

Full to Bursting

Curated by Haydn Albrow and Flora Bradwell

Dates: 1 June 2023 - 18 June 2023

Opening: Thursday 1st June 6-10pm

49 Staffordshire Street, London SE15 5TJ



Okiki Akinfe, Haydn Albrow, Kavitha Balasingham, Eleanor Bedlow, Flora Bradwell, Anna Choutova, Tom Coates, Sophie Goodchild, Bart Hajduk, Amber Khan, Sophie Lourdes Knight, Lindsey Jean McLean.

Staffordshire St presents *Full To Bursting* - a carnival of excess wrapped in a velour embrace. The exhibition curated by Haydn Albrow and Flora Bradwell brings together new work from early-career artists to explore the grotesque through the body, language and erotic lens. An excess of colour, scale and materiality speak to the over-saturation we experience day to day. The show is fantastical, a high-octane atmosphere reflecting the excess of emotion and anxiety induced by living in a time of perma-crisis. Metallic ceramics filled with dreamy soundscapes line the floor and large scale paintings and drawings nestle within velvety walls. The gallery becomes a beating heart; a cacophony of painted limbs, tufted teeth and squashed frogs.

Full To Bursting was born out of an artistic convergence between artists Haydn Albrow and Flora Bradwell during their time on the Slade MFA. The pair found delicious crossovers in their bombastic, irreverent works, which have grown both in ambition and scale since their graduation in 2021. This nascent creative partnership has continued to flourish in their shared studio at Bow Arts, each artist's work calls to the other's across the studio floor.

Albrow and Bradwell's collaboration for Staffordshire St reflects the playful creative process that rises from such a synergetic partnership. With visceral references to the human body, sensory overload and burnout, *Full to Bursting* plays host to work from an eclectic group of emerging UK artists. The work bulges, barks and preens itself in its velveteen lair.

Events

- Wednesday 7th June 12-4pm
Yarn Club
Join Bella Puertolas and Rachel for an evening of yarning. Bring your projects, or learn how to knit or crochet with the gang. Free entry.
- Friday 9th June 7-10pm
Anatomy Orchestra
A live musical happening that responds directly to the work in the show. A group of jazz musicians perform an improvised score to the displayed work, reading them as musical notation, creating a completely unique sound experience. Book [here](#)
- Sunday 18th June 12-4pm
Carnival Crafternoon
Fun for all the family! This free workshop explores carnivals of the world. We'll be making fabulous masks then spilling on to the streets of South East London for a raucous parade. Free entry - sign up [here](#)

Notes

Staffordshire St is an independent project space in Peckham, South East London. The venue facilitates arts and cultural events and provides affordable studios for artists, makers and designers. More information on upcoming events at : info@staffordshirest.com or [@staffordshirest](https://www.instagram.com/staffordshirest)

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Friday 5-8pm

Saturday - Sunday 12–6pm or by appointment

49 Staffordshire Street, London SE15 5TJ
Transport: 12 minute walk from **Queens Road Peckham** or **Peckham Rye**

info@staffordshirest.com
www.staffordshirest.com
[instagram.com/staffordshirest](https://www.instagram.com/staffordshirest)

Artist Bios:

Okikioluwa Akinfe, (born 1999) is a London based artist, her practice centres on creating an alternative to the conventional archive, encompassing 'The Black lens', a subversive tool towards avoiding stereotypes by demonstrating their absurdity. Authenticity that involves the othered experience as refocusing the position of the white Gaze to a Black Gaze.

Haydn Albrow is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice addresses themes of the conscious and unconscious mind; thinking of our brain as a machine that manipulates and interprets memories, language and dreams into sensical thoughts. In particular her work explores the ways we attempt to share our dreamed experiences and the difficulties we face in conveying their ephemeral sensations and sentiments.

Kavitha Balasingham is a London based artist whose practice reclaims the power of the erotic and pleasure as a tool to live freely and liberated with sourcing her own desires as an ethos to making. Through playful ideas connected to nature, of blossomed flowers and connections to the soil and earth, flowers become a symbol through which emotion, pleasure, possibilities of growth and liberation are explored.

Eleanor Bedlow creates a sculptural play area of precarious mixed media artworks, abstracting components of our environment to explore the human condition and our relationship to the environments we inhabit. The work often pairs tactile and organic forms with elongated extensions. The structures are suspended in balance not only in a physical sense, but also in their existence as inanimate anthropomorphic forms.

Flora Bradwell is a London based artist and curator with a playfully carnivalesque, vibrant, trashy aesthetic. Encompassing painting, sculpture, video and performance Flora's work revels in the generously grotesque. Compositions of frescoes, cult manifestoes and nursery rhymes are squeezed through a fantastical filter to create dimly recognisable imagined worlds.

Anna Choutova's practice is best described as a browse through a forgotten section of a Duty Free store. She is fascinated by the things we consume in an effort to alter our identity. Coming from an Eastern European background, then thrown into a Westernised upbringing in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Anna's practice functions as a form of rose-tinted voyeurism into an idealised Western culture, approaching food, consumerism and addiction with a contemporary Pop Art vernacular.

Tom Coates is a sculpture and performance artist who works in hope of creating an unorthodox relationship between the artwork and the viewer. Coates favours bright colours and visceral textures to give the works a sense of urgency or even restlessness to combat the idea of the static decorative art object. The form presented is often a conglomeration of

invented shapes and recognisable forms, this mixture springs from the tension between the desire to subvert pre-existing heteronormative structures and the dream of creating a new language of gender expression.

Sophie Goodchild (b. 1993, Chester UK) Goodchild's practice functions as an inquiry into the otherworldly through the leading foot of the intuitive strange- linking the rural, the mythological, and the historical. Combining traditional hand-crafted techniques such as felting and ceramics, there is a pollination of information that infects and spans from work to work. In the fusing and preserving act of making, roots are firmly grounded in materiality and tactility; questioning 'Saturation' and 'Sensation' as Translation.

Bartłomiej Hajduk (b. 1990) is a Polish artist living and working in London. His practice spans drawing, painting, sculpture, and is influenced by the realm of personal fantasies, spirituality, cosmology, sexuality and relationship with the natural world, religion and Polish culture. His works are a love letter to the world of plants, animals and astronomical cycles. Figurative pencil or pastel drawings and watercolours are filled with colour and populated with flocks of birds, floating eggs, celestial bodies, burgeoning flowers and humanoid creatures.

Amber Khan is a mixed media artist from Honolulu, Hawaii currently residing in London. Her practice explores spatiotemporal identities, nonlinear realities, cultural production, and the natural world. Khan is a painter and sculptor. As a mixed heritage American in the illegally overthrown state of Hawaii her sense of belonging and place have always felt disoriented. She's interested in how we belong to a place and to each other in a multitude of ways; how each of us develops our own perspective by synthesising a myriad of influences. Khan sees the natural world as one influence all of us share—a connecting point for our individual and collective histories.

Sophie Lourdes Knight is a multidisciplinary artist from California, USA. Knight's work attempts to disrupt the hierarchical economy of value within the world of objects. By placing overlooked, everyday items alongside spectacular things of beauty she establishes them as on a level plain; both objects are prescribed as having the same inherent value. They transcend their physical limitations and rise to become akin to religious idols or spiritual totems.

Lindsey Jean McLean currently lives and works in London. McLean's work questions the construct of femininity in art history and the impact it has on our contemporary experience of gender, sexuality and power dynamics. In her paintings figures are bedecked in a rich colour palette suggestive of tactile honeys and velvets; these characters are in movement and/or entangled, trapped in acts of concealment and destruction. She has recurring motifs which are feather boas, fans and veils.