

**PRESS RELEASE**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 | For immediate release

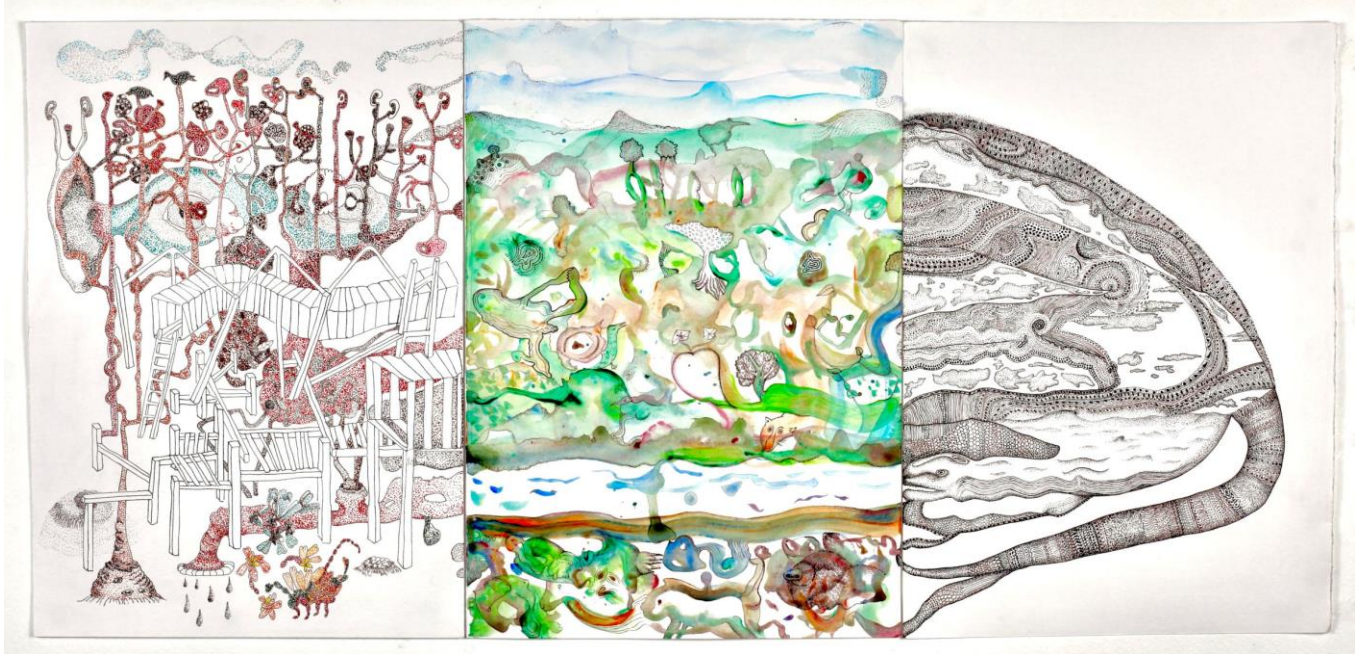
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Matilda Tumim and Chris Prendergast, *Superpowers*, 2023. Mixed media on paper.

**Fife Contemporary set to launch a significant online exhibition; celebrating the work of artists who continue to be affected by the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Fife Contemporary work to promote and curate the work of contemporary visual art and craft artists in Fife and beyond. As we started to emerge from the pandemic, we noticed that in the race to return to 'normal' there was a chance that some artists were being left behind. The pandemic was tough for many people, and for many reasons, but for some artists the move to working and exhibiting art online meant that art exhibitions, events, launches and private views became more accessible and available through their internet connection. Artists managing long-term health conditions, living with disability and having to shield from potential COVID-19 exposure could participate in online events and see online exhibitions on the same terms as everyone else.

Now physical exhibitions, art fairs, markets and events are back in full swing, and fewer events are available online it would be too easy to ignore the exciting work these artists produce and leave online exhibiting in the past. Fife Contemporary feel this would be a mistake, and we are therefore delighted to be launching the exhibition **Life Lines** in October 2023. Spanning work in sculpture, printmaking, textile, painting, digital illustration and bookmaking the artists featured in this exhibition are based across Scotland and exemplify the great variety and quality of creative practice being produced by artists in studios across the country.

Artists managing long-term health conditions and disability, are joined in **Life Lines** by those whose experience of COVID-19 continues to impact their mental and physical health today. However, the impact of covid is not the subject of these artists work, which carries their own stories, conceptual weight, and creative expressions. Rather, the pandemic's impact is explored by exposing how these artists practices have changed in response to extended isolation, limited access to studio facilities, or the need to exhibit work digitally or remotely. Through ongoing conversation, these artists continue to explore the impact of covid on their practice, and this exhibition is a way-marker on that journey.

Themes explored include engagement with landscape, isolation and communication, stories of disability, fairytale and imagination, and the aesthetics of medical imaging. The exhibiting artists are Marion Boddy-Evans, Sasha Saben Callaghan, Kathryn Hanna, Kirsty Stevens, Gosia Walton, and collaborative duo Matilda Tumim and Chris Prendergast.

Fife Contemporary Director, Kate Grenyer, says “What is significant about this exhibition is the quality of work these artists produce. The thought, care and precision that goes into their practice is as powerful and thought provoking as anything being shown in contemporary art galleries across Scotland today. This online exhibition gives an insight into work that continues to be impacted by the pandemic and therefore tells us much about the experience of living and creating in a post-covid world.”



Kathryn Hanna, *Link*, 2023. Jesmonite, activated copper pigment.

### **Exhibition Launches Online – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 11:00am**

The exhibition will be launched in an online event at a time of day accessible to those experiencing fatigue, which will offer the opportunity to meet and hear from the artists behind the work. For those who can't attend the launch, the exhibition will continue to be available online at **fcac.co.uk** with stories and films from the launch available there and on social media, allowing greater access to the artists thoughts and experiences.

*Life Lines* will be a launched at a [live online event](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-lines-online-exhibition-launch-tickets-723437800937) at **11:00am on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. The event is free, and registration can be made online the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-lines-online-exhibition-launch-tickets-723437800937>

More detail on the exhibition is available at [www.fcac.co.uk/event/life-lines/](http://www.fcac.co.uk/event/life-lines/)

##ENDS##

## Notes to Editors

### High-Resolution Images are available to view and download from Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/e5eif6l4aslehiqrtw9p3/h?rlkey=wokqx7w29b53076llhhttpcoz&dl=0>

To find out more about this exhibition please feel free to attend our launch, the link to register is here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-lines-online-exhibition-launch-tickets-723437800937>

**Fife Contemporary** produces high quality public exhibitions, programmes and activities with partners across Fife, as well as supporting artists to develop and extend their practice, and to create and exhibit new visual art and craft projects. Our work with communities facilitates engagement between artists and audiences, enriching the experiences of all.



Gosia Watson, *Brain Fog*, 2022. Monotype on paper.

## Artist Biographies:

**Marion Boddy-Evans** is a painter with an interest in line, pattern and colour found in the landscape and coast. After living fourteen years on Skye, where the geology is dominated by volcanic blacks and greys, Marion moved to the northeastern coast of Aberdeenshire, where there's a colourful geological mix. This has led to her spending more time painting on location, exploring patterns and pebbles on the seashore.

Recent exhibitions include 'Colours' at Aberdeen Arts Society (2023); 'Words' and 'Fish' at Skyeworks Gallery, Isle of Skye (2018 & 2019); and solo exhibitions 'Colours of Spring' at Inchmore Gallery, Inverness (2017); and 'Interlude' at Skyeworks Gallery, (2016). Marion regularly takes part in Art Festivals, Art Fairs and Open Studio events across Scotland.

**Sasha Saben Callaghan** is a visual artist and spoken word performer living in Edinburgh. She was a winner of the 2016 'A Public Space' International Emerging Writer Fellowship, the 2019 national Pen to Paper Awards and the Stephen Palmer Travel Bursary in 2022. Her illustrations have featured in a wide range of journals, magazines, exhibitions and installations, including Shape International Open 2020, IAN Australia 2021 and Plus Tate 2022. In 2023, Sasha was Artist in Residence at Forest Arts and The Ripple Community Hub.

Sasha is an Associate Artist and blogger with Disability Arts Online and board member at the Collective Centre for Contemporary Art. Along with Harry Josie Giles, Sasha was the co-curator of 'Not Going Back to Normal: A Radical Manifesto by and for Disabled Artists in Scotland', published in 2020. Sasha's lived experience of disability and impairment is a major influence on her work.

**Kathryn Hanna** is a sculptor and socially engaged artist who graduated from the Sculpture and Environmental Art Programme, Glasgow School of Art, in 2017. Hanna lives in Glasgow and works out of her studio in Blantyre, creating artworks which reflect on antiquity and the sacred, exploring the relevancies of the past within the present. In addition to her studio practice, Hanna is driven to make the arts accessible, and works with communities, schools, councils and arts organisations to deliver creative programmes and to develop public artworks.

Hanna was recently commissioned by the David Elder Edward Trust to create a public artwork, 'Pathways' for South Ayrshire, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hanna is currently the Country Parks Artist in Residence for North Lanarkshire Council, and is the Lead Artist for South Lanarkshire's 'Remembering Together Covid Memorial Project.' Hanna's artwork has been exhibited publicly at Pollok House, Glasgow (2017); The Maclaurin Art Gallery, Ayr (2018 & 2022). Selected group shows include NORTH, Visual Art Scotland, Inverness (2022); It'll Be Alright, Alchemy Experiment, Glasgow (2023); WEST, Visual Art Scotland, Glasgow (2023).

**Kirsty Stevens** is a visual artist and designer living and working in Fife, Scotland. Whilst Stevens was studying Jewellery and Metal Design at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a lifelong condition affecting the brain and central nervous system. Determined to make something positive out of this negative diagnosis she began using her own MRI scans to create mesmerising patterns inspired by the harmful lesions on her brain.

In 2014 she founded her own surface pattern design label, 'Charcot', named after Jean Martin Charcot who first discovered MS in 1868. She has leased MS-inspired prints around the world, represented UNESCO City of Design Dundee at the first Design Week in Shenzhen, China, at the same time as being announced as the first Design Champion for Scotland's Design Museum, V&A Dundee in 2017. Stevens has also worked closely with the MS Society over the years, sharing her story at public speaking events and as a Wellbeing Facilitator during the covid lockdown.

**Gosia Walton** is a visual artist working across drawing, printmaking, painting and installation. For ten years she has been creating by mixing traditional tools and techniques with contemporary technology, such as laser cutting acrylic sheets, canvas and paper. Solo exhibitions include *Laser Erotic* at Galerie Pact, Paris (2016); *BLISK* at Galeria Sztuki, Legnica, Poland (2018). Recent group exhibitions include *Dark Night of the Soul* at Lewisham Art House, London (2019); *Society of Scottish Artists 130th Annual Exhibition* at Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh (2022). In 2018 she was awarded The Deloitte Prize, by the Society of Scottish Artists.

Gosia Walton's practice has fundamentally shifted since being diagnosed with Long Covid in June 2022, becoming more slow, intimate and holistic in nature. New work will be included in a group exhibition at the Edinburgh College of Art Sculpture Court, 26th of September - 2nd of October 2023, and in an upcoming solo exhibition at Mote102 in Leith, Edinburgh, from February 2024.

**Matilda Tumim and Chris Prendergast** are based in North East Fife. They studied at Falmouth and the Royal College of Art prior to moving to Orkney in 1989, relocating to Fife in 2015. Tumim and Prendergast work with a variety of media, including stitch, paint, collage and ink and have been commissioned to make permanent installations for schools, hospitals and voluntary organisations. They exhibit regularly and their work is held in public and private collections around the world. For many of their projects, the artist duo take their starting point from playing a Surrealist game created by André Breton called The Exquisite Corpse. Matilda suffers from a rare autoimmune disease, Systemic Sclerosis. Due to her being immunosuppressed, the artists worked at home, shielding throughout the pandemic.



Kirsty Stevens CSF, Sasha Saben Callaghan *The Brown Bear of the Green Glen*, and Marion Boddy-Evans, *Pebbles 12*