

## Presenter Bios

### **Tanya Akrofi (Chair):**

Tanya Akrofi is an oral storyteller and community arts producer who moved to Lincolnshire from Brighton. She centres folklore, mythology and fairytales in her writing and as part of her mission to reconnect us all through the healing power of oral traditions. She is currently working with [Spark Arts for Children](#) in Leicester developing performances for young audiences using Ghanaian stories, is developing community events with the Lincoln Arts Centre and is part of a disabled women's comedy writing room. Tanya is the Chair for [St Hugh's Foundation](#) for the Arts as well as a trustee for [UK New Artists](#).

### **Kate Genever:**

I try to make sense of the world through drawing. I take drawing to be more than a technique – rather a disposition that reveals our connections with the world of materials, nature and each other. A drawing from, with and together.

In places, over extended periods, I consider how we improvise and imagine in response to our immediate problems and needs. I use process-led principles and advocate for strength-based co-production approaches – often working in collaboration with artists, organisations, researchers and curators.

I am experienced in supporting people and organisations to reflect on or activate change.

Commissions and exhibitions include: [A tentative piece of ourselves we stake at the boundary: Tomar, Portugal \(2024\)](#). [We have found in the ashes what we lost in the fire](#): Residency. METAL (2024). [Encyclopedia of Us](#) Hull (2018 – ongoing). [Drawing Paper Show](#) (2023) Newspaper and Bridewell Studios Liverpool. [Together we are powerful](#) (2023) National Centre for Craft and Design, [Nothing, will be the last forever](#) (2022) Shining Cliff. Derbyshire; [Homelands](#) (2021/2): Metal; [Whose Culture?](#) (2021): Peterborough Cultural Strategy Group; [Encyclopedia of Us](#) (2019 – ongoing) Three Ways East; [Made by Hands](#) (2020) Rotterdam; [The John Ruskin Prize](#) (2019); [Who Cares?](#) (2018/19) Lakeland Arts; [Leap of Faith](#) (2018) Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Manchester Met University; [Museum of Contemporary Farming](#) (2018) Museum of English Rural Life.

Instagram: @kategenever

Website: [kategenever.com](http://kategenever.com)

### **Lydia Rusling:**

Assistant Director Economic Growth at South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

### **Sally Denton:**

With a background in fashion and luxury crafts sector, Sally Denton has 25 years' experience working across a wide number of areas from business support, trends, consultancy, digital publishing, and academia, both in the UK and internationally.

During this time, Sally has set up and managed several creative hubs and organisations, including 13 years running a membership organisation and incubator space in Nottingham with over 1,500 members and delivering 22 European and UK funded projects. Her role as Head of Programmes with

The Trampery working across its 6 workspaces in East London, included delivering programmes for the Greater London Authority (GLA), City of London, and London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) with a real focus on sustainability, purpose-driven businesses, and community placemaking.

She also spent several transformative years in the United Arab Emirates helping to establish Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council where she supported the empowerment of women through the crafts and showcased the skills of the region on a world stage with exhibitions and high-profile collaborations in France, Italy, UK, Pakistan, Brazil, Russia, and Malaysia.

Sally is now Executive Director of the Barbican Creative Hub, University of Lincoln where she is overseeing the capital build project and set up of a space for Lincolnshire's Creative and Cultural Industries. She also co-delivers the University of Lincoln's Arts Council NPO project with Lincoln Arts Centre and leads on the East Midlands Create Growth Programme for Lincolnshire and Rutland alongside the GLLEP.

**Harriet Plewis:**

Harriet Plewis is an artist and an educator. Her activity is rooted in performance, critical pedagogies and the moving image. Her work looks at expanded reading, the mechanics of solidarity, and the conditions for co-creation. In collaboration with others, she makes Reading Rooms, which are homages to texts in the form of temporary venues. She has exhibited nationally and internationally and currently lives in Lincoln.

**Daniel Sean Kelly:**

Daniel Sean Kelly is an artist and founding co-director of [Two Queens](#), an artist-run, community owned gallery and studios based in Leicester. In his work with Two Queens, Dan leads on fundraising and development, and is currently overseeing the organisations transition to become a Community Benefit Society, a move that seeks to build the long-term sustainability of the organisation. In addition to his work with Two Queens, Dan is an artist and Fine Art lecturer, a graduate of MA Contemporary Art Theory at Goldsmiths and the free alternative postgraduate programme School of the Damned.

**Liz Kelleher:**

My name is Liz Kelleher. I have recently left teaching after 20 years and most recently 15 years as Head of Art and Photography at Spalding High. I am a practicing artist and I'm on a mission to facilitate engaging ambitious Arts opportunities and spaces particularly for the youth and arts practitioners, within the area.

Myself and two colleagues have set up the Old Hospital Trust and the A&E collaborative. We are hoping to grow the collaborative, inviting arts practitioners and individuals from a diverse community base, who support our aims and projects.

**Panellist Bios**

**Lucy Lumb:**

Lucy is a visual arts producer with over twenty years' experience in the creative sector. She builds strong working relationships with artists, communities and partners to deliver projects including permanent and temporary commissions, wellbeing initiatives, festivals and artist residencies. Lucy is interested in creating projects that are owned and celebrated by their communities in public spaces,

rural locations, community centres, heritage sites and healthcare settings. She is passionate about equity of access to creativity and culture for all people, of all abilities, ages and backgrounds. Inspired by collaborating with artists in unusual locations and with new communities, her benchmark of success is when those that think art is 'not for them' turn this around to become advocates for creativity at all levels. Alongside her freelance practice, Lucy is the Visual Arts Development Co-ordinator at the [Hub](#) in Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

### **Lesley Farrell:**

Lesley Farrell is Curator at the Hub, where she leads their changing exhibition programme of contemporary Craft and design. She has over 25 years' experience in the visual arts and gallery sector. Previous roles include 11 years as Director of Focal Point Gallery in Southend-on-Sea, and that of Programme Manager at The Art House, Wakefield, where she led their artists' residency and professional development scheme. Now residing in Lincolnshire, she has worked for organisations around the county, including as a freelance producer on projects for the National Trust, and as Community Engagement Officer at The Collection, Lincoln.

### **Jason Wilsher-Mills:**

*"My work celebrates disability, my northern working-class heritage & popular culture, through cutting edge technologies and brightly coloured, largescale humorous, but challenging art. When asked what my work is about, I simply say – 'Think 'I, Daniel Blake' meets 'The Beano'"*.

I am a disabled artist, who was born in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in 1969. I grew up on council estates in Wakefield. I am the youngest of 8 children, being the first one in my family to go to university.

I was a very active child but fell ill with chicken pox when I was 11 years old, with the virus attacking my central nervous system, causing me to be paralysed from the neck down & confined to a wheelchair. I needed 24-hour care and had to spend 1 year in hospital.

I have exhibited at and been commissioned by The Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar and the Houses of Parliament among other international venues and in I was awarded the Adam Reynolds Award in 2020. In 2024 I will be exhibiting at the Wellcome Collection in London, and at the Venice Biennale later this year.

Through my large, psychedelic sculptures, I celebrate the working-class popular culture of the 1970s, and my work is littered with references to British children's comic books and popular tv shows of the time; whilst also highlighting issues relating to disability.

Website: [www.jwmartist.co.uk](http://www.jwmartist.co.uk)

### **Nick Jones:**

Nick Jones is the Director of [Transported](#), a community-focused culture programme.

Nick first moved to Lincoln in 1982 to work for Lincoln Community Arts. He later founded the artsNK rural arts team, reflecting his commitment to socially-engaged practice.

In 2013, Nick went on to launch Transported, the Arts Council England [Creative People and Places](#) programme in Boston and South Holland, overseen by the University of Lincoln. Transported aims to

get more people in its areas enjoying and participating in high quality arts activities, whilst also supporting the practice of local artists in a vibrant calendar of festivals, public artwork creations, performances and workshops.

**Oliver Ventress:**

Oliver Ventress is a Lincoln based video and installation artist. Graduating with an MA in Fine Art in 2019, Oliver is currently based at General Practice Studios and works for the University of Lincoln as an Art and Exhibition Technician. He has exhibited across the East Midlands and worked with various arts organisations in Nottingham and Lincolnshire. In 2023 he was one of 16 nationally selected artists in the UK New Artist Collective and exhibited a solo show at Lincoln Arts Centre's Project Space Plus.

Instagram: @oliverventress

Website: [www.oliverventress.com](http://www.oliverventress.com)

**Tara Munroe:**

Tara Munroe is a prominent figure in museum studies, specializing in Black history and the decolonisation of museum objects. She is renowned for her work in forging arts partnerships, aiming to create inclusive historical narratives. Tara collaborates with museums, guiding them in ethically representing marginalized communities and reinterpreting colonial artifacts for more nuanced exhibitions. Her commitment to social justice extends to her efforts in establishing connections between museums and local communities, ensuring that exhibitions reflect diverse histories and voices. Tara's dedication to community engagement and her impactful work in decolonizing museum practices highlight her role in promoting equitable and comprehensive history presentations.

**Jenny Gleadell:**

Jenny is a curator and art historian based in Lincoln. She has over 10 years of experience working in curatorial roles in galleries and museums around the country, with a strong focus on contemporary visual arts programming. Born and raised in the East Midlands, on returning to the county six years ago she began working on the NPO-funded exhibition programme at [Lincoln Museum and Usher Gallery](#).

Since starting in her current role of Exhibitions and Interpretation Officer, Jenny has continued to grow and deliver the museum's commitment to ambitious exhibition programming. All her work involves supporting talent development in the region, building strong working partnerships and maintaining equity, diversity and inclusion throughout the visual arts programme.

Jenny studied Art History at University of East Anglia and did her MA in Art History and Curating at the University of Birmingham. Alongside her role at the museum, Jenny is also an M4C PhD candidate at the University of Birmingham researching institutional approaches to collecting and exhibiting internet-based art, and Associate Lecturer at the University of Lincoln.