

For immediate release

***CLASSifications*, a new group show including Jasleen Kaur, Dinu Li, Jamila Prowse, Joshua Raffell opens in Portsmouth**

Press view 18th July, 9.30am – 12pm (hosted press tours available from London)

19 July – 13 October 2024

Aspex Portsmouth's major group exhibition ***CLASSifications*** delves into the complex realm of class and identity, bringing together four local, national and international artists for the first time with a group of new and pre-existing work.

At the gallery, visitors will be immersed in a multi-disciplinary installation encompassing a rich tapestry of often celebratory, explorative and surprising methods to reveal new perspectives on disability rights, the diaspora, craftivism, play, queerness and the family archive.



Jasleen Kaur, Women Hold Up Half The Sky (2019) Photo courtesy of artist

This expansive exhibition gathers four artists whose work has never been presented together, working with objects to explore how we impart them with meaning and classify them, and in doing so, become a metaphor for how class functions in our society.

Jasleen Kaur is an artist making with the slurry of life. Raised amidst betrayal, secrecy and banished outsiders, her work is to make sense of what is out of view or withheld. She has been nominated for 2024's Turner Prize.

Dinu Li was born in Hong Kong and is an interdisciplinary artist working with moving image, photography, sculptural assemblages and performance.

Jamila Prowse is an artist and writer, propelled by curiosity and a desire to understand herself through making. She is an active participant in a rich and growing contemporary disabled artistic community.

Joshua Raffell is a Hampshire-based artist from a working class and canal gypsy background. He is a champion of diversity, and his work is influenced by his life experiences.

Featuring a collection of thought-provoking object-based works by artists, the exhibition will invite audiences to be amongst these objects, reflecting on the lives they (mis)represent and question how class is embedded, marketed and co-opted by the reigning narratives. It will further encourage visitors to contemplate what class looks like nationally and internationally? How does class intersect with identity? and how does class affect the way people consume, make and talk about art?

Aspex Portsmouth Curator & Programme Manager Ricardo Reveron Blanco said:

"This is an invigorating moment in the gallery's exhibition history, as we embark on a season that incorporates works from four artists whose practices and perspectives explore class at the intersection of disability rights, race and the diaspora during a time of severe economic crisis and social disconnection. I am particularly delighted that CLASSifications will document the journey for

Joshua Raffell who was selected from an open call format for working class artists and will be able to showcase work made during his residency period alongside other acclaimed artists"

Expanding on the themes of *CLASSifications*, a specially devised public programme will run throughout the duration of the exhibition. This bespoke programme of talks, events and participatory activities will delve further into the exhibition's artists, explore the complexities of an often unspoken, misjudged and neglected issue, and facilitate an open dialogue on how we can come together in building a fairer and more equitable world.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition Listing information:

CLASSifications

Jasleen Kaur, Dinu Li, Jamila Prowse, Joshua Raffell

19 July - 13 October 2024

Aspex Portsmouth, The Vulcan Building, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3BF

Free admission / Donations welcomed

Further information: aspex.org.uk/exhibition/classifications

ArtistImages/Press pack: [download here](#)

Preview, *CLASSifications*

18 July 2024, 6pm-8pm (artists & creatives from 5.30pm)

Aspex Portsmouth, The Vulcan Building, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3BF

Pay what you can

Further information:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preview-classifications-tickets-906707164537

Aspex Portsmouth opening times:

Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 4pm

Closed Monday & Tuesday

Further information: www.aspexportsmouth.org.uk

Instagram: [@aspexportsmouth](https://www.instagram.com/aspexportsmouth)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aspexportsmouth/

X: [@aspexportsmouth](https://www.x.com/aspexportsmouth)

About the artists

Jasleen Kaur

Jasleen Kaur is called towards plurality, declassifications, polyphony, the blur. She refuses funds from Baillie Gifford, Outset Contemporary Art Fund, Zabłudowicz Collection and Freelands Foundation. She is practising singing in the sediment till she is intoxicated.

Her work has been shown at Tramway, Scotland (2023), Touchstones Rochdale (2021), Wellcome Collection, London (2021), Serpentine Civic, London (2020), Glasgow Women's Library, Scotland (2019), Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Newcastle (2019), MIMA, Middlesbrough (2018), Cubitt Gallery, London (2018), Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2017), Jerwood Space, London (2015). In 2019 her book *Be Like Teflon* was co-published by Glasgow Women's Library and Dent-de-leone. She was awarded the Paul Hamlyn Artist Award in 2021. In 2024, Kaur was nominated for the Turner Prize Award 2024.

Further information: jasleenkaur.co.uk

Dinu Li

Dinu Li was born in Hong Kong and currently lives and works in Cornwall, UK. Li is an interdisciplinary artist working with the moving image, photography, sculptural assemblages and performance. In his practice, Li examines the manifestation of culture in the everyday, finding new meaning to the familiar, making visible the seemingly invisible. Archives play an active role in Li's work, and they are often used as points of departure for his projects. His methodology is research based, with an emphasis on appropriation and reconfiguration. Li's work is often characterised by problematising the document as part of the *modus operandi*.

Li has exhibited both nationally and internationally, including the 53rd Venice Biennale; the 3rd Bucharest Biennale; Tashkent Biennale 2007, Uzbekistan; Tatton Park Biennial 2012; EVA 2005; Contact FotoFest 05, Toronto; PHotoEspaña 13, Madrid; Bildmuseet,

Umea, Sweden; Oldenburger Kunstverein, Germany; the Irish Museum of Contemporary Art, Dublin; White Space 798, Beijing; the V&A, London; OCT Loft, Shenzhen; Konsthall C, Farsta, Sweden; Chalk Horse, Sydney; San Antonio Art Gallery, Texas; and Alternative Space Loop, Seoul.

Further information: www.dinuli.com

Jamila Prowse

Jamila Prowse is an artist and writer, informed by her lived experience of disability, mixed race ancestry and the loss of her father at a young age; her work is research driven and indebted to Black feminist and crip scholars. She is an active participant in a rich and growing contemporary disabled artistic community and has been ongoingly researching, programming and creating around crippling the art world since 2018. Self taught, Jamila is drawn to experimenting with a multitude of mediums in order to process her grief and radical hope.

Previous exhibitions and talks include TULCA Visual Arts Festival, (Galway Ireland), Ormston House Gallery, (Limerick, Ireland), Somerset House, South London Gallery, Studio Voltaire (London, UK) and Hordaland Kunstsenter (Bergen, Norway). Her writing has appeared in Frieze, Art Monthly, British Journal of Photography and elsewhere.

Further information: jamilaprowse.com

Joshua Raffell

From a working class and canal gypsy background, Joshua Raffell is an outsider on the inside. He is a gay and dyslexic artist living with depression. Joshua is a champion of diversity, and his work is influenced by his life experiences.

Having left education with no qualifications, later in life he was supported by City Lit to discover his potential and where he was awarded an Outstanding Adult Learner in Visual Arts Award 2007. He studied at Sir John Cass (BA Hons), where he was awarded the Owen Rowley Award for originality. Following his MA at Chelsea School of Art, he was selected for the 'Young Gods' show by Zavier Ellis at Charlie Smith and Griffin Galleries in 2014

He now lives and works on the Isle of Wight. In 2023 Joshua exhibited at Studio 1.1, London, Monkton Arts, Ryde and Quarr Abbey on the island. He has been awarded bursaries by 'a space' arts and Isle of Wight Creative Network.

Further information: www.joshuaraffellart.com

About Aspex Portsmouth

Aspex brings new art and ideas to the heart of Portsmouth. Our mission is to cultivate art and creativity rooted in community. We believe art brings joy, broadens minds, facilitates learning and nurtures our communities.

We create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience contemporary visual art – from looking and discussing, to making and curating. We achieve this by delivering an exciting and varied programme of exhibitions, off-site projects and participation events.

For all press enquiries, please contact:

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