

Liverpool Biennial

PRESS RELEASE

23.01.24

CURATOR ANNOUNCED FOR LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL 2025

- **Marie-Anne McQuay to curate 2025 edition of Liverpool Biennial taking place 7 June – 14 September 2025**



Marie-Anne McQuay. Photo: Zak Grant

Liverpool Biennial is excited to announce the appointment of Marie-Anne McQuay as Curator for the 13th edition, taking place 7 June – 14 September 2025. McQuay will be seconded to curate the Biennial - the largest festival of contemporary visual art in the UK – returning to her current role as Director of Projects at Arts&Heritage in Autumn 2025.

Marie-Anne McQuay, Curator, Liverpool Biennial 2025, said:

“I feel honoured to be curating the 13th edition of Liverpool Biennial with and for the city where I live. I am so looking forward to reflecting on civic life, researching international exchanges, and collaborating with the wider team on Liverpool Biennial 2025.”

Dr Samantha Lackey, Director, Liverpool Biennial, said:

“We are thrilled to be welcoming Marie-Anne to the team for Liverpool Biennial 2025. Her longstanding relationship with the city of Liverpool will bring insight and intention to every part of the next festival, re-thinking the city’s changing relationships to the rest of the world. I look forward to working with Marie-Anne, our partners and artists across the city over the coming months as we begin to bring the festival to life.”

The 12th edition of Liverpool Biennial, 'uMoya: The Sacred Return of Lost Things' took place from 10 June – 17 September 2023 and was curated by Khanyisile Mbongwa. The independent evaluation of LB2023 can be viewed [here](#).

Liverpool Biennial is supported by Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council and founding supporter James Moores.

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

Liverpool Biennial 2025
7 June – 14 September 2025
www.biennial.com

Social Media

Join the discussion online at:
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#LB2025

Press enquiries:

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About Marie-Anne McQuay, Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2025

Prior to joining Arts&Heritage as Director of Projects, Marie-Anne McQuay was Head of Programme at the Bluecoat, Liverpool (2015 - June 2022) where she curated exhibitions and commissions by Larissa Sansour, Adham Faramawy, Suki Chan, Jade Montserrat, Serena Korda, Jonathan Baldock, Elaine Mitchener, Rosa-Johan Uddoh, Sumuyya Khader, Frances Disley and Grace Ndiritu.

She was Guest International Curator for Wales in Venice 2019 with artist Sean Edwards and Tŷ Pawb, Wrexham. Previously Marie-Anne was Curator at Spike Island, Bristol (2007-2013), working with artists including Elizabeth Price, Laure Prouvost, Can Altay, Sonia Boyce, Cevdet Ereke, Haroon Mirza, Cezary Bodzianowski, Melissa Gordon, Amanda Beech, Sean Edwards, Uriel Orlow and Jesse Jones.

She is currently part of the Arts Council Collection Acquisitions Committee 2022-25, on the Advisory of Board of At The Library, a programme of artist-led workshops, projects, commissions and happenings in community libraries in Bootle, Crosby and Netherton, and External Examiner for Art Galleries & Museum Studies MA, University of Leicester 2023-26.

About Dr. Samantha Lackey, Director of Liverpool Biennial

Dr. Samantha Lackey has held the position of Director at Liverpool Biennial since late 2021. She joined the Biennial from her role as Head of Collection and Exhibitions at the Whitworth at the University of Manchester. Before this she was curator at The Hepworth Wakefield (2010-16), where she was part of the team that opened the gallery in 2011 to critical acclaim. Her background is in academia, receiving a PhD in 2005 in the subject of surrealism, which was the context of her work as a lecturer, research fellow and her first co-curated exhibition at the Whitworth, 'Subversive Spaces: Surrealism and Contemporary Art.' She has published on

surrealism and contemporary art and worked on multiple group and solo exhibitions with artists including Cecily Brown, Susan Hefuna, Linder and Eva Rothschild. Sam also sits on the board of the International Biennial Association and is the Chair of Contemporary Visual Arts Network North West.

About Liverpool Biennial

Liverpool Biennial, established in 1998, is the UK's largest free contemporary visual arts festival and the country's first Biennial. Every two years the festival brings together international artists, arts professionals, communities and audiences to experience exhibitions across the city, alongside a hybrid programme of talks, performances and events, providing an opportunity for Liverpool and the UK to connect with the world, reflecting new ways of thinking. Liverpool Biennial aims to create long-lasting impact through the economic investment it brings to the city, through support for artistic, peer and young people's professional development, through community and school programmes and through its contribution to placemaking in the city and wider region.

Since 1998 Liverpool Biennial has commissioned 392 artworks, presented work by over 560 leading artists, delivered 34 collaborative neighbourhood projects, and received over 50 million visits. Permanent public artworks commissioned by Liverpool Biennial include 'Ngialibalibade – to the Lost Myth' by Eleng Luluan (2023), 'The Reckoning' by Rudy Loewe (2023), 'Liverpool Mountain' by Ugo Rondinone (2018), 'Evertro' by Koo Jeong A x Wheelscape (2015) and 'Everybody Razzle Dazzle' by Sir Peter Blake (2015).

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. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £440 million of public money from Government and an estimated £93 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. 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 responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund of which we delivered over £1 billion to the sector in grants and loans. Find out more at 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.



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