

28 November

19 December

GATHERING

*This belly of the universe, this womb of things to be and tomb of things that were,
this unending story.*

The first cultural device was likely a recipient or container to bring food and special objects home, rather than a weapon for killing with. Gathering-in and holding objects together in a powerful relation and sharing them with others, is what we humans first learnt to do as a curious and altruistic species.

Initially inspired by Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction*, 'Gathering' reflects a communal act of intimacy shared between people, site and materials; creating connections, bonds and empathy with community and landscape. From prehistoric sites of community gathering and contemporary folk rituals, to rural 'honesty' customs, group therapy and rave music, 10 local artists explore the act of gathering and its value today after a year of travel restrictions and social isolation.

*If it is a human thing to do, to put something you want, because it's useful, edible, or beautiful, into a bag, or a basket ...and then take it home with you, home being another, larger kind of ...container for people, and then later on you take it out and eat it or share it ...or put it in the shrine or the museum, the holy place, the area that contains what is sacred— if to do that is human, if that's what it takes, then I am a human being after all.**

* Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction*, 1986

Organised by artists Jonathan Michael Ray and Verity Birt.

Design by Tom Sewell / It's Art Studio.

**Supported by Haarlem ArtSpace, Arts Council England, South Yorkshire's Community Fund,
Curiosa & Curiosa and Foundation Derbyshire.**

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Supported using public funding by
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1. Georgia Gendall:
Penryn Worm Charming Championships,
Riso printed A3 posters, HD Video of
Worm Charming event (6.47), 2021.
2. Lucy Stein
Becoming Boscawen 'Un
Oil, acrylic, charcoal and Sennelier
pastel on linen, 170 x 90cm, 2021.
3. Verity Birt
Brackish Rite
(votive offerings to the Penryn River)
Documentation of ritual performance on
Sunday, 13th June on the Penryn River, in
collaboration with The Worm and Voices of
the Undergrowth. Coracle made with local
coppiced willow (in collaboration with Tom
Kemp, Working Woodlands Cornwall),
ribbons, ivy, 2021.
4. Tom Sewell
Sunreturn '21 (Disarm)
Cornish coppiced birch, cherry & hazel
poles, pewter, paracord, shells, driftwood,
iron, steel, copper, plastic, rope, string, fossils,
paper, wood, onion, poppy heads, feathers,
painted papier mâché, 2021.
5. Dan Howard-Birt
Trial by Fire (Indecision)
Oil on canvas, panel and ink-stained calico,
152 x 134cm, 2020.
6. Steve Claydon
Playerless Games (Kamidana)
Momoyama period Kame storage jar, jute
ball, tufts or flames from Tregaseal stone
circle, shredded money in resin, steel,
carpet, 9 carat gold plated copper blister
packs, hydroponic grow lamp, 2021.
7. Jonathan Michael Ray
Holy Reunion
Reclaimed antique stained glass, lead, oak
and steel, 92 x 72cm, 2021.
8. Ilker Cinarel
Honesty Box
Wooden structure, glitter paint, disco balls,
local produce and crafts, 2021.
9. Simon Bayliss
W.S. Graham Bounce Mix
Video performance made for DoesitBANG?
online party, April 2021 (45.00), risograph
printed posters, 2021.
10. Abigail Reynolds
The Maidens
Glass, books, book pages, punched card,
40 x 66 x 49cm, 2012.

