

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Glasgow Open House Art Festival 2021: Artists in Isolation

Festival Dates: 24-27th 'September Weekend'

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New website where registration is now open: <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 walks of life 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 walks of life 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.

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.

Notes to Editors

Crowdfunder Campaign Launch: mid-April on Crowdfunder

**GOHAF will need Glasgow's help and support to achieve their vision of a truly inclusive festival!
The festival's crowdfunding campaign goes live in mid-April stay tuned for ways to support it!**

The festival team is raising funds for general festival costs as well as looking to move away from relying on voluntary labour and towards paying a fair wage to the festival coordinators. They are also attempting to raise funds to support participating artists. By offering financial support to artists, who would not be able to take part in the festival without it, organisers believe the festival can begin to address the impact of class and other forms of inequality that limit accessibility to the art world, for both professionals and audiences.

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. 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/1g6DJyXMD1YW7a3b7w11bKe0IJZkNtia9?usp=sharing>