

**TRACEY EMIN, INUA ELLAMS, ADONIS AND LUBAINA HIMID AMONG 25 ARTISTS CREATING NEW WORK FOR *POET SLASH ARTIST*** **EXHIBITION ACROSS MANCHESTER**

**CURATED BY HANS ULRICH OBRIST**

**AND LEMN SISSAY**

*Poet Slash Artist* is an exhibition of poets who interact with visual arts and visual artists who connect through poetry, co-curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Lemn Sissay. The exhibition unites voices, languages and cultures from around the world and features work by 25 poet-slash-artists including Tracey Emin, Inua Ellams, Imtiaz Dharker, Precious Okoyomon, Jota Mombaça, Adonis, Lubaina Himid and Xu Bing. It is part of this year’s Manchester International Festival and takes place at HOME’s Gallery and Tony Wilson Square from **2 July – 30 August 2021**.

Each poet/artist has created new work that brings together their visual art and poetry practice. These works will be installed in public spaces across Manchester as part of the Festival (1-18 July).

The full list of poet/artists presenting work are: Etel Adnan, Adonis, Jay Bernard, Anne Boyer, Julien Creuzet, Imtiaz Dharker, Jimmie Durham, Inua Ellams, Ibrahim El-Salahi, Tracey Emin, Renee Gladman, Vivienne Griffin, Lubaina Himid, Sky Hopinka, Isaiah Hull, Tarek Lakhrissi, Lebogang Mashifane, Friederike Mayröcker, Jota Mombaça, Precious Okoyomon, Heather Phillipson, Tiffany Sia, Cecilia Vicuña, Xu Bing, Gozo Yoshimasu.

Hans Ulrich Obrist and Lemn Sissay said:

*“Over the past year we have researched artists who work with poetry and poets who work in art. They bring art and poetry together in a time when we need new forms of togetherness in this world, we invite the visitors of MIF to enter their worlds. As Etel Adnan says, ‘The world needs togetherness, not separation. Love not suspicion. A common future, not isolation.’ The 25 Poet slash Artists are luminous angels.  Manchester is the magnetic force to draw these talents to this unique exhibition where the city itself becomes the gallery. The city of angles and angels.”*

Cerys Matthews will curate *CATCH A FIRE: a celebration of music, stories, lyrics and poetry* inspired by the *Poet Slash Artist* exhibition, which takes place at Homeground, HOME’s open-air stage, on Friday 2 July.

The day will start with readings and workshops aimed at local primary school children followed by an evening of live performance by musicians, singers and spoken word artists. Performers include Dele Sosimi’s Afrobeat Experience, Gary Crosby’s Jazz Jamaica featuring Zara McFarlane, Anthony Anaxagorou, Adam Horovitz, Murray Lachlan Young, Imtiaz Dharker, Inua Ellams, and Young Identity poets Nasima Bee, P.A. Bitez, Jova Guayaba and Isaiah Hull. The programme will also include guest appearances from artist/poets presenting work in *Poet Slash Artist.* The eventwill be hosted by Jeffrey Boakye.

Cerys Matthews said:

*“From children’s books to Afro Beat, from the beat poets of the 60s to the writers of today, we'll travel pan-world through music and words, and across time and genre, for an open armed, joy filled celebration of literature and sound.”*

A film season at HOME will feature work by artists who overlap between the worlds of poetry and visual art. Manchester is UNESCO City of Literature and home to the Manchester Poetry Library and two poet laureates, apposite for *Poet Slash Artist*.

*Poet Slash Artist* is dedicated to the memory of Friederike Mayröcker.

**Listings Information**

Outdoor posters across Manchester: 1-18 July 2021

Exhibition at HOME’s Gallery and Tony Wilson Square

2 July - 30 August 2021

HOME

2 Tony Wilson Place

Manchester

M15 4FN

Free

**ENDS**

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

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Hans Ulrich Obrist**

Hans Ulrich Obristb. 1968, Zürich, Switzerland) is Artistic Director of the Serpentine Galleries in London. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Since his first show ‘World Soup (The Kitchen Show)’ in 1991, he has curated more than 300 exhibitions, his recent shows include *IT'S URGENT* at LUMA Arles (2019-2021), and *Enzo Mari* at Triennale Milano (2020).

Obrist is a contributing editor to Artforum, AnOther Magazine, Cahiers D'Art, and 032C; he also writes columns for Das Magazin and Weltkunst. In 2011 he received the CCS Bard Award for Curatorial Excellence, and in 2015 he was awarded the International Folkwang Prize for his commitment to the arts.

**About Lemn Sissay**

Google the name “Lemn Sissay” and all the returning hits will be about him because there is only one Lemn Sissay in the world. Lemn Sissay is a BAFTA nominated award winning writer, international poet, performer playwright, artist and broadcaster. He has read on stage throughout the world: from The Library of Congress in The United States to The University of Addis Ababa, from Singapore to Sri Lanka, Bangalore to Dubai, from Bali to Greenland AND Wigan library.

He was awarded an OBE for services to literature and charity by The Queen of England. Along with Chimamanda Ngoze Adichie and Margaret Atwood he won a Pen Pinter Prize in 2019. He is Chancellor of The University of Manchester and an Honorary Doctor from The Universities of Huddersfield, Manchester, Kent and Brunei. He is Dr Dr Dr Dr Lemn Sissay. He was the first poet commissioned to write for the London Olympics and poet of the FA Cup.

**About Cerys Matthews**

Cerys Matthews is a musician, author and broadcaster.

She is an Academy Radio and Audio Production award-winning DJ on BBC Radio 2 and BBC 6 Music and also writes and presents television and radio documentaries, and is and frequent guest on BBC Radio 4 and Countryfile.

Cerys’ latest album ‘[We Come From the Sun’](https://cerysmatthews.lnk.to/WCFTSSo) was released in January 2021 on Decca in collaboration with Hidden Orchestra and 10 Poets.

Cerys is the author of:

[‘Where the Wild Cooks Go’](https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/305/305698/where-the-wild-cooks-go/9781846149610.html) - Penguin (cookbook with Spotify playlists)

['Tell Me The Truth About Life: 100 Poems that Matter'](https://www.mombooks.com/book/tell-me-the-truth-about-life/)- Michael O'Mara Books

[‘Hook, Line and Singer’](http://cerysmatthews.co.uk/books/) - Penguin (Sunday Times best-seller)

['Tales from the Deep - : the Lady of the Lake and Ghost Bells of the Lowlands'](http://cerysmatthews.co.uk/books/)- Gomer

['Gelert: Man's best friend'](http://cerysmatthews.co.uk/books/)- Gomer

Cerys has been honoured with an MBE, a St David Award for services to culture and received an honorary degree in music from Swansea University.

Cerys is Vice President for Shelter and the Hay Festival of Literature and the Arts, patron of the Dylan Thomas Society and Ballet Cymru and President of Gwalia Male Voice Choir, London.

**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/)