

**NEWS RELEASE**

**LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL 2021 UNVEILS NEW OUTDOOR, SONIC AND DIGITAL COMMISSIONS ALONGSIDE BIENNIAL ONLINE PORTAL, AND ANNOUNCES EXTENDED OPENING DATES**

* Liverpool Biennial 2021 unveils new series of sculptures and installations across the city centre, featuring commissions by Larry Achiampong, Rashid Johnson, Linder, Jorgge Menna Barreto, and Teresa Solar
* Biennial Online Portal launches sonic and digital commissions by Ines Doujak, KeKeÇa and UBERMORGEN, together with free and evolving programme of events at [www.[liverpoolbiennial2021.com](https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/)](https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/)
* The opening dates of *The Stomach and the Port* have been extended from 20 March until 27 June 2021 and beyond
* Limited Edition prints by Jadé Fadojutimi and Teresa Solar are released for online sale
* For April, new commissions by Erick Beltrán, Luisa Ungar and Daniel Steegmann Mangrané are announced

Liverpool Biennial unveiled today the first ‘outside’ chapter of the 11th edition *The Stomach and the Port*, ahead of the public opening on 20 March, along with announcing an extension to the Biennial’s duration at most venues to 27 June 2021 and others to August and September.

To celebrate Liverpool’s iconic architecture and public spaces, a new series of outdoor sculptures and installations is now waiting be discovered at strategic sites across the city’s centre. Commissions include Rashid Johnson’s *Stacked Heads (2020)* at Canning Dock Quayside; Teresa Solar’s *Osteoclast (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark)* (2021)at Exchange Flags; Linder’s *Bower of Bliss* (2021) at Liverpool ONE and Jorgge Menna Barreto’s mural *Mauvais Alphabet* (2021) on the side of Bluecoat. Presiding over the city, Larry Achiampong’s *Pan African* *For the Relic Travellers’ Alliance* can be found across ten locations, including St. George’s Hall, St. John’s Gardens, Central Library, Exchange Flags, Liverpool Parish Church, Martin Luther King Jr. Building, Edmund Gardener Vessel, Cunard Building, St. Luke’s Church and Liverpool ONE.

Local residents can safely experience these inspiring new additions to the city’s landscape, while observing COVID-19 guidance, including social distancing at all times and wearing appropriate face coverings.

Online, 3 sonic and digital commissions are available to experience on the new Biennial Portal [www.[liverpoolbiennial2021.com](https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/)](https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/), comprising *Transmission: A series of five Podcasts on Disease and Pandemics in a Distorted World* (2021) by Ines Doujak, in collaboration with John Barker; *B3(TNSCAM) (2021),* a digital experiment in reimagining the future of curating in the light of Artificial Intelligence by artists UBERMORGEN, digital humanist Leonardo Impett and curator Joasia Krysa; and as part of the Learning Programme, a performative series of pre-recorded and live streamed workshops by KeKeÇa Body Percussion Ensemble which invite schools and wider audiences to participate, using their own bodies as percussive instruments.

The Biennial Online Portal underpins the physical festival, providing a dedicated platform to feature the practices of each of the artists taking part, along with a free and evolving public programme of events and learning resources.

The public programme *Processes of Fermentation* investigates the three curatorial entry points of the Biennial – Stomach, Porosity and Kinship - through an inspiring line-up of live performances and free events. These include the artist-hosted *Liquid Club* held each month to explore the sound listening and aural practices across the Biennial, featuring Larry Achiampong (18 March), Ayesha Hameed (15 April), Xaviera Simmons (20 May), and Daniel Steegmann Mangrané (17 June); the *Refracted Body,* aprogramme of 17 films curated by Margarida Mendes; *Art Against the World,* a 6-part podcast series co-produced with the University of Liverpool; along with a one-off panel discussion with BBC Radio 3’s Free Thinking (6 April). A range of artist talks, curatorial videos, artist-led discussions and workshops, to be announced in due course, will also contribute to the rich and engaging multimedia content, enabling audiences around the world to enjoy the Biennial remotely.

For families, schools and the wider community, the Biennial’s Learning Programme is available in the classroom and at home through a vibrant selection of online and physical resources, including artist-led workshops *The Stomach in the Studio* for young adults, featuring Erick Beltrán (21 April) and Teresa Solar (19 May), along with community-based workshops *The Stomach in the City,* featuring Stomach with Rule of Threes (7 April), Porosity with The Proud Trust (5 May) and Kinship with Phosphorous Theatre (2 June). Other highlights include the Kinship Activity Pack of things to do, make, learn and read for young children; and a set of online curriculum-based resources for teachers and educators*.* Bespoke activities have been devised with Liverpool charity Kinship Carers using the Feldenkrais Method of exercise, and with not-for-profit community arts company Rule of Threes, creating a pack of recipes, local produce and a food-focused Zine.

In celebration of the Biennial’s opening, new limited-edition prints by Liverpool Biennial 2021 artists Jadé Fadojutimi and Teresa Solar have been released for online sale. The proceeds from each sale directly supports the programming of Liverpool Biennial. The publication *The Stomach and the Port,* featuring essays by the artists and written narratives by Manuela Moscoso and Keyna Eleison, Co-Director of Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro, is available to buy online.

**New Commissions for April**

From 23 April, Liverpool Biennial 2021 will reveal 3 new commissions, including *Superposition* (2021) by Erick Beltrán, whose sound pieces and corresponding graphical drawings around his research into Latino American Cumbia music will be presented in a fleet of ComCab taxis travelling around Liverpool’s city centre. Beltrán sees the body move through ripples and rhythms as a way of reflecting on different forms of being and coming together beyond the conventional understanding of the individual.

Luisa Ungar offers members of the public a personal engagement with experts in clairvoyance through a series of weekly phone calls available on demand. Following the caller's inquiries, each conversation might offer constellations that connect to Liverpool’s history as a contact point for global trade, through the interpretation of various types of material. Inspired by reports of contagion, hygienisation and witch-hunting in the city *A Regurgitation is a Song is a Spell (Consultations to recreate the colonial disease)* (2021)is based on research of official records, rumour and historical gossip.

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané’s *La Pensée Férale (2*021) will be displayed at Crown Street Park, featuring a replica of a Pau Rei, a native tree of the Brazilian Mata Atlántica, embedded with the eye of an Indian pariah dog from Bangladesh, and surrounded by newly planted Fagus Purpurea Pendula trees. *La Pensée Férale rais*es questions about subjectivity as a cultural construction as well as our attitude towards the environment, reinforcing that nature is not without perception or feeling.

**Completing the Biennial Programme**

Later in the Spring, to align with Government guidelines, the second ‘inside’ chapter will launch the full festival of exhibitions and events hosted by key venues throughout Liverpool. In order to present the Biennial to the widest possible audience, exhibitions at the majority of partner venues have been extended until 27 June. Open Eye will remain open until 6 June and Tate Liverpool until 20 June. FACT continues until 29 August and Bluecoat until 5 September.

Manuela Moscoso, Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2021, said: “We are profoundly grateful to each of the 50 artists taking part in this year’s biennial for their support in such uncertain and changing times. Developed over several years, *The Stomach and the Port* hinges on two key ideas of exchange and connection, set against the maritime history of Liverpool. The first ‘outside’ chapter presents works that connect bodies and experiences to key places, past and present, speaking of the movement of humans across the sea and proposing new understandings of the relationships between the body and nature. With the opening of the second ‘inside’ chapter of exhibitions later in Spring, the Biennial in all its entirety will present a re-calibration of the senses and a catalyst for change and healing, following the universal shifts we have all experienced in this past year. “

Dr. Samantha Lackey, Interim Director, Liverpool Biennial, said: “We are delighted to be opening *The Stomach and the Port* on 20 March as the UK’s first major contemporary arts festival to emerge since lockdown. We are also hugely grateful to our partners and all the participating artists, for their support in enabling an extension of the Biennial into the summer, ensuring that as many people as possible will experience the full festival. In such challenging times, none of this would have been possible without the vision of our curator Manuela Moscoso, the work of our team, the participation of our artists and the support of the city of Liverpool and our funders.”

***The Stomach and the Port* (20 March to 27 June)**

*The Stomach and the Port* is curated by Manuela Moscoso and will showcase the work of 50 leading, and emerging, artists and collectives from 30 countries around the world, including 47 new commissions. Exploring concepts of the body, Liverpool Biennial draws on non-Western thinking where the body is seen as fluid, being continuously shaped by, and actively shaping its environment. The port city of Liverpool, and its maritime history as a point of global contact and circulation, provides the perfect ecosystem for this Biennial to imagine different forms of being human and explore what bodies have the potential to be.

The artists’ practices will be gathered under 3 entry points – Stomach, Porosity and Kinship – to present different ways of thinking about and linking the artworks across the Biennial. The stomach is the bodily organ through which we engage with and digest the world; porosity is the ability of the skin to absorb or allow things to pass through; and kinship revisits the bonds and relationships which connect us to our families, the community and beyond, to include the wider world of nature and technology.

**Artists Participating in the Liverpool Biennial 2021:**

Larry Achiampong, Black Obsidian Sound System, Erick Beltrán, Diego Bianchi, Alice Channer, Judy Chicago, Ithell Colquhuoun, Christopher Cozier, Yael Davids, Ines Doujak & John Barker, Dr. Lakra, Jadé Fadojutimi, Jes Fan, Lamin Fofana, Ebony G. Patterson, Sonia Gomes, Ane Graff, Ayesha Hameed, Camille Henrot, Nicholas Hlobo, Laura Huertas Millán, Sohrab Hura, Invernomuto & Jim C. Nedd, Rashid Johnson, KeKeÇa, Jutta Koether, SERAFINE1369, Ligia Lewis, Linder, Luo Jr – shin, Jorgge Menna Barreto, Haroon Mirza, Neo Muyanga, Pedro Neves Marques, Roland Persson, Anu Põder, Reto Pulfer, André Romão, Kathleen Ryan, Zineb Sedira, Xaviera Simmons, Teresa Solar, Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, Jenna Sutela, Martine Syms, UBERMORGEN, Leonardo Impett and Joasia Krysa, Luisa Ungar, Alberta Whittle, Zheng Bo, David Zink Yi.

**Liverpool Biennial is enabled by many generous supporters. Principal Funders:**

Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council and Founding Supporter James Moores

**Outdoor, Sonic and Digital Commissions supported by:**

Larry Achiampong, *Pan African Flags For the Relic Travellers’ Alliance forms part of Relic Traveller* (2017 and ongoing) is supported by The African Arts Trust.

Erick Beltrán, *Superposition* (2021) is supported by Patronato de Arte Contemporáneo,A.C., Embassy of Mexico in the United Kingdom and Com Cabs.

Ines Doujak, *Transmission: A series of five Podcasts on Disease and Pandemics in a Distorted World* (2021),is commissioned by Liverpool Biennial, produced in collaboration with Phileas, with support from the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport of Austria, Austrian Cultural Forum London and the Estate of Fanchon Fröhlich.

Rashid Johnson, *Stacked Heads* (2020), is commissioned by Liverpool Biennial with support from Hauser & Wirth.

KeKeÇa Body Percussion Ensemble is commissioned by Liverpool Biennial with support from SAHA Association and The Medicash Foundation.

Linder, *Bower of Bliss* (2021), is commissioned by Liverpool Biennial with support from Liverpool ONE and the Estate of Fanchon Fröhlich.

Teresa Solar, *Osteoclast (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark)* (2021),is *c*ommissioned by Liverpool Biennial and Liverpool BID Company with support from Acción Cultural Española (AC/E) and the Henry Moore Foundation.

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, *La Pensée* Férale (2021), is commissioned by Liverpool Biennial with Art Fund support, and the assistance of Bury Art Museum. Additional support received from Acción Cultural Española (AC/E).

UBERMORGAN, Leonardo Impett and Joasia Krysa, *B3(TNSCAM) (2021)* is commissioned by Liverpool Biennial and The Whitney Museum of American Art for their online platform artport, with support from Liverpool John Moores University, Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport of Austria, and the City of Vienna.

Luisa Ungar *A Regurgitation is a Song is a Spell (Consultations to recreate the colonial disease)* (2021)is commissioned by Liverpool Biennial with support from the Estate of Fanchon Fröhlich.

Further information, images and biographies are available [here](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qeypsqrwpzm4gts/AAAUW2I9bjIDbKL7jLdBYGsda?dl=0) .

**Ends**

Liverpool Biennial 2021: *The Stomach and the Port* takes place 20 March – 27 June 2021

[www.biennial.com](https://www.biennial.com/) and [www.liverpoolbiennial2021.com](https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/).

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**About Liverpool Biennial**

Liverpool Biennial is the largest and longest-running festival of contemporary visual art in the UK. Since its inception in 1998, the Biennial has become renowned in the international contemporary art world, bringing together a wide array of international voices and artistic practices. Taking place every two years, Liverpool Biennial activates public institutions, historical sites and extraordinary locations across Liverpool, ensuring major commissions in the public realm. Pioneering an innovative approach underpinned by a year-round programme of research, education, residencies, projects and commissions, each biennial edition introduces renewed thinking and scale of production. Having commissioned over 340 new artworks and presented work by over 480 celebrated artists from around the world, the Biennial is built on a longstanding commitment to connecting international artist with local practitioners, communities and the general public.

Liverpool Biennial is supported by Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council and founding supporter James Moores. A full list of supporters and partners for the 11th edition is located at the end of this press release and at [[www.biennial.com/funders](http://www.biennial.com/funders)](https://www.biennial.com/funders).

**About Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let’s Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. For more information visit: [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/).

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government’s unprecedented £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Funds. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19).

**About Liverpool City Council**

Liverpool City Council is one of the largest local authorities in the UK serving a population of 491,500. Culture Liverpool is the city council department which aims to maintain the city’s reputation as a cultural and sporting destination, positioning Liverpool as the most exciting place in the UK in which to live, visit, work, study and invest. Through the production and delivery of events, and championing creativity via funded projects across Liverpool City Region, Culture Liverpool pushes boundaries and inspires audiences, ensuring everyone has access to arts and culture. For more information, visit [www.cultureliverpool.co.uk](http://www.cultureliverpool.co.uk).

**About Dr. Sam Lackey, Interim Director of Liverpool Biennial**

Dr. Samantha Lackey has joined Liverpool Biennial as Interim Director and is currently Head of Collection and Exhibitions at the Whitworth at the University of Manchester, where she is the Senior Lead on the Leadership Team. Previous to this she was curator at The Hepworth Wakefield (2010-16), where she delivered 40 exhibitions over 4 years, and was part of the team that opened the gallery in 2011 to critical acclaim. Her background is in academia, receiving a PhD on the subject of surrealism in 2005, which was the context of her work as a lecture, research fellow and her first exhibition at the Whitworth, *Subversive Spaces: Surrealism and Contemporary Art.* She has published on surrealism and contemporary art and worked in multiple group and solo exhibitions with artists including Cecily Brown, Susan Hefuna, Linder and Eva Rothschild.

**About Manuela Moscoso, Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2021**

Manuela Moscoso (b.1978, Ecuador) joined the Biennial from Tamayo Museo in Mexico City, where she was the Senior Curator. She is part of Zarigüeya, a programme that activates relations between contemporary art and the pre-Columbian collection of the Museo de Arte Precolombino Casa del Alabado, Ecuador. Moscoso was the adjunct curator of the 12th Cuenca Biennial and the co-curator of the Queens International 2011 biennial. In 2012 she was appointed co-director of Capacete, a residency programme based in Brazil where she also co-ran the curatorial programme Typewriter. Moscoso has collaborated with CA2M, Di Tella, MAM Medellin, Museo de Rio, RedCat and Fundació Miró among other institutions.

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