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Barbican launches digital group exhibition *It All Comes Down*

Available for free from 27 November 2020 – 27 May 2021

The Barbican and Guildhall School today unveil [It All Comes Down](#), an online group exhibition featuring newly created works from 13 emerging visual artists on Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning's Young Visual Arts Group programme. Produced during the Covid-19 lockdown, the exhibition showcases 70 artworks which explore the impermanence of social structures, the relationship between the individual and the collective and how the self is shaped by a dramatically changing world.

It All Comes Down spotlights work from artists **Sam Ahern, Sneha Alexander, Rebecca Cromwell, Safiye Gray, Annie Lee, Becca Lynes, Emily Marshall, Molly Morphew, Defne Ozdenoren, Jordan Robertson, Lay Stevens, Vangelis Trichias** and **Arabella Turner**. The artworks span various mediums including paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, films and installation, presented alongside writings from the artists, as well as images of the artworks installed at site specific locations across the Barbican Centre and Estate.

The visual identity and online experience of the exhibition was created by the group remotely and collaboratively through virtual 'making sessions' via Zoom due to the pandemic. The artists combined digital and analogue mediums to reflect the new way of working together in the digital space. *It All Comes Down* is the culmination of a year of workshops and discussions, supported by the groups's artist mentor **Jordan McKenzie**.

Members of the Young Visual Arts Group said: '*The title of the exhibition, It All Comes Down, was intended to convey that nothing lasts forever - be that structures, organisations, or relationships. This turned out to be uncannily prescient. Over the past months, more things have come down than anyone could have imagined. Many people have lost their loved ones, their jobs, their sense of security in the world. Still more people have taken to the streets, demanding change from a system that has proved itself broken. Although so much has been lost, new visions have risen from necessity - giving us the tools to express what we cannot countenance.*'

This exhibition has been conceived as part of Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning's Young Visual Arts Group, an annual free programme which commissions a group of young creatives, aged 16-25, to work collectively towards a public exhibition or event, and develop their skills in curating, marketing, design and project planning. Members of the programme receive support from the Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning team, as well as professional artists and facilitators in developing their creative practice and ideas.

Full details of the artworks:

[Sam Ahern](#) explores autism-friendly spaces and the Covid-19 crisis through the mediums of illustration, photography and audio recordings. For the exhibition, she presents three interviews, a book of photographed signs seen during the pandemic alongside cartoon illustrations.

While spending lockdown in the countryside, [Sneha Alexander](#) built wooden frames from fallen branches, recorded birdsong and the rush of woodland sound to create a series of lino prints which are then filmed in nature.

[Rebecca Cromwell](#)'s piece, *emit V*, explores the link between personal experiences and time through the medium of film. Her work for this exhibition also includes collages (*emit II*, *emit III* and *emit IV*) and a sculpture (*emit I*).

[Safiye Gray](#)'s contribution, titled *Gooseberries_Hands_20*, are a pair of fabric prints photographed hanging in the Barbican Conservatory. Gray explores what it means to be lost in a moment in time and how that can explode one's experience of a space.

[Annie Lee](#)'s collection of ephemeral 'paintings' present a new series created during the lockdown period, capturing spontaneous moments of life at home, and observations of the everyday. Rather than using traditional art materials, this project looks at how art can be made and defined through the use of more domestic surfaces and overlooked objects.

Setting pop culture artefacts against home footage, [Becca Lynes](#)' *Becca Becomes a Real Girl; Chapter 1: True Love's Kiss* is a three-minute race through childhood as a girl in the noughties. The resulting piece charts a collision course with a sinister destiny, propelled by the twin presence of rapid technological progress and an enduringly gendered romantic metanarrative. Lynes' work will be released episodically via the *It All Comes Down* website.

[Emily Marshall](#) presents a book and sculptures that record journeys she has taken through the Barbican Centre over many months, using photographs and archival material to map out the ephemeral experiences that she has encountered within the architecture.

[Molly Morpew](#)'s work, *Bird People*, is a series of 21 sculptures made of discarded possessions, which Morpew collected throughout the year on her weekly walks in London and then assembled. The installation features a recorded poem and a performance of the artist spreading her wings and migrating from the Barbican's landmark pavements-in-the-sky to street level.

[Defne Ozdenoren](#) combines photography and text to address themes of recovery and emotional healing, centring the importance of friendship and support. In this series she reflects on her personal experience and a friend's experience of recovering from anorexia during the lockdown period.

[Jordan Robertson](#) presents *Pity the Dark*, a photo essay that loosely follows the stages of a transformative experience, featuring a palindromic series of images, including portraiture and motion studies.

[Lay Stevens](#) creates a sculpture with a projection, looking at how relationships between children evolve overtime in a council block setting, drawing in on her own experiences.

[Vangelis Trichias](#) uses symbols from club culture, queer culture, politics and the contemporary internet to explore themes of power and manipulation. *Bareuropean* is an experimental infotainment video that combines film, archive footage and digital masks to explore the manipulation of information and addresses the relationship between totalitarian regimes of the 20th century Europe and nudity, and how it correlated with social liberties.

[Arabella Turner](#)'s work considers how the self is formed and affected by technology, environment and neuroanatomy. For this exhibition, she presents a music video she created for the musicians D'monk and Ama Mizu's new project *Dilliahead*.

The Barbican believes in creating space for people and ideas to connect through its international arts programme, community events and learning activity. To keep its programme accessible to everyone, and to keep investing in the artists it works with, the Barbican needs to raise more than 60% of its income through ticket sales, commercial activities and fundraising every year. Donations can be made here: barbican.org.uk/support-us

Guildhall School delivers world-class training to young artists from all backgrounds, and is ranked as one of the top ten performing arts institutions in the world. Now more than ever, we are looking to our community to enable us to provide the most talented students with the very best training. You can donate today to support the artists of the future: gsmd.ac.uk/scholarshipsfund

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Notes to Editors

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Press images of the artworks installed at the Barbican can be downloaded [here](#).

About Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning

In 2009, the Barbican and Guildhall School joined forces to launch [Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning](#), a creative alliance pioneering new models for creative and cultural learning across the art forms. Their mission, **Creative Skills for Life**, underpins all aspects of their work and approach in the design and delivery of meaningful and impactful learning experiences across three strategic pillars: **Education**, **Employability** and **Enrichment**.

Every year, they deliver more than 40 programmes and events alongside 150 partners to over 28,000 participants. In order to achieve this, they build partnerships with teachers, artists, young people, schools and community organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over a million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, public spaces, a library, the Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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About Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Ranked as one of the top ten performing arts institutions in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020), and recently awarded top conservatoire in the [Complete University Guide Music League Table 2020](#), the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. Guildhall School is also the UK's leading provider of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and the Centre for Young Musicians, as well as a joint Creative Learning division with the Barbican which seeks to create inspiring arts experiences for all.