



Bristol: Thursday 8 & Friday 9 June 2017

For Assembly Bristol, one of five a-n Assembly events taking place across the UK during May and June this year, a-n have devised a programme of events with Bristol-based artist Julie McCalden.

The Assembly, which takes barriers to practice as a point of departure, was shaping up nicely, when the snap election was called right smack bang in the middle of it.

Embracing this serendipitous straddling, artists are invited to descend upon the Brunswick Club — where the

majority of events will be hosted — for a programme artist-led discussions and unconventional workshops. Based in St Pauls with its skittle alleys, dance hall, bars and lounges, the Brunswick Club is being inhabited by over thirty artists, performers, film-makers and curators for a 9-month project.

Complemented by a-n led professional development sessions, a post-election breakfast and a feast for the masses will provide social opportunities for celebrating, commiserating and letting off steam.

a-n.co.uk/assembly

Proposal for a Guide for Art Parents — strategies to continue thinking and making as a parent

12 - 4pm | Brunswick Club, 15-16 Brunswick Square, BS2 8NX | FREE event but booking is required

The issue of starting a family wasn't covered at art school — or if it was it was derided. 'There is no more sombre enemy of good art than the pram in the hall' because, it is assumed, you can't be devoted to your practice and your child at the same time.

If you are wondering how to continue your practice whilst being a parent, how you will manage childcare or cope with limited time and diminished access - not to mention the gender divide - then you are not alone.

Art parents need strategies of care and systems of support. Let's talk about it.

Beginning with a 'coffee morning' where participants can get acquainted over coffee and cake the session will include presentations from independent producer and horticulturist Jane Porter, who will share her project [Bring Your Baby](#), live artist [Liz Clarke](#) who will introduce her practice and artist and facilitator [Frances Bossom](#) who will give a short presentation about feminist art practices in the 60s, 70s and 80s alongside current models. After more cake, Frances will facilitate a practical workshop and discussion exploring what a Guide for Art Parents could be.

(Bring your own lunch - coffee and cake provided!)

Thursday 8 June

Negotiating with confidence

10am - 5.30pm | Hamilton House, 80 Stokes Croft, BS1 3QY | Tickets £10 / £7.50 for a-n members. Lunch is provided within the ticket price | Booking is required

"I'm not happy with the offer but I don't want to lose out on an exhibition."

"I want the commission but I'm not happy with paying all of the costs..."

Familiar story?

Part of a-n's ongoing practical support for artists, this workshop has been designed in response to our [Paying Artists](#) campaign which identified lack of confidence and training in negotiation as a barrier to artists achieving fair payment. This workshop will help equip participants with the communication skills to empower them to advocate for their work and value.

Delivered by [Rivca Rubin](#) — whose areas of expertise are in communication and leadership development, conflict resolution and change management, creative thinking and future visioning, this workshop will help you to create clarity around motivations, expectations and outcomes and discuss how to create the right conditions to communicate. You will also explore the role of positive language and action, how to tactfully challenge those you disagree with, and how you can find common ground — knowing when to compromise and find a mutually agreeable conclusion.

Participants will also receive copies of the recently launched Exhibition Payment

Guidance and the Artist-Led Manifesto which was launched alongside the guidance to take into consideration the different economies artist-led activities operate in.

Bermuda Triangle Test Transmission Broadcasts Radiophonic workshop

2 - 5.30pm | Brunswick Club, 15-16 Brunswick Square, BS2 8NX | FREE event but booking is required

[BEEF](#) artists in residence [Melanie Clifford](#) and [Howard Jacques](#) produce a weekly radio programme broadcast live on London's radio arts station Resonance 104.4FM and worldwide online via [resonancefm.com](#). Their improvisational [Bermuda Triangle Test Transmission Broadcasts](#) test sounds and ideas within and without the radio studio.

As excited new migrants to Bristol, Howard and Melanie are seeking others interested in sound as material to join them for an afternoon's collaborative seeking, improvising, recording, engineering and composing. No experience is necessary and all experience is valid.

Participants will engage with the events of the day's a-n Assembly, within the wider context of Bristol on polling day, and produce an hour-long radiophonic work to be broadcast live from [BEEF](#) at the Brunswick Club. All participants are invited back to join the radio broadcast 11pm - midnight.

Book tickets online: a-n.co.uk/assembly

**Thursday
8 June**

HEY! TEACHER! — a workshop in methods of alternative education

6 - 8pm | Brunswick Club, 15-16 Brunswick Square, BS2 8NX | FREE event but booking is required

CHAMP are a Bristol-based art collective with a strong DIY ethos. They are inviting participants of all ages, genders and haircuts to a free crash course in how to do alternative education, teaching (and learning) important skills in blind confidence, the power of rhythm and how to spin a good yarn.

In a society full of academies, grammars, community colleges, faith schools, private schools, state schools, boarding and boring schools, followed by £9000 + a year in tuition fees, followed by minimum wage 0 hour contracts in dead end jobs... spoilt millennials **CHAMP** want something more than this.

“...LEARN EVERYTHING YOU’LL NEVER NOT NEED TO KNOW NOW AND MORE. PREPARE FOR UNPREPARED PAIR SHAPED CHAMP NONSENSE, SENSORY, YET NECESSARY IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORLD...”

Friday 9 June

Post-election breakfast

9am - 12pm | Brunswick Club, 15-16 Brunswick Square, BS2 8NX | FREE event but booking is required

Rendezvous at the Brunswick Club between 9-10am for a post-election coffee and croissant — come rain or shine — before a series of discussions from 10am-12pm

After the election, what next?

Regardless of the outcome a-n will continue advocating for the value of artists in society; campaigning for fair pay and making sure visual artists are recognised as vital for the economy. We want to work towards an inclusive and representative visual arts sector and to make sure we get the fairest Brexit for visual artists possible.

These are some of the issues we’ll be advocating for over the coming five years and we want your input.

Speaking about these topics can sometimes mean having to have a difficult conversation. The trickiest part can be knowing how to broach the subject and how to be open to understanding another point of view — even when we disagree. So we’ve asked four speakers to begin some urgent, difficult and/or uncomfortable conversations that relate to these points — and we invite you to participate.

Our speakers will tackle a range of challenging subjects, from diversity, gentrification and gender to the difficulty of criticism in a nepotistic art

world — not to mention the thorny issue of artist pay.

There’s no time like the present!

Structures workshop

2 - 5pm | Brunswick Club, 15-16 Brunswick Square, BS2 8NX | FREE event but booking is required

&Sons is a special design duo based in London comprising of Blaise Chatelain and Billy Mason-Watts. For their first ever Bristol venture, they will be holding a workshop in the collective building of DIY furniture - furniture that will later host a delicious feast of food and conversation.

This workshop will take the form of objects bigger than furniture and smaller than architecture, informed by their context with which they attempt to engage as a functional environment and therefore promote discussion. The intention is to act as an in-between situation that links art, design and architect.

A feast for the masses

7 - 10pm | Brunswick Club, 15 - 16 Brunswick Square, BS2 8NX | FREE event but booking is required

On Friday night, Brunswick Club host a feast for the masses. The furniture made collectively in the &Sons workshop will be the platform for a long table dinner. A time to meet artists and participants, to continue conversations and discuss themes that have emerged over the two-day assembly.

Book tickets online: a-n.co.uk/assembly