



Black Lives Matter – Scottish Mural Trail



Giant new artwork – *Justice for Sheku Bayoh* – at Edinburgh’s Usher Hall joins the rapidly expanding Mural Trail as Scotland’s artists and arts organisations combine their voices to support Black Lives Matter

Scotland’s Black Lives Matter Mural Trail is expanding rapidly. The addition this week of 5 new artworks at Edinburgh’s Usher Hall takes the total to 24 (across Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness) with over a dozen more planned in the coming weeks, in Stirling and Dundee, as well as Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The latest additions are by Kirkcaldy artist Abigail Mills aka **Abz** including an impressive 5.5 meter x 6.5 meter print on the Usher Hall’s Glass Wing, and a further 4 images next to Lothian Road. Striking, colourful and thought provoking, Abz’s work reflects her regular job as a tattoo artist, but goes far beyond that, reflecting her Scottish/Jamaican heritage and self identification as a “queer artist”.

The Glass Wing artwork – *Justice for Sheku Bayoh* - is inspired by the death in 2015, in police custody in Kirkcaldy, of Sheku Bayoh (now the subject of a recently announced public enquiry).

Aamer Anwar, lawyer for the Bayoh family: *“The family of Sheku Bayoh & his partner Collette are deeply grateful to the artist for this mural which encapsulates for them their long struggle for justice & truth. It’s time that those who fly the banner of #BlackLivesMatter realised that there are also many George Floyds in the UK and their families need your support”*

Abz’s work joins **The Neon Requiem**’s 3 portraits of female inspirations in his life – The Healer, The Nurturer and the Teacher, on display at the Lyceum Theatre, text contributions by **Annie George** at The Traverse Theatre, and a further 6 posters featuring words by some of Scotland’s leading BAME musicians including **Emili Sande**, **Young Fathers** and **Findlay Quaye**, making a remarkable cluster of creative activity by BAME artists/writers, at Edinburgh’s “theatre hub”.

The Scottish Black Lives Matter Mural Trail is the brainchild of Edinburgh based creative producer **Wezi Mhura** (Iron Oxide, Struileag (Commonwealth Games 2014), AfriFest, Edinburgh International Festival) a specialist in large scale events. The Trail is supported by Scotland’s leading venues and arts organisations including **Edinburgh International Festival**, **Dance Base**, **Queen’s Hall Edinburgh**, **Eden Court**, **Glasgow’s King’s Theatre** and **Theatre Royal**, and many more

Additions include the trail extending all the way down **the Royal Mile**, at The Writer’s Museum, The Museum of Childhood and The Museum of Edinburgh, and another at The Playhouse.

Responding to the recent international outpouring of support for Black Lives Matter, following the killing of George Floyd in USA, the Mural Trail provides a platform for Scotland’s many diverse BAME artists, working in their chosen media, including including paintings, digital, video, prints, photography and text, with the installations as varied as the artists themselves. Art is powerful and at a time when all Scotland’s venues are closed for the foreseeable future, they can still have a voice by offering their walls and doors to be used for this dramatic, vital statement of support for Black Lives Matter.

Wezi Mhura: *“We hope this Mural Trail will help to start the conversations that need to be happening now. It’s been amazing to connect in with so many talented artists (with roots in so many different places) who have been so enthusiastic about getting behind this project”*.

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, videos etc,
please contact **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email info@scarybiscuits.com)

Hi res photos for press use: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tgmzayhpmz08ow/AACauKy-mre_3y-AguicAi41a?dl=0

Scottish Black Lives Matter Mural Trail info - www.wezi.uk/scottish-bml-mural-trail/



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Installation Sites

Edinburgh

The Hub	Jamal Yussuff-Adelakun	Photography	www.facebook.com/papaigunphotography/
Queens Hall	Rudy Kanhye	Text- All Li es Matter	
Dance Base	Graffiti Collective	Street art	
Lyceum Theatre	Neon Requiem	Graphic art	www.facebook.com/pg/theneonrequiem/photos/
Usher Hall	Abz	Posters	www.instagram.com/abzmillstatoos
Usher Hall	various	Text	Song lyrics by various artists inc Emeli Sande, Young Fathers, Findlay Quaye etc
Traverse Theatre	Annie George	Text	www.anniegeorge.net
Festival Theatre	Irineu Destourelle	video	www.irineudestourelles.com/
Meadowbank	Graffiti Collective	Street art	

Glasgow

Gulp – Shawlands	Rachel Dallas	Street art	
Theatre Royal	Steven Khan	Photography	https://www.stmcstudio.com/store
King's Theatre	Neda Ghaffar	Paint/textiles	https://www.instagram.com/nedaghaff/

Inverness

Eden Court	Jacqueline Briggs	illustrative mural	www.jacquelinebriggsillustration.com/
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More sites to be announced



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Additional Artists Notes

JAMAL YUSSUFF-ADELAKUN - PAPAJGUN PHOTOGRAPHY – The Hub Edinburgh

British born Nigerian; Grew up in London till the age of 4, then Lagos then back to London from 17/18 yrs. Music lover, now based in Edinburgh. His daughter Lola (model) is Nigerian Scottish, 12years old, student, sister, passionate dancer (Tap, Modern, Hiphop, Ballet), keyboardist

www.facebook.com/papajgunphotography/

IRINEU DESTOURELLE - Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

Born in the Cape Verde islands now living and working in Edinburgh, UK.

MA Fine-Arts Central St. Martins College of Art and Design (London); BA Fine-Arts Willem de Kooning Academy (Rotterdam); Studied Engineering Sciences at New University of Lisbon and Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal

www.irineudestourelles.com/

THE NEON REQUIEM - Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Rudy, who goes by the name "The Neon Requiem" is a graphic artist of Cape Verdean and Portuguese origin. Having moved to Scotland at age 12 from his hometown of Lisbon, he began, as a teenager, to teach himself graphic art. His work has been continually inspired by the LGBT community (of which he is proudly part) as well as by his parents

www.facebook.com/pg/theneonrequiem/photos/

RUDY KANHYE - Edinburgh Queen's Hall

Rudy Kanhye is a French Artist, curator and writer. He holds an MA in curatorial practice from the Glasgow school of Art (UK), an MA in Fine art from the University of Leeds Beckett (UK), a post degree in architecture from the University of Leeds Beckett (UK) and a BA in Fine Arts from the National Superior School of Art, Dijon France.

RACHEL DALLAS – Gulp, Shawlands, Glasgow

Originally from USA, now based in Glasgow. A crowdfunder for her mural (at Gulp, Shawlands) raised nearly £2000 towards art materials in a few days. Other sites are being investigated and any excess cash will be donated to the anti-racism charity The Red Card.

NEDA GHAFAR - King's Theatre, Glasgow

Scottish Pakistani artist born and brought up on the Isle of Harris, Western Isles; graduated from Grays School Of Art, Aberdeen

www.instagram.com/nedaghaff/

STEVEN KHAN (STMC STUDIO) - Theatre Royal Glasgow

Editorial and commercial photographer, based in Glasgow, Scotland; studied photography in Fife and is an equality activist whose work centres around his lived experience as a queer BAME artist in Scotland.

<https://www.stmcstudio.com/about>

JACQUELINE BRIGGS Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

23 year old creator from the Highlands of Scotland and a recent graduate of Illustration from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design. Half Scottish, half Papua New Guinean.

www.jacquelinebriggsillustration.com/

ABIGAIL MILLS (ABZ)

A queer Scottish tattoo artist from Kirkcaldy. Her mum is Scottish and her dad is Jamaican. She moved to Scotland when she was 2. She says : *'I've been an artist as long as I can remember. Always able to visualise and create ideas. I'm comfortable with a pen and paper but can turn my hand to any medium. I've been tattooing for just over 9 years now, working in Glasgow, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, but thanks to Covid-19 and the lockdown I have been taking a break from work since March. Art has really got me thru a lot of hard times, and this is no exception. My style of art is bright, colourful and thought provoking. Some would say weird'*.

www.instagram.com/abzmillstatoos