



## Five artists explore notions of power in latest exhibition at Leeds Arts University

*The river never tires, but waits in patience for new and returning believers*  
13 October - 10 December 2022

*The river never tires, but waits in patience for new and returning believers* presents five creative projects that explore notions of power inviting spectators to engage through a multitude of media: painting, sculpture, installation, textile, video, sound and VR.

Presenting their research process via diverse creative narratives, the artists push forward and challenge conversations on processes of healing, ideas of vulnerability, permanence and reparation. Several of the artists' works present the juxtaposition of ideas and concepts to unpick and capture their own lived experiences, while other works utilize natural materials and photographic images, which are appropriated and then inserted into new narratives.

The exhibiting artists are all graduates from the University's longest running postgraduate degree, MA in Creative Practice, which offers a bespoke learning experience that encourages students to pursue an individual research interest.

**Hafifa Ahmed's *A Passing Journey*** is an installation comprising sculptures and prints, exploring trauma and healing through visual representations of the reparation process of the wounded heart.

For ***The Affirmation Cape***, **Ingrid Bale** worked with a group to collectively consider the impact that positive and negative words have on people's growth and emotional state throughout life. 'Power' or power or affirmation words collected from the participants were embroidered into a cloak sewn by the artist.

**Hana Lait's *Everything All of the Time*** refers to the artist's experience of post-traumatic stress disorder and the therapeutic healing experience of engaging with Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, investigating the viability of using technology to present performance works.

**Morticia's *A Story of the Past: Uncovering Hidden Histories*** is concerned with physical spaces and their ability to act as recording devices. Her methodology involves the use of a former cemetery where she is leaving photographic work for varying periods of time to allow elements from the surrounding environment leave their mark on it.

***An Exploration of Lasting Materiality*** is a research project by **Carol Sowden** that focuses on ideas of permanency through looking into ways that natural materials can communicate an indelible physical imprint. Fluid materials were brought together in a surface-based context and with minimum input from the artist were allowed to freely converge and resist.

The exhibition is the culmination of the UKRI-funded Building Research Culture project. The project supports the development of emerging researchers, the research environment within the University and the formulation of new narratives in artistic and curatorial knowledge production through collaborative working, and the sharing of expertise and models of research-practice.

[Type here]

**Professor Samantha Broadhead, Head of Research at Leeds Arts University said:**

*“The five Visiting Associate Researchers (VARs) are the first group of people to benefit from the Enhancing Research Culture fund awarded to the University from UK Research and Innovation in 2022. They are part of a project that aims to encourage and support novice practice-based researchers by introducing them to more established practitioners. By working together in a participatory manner, we hope to build a diverse and vibrant research community.*

*“The time, commitment and passion given not only by the VARs, but the artists, the University Curator and the Project Coordinator has been crucial to the project’s success. We are very excited to see this exhibition as it is an important outcome of everyone’s hard work and hope it inspires all those who visit it.”*

*The river never tires, but waits in patience for new and returning believers* runs from 13 October - 10 December 2022 at Blenheim Walk Gallery, Leeds Arts University, LS2 9AQ. More information, including full opening hours can be found at [www.leeds-art.ac.uk/the-river-never-tires](http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/the-river-never-tires)

**-ENDS-**

**For images, interviews and further information:**

Sophie Miller Wallace, PR and Communications Officer  
[sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk) 0113 202 8044 / 07442 828511

Klara Piechocki-Brown PR, and Communications Officer  
[klara.piechocki-brown@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:klara.piechocki-brown@leeds-art.ac.uk) 0113 202 8044 / 07879 414706

Press are invited to preview the exhibition on Wednesday 12 October, 5-7pm, Blenheim Walk Gallery. Please contact [marketing@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@leeds-art.ac.uk) if you would like to attend.

**Listings information:**

*The river never tires, but waits in patience for new and returning believers*  
13 October - 10 December 2022, Monday to Saturday 10-4pm  
Blenheim Walk Gallery, Leeds Arts University, LS2 9AQ  
[www.leeds-art.ac.uk/the-river-never-tires](http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/the-river-never-tires)

**Image:**

*Carol Sowden, Ice Form in Detritus, 2021*

**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.