



Sam Ainsley | *Out of Redness Comes Kindness* mini retrospective at Leeds Arts University

Sam Ainsley: Out of Redness comes Kindness
27 January- 24 March 2023

Sam Ainsley | Out of Redness Comes Kindness is a mini retrospective exhibition including paintings, prints and mixed media pieces from the 1990s to the present, spanning the last 30 years of Ainsley's career.

Ainsley describes her work as a form of 'emotional mapping', navigating the intersection of the human body and the natural world with particular interest in geography/anatomy metaphors such as trees as lungs of the city, rivers as hair, boulders as bones. A collection of reoccurring imagery; maps, islands, human and botanical forms sit in a framework of grids, circles, and vivid bursts of red. Ainsley uses this visual language to explore themes relating to place, space, gender, and time. Applying a micro and macroscopic eye to the world allows Ainsley to make unexpected connections between diverse subjects and distinct inspirations, resulting in layers of vibrant metaphors.

Out of Redness Comes Kindness showcases this unique point of view. Although the majority of the works have been made in the last few years, this exhibition also draws on Ainsley's extensive back catalogue.

Ainsley, who studied her Foundation Diploma at Leeds Arts University, says of her time there: "*I can honestly say that my foundation year was a life changing experience. The importance of looking and drawing and curiosity about the world around us has stayed with me for life.*"

Dr Marianna Tsionki, University Curator at Leeds Arts University says of Ainsley's work: "*We are honoured to be presenting Sam Ainsley's work, a distinguished alumna of the foundation course at the Jacob Kramer College of Art, Leeds. Dr Sam Ainsley RSA is one of the leading academic artists working today, having founded, and led the MFA Fine Art programme at The Glasgow School of Art.*"

Out of Redness Comes Kindness runs from 27 January - 24 March 2023 on the ground and first floor of the Vernon Street building, Leeds Arts University, Leeds LS2 8PH. More information, including full opening hours can be found at www.leeds-art.ac.uk/out-of-redness-comes-kindness

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For images, interviews and further information:

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Press are invited to preview the exhibition on Thursday 26 January, 5-7pm, ground and first floor of Vernon Street building, Leeds Arts University, LS2 8PH. Please contact marketing@leeds-art.ac.uk if you would like to attend.

Listings information:

Sam Ainsley | Out of Redness Comes Kindness
27 January - 24 March 2023, Monday to Friday 10-4pm
Vernon Street, Leeds Arts University, LS2 8PH
www.leeds-art.ac.uk/out-of-redness-comes-kindness

Sam Ainsley is a practising artist and teacher based in Glasgow. She undertook a foundation course at the Jacob Kramer College of Art (now Leeds Arts University) before going on to complete undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Northumbria University and Edinburgh College of Art, respectively. Ainsley's teaching career began there but in 1982 she went on to teach at Glasgow School of Art. Teaching on the influential Environmental Art course (Art in context; Art outside the gallery) from 1985-1990. Following that, she was one of the founders of the Master of Fine Art course at Glasgow School of Art, one of the few 2-year MFA courses in the UK and became leader of that programme at GSA from 1991 to 2005. A significant number of shortlisted and Turner Prize winners have come out of these two programmes in Glasgow. She is an important spokesperson for the key role of the arts in Scotland and in 2016 was elected a Member of the Royal Scottish Academy.

Image:

Sam Ainsley, 'Making a Heart Like a Stone', 2018, Acrylic on canvas, 101.5cm x 101.5cm

Leeds Arts University

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status, making it the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

Leeds Arts University has been recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2019 and 2016, runner up in 2020), and was announced winner for Student Support in 2020. In 2021 Leeds Arts University appointed acclaimed musician Skin to the role of Chancellor.