

## ARRAY COLLECTIVE

Array Collective is a group of 11 artists who create collaborative actions in response to socio-political issues affecting Northern Ireland. The collective has been working together more actively since 2016, motivated by the growing anger around human rights issues happening at the time. Their intention is to reclaim and review the dominant ideas about religio-ethnic identity in Northern Ireland. Working as constituents or allies of the communities they protest with and make art about, Array Collective aims to create a new mythology for the growing number of people who do not prescribe to embedded sectarian dichotomies.

Recent initiatives and works include: *Jerwood Collaborate!*, Jerwood Arts, London (2019), a-n Artists Council's *Artists Make Change* (2020), as well as organising projects in response to issues such as queer liberation, abortion rights, mental health, gentrification, eco-politics, social welfare and Northern Ireland's fractured past.

Array Collective playfully use performance, protest, photography, print, installation and video. They work with a range of other creative people and organisations to create a combination of artistic expression, direct action and public interventions in the city and online. Their recent project *As Others See Us* (2019), for example, centred on three fictional characters drawn from the pre-Christian myths and folklore of ancient Ireland: 'Ban Bidh: The Sacred Cow', 'An Scáth Fada: The Long Shadow' and 'An Mór Ríoghain: The Morrigan'. These characters have since shape-shifted through crowds at Belfast Pride and up the banks of the River Thames in a series of interventions and performance protests.

Array Collective was nominated for their use of DIY sensibility to tackle issues facing Northern Ireland. The jury commended recent projects, including public artworks in support of the decriminalisation of abortion, challenging legislative discrimination of the queer community in Northern Ireland, and participation in the group exhibition *Jerwood Collaborate!* in London in late 2019.

Array Collective comprises: Sighle Bhreathnach-Cashell, Sinéad Bhreathnach-Cashell, Jane Butler, Alessia Cargnelli, Emma Campbell, Mitch Conlon, Clodagh Lavelle, Grace McMurray, Stephen Millar, Laura O'Connor and Thomas Wells. The collective is based and predominantly works in Belfast.

## BLACK OBSIDIAN SOUND SYSTEM

Black Obsidian Sound System (B.O.S.S.) is a London-based collective which works across art, sound and radical activism. Formed by and for QTIBPOC (Queer, Trans and Intersex Black and People of Colour) in Summer 2018, B.O.S.S. challenges the dominant norms of sound-system culture across the African diaspora through club nights, art installations, technical workshops and creative commissions.

Recent initiatives and works include *The Only Good System is a Sound System* at Liverpool Biennial (2021), Glasgow Zine Fest (2021), live performances at Somerset House, LUX/ICO film commission *Collective Hum* and *Surge* at The Albany, Jay Bernard's theatrical multimedia poetry show, all 2019.

Their sound-system was originally built for Evan Ifekoya's exhibition *Ritual Without Belief* in 2018 at Gasworks, London, where it acted as the centrepiece of the show hosting an immersive durational soundscape. Ifekoya's intention was for it to have a life beyond the exhibition and feed back into the community in which it is now shared. The following year, the film *Collective Hum* documented the collective in practice, using multiple narration, overlapping voices and group interviews, meetings and events to create a polyphonic score, soundtracking images of sound-system culture.

The jury particularly recognised B.O.S.S.'s live performances which amplify, connect and uplift QTIBPOC, as well as their commitment to community during the pandemic. This included members of the collective organising a hardship fund and a 24-hour rave which raised over £90,000 for QTIBPOC in the UK.

Black Obsidian Sound System are Adedamola, Kiera Coward-Deyell, Phoebe Collings-James, Deborah Findlater, Evan Ifekoya, Onyeka Igwe, Jenny Edmunds, Marcus Macdonald, Mwen, Nadz, Naeem, Mumbi Nkonde, Shenece Oretha, Nadine Peters, Shamica Ruddock, Shy One and Virginia Wilson. The collective is based and predominantly work in London, England.

## **COOKING SECTIONS**

Cooking Sections is a duo based in London. Established in 2013, their practice uses food as a lens and tool to observe landscapes in transformation. Their work investigates the impact of humans on this planet, and asks how we can adapt infrastructure and the built environment to ensure a thriving future.

Recent projects and exhibitions include: *Traces of Escapees*, 13th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai (2021); *CLIMAVORE: Seasons Made To Drift*, SALT Beyoğlu, Istanbul (2021); *Salmon: A Red Herring*, London, Tate Britain (2020); *Oystering Room*, 12th Taipei Biennial, Taipei (2020); *Moveable Estates*, New Geographies, Winterton-on-Sea (2020); *Mussel Beach*, Current:LA Food, Los Angeles (2019); *Becoming Xerophile*, Sharjah Architecture Triennial, Sharjah (2019); *Offsetted*, Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery, New York (2019); *What Is Above Is What Is Below*, Manifesta 12, Palermo (2018); and *CLIMAVORE: On Tidal Zones*, Atlas Arts, Isle of Skye (2017).

Cooking Sections show how space is constructed, governed, and managed through installations, performances and videos that blur boundaries between art, architecture, ecology and geopolitics. A recent project, *Salmon: A Red Herring* at Tate Britain, explores the deceptive reality of salmon as a colour and as a fish, and questions what colours we expect in our 'natural' environment. The project asks us to examine how our perception of colour is changing as we change the planet. It is centred around a collaboration with Tate to remove farmed salmon from its menus across all four Tate sites and introduce a CLIMAVORE dish instead, as part of Cooking Sections' long-term project to envision how to eat as humans change the climate.

Cooking Sections was nominated for the ingenuity and interdisciplinary nature of their work, collaborating with scientists, farmers, resident groups, schools and restaurants. The jury particularly commended their work that has grown out of their engagement with communities in the Isle of Skye, Scotland.

Cooking Sections comprises Daniel Fernández Pascual and Alon Schwabe, both of whom live and work in London.

## **GENTLE/RADICAL**

Gentle/Radical is an artists-and-others-run project established in Cardiff in 2016. The organisation was formed through a commitment to art, creativity and culture as tools for social change. Gentle/Radical's work deliberately works in community contexts rather than mainstream cultural spaces to enable those routinely excluded from the arts to be met where they are. Above all, they are interested in asking questions about how power works, how to transform how power works, and how culture can better centre justice.

Gentle/Radical work with creative practitioners in the widest sense, from artists, writers, performers and composers to those interested in land-based practices, healing justice work or conflict resolution. Recent initiatives and projects from their base in Cardiff include *Doorstep Revolution* (2020-), the *Imagination Forum* (2018/19-), the *Gentle/Radical Film Club* (2004-), *People's Symposiums* (2018/19/20-), *A New Mecca*, (2018), the Al Mish'aal Coworking Space at Wyndham Street Centre (2019-), *Decolonising Faith* (2020/21-), and *Detour* (2021).

Gentle/Radical create real and virtual spaces for communities in Wales to engage with cultural activity, through pop-up events, performative sharings, sung works, community film screenings, grassroots symposia, walks, talks, meals, readings, gatherings and other actions that bring

people together. A recent project, *Doorstep Revolution*, considers what might happen in a neighbourhood over a 5, 10, 20 or 30 year period, if cultural focus is sustained, if artists stay put, and if 'engagement' is lasting instead of temporary and token. The organisation wants to knock on the door of every single household in their 13,000 strong neighbourhood of Riverside in the next 3 years to ensure cultural invitation is open to everyone.

Gentle/Radical was nominated for their commitment to the hyper-local community of Riverside in which they are based. This is characterised by projects such as the *Gentle/Radical Film Club*, a pop-up cinema space for diverse communities, families and elders to engage in dialogue around the urgent issues of our time, through independent film and the sharing of food.

Founded by Rabab Ghazoul, Gentle/Radical works out of Riverside, Cardiff, and builds alliances with collaborators and associates in their city, in Wales, the UK and beyond, currently to include: Mary-Anne Roberts, Adeola Dewis, Roseanna Dias, Stephen Lingwood, Isabel Calvete, Tom Goddard, Mohamad Fez Miah, Melissa Hinkin, Samson Hart, Anushiye Yarnell, Christian J. Olsen, Ahmad Nabil, Divya Parikh, Tony Hendrickson, Rachel Kinchin, Laura Drane.

## PROJECT ART WORKS

Project Art Works is a collective of neurodiverse\* artists and makers based in Hastings. Established in 1997, they share an expanded idea of art created through collaborative practice with, for and by neurominorities. Through advocacy and activism in culture and care they seek to ensure that people with complex support needs have agency in their civic and creative lives.

Recent initiatives and works include: *IGNITION*, Hastings Contemporary, Hastings (2021); *Have You Ever Had – Sharif Persaud*, Autograph, London (until June 2021); *Illuminating the Wilderness, in Lie of the Land*, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes (2019), Tate Liverpool (2019) and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia (2019); *Putting Ourselves in the Picture*, Fabrica, Brighton, (2019); *I Hear You – Mikhail Karikis*, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea (2019); and Siddharth Gaddiyar, Phoenix Gallery, Brighton (2019). Project Art Works has also been invited to share new models of art and activism with 14 other collectives from around the world as part of *DOCUMENTA 15* (Kassel 2022).

Project Art Works show the work of neurodiverse artists through exhibitions, events, films and digital platforms. Their programmes grow through personalised studio practice and are intended to promote better representation of neurodiverse artists and makers, and those who care for them, in the cultural and care sectors. For example, their recent project *EXPLORERS* (2017- 20) was a three-year programme of relationship-building between cultural organisations, social care organisations and neurominorities. It resulted in 6 co-commissioned exhibitions across the UK and in Sydney, Australia as well as events, seminars and a national conference. This included *Illuminating the Wilderness*, a film and installation by Project Art Works artists, which reveals time spent together investigating a remote Scottish glen with a group of people who are highly sensitive to the sensory stimuli of the world around them. The film was one of the joint winners of the 2020 Film London Jarman Award.

Project Art Works was nominated for their practice which celebrates and raises awareness of the dynamic and extraordinary contribution neurodiverse communities make to art and culture. The jury praised their continuing work through the pandemic, both online and in a residency at Hastings Contemporary where passers-by could still encounter work by the collective through the windows of the closed gallery.

Project Art Works comprises a core of up to 40 people and is based in Hastings. Through long-term relationships with neurominorities and their circles of support, they also recognise that some people may not be able to knowingly consent to being involved in a collective or being defined as artists other than through a creative process in the studio.

\* Neurodiverse is a term used to acknowledge different states of understanding and living in the world. Neurodivergence and neurominorities are terms that embrace autistic people and/or those who have learning or intellectual disabilities.