

## **PRESS RELEASE** **11 July 2024**

### **Bloomsbury Festival announces 2024 New Wave Winners**

- Art, Music and Theatre New Wave winners announced for Bloomsbury Festival's annual festival
- Entries in all categories respond to the 2024 festival theme Human.Kind
- Art Exhibition Winner and Shortlisted artists exhibit at City Lit and St Giles London Hotel
- Music Winners present lunchtime concerts at The Music Room (Great Ormond St) and at City Lit's Recital Room
- Theatre Winners stage productions at a number of venues across Bloomsbury including City Lit's John Lyon's Theatre, Westminster Kingsway College Theatre, Holy Cross Church and Bloomsbury Radio

Bloomsbury has always been a hub of creativity and the New Wave opportunities in art, music and theatre seek to nurture the new wave of talent, at the start of their professional careers, by offering exhibition space and performances during the festival with cash prizes and grant support for the winners.

We are delighted to announce Bloomsbury Festival and invited panellists from local institutions and professionals have selected entries for presentation in each of the three categories of New Wave emerging talent.

#### **Speaking about this year's competition Festival Director Rosemary Richards says**

*"Over the last five years we have developed these 3 programmes for emerging creatives and we are delighted in 2024 to exhibit and present work of 20 emerging professional artists (and their associates) in fine art, music and theatre, to take this step into their chosen careers. These are all outstanding talents selected by panels of professionals, representatives of the venues, and leading specialist institutions, and we could not be prouder of the work we are sharing with our audiences. I would also like to thank those who this year were not selected and to encourage them to continue with their creative ambitions".*

## **Fine Art Prize – Winner Meghan Salisbury and 6 Shortlisted Entries**

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The 2024 selection panel was hosted by The Bedford Estates and the winner of the 2024 Art Prize is Meghan Salisbury with shortlisted artists Beth McAlester, Fabian Heckmatt, Giovanna Laiso, Mei Lock, Mengmeng Zhang and Xin Qing invited to exhibit. The winner's exhibition will be presented at City Lit Gallery alongside two of the shortlisted entries, with St Giles London Hotel hosting the remaining shortlisted entries.

### **2024's winning artist Meghan Salisbury exhibition: FIZZ DROOP AND DROOL**

Meghan is a 2024 graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL. Her pulsating, bodily oil paintings give visual language to the processes and forms people are made up of, but often cannot see or feel.

## **New Wave Music Lunchtime Concerts**

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New Wave Music winners have been offered lunchtime concerts at The Music Room on Great Ormond Street, and at City Lit Recital Room.

### **At the Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street**

- Maryam Wocial (soprano) and Archie Bonham (piano)
- Yente Lottman (solo violin)
- Julian Chan (Piano)

### **At City Lit Recital Room**

- Isaac Shieh (Natural Horn)
- And an intimate performance of Messiaen's masterpiece 'Quartet for the End of Time' performed by Kosuke Shirai (clarinet), Violetta Suvini (violin), William Lui (cello) and Jeremy Chan (piano)

## **New Wave Theatre 2024**

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The New Wave Theatre programme is supported by Bishop & Sewell, with prizes and support for writing from Rugby School Macready Theatre, Tramshed and Bloomsbury Radio at Bloomsbury Institute. The New Wave theatre programme is additionally supported by Arts Council England.

### **Presented at City Lit John Lyons Theatre**

- The Encrypted Forest – Jim Osman. An evening of folktales for the digital age
- Attempts on a Birch Tree – Georgina Dettmer (I AM I AM). A live theatrical experiment about love and the climate crisis.

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- the Daisy chain – Princess Bestman - Ted-talk-gig-theatre styled performance about the foster care system in England

**Presented At Westminster Kingsway College Theatre**

- 3 Couples, 2 Breakups, 1 Barbie and the Berlin Wall – Square Pegs, Macready Theatre Young Actors' Company – a joyfully absurd, fast-paced, fun-filled play written by Georgina Dettmer. Writer's prize supported by Rugby School and Macready Theatre.
- Goodgirl – Lit Path Productions (Parbati Chaudhury) Exploring sisterhood and cultural values with music and kathak dance. A theatre work in progress.

**Presented on Bloomsbury Radio**

- Haddock by Max Raeburn follows an Irish couple in the 1950s questioning their faith and each other. Writer's prize Supported by Bloomsbury Institute and Bloomsbury Radio

**Presented at Holy Cross Church**

- SOGYA - presented by The Avieli Arthouse led by Patrick Bayele - A visceral Afro-Centric theatrical experience honouring World War II Commonwealth soldiers who sacrificed their lives.

THE NEW WAVE PROGRAMME IS SUPPORTED BY



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**Notes:**

Full Details of the New Wave programme follows. The full festival programme will be launched online and in person on Thursday 18 July and tickets will be available from that date.

## **New Wave 2024**

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### **New Wave Art 2024**

**Winner** Meghan Salisbury

Beth McAlester

Fabian Heckmatt

**Shortlisted Artists** Giovanna Laiso

Mei Lock

Mengmeng Zhang

Xin Qing

### **New Wave Music 2024**

Isaac Shieh

Jeremy Chan

**Winners** Julian Chan

Maryam Wocial

Yente Lottman

### **New Wave Theatre 2024**

Georgina Dettmer

Jim Osman

**Winners** Princess Bestman

The Avieli Arthouse/Patrick Bayele

Max Raeburn

Parbati Chaudhury

## **New Wave Art 2024 – Exhibition information**

**Winner and Shortlisted Artists' Exhibitions:** Bloomsbury Festival is presenting two exhibitions of artworks supported by The Bedford Estates. One exhibition of the winner and two of the shortlisted entries will be presented by City Lit Gallery and the remaining shortlisted entries at St Giles London Hotel as part of the New Wave programme, a platform for emerging talent. Greater London Properties are also planning to host prints of the winning and shortlisted artworks at their Judd St branch.

### ***At City Lit Gallery***

#### **Winning Artist at City Lit:**

FIZZ DROOP AND DROOL: MEGHAN SALISBURY

Meghan Salisbury's pulsating, bodily oil paintings give visual language to the processes and forms people are made up of, but often cannot see or feel.

Meghan is a 2024 graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL.

#### **Shortlisted Artists at City Lit:**

MENGMENG ZHANG

Through ambient colour, Zhang's oil paintings explore the displacement between memory and the present, inner emotion and outer environments.

Mengmeng is a student at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL.

XIN QING

Children of the Stars is an animated short, the character is based on the artist's older 'brother' who has Autism Disorder and shows how he behaves and reacts in various environments.

Xin Qing is a graduate of London College of Communication.

### ***At St Giles London Hotel***

**Shortlisted Artists at St Giles London Hotel:**

**BETH MCALESTER**

Beth McAlester is a Northern Irish artist based in London, painting indirectly personal narratives primarily with oil on a variety of recycled surfaces. Her work explores themes of identity and belonging, specifically with reference to her home of Northern Ireland.

Beth is studying for her BFA at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL

**FABIAN HECKMATT**

Fabian explores the relationship between human experience, the quantifiable data-driven world of scientific research, and the biological interior structures that go on to create life.

Fabian is a graduate of Goldsmiths University 2021 and of The Royal Drawing School, 2023

**GIOVANNA LAISO**

The Anthropomorphic Mandala – Giovanna pushes the two-dimensional nature of photography by disrupting the picture into multiple layers and constructing hybrid compositions.

Giovanna is a Photography BA (Hons) student at London Metropolitan University.

**MEI LOCK**

Mei's work is narrative-based with themes and serves as an invitation to connect and learn more about British culture through the lens of first and second generation Hong Kong Chinese migrant families. Themes include food, customs and the ways in which the different cultures have influenced one another.

Mei is studying an Advanced Textiles course at City Lit.

**New Wave Music 2024**

New Wave Music winners have been offered lunchtime concerts at The Music Room on Great Ormond Street, and in City Li's Recital Room

***At the Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street***

THE HOURS (A SONG RECITAL): MARYAM WOCIAL

A costumed song recital exploring the mysteries of self-consciousness through the writings of Virginia Woolf and other acclaimed authors. With Maryam Wocial (soprano) and Archie Bonham (piano).

SEI SOLO: YENTE LOTTMAN

Yente Lottman (violin) explores the profound connection between solitude and humankind and the solitary nature of the solo violin, with music from Bach and Bartók.

***At City Lit Recital Room***

ISAAC SHIEH (NATURAL HORN)

Featuring new works by composers of our time, Isaac Shieh shines the spotlight on an instrument that is rarely heard in a solo setting, the natural horn.

DIALOGUS: JULIAN CHAN

Prize-winning pianist Julian Chan presents a captivating solo piano recital exploring the themes of spirituality and dialogue.

MESSIAEN'S QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME: JEREMY CHAN

An intimate performance of Messiaen's masterpiece, written in a prisoner of war camp. Performed by Kosuke Shirai (clarinet), Violetta Suvini (violin), William Lui (cello) and Jeremy Chan (piano)

**New Wave Theatre 2024**

The 2024 New Wave Theatre programme is supported by Bishop & Sewell, with prizes and support for writing from Rugby School Macready Theatre, Tramshed, and Bloomsbury Radio at Bloomsbury Institute offer prizes for winning writers. The New Wave theatre programme is additionally supported by Arts Council England.

***Presented at City Lit John Lyon's Theatre***

THE ENCRYPTED FOREST by JIM OSMAN

An evening of folktales for the digital age, inspired by post-internet art, weird fiction, cosmic horror, and traditional folktales.

ATTEMPTS ON A BIRCH TREE by GEORGINA DETTMER (I AM I AM)

A live theatrical experiment. In 2015 Katie fell in love with a tree. Join theatre company, I AM I AM, as they attempt to fall in love too in this prize-winning play about the climate crisis and falling for things you shouldn't.

THE DAISY CHAIN by PRINCESS BESTMAN

Ted-talk-gig-theatre styled performance looking into the realities of England's foster care system.

Fusing audience participation and music with playful commentary, the Daisy chain focuses on transformative approaches and the restoration of hope.

***Presented At Westminster Kingsway College Theatre***

3 COUPLES, 2 BREAKUPS, 1 BARBIE AND THE BERLIN WALL by SQUARE PEGS, MACREADY THEATRE YOUNG ACTORS' COMPANY. Written by Georgina Dettmer.

Eight teenagers (and a Barbie doll) invite you to a joyfully absurd, fast-paced, fun-filled play about love – in all its weird and wonderful forms.

GOODGIRL by PARBATI CHAUDHURY (LIT PATH PRODUCTIONS)

A new theatre work-in-progress. Dip into the world of three close friends – Padma, Brinda, and Suhana - in the final weeks of Suhana's long wanted pregnancy. A visceral theatrical experience on sisterhood and shifting cultural values layered with music and movement rooted in kathak.

***Presented on Bloomsbury Radio***



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HADDOCK by MAX RAEBURN

This radio play mimics a folktale, and follows an Irish couple in the 1950s questioning their faith in their religion, each other and themselves.

***Presented at Holy Cross Church***

SOGYA by PATRICK BAYELE (THE AVIELI ARTHOUSE)

A visceral Afro-Centric theatrical experience honouring World War II Commonwealth soldiers who sacrificed their lives. Audiences are invited to reclaim lost legacies in this lyrical epic.

Developed and presented by The Avieli Arthouse led by Patrick Bayele, Esther Foga and Aixa Amarante Naranjo.

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Bloomsbury Festival runs from 18 – 27 October 2024.

PRINCIPAL & GRANT FUNDERS

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