



Black Lives Matter – Scottish Mural Trail



A new mural trail – powerful new artworks, including paintings, video, photography and digital - by Scottish BAME artists in solidarity with Black Lives Matter - will pop up on leading arts venues across Scotland from **Mon 15 June**

In response to the recent international outpouring of support for Black Lives Matter, following the killing of George Floyd in USA, Scotland's BAME artists are stepping up, supported by leading arts organisations. A Scotland wide Black Lives Matter Mural Trail will be popping up from Mon 15 June, with displays on a dozen arts venues and sites across Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness, with many more to follow.

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.

The artworks - colourful, challenging, moving, powerful and diverse – inspired by the themes of *I Can't Breathe* and *Black Lives Matter*, will be created by artists from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, all living in Scotland. Several will be supported by additional exhibitions with local relevance. They will be in a variety of media including paint, photography, video and digital art, in a wide range of styles, including fine art, street art, text, illustrative and abstract. The artists come from a wide range of backgrounds (including Cape Verde, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan/Harris, USA), some trained, some self taught, combining youth and experience, individuals and artist collectives – all uniquely talented. All will be large scale and hard to miss!

The 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, who pulled the idea together in just over a week, with the support of venues and arts organisations including Edinburgh International Festival, Dance Base, Queen's Hall Edinburgh, Eden Court Theatre, Glasgow's King's Theatre and Theatre Royal, and many more.

One of the first to go up will be at **The Hub Edinburgh**, which will feature art based on an original photograph by British born Nigerian photographer **Jamal Yussuff-Adelakun**, which he created with his daughter Lola. There will also be a series of other photos from the same session.

Scotland's society and attitudes are shaped by its history rooted in slavery, colonialism and imperialism. There are reminders of it in every major city, in statues and buildings which were built by profits from the slave trade. There is a wide debate opening up about how that should be represented. This Scottish Mural Trail shows a way that art can be at the forefront and stimulating the conversation, while also adding an exciting new dynamic to currently boarded up venues.

Wezi Mhura: *"The Scottish government says it recognizes the strength in its aspirations to a more equal and more diverse society going forward, and 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"*.

Jamal Yussuff-Adelakun: *"My daughter and I have bonded and created before when it comes to photography, but never before have we both used the medium of photography to talk about race injustice or racism. For me this was a new found way to have that conversation with her"*

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

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/papajgunphotography/
Queens Hall	Rudy Kanhye	Text- All Li es Matter	
Dance Base	Graffiti Collective	Street art	
Royal Lyceum Theatre	Irineu Destourelle	video	www.irineudestourelles.com/
Festival Theatre	Neon Requiem	video	www.facebook.com/pg/theneonrequiem/photos/
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 - Royal Lyceum 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 -Edinburgh Festival 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 of 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

<https://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>

SEKAI MACHACHE

Sekai Machache is a visual artist and curator based between Dundee and Glasgow, Scotland. Her work is a deep interrogation of the notion of self. Born in Zimbabwe and raised in Scotland, her most recent work took her to Brazil where she produced a cross-cultural project, supported by Creative Scotland/British Council. Founding member of Yon Afro Collective (for black women in Scotland)

<http://sekaimachache.com/>

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/