

# E./F Edinburgh Art Festival

## **Edinburgh Art Festival Accessibility Statement 2021**

Our 17th edition will bring together over 35 exhibitions and new commissions in visual art spaces across the city, complemented by an online programme of events and digital presentations.

As galleries begin to reopen after many months of closure, this year, more than any, we are proud to cast a spotlight on the uniquely ambitious, inventive and thoughtful programming produced each year by Edinburgh's visual art community.

All our festival venues will be following the latest government Covid guidelines to ensure visitor safety, and we will be keeping our website regularly updated on what audiences can expect during their visit.

Edinburgh is a historic city with its Old town and New Town listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Old Town is famed for its cobbles and winding closes which lead up to the famous Edinburgh Castle which sits upon a dormant volcano. This can make parts of Edinburgh difficult to navigate for those with mobility issues. See [Euan's Guide Introducing Edinburgh](#) for an introduction to Edinburgh and advice on accessibility.

Many of Edinburgh's buildings are historical and listed, therefore, unfortunately some festival venues are unable to have modern levels of access. At Edinburgh Art Festival however, we aim to maximise accessibility for all so please contact us if you want advice on the access of individual venues.

We support Scottish and international artists to make new and ambitious projects which engage with the extraordinary context of Edinburgh in August. These commissions are primarily presented in public spaces opening access to overlooked or neglected heritage sites across the city. This can mean that some of these venues do not have modern levels of access but we will aim to maximise accessibility where possible.

Each year at Edinburgh Art Festival we work to improve access to the festival. In our Access Statement you will find details about our programme and specifics about our commissions programme. We recommend using Euan's Guide for details about partner venues accessibility which can be seen on Edinburgh Art Festival's Euan's Guide webpage [here](#).

If you have any queries or require any assistance, please phone 0131 226 6558 or email [info@edinburghartfestival.com](mailto:info@edinburghartfestival.com).

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## Useful links

- **Edinburgh Art Festival Map:** <https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Edinburgh-Art-Festival-2021-Map.pdf>
  - **Edinburgh Art Festival online exhibitions and events:** [https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/events-listing/?filter\\_date=20210729+to+20210829&filter\\_event-type\\_panel=on&filter\\_event-type%5B%5D=45&filter\\_max\\_posts=6&filter\\_order=asc#results](https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/events-listing/?filter_date=20210729+to+20210829&filter_event-type_panel=on&filter_event-type%5B%5D=45&filter_max_posts=6&filter_order=asc#results)
  - **Details of the 2021 Festival commissions:** <https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/the-festival/commissions-programme>
  - **Partner programme exhibitions:** [https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/events-listing/?filter\\_date=20210706+to+20210831&filter\\_event-tag\\_panel=on&filter\\_event-tag%5B%5D=78&filter\\_max\\_posts=6&filter\\_order=asc#results](https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/events-listing/?filter_date=20210706+to+20210831&filter_event-tag_panel=on&filter_event-tag%5B%5D=78&filter_max_posts=6&filter_order=asc#results)
  - **Associate artist programme:** <https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/the-festival/commissions-programme/associate-artist-programme/>
  - **Platform 2021 programme:** <https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/platform-2021>
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## Accessibility Information

### Assistance Dogs

We welcome assistance dogs at all our venues. Water bowls for assistance dogs can be provided at the Kiosk.

### Travel

All Commissions Programme venues are well serviced by public transport routes, and they are principally located in Edinburgh's Old Town. Most venues are between 5-10 minute walk from Edinburgh Waverley Train Station with nearby public bus stops. Taxi ranks are located outside Edinburgh Waverley Train Station, Radisson Blu Hotel on the High Street and G+V Hotel on George IV Bridge. Parking can be difficult in Edinburgh but there is public on-street parking by some of the venues as well as nearby car parks such as the Edinburgh Waverley Train Station car park.

### Toilets

Most of the commissions venues are located in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town with a selection of cafes, shops, restaurants and museums located in close proximity. Accessible toilets are located at the Institut Francais d'Eccose, West Parliament Square. The nearest Changing Places Toilets is located at the Booking Office Pub, Waverley Bridge, EH1 1BQ; and the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, EH1 1JF.

### Accessible tours – Visually Described and BSL Interpretation

Throughout 2021 we will be delivering a series of visually described tours and workshops for visually impaired people. As well as this we will holding visually described with BSL interpretation tours. If you would like to find out more please email [learning@edinburghartfestival.com](mailto:learning@edinburghartfestival.com) or phone 0131 226 6558.

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### Commissions Programme venues

#### Matthew Arthur Williams

#### Sequoia Barnes

**Johnston Terrace Wildlife Garden, Patrick Geddes Steps, Castle Wynd South, EH1 2JT**

The Johnston Terrace Wildlife Garden is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It is the smallest reserve located in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town, near to Edinburgh Castle, off the Patrick Geddes steps. Johnston Terrace was first established as a community garden at the end of the nineteenth century, as part of a network of green

spaces which Geddes developed in Edinburgh's Old Town. It demonstrates how a small, neglected urban area can be converted into an invaluable wildlife refuge.

The Garden hosts artist Bobby Niven's 'Palm House', a 2017 Edinburgh Art Festival commission. Bobby Niven is one of the founding initiators of the Bothy Project, a growing network of small shelters across Scotland, designed in collaboration with artists, architects, and designers.

For the 2021 Festival, Matthew Arthur Williams and Sequoia Barnes present diverse works, as part of 'What happens to desire...', a programme curated by associate artist Tako Taal, which examines the psychic structures of colonial relations, and the question of how vividly they remain in the present. Williams presents 'In Guise of Land', photographic prints set against the lush greenery of the garden. Captured in various locations on the West coast of Scotland including during a Bothy Projects residency on the Isle of Eigg. Williams references a long history of portraits in the landscape, citing specifically the photographers Ajamu X and Ingrid Pollard. Barnes' presents 'Gateway', reminiscent of a shrine, a quilt forms the centrepiece of an installation that manifests a material and tactile approach to communicate with ghosts. In this new textile installation Barnes seeks answers to her questions about the journey sculptor Edmonia Lewis and Frederick Douglass made to Naples in 1887.

For more information visit:

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/matthew-arthur-williams-in-guise-of-land/>

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/sequoia-barnes-gateway>

Book via Eventbrite for the following dates:

- 29 July – 1 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sequoia-barnes-and-matthew-arthur-williams-29-july-1-august-tickets-162742032801>
- 2 August – 8 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sequoia-barnes-and-matthew-arthur-williams-2-8-august-tickets-164180094081>
- 9 August – 15 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sequoia-barnes-and-matthew-arthur-williams-9-15-august-tickets-164180196387>
- 16 August – 22 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sequoia-barnes-and-matthew-arthur-williams-16-22-august-tickets-164181058967>

- 23 August – 29 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sequoia-barnes-and-matthew-arthur-williams-23-29-august-tickets-164181265585>

### **Access information, Johnston Terrace Wildlife Garden**

The Wildlife garden is located down 25 steps on Castle Wynd South, the Patrick Geddes Steps just off Johnston Terrace. You enter the garden through a small gate which is 775mm wide. Throughout the wild habitat is a narrow raised wooden boardwalk (558mm) with metal netting to avoid slipping when wet. The garden is a wild habitat so the ground is uneven throughout with either cobbles or exposed ground.

### **Parking and Transport**

On Johnston Terrace, there is a mixture of permit holder and public on street parking but this area can get very busy with coaches throughout the festival. This venue is a short 4-minute walk from George IV Bridge and The Mound which is serviced by multiple Lothian bus routes and an 8-minute walk from Edinburgh Waverley Train Station. There is a taxi rank outside Edinburgh Waverley Train Station, the Radisson Blu Hotel on the High Street, and G+V Hotel on George IV Bridge.

### **Toilets**

The nearest toilets and accessible toilets are located in the Edinburgh International Festival Hub which is a 2 minute walk away and has four accessible toilets on the premises.

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**Emeka Ogboh**  
**Burns Monument**  
**1759 Regent Rd, Edinburgh EH8 8JQ**

### **Venue Description**

Co-commissioned by Edinburgh Art Festival and Talbot Rice Gallery, Emeka Ogboh's newly commissioned sound installation 'Song of the Union, sited in Edinburgh's Burns Monument, is a response to the ongoing theatre surrounding the U.K.'s departure from the European Union.

### **For more information visit:**

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/emeka-ogboh-song-of-the-union>

Book via Eventbrite for the following dates:

- 29 July – 1 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emeka-ogboh-song-of-the-union-29-july-1-august-tickets-162741340731>
- 2 August – 8 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emeka-ogboh-song-of-the-union-2-8-august-tickets-164090678637>
- 9 August – 15 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emeka-ogboh-song-of-the-union-9-15-august-tickets-164090776931>
- 16 August – 22 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emeka-ogboh-song-of-the-union-16-22-august-tickets-164090891273>
- 23 August – 29 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emeka-ogboh-song-of-the-union-23-29-august-tickets-164099226203>

### **Access information, Burns Monument**

The Burns Monument is located up a steep cobbled slope, with the interior accessed via three steps. The pathway up to the Monument presents a significant trip hazard for wheelchair users and would, in most cases, require someone else to push a manual wheelchair.

A temporary access ramp can be made available for visitors with limited mobility to enter the monument, however due to the width between the pillars in this historic site (only 80cm) the venue is not fully accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. When booking via Eventbrite, if you would like to use the ramp, please put this in the booking notes.

A motorised wheelchair is unlikely to fit between the pillars, it is possible that some manual wheelchair users may fit through.

The Burns Monument is hosting a sound installation, therefore it may not be suitable to some people with neurodiversity noise sensitivity. However, it is not loud, and can also be heard from outside the Monument.

### **Parking and Transport**

There is some, limited on street parking in the immediate vicinity of the work, however the nearest car park with disabled parking available is the NCP car park in Market

Street. The venue is located just a short walk from the east end of Princes Street, which is served by a number of Lothian Buses, as well as Waverley Train Station.

## Toilets

There are no toilet facilities at this venue, the closest accessible toilets are at Waverley Train Station.

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## Edinburgh Art Festival at St Giles' Cathedral High St, Edinburgh EH1 1RE

*Obuyile*, a new composition for four cellists creates an intervention in the urban landscape by Thulani Rachia. The title of the work is in Thulani's mother tongue isiZulu, and translates as the one who returns. The compositions are translations of melodies gathered over several years, during encounters with various cities Rachia has moved between. Rachia's work is part of 'What happens to desire...', a programme curated by associate artist Tako Taal, which examines the psychic structures of colonial relations, and the question of how vividly they remain in the present.

St Giles' Cathedral is the historic City Church of Edinburgh. With its famed crown spire it stands on the Royal Mile between Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh, it is the Mother Church of Presbyterianism and contains the Chapel of the Order of the Thistle (Scotland's chivalric company of knights headed by the Queen). Admission to the Cathedral is free. Visitors are invited to make a donation of £3.00 per person. Volunteer guides are on duty each day to welcome visitors, answer questions and conduct guided tours on request. There are information desks situated at the main West entrance and at the Thistle Chapel.

### For more information visit:

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/thulani-rachia-obuyile>

Booking is not required.

### Access information, St Giles' Cathedral

At the main West entrance there are steps, flanked by two ramps leading into the building. Once inside, there are a small number of steps which can easily be avoided by

taking the ramp on the right inside the cathedral. Within the cathedral, the Thistle Chapel is the only area which cannot be accessed at all.

The café can be accessed by a small number of stairs from outside the cathedral. There is no wheelchair access to the café.

### **Parking and Transport**

There are places to park around the cathedral, parking consists of street parking providing a disabled parking badge is displayed, and some disabled parking operated by the council to the East of the cathedral. St Giles' Cathedral is a short walk from North, South and George IV bridge bus stops and Waverley train station. Please take note that from North and South bridge and Waverley station, the walk is up hill.

### **Toilets**

The closest accessible toilets are at Institut Francais d'Ecosse.

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### **Francis Dosoo**

**Calton Road Billboards**  
**21 Calton Rd, EH8 8DL**

Previously used as the site of Tam Joseph's *Hand Made Map of the World* for Edinburgh Art Festival 2014, Calton Road Billboards will host a new triptych of photographic work by Francis Dosoo in collaboration with photographer Kamilya Kuspanova, accompanied by text titled, *What is behind the Saint's eyes, when they look through tears to the altar*. Dosoo's work is as part of this year's Associate Artist Programme *What happens to desire...* curated by Tako Taal, which examines the psychic structures of colonial relations, and the question of how vividly they remain in the present.

Further down the street you can see artist Graham Fagen's permanent light installation artwork, 'A Drama in Time', commissioned in 2016. Both works are viewable from the street and are wheelchair accessible.

### **For more information visit:**

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/francis-dosoo-what-is-behind-the-saints-eyes-when-they-look-through-tears-to-the-altar/>

Booking is not required.

### **Accessibility information, Calton Road Billboards**

Both works are viewable from the street and are wheelchair accessible.

### **Parking and Transport**

The billboards are in close proximity to Waverley Train Station. There are good transport links. There is some on-street parking available.

### **Toilets**

The closest accessible toilet is located in Waverley Train Station.

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### **Sean Lynch**

#### **Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop**

21 Hawthornvale, Newhaven, Edinburgh EH6 4JT

Co-commissioned by Edinburgh Art Festival and Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Sean Lynch's new project *Tak' Tent O' Time Ere Time Be Tint*, casts a spotlight on Edinburgh's public monuments and sculptures, today subject to ongoing civic processes to have society acknowledge and understand the legacies of history.

#### **For more information visit:**

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/tak-tent-o-time-ere-time-be-tint/>

Booking is not required.

### **Accessibility information, Edinburgh Sculpture workshop**

Level access over the whole site, including lift to all floors in the Bill Scott Sculpture Centre. Lift access available through the Bill Scott Sculpture Centre to cafe MILK, with level access also available via the cycle path.

### **Parking and Transport**

Free Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop car park accessed from Hawthornvale, with a single disabled space - booking not required but can be accepted. On-street parking without limitations also available (dependent on availability). The Hawthornvale Cycle Path borders the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop site.

### **Toilets**

There are three disabled toilets, all with step-free access. Doors are wide enough for manual and powered wheelchairs. All disabled toilets have easy turn locks, grab rails and taps.

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**Isaac Julien**

**Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (Modern 1)**

**75 Belford Rd, Edinburgh EH4 3DR**

We are delighted to present the European premiere of Isaac Julien's *Lessons of the Hour*, in partnership with National Galleries Scotland. This new ten-screen film installation by internationally acclaimed British filmmaker Isaac Julien, offers a poetic meditation on the life and times of Frederick Douglass.

Home to Scotland's outstanding national collection of modern and contemporary art, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art includes two buildings, Modern One and Modern Two. At Modern One, the early part of the collection features French and Russian art from the beginning of the twentieth century, cubist paintings and superb holdings of expressionist and modern British art. Special highlights include paintings by Matisse and Picasso. The Gallery also has an outstanding collection of international post-war work and the most important and extensive collection of modern Scottish art.

**For more information visit:**

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/isaac-julien-lessons-of-the-hour>

Booking is required: <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/ticket-purchase/57221>

### **Accessibility information, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (Modern 1)**

The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art is located 15 minutes' walk from the West end of Princes Street. It includes two buildings, Modern One and Modern Two, which are on opposite sides of Belford Road set in a beautiful sculpture park.

At the time of writing, ramp repairs are required at Modern One. Please contact us in advance for the latest details: [modern1infodesk@nationalgalleries.org](mailto:modern1infodesk@nationalgalleries.org) 0131 624 6322 . We apologise for the inconvenience.

At Modern One there is a ramp with rails to the front door where a member of Modern One staff will be able to assist. Staff at the front entrance will guide you to an alternative entrance while the ramp is under repair.

The site has specially adapted lifts and is mostly wheelchair accessible. The main lift door is 900mm wide. However, we apologise that the lift to Rooms 20 & 21 may not be wide enough for all wheelchairs. The lift door is 720mm wide. To use the lift, visitors are requested to speak to a member of staff who can assist, there is a sign on the lift door to indicate this.

Wheelchair loans are available. They are regularly sanitised as part of our routine cleaning procedures. For questions or assistance, please approach any staff member. Portable stools are also available for use and are available at various points within the gallery.

Motorized wheelchairs are permitted.

Hearing loops are fitted at all information desks.

Guide dogs are welcome in the gallery and in the cafe.

**Accessibility Guide Link:** Please note that the following guide was compiled before COVID-19 restrictions. For more information about the current situation please visit: <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-gallery-modern-art>

### **Parking and Transport**

Parking for visitors is available at both Modern One and Modern Two. A donation is requested of £3 for up to 4 hours and £6 for 4-8 hours, card payment only with contactless capability.

We also have disabled parking facilities for blue badge holders. Modern One is equipped with two electric car charging points, trickle charge only (as opposed to fast charge).

### **Toilets**

Toilets and baby changing facilities are available at Modern One.

Our Changing Places toilet is situated in the car park of Modern One to the rear of the building. The opening hours are 9am-5pm and the facility is open-access with no key needed to gain entry. The toilet door is 880mm wide.

There is an accessible toilet on level 2. The door is 1040mm wide.

The accessible toilet on level 0 may not be suitable for larger motorised wheelchairs. The toilet door on level 0 is 830mm wide.

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## **Platform at Institut Français d'Écosse West Parliament Square, Edinburgh, EH1 1RF**

*Platform* is our dedicated showcase for artists in the early stages of their careers, each year introducing audiences to a new generation of contemporary artists based in Scotland. Our 2021 edition has been selected from an open call by writer and producer Mason Leaver-Yap and artist Ciara Phillips working with festival director Sorcha Carey.

Jessica Higgins, Danny Pagarani, Kirsty Russell and Isabella Widger will present new work as part of a group exhibition held at the Institut français d'Écosse. Encompassing a broad range of media and approaches, the selected projects share a collective interest in the ways in which infrastructures of knowledge are constructed and disseminated.

Institut Français d'Écosse, on West Parliament Square is just off Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile. It is wheelchair accessible, has accessible toilets and baby change facilities and a café.

### **For more information visit:**

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/event/platform-2021>

Book via Eventbrite for the following dates:

- 29 July – 1 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platform-2021-29-july-1-august-tickets-162740588481>
- 2 August – 8 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platform-2021-2-8-august-tickets-164118658325>
- 9 August – 15 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platform-2021-9-15-august-tickets-164179592581>
- 16 August – 22 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platform-2021-16-22-august-tickets-164179696893>

- 23 August – 29 August: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platform-2021-23-29-august-tickets-164179755067>

### **Accessibility information, Institut Français d'Écosse**

Institut Français d'Écosse is accessible. Currently it operates a one way system, entrance is through George IV Bridge. The entrance doors are automated, however, please ring in advance in case there is an issue with the doors. Please call 0131 285 6030. There are two lifts in the building. The exhibitions are on the ground floor (in a room just behind the central reception desk) and first floor (which can be accessed by lift and stairs).

### **Parking and Transport**

Disabled parking is available on St Giles Street opposite West Parliament Square, a few metres from the entrance, and at the top of Victoria Street. George IV Bridge is well serviced by public bus routes and is a ten minute walk from Edinburgh Waverley Station. There is a taxi rank situated directly across from the venue outside the G+V Hotel on George IV bridge.

Numerous buses alight on George IV bridge, close to Institut français d'Écosse; (23, 27, 41, 42 & 67)

### **Toilets**

There are accessible toilets. The nearest Changing Places Toilets is at the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, EH1 1JF