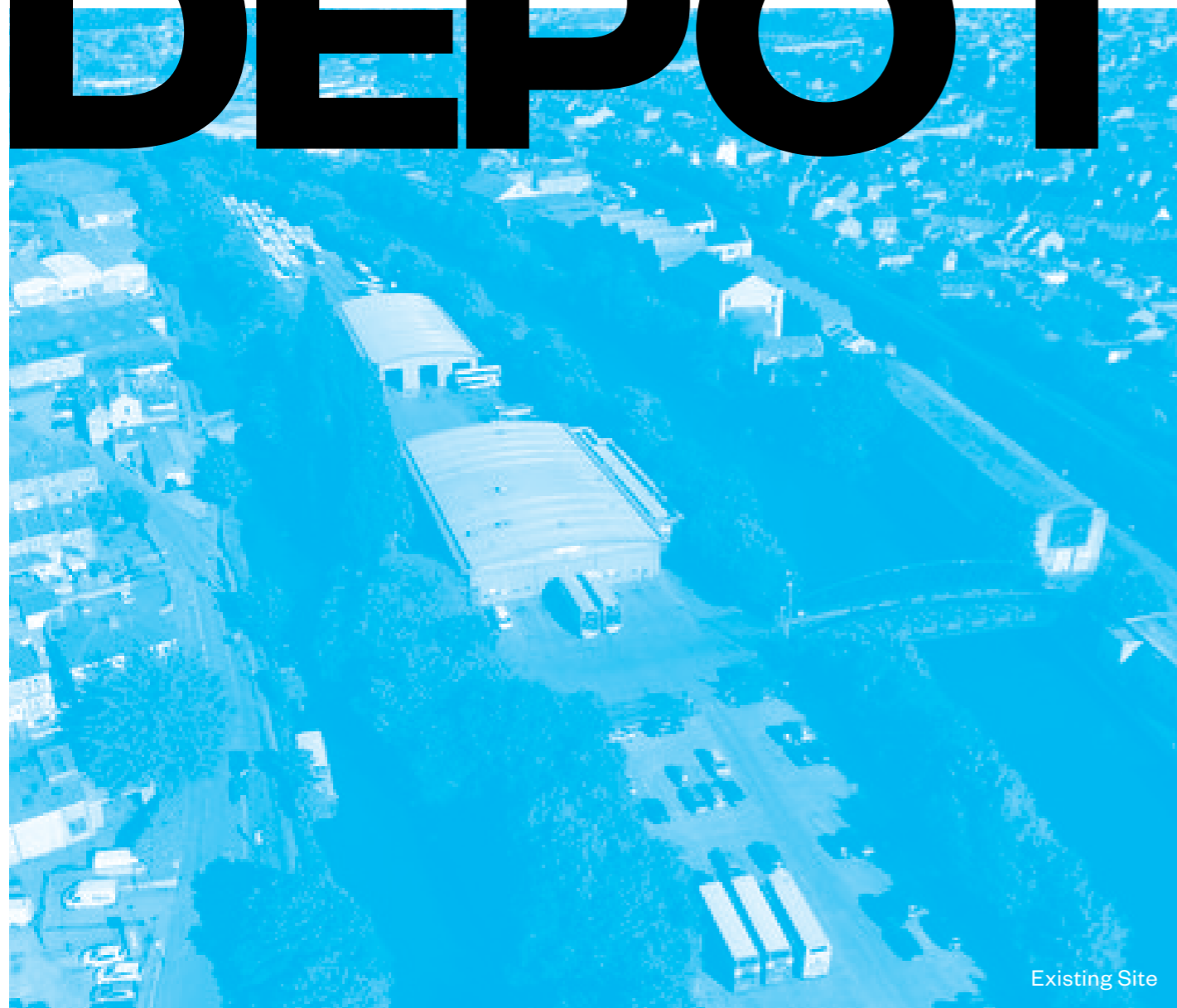


BATH ART DEPOT

AT
WESTON
ISLAND



Existing Site

ART IS A CATALYST: INSPIRE CONNECT LEARN

This is a pivotal moment for Bath's leadership. A generational opportunity to create an innovative, relevant and transformative creative hub for the city. A chance to create a world-class Arts Quarter on Weston Island that will engage local communities and attract international visitors.

Now is the time to transform this neglected space and use its unique qualities to regenerate one of the most neglected areas in the city. Located in the middle of the River Avon, linking north, south, east and west, Weston Island is a meeting point for the city – literally and figuratively. The Bath Riverside Scheme is anchored by Pulteney Weir at one end and Weston Island at the other: a 'best kept secret' crying out for creative regeneration.

As the bus depot relocates, we believe this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to reclaim the island for the city of Bath and to fulfil its potential as a landmark destination linking Twerton to the city and connecting with the cycle routes and river experiences. Our project will give the riverside a stronger identity, nurturing the well-being of Bath's residents and visitors.



VISION



OUR VISION

We will establish an artist/practitioner-led studio complex and gallery – an inclusive, generous, inspiring creative community. The space will be artist-run; supported and guided by community leaders with a passion for contemporary art in Bath. The space will also be a resource for the community, reaching new audiences through a program of engagement/learning/training.

Gallery

There will be a gallery space that attracts national and international-level artists and curators, providing a much-needed contemporary program of selected events and public exhibitions.

A performance/events space will host a wide-ranging public programme of activities and engage audiences with a regular series of talks and discussions, film screenings, live art performances and social events.

Studios

The project will offer a vital space for established and emerging artists/makers/architects by providing affordable, high quality studio space. Tenants will be practicing artists and other creative businesses; tenancy would be by application to foster an exceptional and vibrant creative community.

Learning

Our education programme will aim to discover, inspire, engage and support the next generation of artists and arts audiences – people of all ages, abilities and areas of interest. We will reach out to our most local audiences in the boroughs of Twerton and Weston in addition to the wider local community to create strong and meaningful partnerships and networks, offering multiple entry points to engagement through free activities, targeted projects and outreach work. The space will offer a residency program and mentoring scheme for recent graduates, encouraging their continued contribution to the community.

This is an opportunity to take a bold, imaginative decision and create something energising, ground-breaking and far-reaching. It will position Bath as a forward-looking, creative hub – an exemplar in sustainable development and community regeneration.

A GLOBAL NETWORK

We propose to nurture links with other similar venues both in the UK and internationally also linking in to the UK's PLUS TATE programme.

PLUS TATE is a dynamic network of visual arts organisations stretching across the UK that exchange ideas, knowledge, skills and resources and collaborate on joint programmes. By sharing practices, the PLUS TATE members enable more audiences to participate and engage with modern and contemporary art.

We will build on links with:

Le 104	— Paris
Palais de Tokyo	— Paris
Les Abattoirs	— Toulouse
Camden Arts Centre	— London
Mattatoio	— Rome
Matadero	— Madrid
MoMa PS1	— New York
NDSM	— Amsterdam
Lieu Unique	— Nantes

Left: *Inventory of Behaviours*, Tate Modern, September 2019

BENEFITS



NDSM Amsterdam – example of internal street



Existing Site



The Kröller-Müller Museum, an example of a sculpture park

THE BENEFITS

Promote health and wellbeing

Creative and cultural activities are proven to have a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing (APPGAHW) recently undertook a major inquiry into this subject and the findings (Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing) showed the far-reaching and life-enhancing role of creativity. View the complete reports at: <https://tinyurl.com/y45o5hdh>.

Strengthen Communities

According to Indices of Deprivation (IoD) figures (September 2019), which looks at income, employment, education, health and crime, Southdown and Twerton were ranked among the 20% most 'highly deprived' areas in England with areas of Twerton within the most deprived 10% nationally. The proposed arts centre – following an established model that has been successful from Chicago to Stratford – would use culture to embrace and integrate these areas, running activities and events accessible to all; creating a hub that is a reflection of place, a community meeting point and a source of local pride.

Champion equality and diversity

Drawing on the work being done by spaces like Mansions of the Future in Lincoln <https://mansionsofthefuture.org/about/> we will provide an accessible space for the community, running a program of shared events that tackle head on the barriers to access art and culture. With community representatives on our steering group, we will prioritise socially-engaged and meaningful collaborative activities. Just like Mansions of the Future, we will establish a space that is open to the community to utilise, alongside artists. By encouraging a sense of co-production and sharing, we will also build a sense of ownership of the space by local groups and organisations.

We will be a multi-generational destination that people from all walks of life feel they can come to, engage with, utilise and enjoy.

Draw the city together

As the city transforms and reinvents for the future, Weston Island has an increasingly important role to play. The Bath City Riverside Enterprise Area Masterplan 2014-2029 emphasised the importance of Weston Island by designating it public space and acknowledging that, to draw people along the river from Pulteney Bridge, it needed to be a significant destination or cultural attraction: "Create focused spaces for leisure at important nodes along the river bookended by notable moments at Pulteney Bridge and Weston Island." (p.23)

The 2015 Brassmill Lane, Locksbrook and Western Riverside Character Appraisal Bath Conservation Area also noted the potential of the island as a featured landmark: "Weston Island offers an attractive riverside environment, presently under-used because of the dominant bus depot. Better use could be made of the island." (p.25)

Support the economy

Culture and the arts are the lifeblood of cities. Research shows that mid-sized cities can significantly foster and benefit from being hubs of artistic and creative activity (Arts Vibrancy Index, 2019). For every £1 generated in turnover by the arts and culture industry (in the North of England), an additional £0.91 worth of turnover is supported in the wider economy. For every job generated by the arts and culture industry, an additional 1.21 jobs are supported in the wider economy (Arts Council England, 2019).

Without a vibrant cultural life, cities fail to thrive. We believe that it is critical to advance community-engaged approaches to placing art and culture at the centre of city-building and resiliency.

IN TUNE WITH NATURE

Our proposal is a low-impact intervention, designed to create low carbon spaces. We will use sustainable construction methods to minimise impact on the site and enhance a sense of community. Where possible natural materials which have been locally-sourced and recycled will further reduce the impact of the development and the whole scheme can be led by high-quality landscape tying the design together.

Initially the intention is to re-use existing infrastructure across the site including the bus depot buildings which can then be fitted with insulated pods.

Externally we will create a sculpture park connecting to the riverside scheme. The river corridor is a wonderful continuous wildlife habitat on the Bath valley floor which enriches the life of the city. Its increasing ecological diversity and natural beauty can provide an integral component of Bath's future riverside character. We will connect to the network of green infrastructure and therefore enable the area to be more resilient to climate change.

ACTION ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The climate emergency is one of the most urgent problems facing society and the planet. Arts and cultural organisations are uniquely placed to shine a light on these issues, shaping conversations about the environment and advocating for action.

This sustainable development will be an opportunity to act on these major issues, walking the talk and leading the way in bringing about change. As a community of artists and innovators, we can imagine new possibilities, inspire action and propose systemic change.

SUSTAIN

FOUNDING TEAM

Our core team for this project includes the following artists, academics, and creative professionals.

FERGUS FEILDEN

DIRECTOR MA (CANTAB) MA RCA ARB RIBA

Fergus founded Feilden Fowles with Edmund Fowles in 2010. He has worked with high profile clients across a range of sectors, including The National Trust, TfL and Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Fergus lead on the Weston gallery and visitor centre at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park which was shortlisted for the Stirling Prize and is leading on the first new building at Carlisle Cathedral for over 300 years and a new Further Education College within Crystal Palace Park.

Fergus is a visiting critic and lecturer at Bath University and a panel member of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Quality Review Panel. He particularly enjoys working on sensitive sites and unlocking socially complex sites and briefs.

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

The Weston: Yorkshire Sculpture Park's new gallery space and visitor centre beautifully articulating the relationship between landscape, architecture and sculpture.



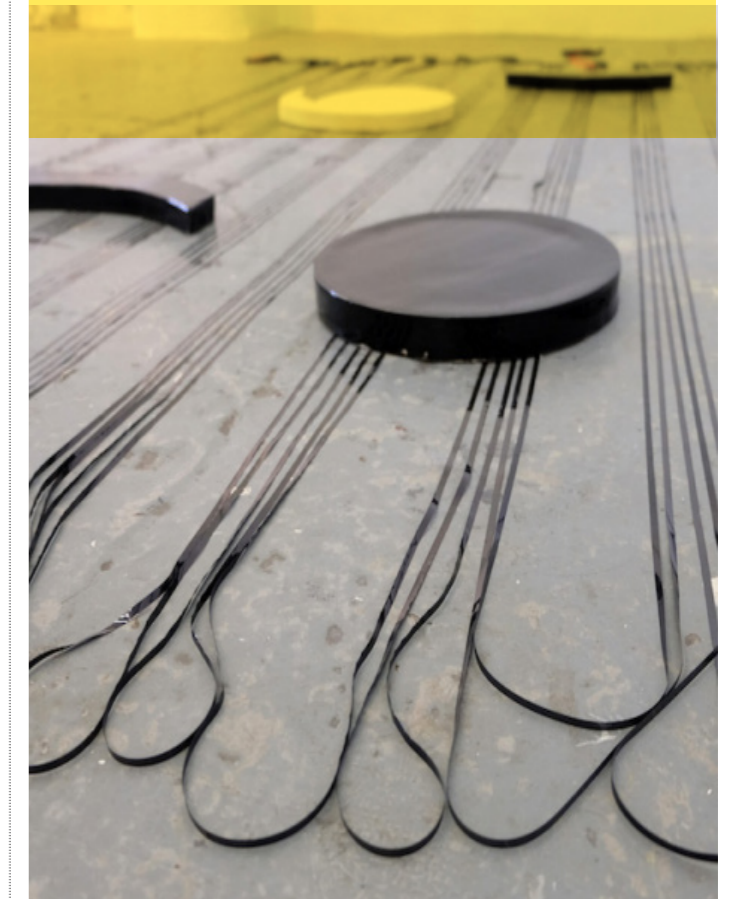
KELSEY CRUZ-MARTIN

Kelsey Cruz-Martin is a multidisciplinary artist currently working with sound, screen printing and text. She is interested in the juxtaposition of certain dualities such as: control/surrender, balance/imbalance, freedom/limitation, sense/nonsense and private/public.

Her current work is based around our relationship with language and the transition from written (visual) to oral (audio). She challenges the familiarity of language using self-imposed limitations, structures and systems while employing the use of anagrams, syntactical restructure, repetition and code. Breaking down common interpretations of language while simultaneously creating new meaning.

<http://www.kelseycruzmartin.com/>

Conductor, 2013
Earthenware clay, glaze, cassette tape
Dimension variable



NATASHA KIDD

Natasha Kidd is an artist predominantly known for her automated paintings systems. She recently completed her DPhil at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford University. Natasha works in collaboration with artist Jo Addison as No Working Title, their research explores learning as form through performances, live events and learning resources. Their work has been platformed at multiple venues including Tate Modern and Camden Arts Centre. Natasha lives and works in Bath. Her painting machines have been exhibited internationally at galleries that include Drill Hall Gallery, Australia, Yo- Chang Art Museum, Taiwan, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Modern Art Oxford and The Lowry Manchester. She is currently Course Leader of the BA Fine Art Course at Bath School of Art and Design.

<https://www.natashakidd.com/>
Inflate Automated, Modern Art Oxford, 2014



KELLY M O'BRIEN

Kelly M O'Brien is an American mixed media sculptor who lives and works in Bath. She completed a Master of Fine Art (Distinction) at Bath Spa University in 2019. Her practice explores themes of precariousness and resilience in the context of our contemporary moment – social justice, the environment, work insecurity, and the vulnerability of democracy. Her research questions the strength and fragility of materials by exploring dynamics of balance, tension, and agency while suggesting themes of imminent danger, trust, protection, and repair

Kelly is the founder of PaperJoy Studio, creating bespoke artwork for hospitality and high-end residential projects since 2015. PaperJoy works extensively with trade professionals that serve the designed interiors market, including hospitality, healthcare, and corporate projects throughout the United States, Europe, The Middle East, Asia, and the West Indies.

<https://kellyobrien.art/>
This May Be Under the Stated Weight (Aftermath), detail. Steel, glass, paper, thread, tulle, plastic. 230 x 350x122 cm ©2019



SIMON PERITON

Simon Periton (b. 1964) is a British artist whose work encompasses painting, sculpture and installation. Marked often by an elaborate and sensuous style, his work reflects influences as diverse as fin de siècle aestheticism, the visual language of punk, cinema, and the occult. In various publicly commissioned artworks and sculptures (for example, Farringdon Station for the Crossrail Commission, at the New Art Centre, Roche Court; ROQ Oxford; and the Brentford Connection, all London), Periton has created outdoor pieces that make special reference to their settings while also showing the artist transmuting aesthetics of his earlier works in an ongoing exploration of naturally occurring forms and experimentations with materiality. Simon Periton trained at St Martins School of Art, London. He is a Trustee for Roche Court Education Trust. (<https://rohecourteducationaltrust.co.uk/>)

<https://www.sadiecoles.com/artists/31-simon-periton/>
The Hanging Debtor, 2013
Spray paint on powder coated steel
240x101x0.7cm



NICOLA TURNER

Nicola Turner is a Bath based artist. Recent exhibitions include Waterweek, Gallery North, East Sussex, Blue Monday, 44AD, Bath and MA 2019, Atkinson Gallery, Somerset. With a background in scenography Turner has over twenty years international experience. She graduated from Central St Martins College of Art & Design and in 2007 won the Green Room Award and the Helpmann Award for her design for Rusalka at the Sydney Opera House.

Turner is interested in the dissolution of boundaries and looking at the in-betweenness of things, exploring how humans are ecosystems that exchange and overlap with other ecosystems, not bounded by skin or death. Her work and methodology have both been looking at challenging individuality and creating awareness of the wider interconnected energies of which we are part. Turner was on the Bath Public Realm and Movement Strategy Panel.

<https://www.nicolaturner.art/>
The Mysterious Mother, 2019
Mixed media with horsehair, cotton and rubber
190x75x50cm

