

**UNVEILING OF TURNER PRIZE WINNER’S NEW WORK**

**EXPLORING THE LONG-LOST VOICES OF MANCHESTER’S JEWISH COMMUNITY**

Turner Prize-winning artist Laure Prouvost will unveil a major new work that will transform The Ladies' Gallery in the historic synagogue of the Manchester Jewish Museum. *The long waited, weighted, gathering*, co-commissioned by Manchester International Festival and the newly renovated Manchester Jewish Museum, will premiere at MIF21 on 2 July 2021.

The immersive installation will consist of a new film, shot inside the gallery and in the surrounding Cheetham Hill area, inspired by the museum’s history as a former Spanish and Portuguese synagogue. Laure Prouvost has explored the museum’s extensive collection to discover the stories behind past congregants of the synagogue, unearthing the largely untold stories of the women who once found comfort and community within its walls.

Prouvost’s films are often accompanied by objects which evoke its themes and imagery. For this work, materials that have been created while working with the Museum’s resident Women’s Textiles Group will be incorporated within the installation alongside the new film, capturing the voices of modern women in the local community together with those of the women who once gathered in the synagogue’s Ladies' Gallery.

The installation will feature as a major part of the reopening of the newly redeveloped Manchester Jewish Museum on 2 July, following a two-year £6 million Capital Development project, partly funded by a £2.89m National Heritage Lottery Fund grant. As well as the restoration of its 1874 Spanish and Portuguese synagogue, the new museum will include a new gallery, café, shop and learning studio, and kitchen where schools and community groups can develop a greater understanding of the Jewish way of life.

The museum houses over 31,000 items in its collection, many of which will go on display for the first time in the new museum, sharing stories of Jewish Manchester by exploring universal themes of migration, communities and identities.

Laure Prouvost said:

*“I can relate to migrating from places to places, all the travels, arriving in a place you don't know... I always need some time to melt in. I created a space with naked birds to be free, to belong to it all, to the beautiful textures and architecture, to the history of this amazing place. I was inspired by the ideas of ceremonies and rituals that we bring from histories.”*

Manchester International Festival Artistic Director & Chief Executive, **John McGrath** said:

*"MIF are delighted to partner with Manchester Jewish Museum to co-commission a new installation by Laure Prouvost for this year's Festival. Her immersive films both explore and challenge our perceptions of the past, and through this powerful work the forgotten stories of Manchester's Jewish people will fill this symbolic space, alongside those of today’s Jewish community.”*

Max Dunbar, Chief Executive of Manchester Jewish Museum said:

*“We’re thrilled to be working with Manchester International Festival and Turner prize-winning artist Laure Prouvost as we re-open our new museum this summer. Artistic collaborations such as this allow us to explore and share Jewish stories in new and imaginative ways, making our collection more relevant and helping us connect closer to our diverse audiences. We can’t wait to welcome everyone through our doors to experience Laure’s installation and see our stunning new building.”*

Co-commissioned by Manchester International Festival and Manchester Jewish Museum the project will premiere at MIF21 and then run until 3 October 2021.

MIF21 runs from 1–18 July 2021.

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

**Listing’s information:**

***The long waited, weighted, gathering***

Date: 2 July to 3 October 2021

Manchester Jewish Museum

190 Cheetham Hill Road

Manchester

M8 8LW

Advance booking only

Price: £6 museum admission; £5 concession; £4 under 16s (babes in arms free)

Family ticket: £4.50 per person (4-6 people, maximum 2 adults)
Personal Assistant ticket: free (must be booked with concession ticket)

The Museum is open 7 days a week, 10am-5pm, last entry 4pm, apart from Thursdays when it will be open until 10pm, last entry at 8.30pm.

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

**ENDS**

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

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Laure Prouvost** (b. 1867, Lieumeconu, France) Lives and works.

Here a long list of museums and institutions. A line, interesting things, a coma, a line, a list of residencies and prizes. A selection of solo projects including: a Swallowing and Breathing in Eindhoven, a Smoking Mother in Copenhagen, a Melting Into Another in Lisbon, an Occupied Paradise in Aalst, Deep See Blue Surrounding You in Venice, Toulouse and Lille; a Waiting Room with objects in Minneapolis, a New Museum for Grand dad in Milano, A tearoom for grand ma in Derry, a karaoke room in Brussels, a new octopus ink vodka bar for Gregor in Rotterdam, A travel agency for an Uncle in Frankfurt, a lobby for love among the artists in the Hague and Luzern...  tea bags, and wet floors and tentaculees.

**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/)

**About Manchester Jewish Museum**

Manchester Jewish Museum first opened in 1984 and was originally housed in a Grade II\* listed (former) synagogue in Cheetham Hill, one of the most diverse areas in Manchester.

In 2017 Manchester Jewish Museum received a £2.89m National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant. This money has supported an ambitious £6m development project that sees the museum, housed inside a former synagogue, double in size, with a new gallery, learning studio, shop and café built in an extension alongside the existing historic building. The 1874 synagogue, meanwhile, has been repaired and had its original decorative features restored.

Manchester Jewish Museum is common ground; a hospitable place that makes connections by showing and sharing universal experiences through the stories of one culture. They are a place to experience and explore how we are different, together. They connect Jewish stories to the world and to our society to explore both our differences and similarities, and to celebrate that which makes people unique and that which connects us all. They make connections to make things better.

[manchesterjewishmuseum.com](https://www.manchesterjewishmuseum.com/)