

Awkward Bastards 2: ABsence
22-23 March 2017
mac birmingham,
Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH



[Bookings](#)

In March 2015 the first Awkward Bastards symposium brought together a diverse mix of artists, academics and activists to rethink ideas around Diversity. This groundbreaking event was the first to engage with the spectrum of diversity from disability, ethnicity, and sexuality, to gender and class.

Thanks to generous funding from ACE Awkward Bastards returns for two days on 22nd and 23rd March 2017 at the **mac birmingham**.

Building on the successes and impact of 2015's event, AB2 will begin with a day of workshops, followed by a symposium which brings together artists, activists, thinkers, producers and facilitators to consider the ways in which diverse artists and practices are, or could be, framed, and our collective responsibilities to our pasts and our futures.

Day 1: Awkward Bastards at Work (ABW) 22 March, 10am to 4pm

Day long creative workshops led by four diverse artists.

[Rachel Gadsden](#)

Rachel is a British artist who is exhibited internationally and who works across the mainstream and disability art sectors.

[Sue Austin](#)

Sue Austin is an internationally acclaimed multimedia, performance and installation artist.

[Mohammed Ali](#)

Mohammed Ali is an artist, educator and curator born and raised in the UK.

[Rachel Savage](#)

Rachel Savage is from Vamos Theatre, the UK's leading full mask theatre company.

Day 2: The Return of the Awkward Bastards – A Symposium 23 March, 10.15 – 6pm

The symposium will consist of presentations by the ABW artists, a live portrait painting and presentation by Tanya Raabe, an open mic *Radical Practices* session and two panel debates with keynote presentations.

10.15 – Registration

11.00 welcomes/introductions – Debbie Kermode (mac), Mike Layward (DASH), and MC (Caroline Parker)

11.15 – 11.30 Tanya Raabe-Webber Portraits Untold presentation

11.30 – 12.30 – Panel One - Framing Diversity A panel considering different contexts for the representation of under-represented artists and practices – what kind of frames do the institutional context of museums, galleries, theatres and festivals put around diverse artists and practices and what do those frames do and say? Do institutional frameworks for diverse practice perpetuate marginalisation and 'difference', in terms of artists, practices and audiences or the opposite? Do we need to consider different kinds of institutional frameworks and what might they look like? What kind of freedoms, permissions and agency do artist-led or grass roots contexts offer that the institution cannot? What is at stake in these debates?

Keynote - Frances Morris (Tate Modern)

Panel - Amanda Cachia (academic), Melanie Keen (Iniva), Aaron Wright (Fierce Festival), Rachel Anderson (Idle Women), Daniel Oliver (artist).

12. 30 – 12.45 ABW presentation one (Sue Austin)

12.45 – 13.45 lunch

13.45 – 14.00 Creative Minds artist's provocation (Sarah Watson and Thompson Hall)

14.00 – 14.15 ABW presentation two (Rachel Gadsden)

14.15 – 15.15 – Panel Two - Pasts and Futures A panel considering responsibilities to our pasts and our futures.

How do we ensure that underrepresented artists and practices are represented in cultural histories - what kind of archival and legacy projects and approaches address issues of exclusion and invisibility. How do we rewrite and reclaim histories. How do we equally invest in the future - supporting future generations of makers and cultural leaders in meaningful and instrumental ways.

Keynote – David A Bailey (International Curators Forum)

Panel – Helga Henry (Birmingham Hippodrome), Jamila Johnson Small (artist), Tony Heaton (Shape), Katharine Araniello and Aaron Williamson (The Disabled Avant-Garde), Simon Casson (Duckie), Nick Llewellyn & Cian Binchy (Access All Areas).

15.15 – 15.30 break

15.30 – 15.45 ABW presentation three (Mohammed Ali)

15.45 – 16.00 revisiting Tanya's portrait of Abid Hussain

16.00 – 16.15 ABW presentation four (Charlotte Gregory, Vamos Theatre)

16.15 – 17.30 Radical Practices - Open Mic session (13 presentations @ 5 minutes each: Vera Boysova (*Objectify Me*), Alex Leggett (*Posthuman Autistic does some shit things and fails horribly*), Catherine Hoffmann (*Stenchwench Presents Ten Tips On Being Feckless And Poor Whilst Pretending Not To Be*), Jane Thakoordin & Riffat Bashir (*Don't Tell Me I Am Hard To Reach*), Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros (*Gypsies/Roma: Onstage Revered...Offstage A Big Issue*), Lewis Devey (*Kaepernick My Kaepernick*), Sexcentenary (*I Just Said That*), Nicholas Tee (*This Chink Is Going Gold*), Faye Claridge (*Moor-ish*), Rinkoo Barpaga (*Language, Limited World*), Priya Mistry (*Inviting Discomfort - Broken & Tropical*), Ben Spatz (*Judaica (Concatenate Version)*), Olivia Sparrow (*Your Booking Is Cancelled*).

17.30 – 18.00 - plenary/wrap up/ thanks led by Julie McNamara
Tickets:

Workshops £30 salaried, £20 non salaried and concessions
Symposium £60 salaried, £30 non salaried and concessions Dual
£80 salaried, £40 non salaried and concessions
For bursary places contact DASH – [Mike](#) at DASH



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