

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Glasgow Open House Arts Festival 2021: Artists in Isolation

Festival Dates: 24-27th 'September Weekend'

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New website where registration is open (deadline 26th April):

<https://www.glasgowopenhousearts.co.uk>

DIY non-profit arts festival 'Glasgow Open House Arts Festival' (GOHAF) has returned after a 4-year break in programming, hoping to bring desperately needed opportunities for joy and togetherness to the local community, as we recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic.

The artist-run organisation is now accepting expressions of interest from artists and organisations interested in getting involved in this year's 4th and 'socially distanced' programme, themed 'Artists in Isolation'. Artists and creative members of the public from all backgrounds are invited to reflect on their experience of the pandemic, using alternative, domestic and public spaces to exhibit their art.

GOHAF Director Amalie Silvani-Jones commented: *"We encourage artists, musicians, performers, schools, organisations and creative members of the public from all backgrounds to get excited about sharing art within social distancing restrictions. Imagine beautiful window displays in flats and houses across the city, a collaborative sculpture in a park, a drive-in-cinema, wall murals, postal zines, painted shop-shutters, online performances, online discussions, watch together and discuss online film screenings, doorstep performances or art taking over advertising spaces!"*

This year's theme 'Artists in Isolation' invites participants to reflect on their experience of the ongoing pandemic, during which creative communities have been hit hard by restrictions and financial hardship. Organisers want the festival to create space to explore the lived experiences of artists and the wider community during this difficult time. The festival will prioritise the bringing together of artists and arts organisations working within diverse communities, recognising and advocating for the essential role the arts play in nourishing our daily lives.

Glasgow Open House Arts Festival encourages artists to use alternative, domestic and public spaces to exhibit their art. By 'removing' art from conventional spaces, such as galleries and museums, and embedding it within the very fabric of the city the festival hopes to bring together and support the community to engage with the arts both as artists and audiences, where they feel most comfortable.

In order for the festival to build a tangibly alternative model for the sharing of art from galleries and museums, organisers will not be including any exhibitions or events that take place within a physical art gallery or museum building; rather encouraging participants to occupy spaces elsewhere within the heart of the community, or online. Guidelines and ideas of what kind of spaces are encouraged can be found on the new festival website.

The festival team are currently operating on a voluntary basis and paying out of pocket for festival expenses, so what level of support they are able to offer festival participants is dependant on the success of their fundraising efforts. They are currently looking to fund part of their budget by attempting to crowdfund £10,000 from their supporters on crowdfunder:

Crowdfunder (22nd of March - 26 April): <https://crowdfunder.co.uk/GOHAF-2021>

With the help of £10,000 in donations (as well as additional fundraising efforts), the organisation hopes to support participating artists from all backgrounds to be able to take part in the festival, pay fair wages to the festival coordinators and cover the running costs of the festival. Your support will allow the team to collaborate with and spotlight artists, organisations and groups already supporting diverse creative output in the city.

Notes to Editors

Glasgow Open House Arts Festival

Glasgow Open House Arts Festival is a non-profit artist-led organisation that aims to improve the 'accessibility' of the art world in three main ways: offering opportunities for artists from diverse backgrounds, expanding community engagement with art and providing new meaningful 'spaces' to engage with art and ideas, outside of the usual gallery or museum setting. The festival prioritises the bringing together of artists and arts organisations working within diverse communities, recognising and advocating for the essential role the arts play in nourishing our daily lives.

Social Media Contacts

<https://www.facebook.com/glasgowopenhousearts>

https://www.instagram.com/glasgow_open_house/

<https://twitter.com/OHGlasgow>

Shared folder with images of previous festivals:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g6DjyXMD1YW7a3b7w11bKe0Ij7kNtia9?usp=sharing>

Shared folder with festival poster and logo:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lOUfmBJGcRzgzkPo6GHaUp_00xURg0FcM?usp=sharing