

OUR PROGRAMME:

LAUNCH PARTY
Thursday 24 April
6-8 pm
Art Exchange

Join us in celebrating the launch of this year's MA Curating show. Live music, refreshments and speeches 6:30pm.

SPEED CRAFTING
Thursday 1 May
6-7.30 pm
Art Exchange

Join us for a night of crafting and "speed dating" at Art Exchange. Make something new while making new friends.

LUNCH TIME TOUR
Tuesday 6 May
1-2 pm
Art Exchange

Come along for a tour of *Call it Love* with the MA Curating students, who will tell you more about the artworks in the show and the process of curating an exhibition.

ARTIST'S TALK
Thursday 15 May
6-7 pm
Art Exchange

Join the curating students in conversation with artist Chloé Jones to discuss her amazing artwork. Followed by Q&A. Refreshments served.

**SCIENCE OF RELATIONSHIPS:
A Talk by Dr Veronica Lamarche**
Tuesday 20 May
6-7.30 pm
Art Exchange

Join us for a talk on the science of relationships by Dr Veronica Lamarche from the University of Essex Psychology Department. Followed by Q&A. Refreshments served.

ALL WELCOME
All our events are **FREE**.
No need to book - just turn up.
To find out more visit:
www.artexchange.org.uk

CALL IT LOVE

MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ
DAISY BLOWER
HUGH BROGAN
VIRGINIA CHIHOTA
CHLOE JONES
ANNA MARIA MAIOLINO
SOLA OLULODE
CHARAN SINGH

24 APRIL - 23 MAY 2025



Love is fluid, messy, and often political. This exhibition rethinks the narratives we inherit - beyond romance, beyond tradition - to explore love in all its complexity. From chosen families to radical acts of care, *Call it Love* presents contemporary artworks and archival materials that challenge the limits of intimacy and connection.

Curated by MA students from the Department of Philosophy, History and Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Essex: Freeha Hashmi, Carla Rebound, Lauren Wainwright, Scarlett Angove, Yu Li, and Wallie Zille

MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ

Invitation for Unconditional Love, 2023
Private Collection

Marina Abramović is a Serbian conceptual artist, and a pioneer of performance art whose work explores the limits of the body, endurance, and spiritual transformation through immersive performance. For over five decades, she has created spaces of vulnerability and connection gaining an international reputation in the process.

In *Invitation for Unconditional Love*, Abramović turns to drawing and text, offering a mantra-like call to radical empathy. Three minimalist panels show outlines of hands, linked by a red spiral thread. The repeated invocation of "Unconditional love will change us." provokes us to rethink our cynicism surrounding love. The work functions as both poem and ritual, urging collective healing in a time of global fragmentation.

Recent exhibitions include *After Life*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2023); *The Cleaner*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2017); and *512 Hours*, Serpentine Gallery, London (2014).

abramovic.com



DAISY BLOWER

For Wank's Sake, 2020
Courtesy of the artist

Daisy Blower is a London-based queer artist making sex positive, feminist artworks. She creates miniature worlds that carve out a space in which she grapples with the complexity of a queer, feminist life, its intimacy and agency.

This miniature bedroom picturises intimacy, pleasure, and self-acceptance with humour and tenderness. Personal touches like messy books, soft bedding, and handwritten notes create a space that feels both private and playful. It offers a quiet celebration of autonomy, where care and desire are not externalised but rooted in the self.

Recent exhibitions include *Nesting Dyke*, Parlour Gallery, London and Mori Mori, Margate (2024); *Precarious*, Art Exchange, Colchester (2023); *Queer Art(ists) Now* at Space Station Sixty-Five, London (2022) and *Façade* at the Holy Art Gallery, London (2022).

www.daisyblower.com



HUGH BROGAN AND HUGH TULLOCH

Archival Correspondence, 1969-1989
On loan from the Hugh Brogan Collection,
Special Collections, Albert Sloman Library,
University of Essex

Hugh Brogan and Hugh Tulloch were British historians whose personal letter exchange reveals a quiet, profound form of love rarely acknowledged in their time. Brogan, a historian at the University of Essex, is known for his work on British and American history, while Tulloch specialised in intellectual and political history.

The letters, housed in the Hugh Brogan Archive at the Albert Sloman Library Special Collections, offer rare insight into the emotional lives of two men negotiating love, fear, and self-worth in the late 20th century. Their correspondence resists linear narratives and instead records a private history of care, longing, and intellectual companionship.



VIRGINIA CHIHOTA

Zvandakabara Ndinoda (what I gave birth to i love), 2021

Courtesy of the artist and Tiwani Contemporary

Virginia Chihota is a Zimbabwean artist whose work explores the emotional and spiritual dimensions of womanhood, kinship, and faith. Drawing on personal experience, she addresses themes such as childbearing, bereavement, marriage and domesticity. Her practice blends printmaking with drawing, creating rich and layered compositions where bodies, often female, dissolve into abstract forms. Her figures express interconnectedness and the transformative power of care.

Recent exhibitions include *Chibereko Chakaramba Kuudzirwa*, Tiwani Contemporary, London (2023); *35th Ljubljana Biennale*, Slovenia (2023); and *Uri Mwana Wani?*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare (2019).

tiwani.co.uk/artists/31-virginia-chihota/



CHLOÉ JONES

Okay Love You, Bye, 2024
Courtesy of the artist

Chloé Jones is a London-based visual communication designer exploring the nuances of female experience in contemporary times. Through the use of unconventional techniques and traditional analogue methods, she creates idea-led, person-centred work.

In *Okay, Love You, Bye*, Jones pays a heartfelt homage to her female friendships, centring the profound connections that shape her identity and emotional well-being. The dream-like narrative combines real voice-notes, animation and VHS footage to express the dynamic yet grounding nature of platonic connections.

Jones graduated with a BA in Graphic and Media Design from the London College of Communication, UAL, in 2024 and since has gone to work as a designer for Apple. She has been engaged in various branding and design projects including *Get Real* (2024), *Sisterhood* (2023) and *Aubrey House* (2022).

chloejonesdesign.xyz



ANNA MARIA MAIOLINO

Por um Fio (By a Thread), 1976
On loan from the Essex Collection of Art from Latin America, University of Essex

Anna Maria Maiolino is a Brazilian artist whose work spans drawing, printmaking, poetry, film, performance, installation, and sculpture. Her practice explores themes of identity, migration, and the human condition.

In *Por um fio (By a Thread)*, part of her *Fotopoemação* series, Maiolino presents a black-and-white photograph featuring three generations of women—her mother, herself, and her daughter—connected by a thread held between their mouths. This work symbolises the simultaneous fragility and strength of familial bonds, as well as the intergenerational transmission of trauma, culture and identity.

Maiolino is the recipient of the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale Arte 2024. Her work has been exhibited internationally, recent exhibitions include: *Making Love Revolutionary* at Whitechapel Gallery, London (2019); *Anna Maria Maiolino* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2017); and *O AMOR SE FAZ REVOLUCIONÁRIO* at PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan.



SOLA OLULODE

You Remind Me of the Sun, 2023
Courtesy of the artist

Sola Olulode is a London-based artist whose work explores the experiences of Black queer women and non-binary individuals. She employs techniques such as natural dyeing, batik, wax, ink, pastel, and oil bar to create textured canvases that reflect the fluidity of her identities.

In *You Remind Me of the Sun*, Olulode captures the warmth and radiance of queer relationships, symbolising the nurturing and illuminating aspects of love. The use of vibrant hues and fluid forms evokes a utopian atmosphere, inviting viewers into a space of warmth, tenderness and connection.

Olulode's recent exhibitions include *Islands of the Blessed*, a solo exhibition at Berntson Bhattacharjee, London (2024); participation in the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair at Somerset House, London (2022); and *Staying Alive*, a group show in Falsterbo, Sweden (2021).

[instagram.com/solaolulode](https://www.instagram.com/solaolulode)



CHARAN SINGH

They Called it Love, but Was it Love?, 2020
Courtesy of the artist and SepiaEye. © Charan Singh. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2025.

Charan Singh is a British-Indian artist and activist whose work centres around queer lives in India. Drawing on his experience within HIV/AIDS work and cruising cultures, he creates images that foreground intimacy, isolation, and the complexities of queer desire.

In *They Called it Love, but Was it Love?* Singh collaborates with queer people in Delhi, tracing memories of love, loss, and resilience in a society that continues to criminalise and invisibilise them. The work resists exoticisation, instead offering moments of quiet dignity and whispered histories held in the bodies of each individual.

Recent exhibitions include *All the Days and Nights*, The Photographers' Gallery, London (2020); *They Called it Love, but Was it Love?*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi (2023); and *Sunil Gupta & Charan Singh: Dissent and Desire*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2018).

charansingh.net