Cecilia Bartoli, *HEAVENS WHAT HAVE I DONE* pulls the audience through the costuming and preparations for the artist's piece, while addressing the high stakes of artistic practice. From ruminations on teaching and travel to the hypocrisies of an unstable world, Gutierrez reveals dreams and desires of a far more personal and turbulent nature.

Miguel Gutierrez has performed extensively across the world at a range of festivals and venues notably The Whitney Museum of American Art, American Realness, Festival D'Automne, Pompidou Centre, ImPulsTanz, Walker Art Center, MCA Chicago, PICA's TBA Festival, the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

HEAVENS WHAT HAVE I DONE was first performed for the Queer Conscience Festival at CPR – Center for Performance Research and was made possible with support from Foundation for Contemporary Art.

www.miguelgutierrez.org

Fierce Thoughts...

Miguel Gutierrez is an artist we'd first heard of through our fellow programmer Benjamin Pryor, director of American Realness.

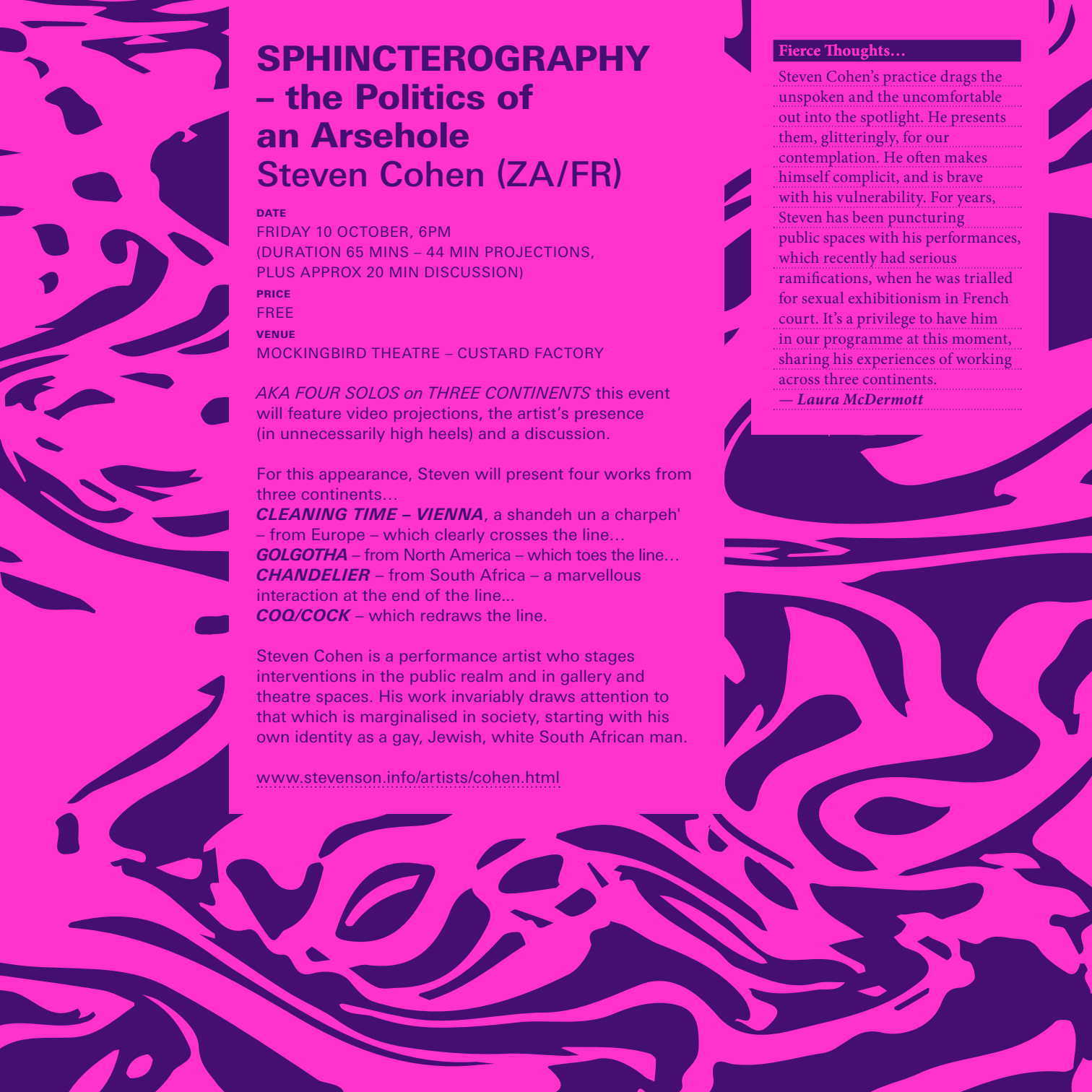
I first saw the show at Gothenburg Dance & Theatre Festival. I was caught off guard by how funny it was. Humour and contemporary dance are too often strangers.

Look out for *Deep Aerobics* too if you ever get the opportunity!

— *Harun Morrison*



Photo: Marc Langlois



SPHINCTEROGRAPHY – the Politics of an Arsehole Steven Cohen (ZA/FR)

DATE

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER, 6PM
(DURATION 65 MINS – 44 MIN PROJECTIONS,
PLUS APPROX 20 MIN DISCUSSION)

PRICE

FREE

VENUE

MOCKINGBIRD THEATRE – CUSTARD FACTORY

AKA FOUR SOLOS on THREE CONTINENTS this event will feature video projections, the artist's presence (in unnecessarily high heels) and a discussion.

For this appearance, Steven will present four works from three continents...

CLEANING TIME – VIENNA, a shandeh un a charpeh' – from Europe – which clearly crosses the line...

GOLGOTHA – from North America – which toes the line...

CHANDELIER – from South Africa – a marvellous interaction at the end of the line...

COQ/COCK – which redraws the line.

Steven Cohen is a performance artist who stages interventions in the public realm and in gallery and theatre spaces. His work invariably draws attention to that which is marginalised in society, starting with his own identity as a gay, Jewish, white South African man.

www.stevenson.info/artists/cohen.html

Fierce Thoughts...

Steven Cohen's practice drags the unspoken and the uncomfortable out into the spotlight. He presents them, glitteringly, for our contemplation. He often makes himself complicit, and is brave with his vulnerability. For years, Steven has been puncturing public spaces with his performances, which recently had serious ramifications, when he was trialled for sexual exhibitionism in French court. It's a privilege to have him in our programme at this moment, sharing his experiences of working across three continents.

— **Laura McDermott**



Photo: Ian Douglas

Yellow Towel

Dana Michel (CA)

DATE

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER, 8PM (DURATION 75 MINS)

PRICE

£12/£8

VENUE

DANCEXCHANGE, CITY CENTRE

** UK Premiere **

As a child, Dana Michel would drape a yellow towel on her head so she would resemble the blonde girls at her school. As an adult, she revisits the imaginary world of her other self in a ritual performance without cover-ups or censorship. With a blend of gravity and buffoonery she digs into the stereotypes of black culture, turning them upside down to see what is revealed. From these deep memories a strange creature slowly emerges, and it adjusts to its surroundings in a slow and disconcerting metamorphosis that the audience follows with fascination. Initially attracted by the aesthetics of fashion, video clips, queer culture and comedy, Montreal based Dana Michel has rapidly made her mark as an innovative dance artist.

Lighting design: Karine Gauthier. Production: Marie-Andrée Gougeon for Daniel Léveillé danse. Co-produced by Festival TransAmériques + Studio 303 + M.A.I. With the support of Conseil des Arts et des Lettres de Quebec + Canada Council for the Arts. Administrative support from Daniel Léveillé danse company (Montreal) as part of his touring sponsorship project – www.danielleveilledanse.org

www.danielleveilledanse.org/en/pages/dana-michel

Fierce Thoughts...

Yellow Towel instantly stood out amongst Ben Pryor's *American Realness* programme in New York earlier this year. Dana embodies the cultural clichés associated with being black in a series of personae, a 'cultural drag'. She wears and warps these stereotypes, until they evolve into an alternative imagery – strange, slippery and brilliantly distinctive.

— **Laura McDermott**



Photo: Niall Walker

Dancer

Ian Johnston & Gary Gardiner (UK)

DATE

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER, 8PM (DURATION 60 MINS)

PRICE

£12/£8

VENUE

MAC BIRMINGHAM (BSL INTERPRETED)

Dancer is a performance created by Ian Johnston, Gary Gardiner and Adrian Howells. *Dancer* is a gentle provocation on what it is to be a 'dancer'. Ian and Gary both love to dance in public. Neither are trained dancers. *Dancer* asks questions about visibility, opportunity and experiences; as well as sharing a few of Ian & Gary's dances, to songs by Kylie Minogue, Lady Gaga and Nick Cave.

Ian Johnston is a dancer, actor and performer, who over the last few years has held a number of leading roles in contemporary performances presented by Sense Scotland, as well as collaborating with organisations such as Dance Ihayami, Artform and Indepen-Dance.

Gary Gardiner is a performer, director, producer and creative learning practitioner. He is the Artistic Director of 21 Century Challenges which pioneers arts education practice and contemporary performance work.

Adrian Howells was a collaborator on *Dancer* and passed away in March 2014. He was a performance-maker creating work that often promoted intimacy, vulnerability, mutual nurturing and genuine exchange with an audience.

Developed with the support of The Arches and Sense Scotland. Supported by Creative Scotland and Unlimited, celebrating the work of disabled artists. Producer: Lucy Gaizely

www.21centurychallenges.co.uk

Fierce Thoughts...

Fierce is really proud to be an Unlimited Ally organisation this year and it was through this partnership that we discovered Ian and Gary's work – both artists who are new to us. *Dancer* wears its politics with a cheeky wink and a sense of fun, trademarks of Adrian Howells, who worked on the early development of this piece. Adrian was a friend of Fierce and a dear friend and mentor to many working in performance. He died this year, and he is remembered fondly, with deep respect, and love.
— Laura McDermott



Illustration: Sherwin Sullivan/Tjia

Fierce Slowdance Sherwin Sullivan Tjia (CA)

DATE

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER, 9PM-LATE

PRICE

£10, INCLUDES YOUR DANCECARD-BOOKLET!

VENUE

POLISH CENTRE, DIGBETH

(Queer) *Slowdance Nights* are conceived and hosted by Sherwin Sullivan Tjia. The nights run regularly in Montreal and Toronto. With a lending library of designated dancers for all you wallflowers, and a dancecard-booklet to set up dances in advance (should you choose to), a Slowdance Night has all slow songs, all night long, except for the occasional intermission when we play the fastest songs we can find!

It's high school with a happy ending. Come and experience why slow is beautiful, and why love is not ironic.

PS. Fabulous and inspired attire, while desired, is not required. But would be AWESOME & HAWT. Finally, you do not have to be queer to attend this party, but you must have an open mind, an open heart, and have open arms.

Fierce Thoughts...

When visiting Montreal in the red and yellow 'fall' (invited by Studio 303), I came across a book of haiku. The book was called *The World is a Heartbreaker*. This was my introduction to the world of Sherwin Sullivan Tjia and I fell for it instantly. A bittersweet world, full of wry humour. Days later I met Sherwin in Café Olimpico over coffee, to chat about bringing him and his Slowdance event to the UK.

— **Laura McDermott**

Residencies/Workshops

Madlove – A Designer Asylum Workshop the vacuum cleaner & Hannah Hull

PARTICIPATION BY INVITATION –
PLEASE EMAIL: CONTACT@WEAREFIERCE.ORG
IF INTERESTED IN ATTENDING

It begins with a question. 'If you could design your own asylum what would it be like?'

This *Madlove* workshop invites those with and without mental illness to reconsider how mental health is treated. The final aim is to build the most crazy, bonkers, mental asylum we dare dream of: a desirable and playful space to 'go mad'.

Find out more about the project: www.madlove.org.uk

the vacuum cleaner is an art and activism collective of one. He employs various creative legal and illegal tactics to mock, brandalise and disrupt concentrations of power. His work has been exhibited throughout the UK, including commissions from Tate Modern, ICA and the Liverpool Biennial as well as for BBC4, Channel 4 and Arte.

www.thevacuumcleaner.co.uk

Hannah Hull is a situation-specific artist, creating social sculpture and political interventions. She is interested in empowering individuals to creatively and critically intervene with their world.

www.hannahhull.co.uk

the vacuum cleaner is an Artsadmin Associate Artist. Madlove Research and Development is supported by Unlimited.



Photo: the vacuum cleaner

Cyborg Day

The Cyborg Foundation (ES)

DATE

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER, 6.30PM (DURATION APPROX 2HRS)

PRICE

£15/£12

VENUE

MILLENNIUM POINT, DIGBETH

A cyborg (short for "cybernetic organism") is a being with both organic and cybernetic parts. The Cyborg Foundation was created in 2010 by cyborg activist Neil Harbisson and choreographer Moon Ribas. The foundation was first housed in Tecnocampus Mataro and is currently based in New York.

Harbisson was born with achromatopsia and can only see in black and white. In 2003, he took part in the development of the eyeborg, a cybernetic eye permanently attached to his head that allows him to hear the frequencies of colours through bone conduction.

Moon is a choreographer and has been experimenting with different cybernetics devices that allow her to perceive movement in a deeper way. Her new research consists on an explant that enables her to perceive global earthquake tremors.

The day's programme will feature an AV set from Neil Harbisson and the dance work 'Waiting For Earthquakes' by Moon Ribas. These performances will be complemented by a series of short films and talks curated by Sam Groves (Flatpack/Kino 10).

Supported by Millennium Point and Arts Council England.

Fierce Thoughts...

We've known Moon and Neil for years, since they graduated from Dartington. Over the last decade, now operating as The Cyborg Foundation, they have spearheaded an art movement that extends human potential by enhancing senses. They question what is 'natural', as many of the cybernetic interventions they create might bring the wearer closer to nature – to the perception of an insect, or a heightened awareness of the movements of tectonic plates.

— **Laura McDermott**



FIERCE FWD

Fierce FWD (www.fiercefwd.org) is an artist development programme conceived and produced by Fierce Festival supported by Arts Council England and the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. The programme is for emerging artists living and working in the West Midlands. The artists on this page have been recipients of a bursary and mentoring support to develop works for Fierce 2014. You can find full details about their festival works in the programme section of www.wearefierce.org.

Selina Thompson

Selina Thompson is an artist and performer. Her work is playful, participatory and intimate; focused on the politics of identity, and how this defines our bodies, lives and environments. She is currently in the middle of developing a new project about job centres, and the psychological impact of unemployment.

www.selinathompson.wordpress.com

Emily Mulenga

Currently working with video, Emily looks at ideas around constructed personae. She does so via use of her own image to question the borders of virtual and actual. Surrounded by disorder and parody, Emily explores the nature of contemporary forms of consumption within multi-layered, fragmented scenarios.

www.emilymulenga.wix.com/artist

Unit Thirteen

Sophie Bullock and Anna Horton make up Unit Thirteen. Their work mixes digital technology with physical objects and actions in the form of interactive installations. They are influenced by the development of readily available, and universally accessible technology. They utilise lo-tech digital tools and analogue processes to encourage audiences to activate the work.

Unit Thirteen are currently working on installations that invite audiences to adapt their responsive environments through movement, sound and touch.

www.unitthirteen.co.uk

Demi Nandhra

Demi Nandhra is an artist and performer based in Birmingham. Her work takes an interdisciplinary approach, crossing between performance, installation, film and text. Her current body of work is concerned with politics of identity and gender, construction of the other, and the subaltern discourse. Demi has pulled her mom into a project entitled *Other* in the hope of exploring the romanticism of heritage, cultural displacement and the contemporary Indian feminist quest.

www.deminandhra.com

Residencies/Workshops

Madlove – A Designer Asylum Workshop the vacuum cleaner & Hannah Hull

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IF INTERESTED IN ATTENDING

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Photo: the vacuum cleaner

Photo: Martin Schick

I prefer not to

RADICAL LIVING: 1 Martin Schick

SEE FIERCE WEBSITE FOR SHARING DETAILS


RADICAL LIVING is the initiation of a long-running series of first-hand investigations on alternative thinking and acting, performed by Swiss artist Martin Schick. It is an attempt to extend and radicalize the performative, to get rid of the representational position and the pressure to produce, to be produced and to become a product. Starting with Henry David Thoreau and Bartleby's *I prefer not to* the artist in 'resistance' intends to debate his personal way of working within the logic of contemporary art production, inviting the public to participate and co-debate. By applying "different, rather funny and weird" methods and strategies Martin challenges the 'common', aiming for the unexpected and the surprising.

After the full series of residencies (1–7), containing a diversity of approaches towards the idea of the 'radical', the developed material will be collected and enclosed in a bunker in the Swiss mountains, waiting to be captured by some brave audience members who make the journey.

Supported by the European network WEB, in cooperation with Fierce Festival Birmingham, Gessnerallee Zürich, Frascati Amsterdam and Theaterhaus BRUT Wien.

www.martinschick.com





Double Exposures Book Launch Manuel Vason & collaborators

DATE

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER, 4–5.30PM

PRICE

FREE, BOOK AT WWW.IKON-GALLERY.ORG
OR CALL IKON ON 0121 248 0708

VENUE

IKON GALLERY

Ikon hosts the launch of *Double Exposures*, a new collaborative venture between Manuel Vason and some of the most visually arresting artists working with performance in the UK. Including forty collaborations, *Double Exposures* sets out new ways of bridging performance and photography.

For *Double Exposures*, Vason has worked with two groups of artists to produce a series of double images. Artists who had previously worked with Vason were invited to create two images, one of their own practice and another, where they took on the role of the photographer, shaping an image with Vason's body. A second group of new collaborators were invited to create a performance, which could be captured in two photographs. All the images exist as doubles – pairs – diptychs.

For the Birmingham book launch Vason will be in conversation with Debbie Kermodé, Ikon Deputy Director, and the event includes a book signing.

www.double-exposures.com

Elsewhere in Birmingham during Fierce

Grand Union

Larger than Life

Marcia Farquhar

Thurs, Sat, 5 Sept – 7 Nov, 12–5pm

Larger than Life is the first solo exhibition by Marcia Farquhar comprising performance, moving image and sculpture. This new body of work fuses a personal narrative with rumours of local giantess Ginny Bunford to explore size shifts in physical and psychological states.

Marcia will be in residence at Grand Union during Fierce Festival.

www.grand-union.org.uk

Ort

KANAVAL: Vodou, politics and revolution on the streets of Haiti

Leah Gordon

10 Sept – 25 Oct

Artist Talk with Leah Gordon: 8th October

Leah Gordon's photographs document the pre-Lenten Mardi Gras Festivities in Jacmel, a coastal town in Southern Haiti. Her images document troupes of 'performers' acting out mythological and political tales in a whorish theatre of the absurd that course the streets unshackled by traditional parade.

www.ortgallery.co.uk

Ikon

Lee Bul

Tue–Sun, 10 Sept – 9 Nov, 11am–6pm

Ikon presents the first UK solo exhibition of works by Korean artist Lee Bul. This survey of early drawings, studies, sculptural pieces and ambitious installations showcases the visually compelling and intellectually sharp works which have established Lee Bul as one of the most important artists of her generation.

www.ikon-gallery.org.uk

Eastside Projects

Broken Ensemble

Susan Philipsz

Wed–Sat, 20 Sept – 6 Dec, 12–5pm

New installation by Susan Philipsz, 2010 Turner Prize winner. The Berlin based artist creates an acoustic environment related to the particularities of Eastside Projects' 1918 industrial building, testing the sounds of brass musical instruments damaged in World War I.

Old Hill Uprising

Rafal Zar

Wed–Sat, 20 Sept – 6 Dec, 12–5pm

An exhibition of extraordinary new paintings by Sandwell based Polish artist Rafal Zar, awarded the 2014 ESP Members Open Show. Zar's paintings depict dehumanized symbols of a melancholic, nostalgic, sentimental darkness, and objects and acts to fight against the unrelenting emptiness.

www.eastsideprojects.org

mac Birmingham

The last known pose

Qasim Riza Shaheen

Tues–Sun, 20 Sept – 30 Nov, 11am–6pm

Together with Manchester's Cornerhouse, mac birmingham is delighted to present this unique exhibition of the work of artist and writer Qasim Riza Shaheen. The exhibition explores Qasim's persisting interest in the city, identity, relationships and those often fleeting moments of intimacy and awkwardness.

www.macbirmingham.co.uk

Edible Eastside

Fri 2 Oct & Fri 8 Oct, 7–11pm

Edible Eastside – the inspiring, beautiful urban allotment in Digbeth, is opening a pop up restaurant and bar during the Festival. They will be serving dinner for two nights only in the enigmatic canal keepers house on the Grand Union canal. The menu is inspired by Digbeth, grown in their garden and served with their usual eccentric bonhomie. Menu highlights include botanical inspired tapas, deep fried flowers, pizzas from the earth oven and The Digbeth Pie.

www.edibleeastside.net

A3 Project Space

Delineator

2–4 Oct

A3 Associate Curator, Cathy Wade will launch a publication designed in collaboration with Keith Dodds. With contributions from invited artists and writers, drawing from a disparate range of sources, Delineator explores the effects of passing through physical, digital and geographical markers and borders through a layered publication.

www.a3projectspace.org

VIVID Projects

A Record of Undying

Thurs–Sat, 3 Oct – 15 Nov, 12–5pm

Launch Event: 3 Oct, 7pm

A solo exhibition of moving image and installation works from 1980–2014 by George Saxon & D. John Briscoe (1949–2013).

www.vividprojects.org.uk

PEA, CENTRALA

Justyna Scheuring

Fri 3 Oct, 8 pm

Polish Expats Association and Fierce have hosted Polish born, London based artist, Justyna Scheuring over a series of research visits to Birmingham. This will culminate in a specially made work, to be performed during Fierce Festival. See Fierce & PEA websites for latest details.

Supported by The Polish Cultural Institute

www.polishexpats.org.uk
www.justynascheuring.com

Flatpack Festival

Dots And Loops

Wed 8 Oct, 7.30pm

Alfie Birds, The Custard Factory, £4

Flatpack returns to its roots for the first in a series of occasional Digbeth film nights. Expect brilliant animation near and far, old and new, and bring your own boat to join our flotilla.

www.flatpackfilmfestival.org.uk

Team Fierce

Joint Artistic Directors

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The Finder of all Street Addresses

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National Press and PR

Anna Goodman at Abstrakt

Regional Press and PR

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Graphic Design & Identity

Julie Kim & Jonathan Rabagliati

Additional Graphic Design

Cody Lee Barbour

Graphic Patterns

Josef Musil

Fierce Website

An Endless Supply

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About Graphic Patterns

Architect and computational designer Joseph Musil takes us on a fluid journey. Through the pages of this brochure; waves, eddies, and torrents gush, ripple and swirl through the spreads. Flow fluctuates as currents swell and abate. Calm is punctuated by dangerous intensities. The graphic patterns, generated from the pool of artist images which become distorted, disturbed and refracted, dare us to dive into each performance.

Funders



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"It's all allowed."
— Adrian Howells (1962–2014)

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