

Chair of Trustees



Thank you for your interest in becoming the Chair of Nottingham Contemporary's Board of Trustees

We are looking for a new Chair of Trustees to support our work and consolidate our expertise and creative ideas for the future of our organisation.

Having welcomed our new Director Salma Tuqan in 2023, we are in an important moment in Nottingham Contemporary's history as we deliver a transformative process of rearticulating our purpose and shaping our future. This includes securing our long-term financial standing by developing and working towards ambitious and entrepreneurial income generation strategies and building on new and existing partnerships, members and supporters, alongside delivering innovative, inspiring and engaging exhibitions, programmes and workshops.

In this pack, you will find an introduction to Nottingham Contemporary's work, our programme and further information on the role.

If you have questions about the role, or would like any more information, please email in the first instance and a call will be arranged:

E: recruitment@nottinghamcontemporary.org

Image Credit: Opening Reception, Denzil Forrester, 2019. Photo, Sam Kirby.





How to Apply:

To apply for this role please send:

- **An up-to-date CV detailing any voluntary or board-level experience.**
- **A short statement (maximum 500 words, or a 4-minute recorded/filmed response) which outlines why you would like to become the Chair, and the skills and expertise you feel you can bring to Nottingham Contemporary which align with our values (see 'Essential Criteria').**

Send applications as a PDF, or video/audio file to recruitment@nottinghamcontemporary.org

Closing date for applications: 11 October 12.00 midday.

First Interviews: week commencing 4 November

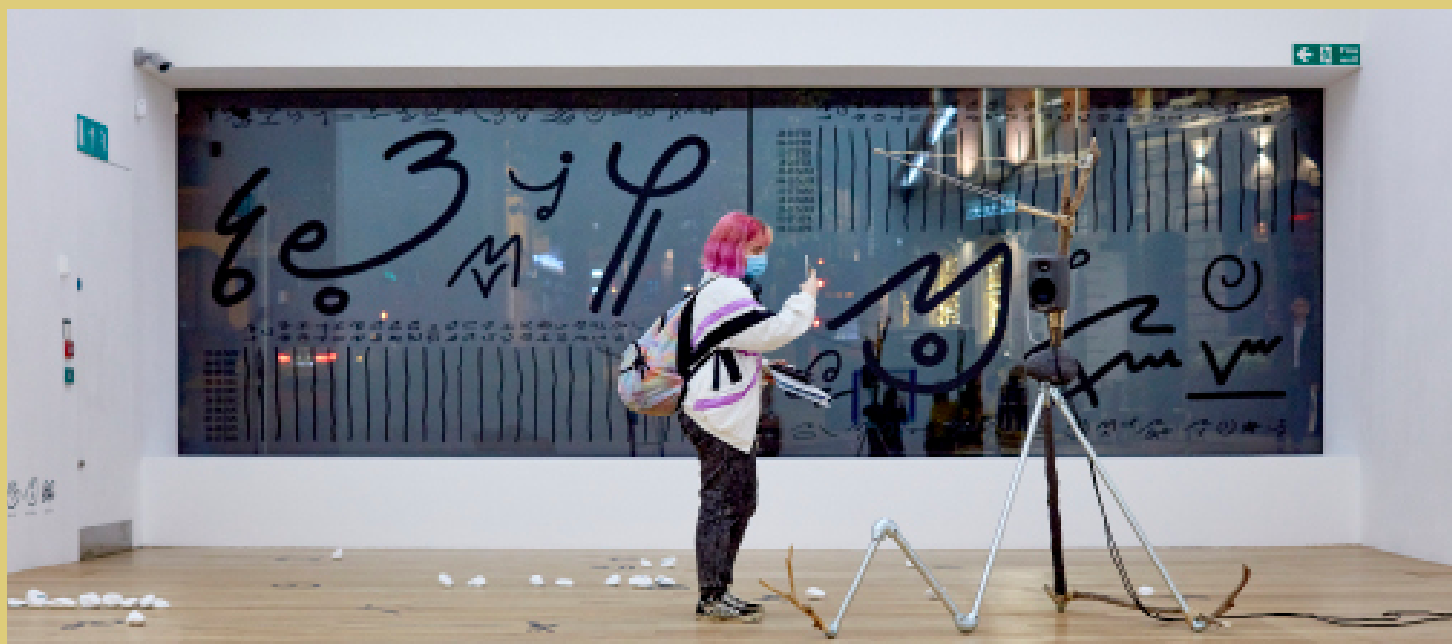
Second interviews: week commencing 18 November

Interviews

Please note that the role, as defined by the Charity Commission is an unpaid voluntary position. Expenses incurred taking part in Board business such as travel, caring or support costs, will be reimbursed or met directly by Nottingham Contemporary. We actively encourage applications from people whose perspectives and experiences are currently under-represented on our board:

- **people from ethnically diverse cultural backgrounds,**
- **people from working class / lower socio-economic backgrounds,**
- **people who identify as disabled or have a long-term condition.**

Introduction



Established in 2009, Nottingham Contemporary is among the largest institutions of its kind in the UK, and one of the leading centres of contemporary art in Europe. We are a place for imagining and shaping the future of art, through our ground-breaking programme of exhibitions, live events and learning. Our striking building, designed by Caruso St John sits on the edge of the historic Lace Market area of Nottingham. We present a vibrant programme of contemporary exhibitions, and deliver a rich programme of performances, events, talks and workshops to people from across Nottingham and beyond.

Our approach is open-ended, always seeking conversation before answers. We are fascinated by the unexpected outcomes of enabling people to think freely and allowing new narratives to unfold.

Collaboration and co-production are at the heart of what we do, working with and supporting hundreds of artists and cultural practitioners from across the world, whilst continuously building meaningful relationships and programmes for our local community.

Our exhibitions have become known nationally and internationally for being highly ambitious, often exploring overlooked figures, histories and geographies and experimenting with new collaborative approaches. We regularly present significant thematic exhibitions such as *Our Silver City, 2094* (2021), a speculative exhibition that travelled to the end of this century and *Still I Rise* (2018), an exploration into the role that women have played in the history of resistance movements.

We are dedicated to supporting and platforming artists at every stage of their careers, from commissioning first-time solo shows in the UK of artists such as Abbas Zahedi, Carolyn Lazard, Otobong Nkanga and Pia Camil, to surveys of renowned figures such as Denzil Forrester, Erika Verzutti and Meriem Bennani.

Our exhibitions are developed in partnership with museums around the world, with recent collaborations including: Hayward Gallery (London); The Renaissance Society (Chicago); SculptureCenter (New York); Palais de Tokyo (Paris); and the Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven).

Research and collective enquiry are central to our ethos. Through a three-way partnership with the city's two universities, we present a wide-ranging live programme of 100+ talks, symposia, screenings, and performances every year.

We are deeply connected and embedded in our city and are committed to building relationships and creating work together. We understand the significance of contributing to the wellbeing of communities and actively respond to priorities in the city through our diverse and inclusive learning activities. We warmly invite audiences to engage and connect, providing spaces for families, young people and communities to play, and to discover boundless creativity. Our aim is to foster an environment where individuals can freely express themselves, ignite their imaginations and nurture their understanding of the world through art.

About Nottingham Contemporary

- Since opening in 2009 we have welcomed two million people and presented more than 70 exhibitions of international contemporary art.
- We have an extensive network of contacts, peers and partners in our city, across the UK and internationally.
- Each year around 25,000 adults, young people and children take part in our free learning programmes.
- We are a civic institution which plays a key role in the local and regional visual arts infrastructure.
- We have a dedicated and passionate team and a strong respected Board of Trustees.
- We have an exceptionally young audience: 24% of our audience are under 24, and 50% are under the age of 35.

We are in the middle of the 2023-2026 funding period as an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. We are delivering our commitments against the Arts Council's four investment principle areas: Ambition and Quality, Inclusion and Relevance, Dynamism and Environmental Responsibility.





Our Vision and Values

Nottingham Contemporary's mission is to be a home for collaboration. Everything we do is collaborative. We believe art can be a prism for better understanding the world and each other.

We believe in the power of contemporary art to inspire, challenge, and transform. Our exhibitions, events, and learning programmes offer opportunities for people to encounter, experience, learn about and participate in contemporary art and culture. We host and produce ambitious exhibitions and vibrant events that both challenge and surprise.

Our vision is to be a leading international contemporary art gallery, known for our innovative exhibitions, live programmes, and engagement with the community.

We aim to be a space where art connects, connecting people across our city and around the world, nurturing and shaping the future of art and ideas.

Our values of being brave, open, hopeful, and resourceful reflect our commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and access in the arts. We are not afraid to take risks, embrace new ideas, and challenge the status quo. We are open to different perspectives and believe in creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome. Our hope is that contemporary art will inspire people to imagine a better world, and our resourcefulness allows us to find creative solutions to the challenges we face.

Image Credit: Photo Holly Tea.

Our Senior Leadership Team comprises:

Salma Tuqan –
Director

Salma leads on the strategic development of the organisation. She is in charge of shaping and steering the artistic vision for Nottingham Contemporary, working closely with the Exhibitions and Live team to implement this, and directs the development of new projects. She oversees the health of the business and leads the Senior Leadership Team.

Ali Roche –
Chief Curator
(Maternity Cover)

Ali leads on the strategic delivery of both our exhibitions and live programmes in collaboration with artists and partners from across the city, the country and internationally. Ali has expertise in commissioning and production of contemporary art works and a particular specialism in Artists' film and moving image.

Andy Batson –
Head of Marketing
and Visitor Experience

Andy leads on the Audience Development Strategy for Nottingham Contemporary. He works with audiences and the wider team to help drive forward the programme, fundraising activities and commercial income generation for the organisation. He leads a passionate Visitor Experience team which is focussed on delivering high-quality experiences to our public.

Amanda Spruyt –
Head of Learning

Amanda leads on our connection to the city through our work with families, communities, young people and schools. Amanda's team of artists and programmers use art to bring people together and nurture shared experiences and understandings of the world around us.

Izi Clery –
Head of Development

Izi plays a vital role in our organisation's success and our impact on the local and global stage by developing innovative strategies, identifying commercial opportunities, forging strategic partnerships in order to increase our income through a range of means including Trusts & Foundations, Individuals, Membership schemes, corporate sponsorship and capital projects.

Solman Nouman –
Head of Finance
and Operations

Solman leads on ensuring our financial stability, governance and compliance, working alongside senior management colleagues to develop strategies and operational plans. He also oversees our facilities and building management function, ensuring we're able to responsibly and sustainably provide our services to our public.

Melanie King –
Head of People
and Culture

Melanie leads on guiding our organisational development, enhancing our work culture, implementing new ways of working and developing our people. She is also supporting and developing our equity, diversity & inclusion work to embed inclusion across all of our work.

Our programmes



Summer 2024
24 May – 8 September 2024

Hamid Zénati

Nottingham Contemporary presented the second-ever institutional exhibition of Algerian-German artist Hamid Zénati (b.1944, Algeria; d.2022, Germany) following his solo debut at Haus der Kunst, Munich. Celebrating Zénati's nearly sixty-year career, this major survey casts him as an inventive, free thinker and artist of his time. A self-taught artist whose job as a translator brought him to Germany in the mid-1960s, Zénati worked compulsively across surfaces and disciplines from textiles, fashion and ceramics to wearable sculpture and photography, using his 'all-over' signature style. His inexhaustible wealth of forms, patterns and combinations of colour, material and technique created an abstract visual language entirely his own. His textile paintings freely blend North African modernism, Japanese textile design, Sahrawi patterns, the set designs of Sonia Delaunay, and organic forms found in nature.



Julian Abraham 'Togar'

In Summer 2024, Nottingham Contemporary was delighted to present the first solo exhibition in a European and UK museum by multidisciplinary artist, musician and social researcher Julian Abraham 'Togar' (b.1987, Indonesia). This exhibition saw the return of another significant cross-departmental collaboration between Nottingham Contemporary's Exhibitions, Learning and Live Programmes teams, with the ambition to directly engage local communities of young people in the city, inviting them to participate in the artist's exploratory sonic world. Building on his ongoing OK Studio (2020 – present), a place for music and events and to imagine the role of public space, 'Togar' created a participatory environment centred around a chorus of automated instruments, re-imagined synthesisers, keyboards, ocean drums and live percussive interventions with the aim of offering audiences the chance to 'co-experiment, co-explore, co-imagine, co-produce'.

Image Credits (L-R):

1. Hamid Zénati: Two Steps at a Time installation view at Nottingham Contemporary, 2024. Courtesy Nottingham Contemporary. Photo: Lewis Ronald.

2. Julian Abraham 'Togar': Reconciliation installation view at Nottingham Contemporary, 2024. Courtesy Nottingham Contemporary. Photo: Lewis Ronald.

Our programmes



Claudia Martínez Garay

This is the first solo exhibition in a UK institution of Peruvian artist Claudia Martínez Garay. This major new commission took place in summer 2024, celebrating the artist's unique perspective and diverse practice with an ambitious site-specific installation in our largest gallery space.

Martínez Garay studied printmaking in Peru, and her process of carving out, stencilling, and layering images in site-specific murals or free-standing sculptural objects exemplifies the influence of this early artistic training. Her practice has grown to encompass painting, sculpture, video, and installation, referencing pre-Columbian aesthetics and her Andean heritage, inspired by historic images, propaganda, stories and sounds from her home country. Diving into her indigenous ancestry, and the socio-political history of Peru, she brings to the surface lost narratives from one of the world's oldest civilisations.



Autumn / Winter 2024

28 September 2024 – 5 January 2025

Donald Rodney: *Visceral Canker*

Nottingham Contemporary presents a major retrospective of the late British artist Donald Rodney (b.1961, UK; d.1998, UK). Bringing together almost all that survives of his work across painting, drawing, installation, sculpture and digital media with rare archive materials, the exhibition highlights Rodney's significance to the recent history of British art. Though Rodney has had a perennial influence on the wider UK artist community, there have been few opportunities to experience the full breadth and complexity of his work. This touring exhibition will highlight the significance of Rodney's work and re-address themes of racial identity, chronic illness, Black masculinity and Britain's colonial past. The exhibition is presented in partnership with Spike Island and Whitechapel Gallery, where it will tour during 2024–25.

Image Credits (L-R):

1. Claudia Martínez Garay: WAKCHAKUNA installation view at Nottingham Contemporary, 2024. Courtesy Nottingham Contemporary. Photo: Lewis Ronald.

3. Donald Rodney, *In Retrospect*, Installation view at iniva, London, 2008. Photo: Thierry Bal.

Our programmes



Spring 2025

25 January – 4 May 2025

Allan Weber

Nottingham Contemporary is excited to present the first institutional solo exhibition dedicated to Weber's work in a major UK cultural institution which will mark a significant step in the artist's career. The exhibition co-curated by Pablo León de la Barra, Curator at Large, Latin America at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, will include existing works, alongside ambitious new site-specific commissions.

Weber is a multi-disciplinary artist born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he currently works and resides. Working across a range of mediums including assemblage, installation, sculpture and photography, Weber's practice acts as a vehicle to deconstruct the realities of daily life within the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.



Summer 2025

24 May – 7 September 2025

Toward the Wind, The Sound That Carries

This group exhibition will explore the ability of sound to map, travel and transition through cultural contexts and temporal realities. It will investigate the sonic aesthetics and experience of cross-cultural identities, histories, stories and futures and how sound emerges as the privileged medium for connecting listeners across space and time. This exhibition will explore approaches to historical sound as something that artists can reconfigure and work with to imagine altered present worlds and futures.

Our programmes



Sonic Intimacies and Queer Resonances

Taking place over the Autumn 2023 season, *Sonic Intimacies and Queer Resonances* featured performances, conversations, screenings, and workshops, with contributions by AURA, Deborah-Joyce Holman, Maria Leonard, Jenkin Van Zyl, Queer Art Projects, Sophie Seita, Isadora Neves Marques, Francis Whorrall-Campbell, Hannah Catherine Jones, Mantawoman, Beth Kettel, amongst others. *Sonic Intimacies and Queer Resonances* is a programme that explores soundings that forge new intimacies and possible pathways to greater mutual living.

Schools of Tomorrow

2023 saw the conclusion of Nottingham Contemporary's 4-year learning and research programme funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. The partnership brought teachers, pupils and artists together to nurture creativity, support skills for learning and respond to priorities in 8 city schools. The programme led to a major exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary in the Summer of 2022: *Assemble + Schools of Tomorrow: The Place We Imagine*, which saw our galleries transformed into a playground. City school children worked with local artists and Assemble, an art, design and architecture collective to create playable artworks.

Image Credits:

1. Assemble and Schools of Tomorrow: *The Place We Imagine*, installation view at Nottingham Contemporary, 2022. Photo: Julian Hughes.

Our learning highlights for 2024 include:



WALKshops

In 2024 we will bring people together and connect them to local sites and services of care through artist-led walks in the city. During weekly activity we will move around our city creating and mapping a health network as a path to support positive mental health. The project will connect our creative sector and make our teams and sites open and accessible, as we co-ordinate and co-deliver programming for a whole city approach and a sustainable creative health offer.

The WALKshops will become a recognised referral option for health workers and be evaluated by academics.

Professional Development for Teachers

We are thrilled to be working with the Raleigh Trust on a partnership which includes artist-teacher partnerships and professional development for teachers, linking to a 'Big Conversation' conference and series of 'Small Talks'. The programme will build trauma-informed creative pedagogies, develop artist skills in supporting students with vulnerabilities and celebrate the voices and creativity of young people and their families. This will be generously supported by the Freelands Foundation.

We Are Wonderlings: Early Years Sensory Workshops'

Since 2009, Nottingham Contemporary has delivered creative, sensorial activities for families in school holidays. In 2023, we built on this model by delivering workshops for Early Years children. Visitors are invited to join our experienced Play & Learn Facilitators for a series of workshops, each exploring a different sensory theme. From babes in arms, to bum shufflers and movers, there are workshops for different age categories, just so we can focus on those important developmental stages.

Big Room Free Family Films

With the impact on families of rising costs we will be opening our doors wide during the early Winter months of 2024. From January we'll be running a special family film hub, showing favourite movies, serving free hot chocs and popcorn and meeting lots of new families along the way.

Families can be especially stretched, so we want to make sure we create a welcoming, relaxed space and a free and fun day out. Nottingham City Transport will be offering free group rider bus tickets, meaning families who otherwise might not be able to bring the family into town can come along.

Our Board of Trustees

Matt Symonds,
Chair

Matt Symonds is an independent business adviser and investor, and pursues interests in the arts, politics, and charitable work. Matt grew up in Derbyshire, and went to school in Nottingham. He was formerly a senior Partner in the London office of Bain & Company, where he was the leader of Bain's UK Financial Services practice. As well as a number of commercial and charity roles, Matt is a Patron of the RAA, and Member of the Board of Trustees of the International Institute of Strategic Studies. He holds an MBA from INSEAD and an MA in English Literature from Oxford University.

Stuart Atkins,
Independent Member

Stuart lives in Derbyshire and joined Machine Mart Ltd in 2023 as Head of Finance following 9 years at Raleigh bicycles, serving as their Finance Director from 2017.

Stuart studied Economics with Accountancy at Loughborough University and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1996. He spent 15 years in the accountancy and audit profession before moving into the commercial sector with Bakkavor Foods as a Financial Controller in 2008.

Lizzie Carey-Thomas,
Trustee

Lizzie Carey-Thomas is the Head of Programmes at the Serpentine, London. She was previously Curator of Contemporary Art at Tate Britain for 16 years. During her time at Tate, she co-curated the Art Now series of projects for emerging artists (2002–2012), and has been the lead curator of the Turner Prize since 2002.

Janine Catalano,
Trustee

Janine Catalano's career has spanned fundraising, partnerships and stakeholder engagement across the arts and education sector. Previously the Director of Development at Whitechapel Gallery, and having held positions at the Courtauld Institute of Art, Royal Academy America and City & Guilds of London Art School, she is currently Director of Alumni & Strategic Partnerships at Sotheby's Institute of Art. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Courtauld, Janine also lectures and teaches on the intersection of art, food and culture.

Bianca Chu,
Trustee

Bianca Chu is an artist, independent researcher, facilitator and writer based between London and Lisbon. Bianca's projects range from the curatorial to strategic: currently she presents Nocturn, a series of artistic interventions in a London nightclub in collaboration with artists; advises the Turnbull Studio, the custodian of two artist's estates; and sits on the advisory board of POR.TA Art Association, Portugal. Previously, Bianca was Co-Chair of the Tate Young Patrons (2020-2023). She holds a Master's in Material & Visual Culture, Anthropology from UCL and in History of Art / Chinese Studies from the University of Edinburgh. A student and practitioner of Nāda Yoga, Bianca explores sound and music as a spiritual and embodied pathway for connection and community.

Continued over

Our Board of Trustees

Jade Foster,
Trustee

Jade Foster is a British artist and curator based in Nottingham and born in Sandwell, UK. They are working as an independent and institutional curator for multiple visual art organisations.

Interested in performance, time-based media, and other contemporary art forms, they have worked with artists such as SERAFINE1369 (formerly Last Yearz Interesting Negro), Carmen Argote, Phoebe Collings-James, Nadia Huggins, Jade Montserrat, Ada M. Patterson, Maybelle Peters, and MADEYOULOOK (Molemo Moiloa and Nare Mokgotho).

In 2022, they were awarded a Fer-Garb Scholarship to study MA History of Art at UCL.

Aïcha Mehrez,
Trustee

Aïcha Mehrez is a curator, born and raised in Stockport and currently based in London. She graduated from the Courtauld Institute of Art in 2011 and since 2016, has been Assistant Curator of Contemporary British Art at Tate. Exhibitions she has worked on include Lynete Yiadom-Boakye: Fly In League With The Night, Mark Leckey: O' Magic Power of Bleakness, Isaac Julien: Looking For Langston, Monster Chetwynd, Don McCullin and Lisa Brice. She has worked on acquisitions for Tate including Yinka Shonibare, Khadija Saye, Lisa Brice, Penelope Slinger and Wolfgang Tillmans. Aïcha is our board champion for equity and diversity.

Juan Sánchez,
Trustee

Juan is the Communications Lead for Wellcome Collection, managing the PR and social media teams. He has strong experience coordinating and delivering communications across a broad range of disciplines, including corporate communications, campaigns, internal communications, reputation management, press, evaluation and stakeholders relations.

Born in Colombia, Juan has been in the UK for over 15 years. He has worked with communication agencies leading the campaigns for the Sydney, Sao Paulo, and Istanbul Biennials, dOCUMENTA (13), Manifesta, MAAT Lisbon, Guggenheim Bilbao, Art Basel and Folkestone Triennial, amongst others.

Bev Swift,
Trustee and Chair of the
Finance, Audit, Investment
& Remuneration
Committee

A qualified accountant, Project and Programme Manager specialising in interim management roles. Bev usually acts for organisations as Finance Director or as a consultant; this has been across a wide range of sectors including commerce, education, housing and not for profit charity sector. Her work has taken her all over the UK, and abroad.

Caragh Thuring,
Trustee

Caragh Thuring is an artist based in London. She studied Fine Art at Nottingham Trent Polytechnic. Based in London, she ran a contemporary art gallery for 3 years, before returning to painting. She recently collaborated with 6a Architects on the redevelopment of Holborn House, a 100-year-old community centre in central London.

Caragh is our board champion for equity and diversity.

