

**MANCHESTER TO BE CAPTIONED BY ARTIST**

**CHRISTINE SUN KIM FOR MIF21**

Artist Christine Sun Kim will create a series of installations that will caption the city of Manchester as part of this year’s Manchester International Festival (1-18 July 2021).

Captions, usually used to convey text on screens, will be installed throughout the city, from streets and buildings to a plane with a banner caption that will fly over Manchester. Some of the captions are descriptive, depicting the world that surrounds us, while others are more poetic, inviting audiences to ask what they perceive and understand about their surroundings. Playful, powerful and political, *Captioning the City* invites audiences to consider what makes up the essence of a city, and to experience the world in a new dimension.

Captions to be installed across Manchester include:

* *[the sound of searching for seating]* on the main façade at Selfridges
* *[the sound of colour coordinating]* at Selfridges
* *[the sound of patting yourself on the back for being on time]* at Piccadilly Station
* *[the sound of perfecting hand movements]* at Bridgewater Hall
* *[the sound of architecture trying to fit in with history]* at The Edwardian Manchester
* *[the sound of agreeing to never call it soccer]* at the National Football Museum
* *[the sound of plants wondering about right angles]* at Circle Square

Christine Sun Kim said:

*“I am pretty obsessed with sound captions I see on screen. I saw how much they have evolved in the last 30 years; from no sound caption to (music) to (mournful flute music). The captions are generally available for the viewers to access dialogues. In 2020, the UK's Office of Communications shared the data that 18% of the viewers regularly watch with closed captioning, but only 20% of those were deaf and hard of hearing. This indicates that captions are no longer strictly about accessibility and I have found that they can be used as a medium in my practice. I'm excited about Captioning the City because the captions will become physical, as if they jumped off the screen into the city. I want people to consider that sound captions shouldn't be limited to sonic properties only, but also things, emotions, times, thoughts.”*

Christine Sun Kim is a US-born, Berlin-based artist whose work considers how sound operates in society. Her practice uses everything from written text and musical notations to American Sign Language to explore her relationship to sound, verbal language and the wider environment.

A free downloadable map of all *Captioning the City* locations will be available on Thursday 1 July.

**Listings information:**

Date: 1-18 July 2021

City-wide locations

Free

Commissioned and produced by Manchester International Festival and premiering at MIF21, which runs from 1–18 July 2021.

For more details about this year’s programme, please visit [mif.co.uk](https://mif.co.uk)

**ENDS**

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Download high resolution images [here](https://press.mif.co.uk/)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Christine Sun Kim**

Christine Sun Kim is an American artist based in Berlin. Working predominantly in drawing, performance, and video, Kim's practice considers how sound operates in society, deconstructing the politics of sound, and exploring oral languages as social currency. Musical notation, written language, American Sign Language (ASL), and the use of the body are all recurring elements in her work. She further uses sound to explore her own relationship to verbal languages and her environment. Selected exhibitions and performances have been held at: MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge (solo); Ghebaly, Los Angeles (solo); White Space, Beijing (solo); Carroll/Fletcher, London (solo); De Appel, Amsterdam (solo); Serralves Museum, Porto; Sound Live Tokyo; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Berlin and Shanghai Biennials; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1, New York. She is represented byFrançois Ghebaly Gallery in Los Angeles and White Space Beijing in Beijing.

**About Manchester International Festival**

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is an artist-led festival of original, new work and special events reflecting the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. MIF21 takes place from 1 - 18 July 2021.

Staged every two years in Manchester, MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including Marina Abramović, Damon Albarn, Laurie Anderson, Björk, Boris Charmatz, Jeremy Deller, Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, Elbow, Philip Glass and Phelim McDermott, David Lynch, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Yoko Ono, Thomas Ostermeier, Maxine Peake, Punchdrunk, Skepta, The xx, Robert Wilson and Zaha Hadid Architects.

These and other world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work, staged in venues across Greater Manchester – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks. MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations globally, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of these projects possible and ensures that work made at MIF goes on to be seen around the world.

MIF supports a year-round Creative Engagement programme, bringing opportunities for people from all backgrounds, ages and from all corners of the city to get involved during the Festival and year-round, as volunteers, as participants in shows, through skills development and a host of creative activities, such as Festival in My House.

MIF will also run The Factory, the new landmark cultural space currently being built in the heart of Manchester and designed by the internationally-renowned architect Ellen van Loon of Rem Koolhaas’ OMA. The Factory will commission, present and produce one of Europe’s most ambitious and adventurous year-round creative programmes, featuring bold new work from the world’s greatest artists and offering a space to create, invent and play.

Attracting up to 850,000 visitors annually, The Factory will add up to £1.1 billion to the economy over a decade and create up to 1,500 direct and indirect jobs. Its pioneering programme of skills, training and engagement will benefit local people and the next generation of creative talent from across the city, whilst apprenticeships and trainee schemes are already underway during the construction phase.

MIF’s Artistic Director and Chief Executive is John McGrath.

[mif.co.uk](https://mif.co.uk)