



ActionSpace

ActionSpace Symposium 2026

Curating and Coalition: Challenging and Expanding the Art World in the Wake of Nnena Kalu's Turner Prize Win

PANELLISTS

Rózsa Farkas / Founder and Director, Arcadia Missa

Rózsa Farkas (b. 1987, London, UK) is the founding director of Arcadia Missa, a London based gallery representing emerging and mid-career artists including Rene Matic and Nnena Kalu, both of whom were shortlisted for the 2025 Turner Prize. Arcadia Missa was established as a commercial gallery in 2015 after running as a project space for several years. As well as its gallery programme, Arcadia Missa has been an active publisher of journals and artist books. Farkas is a former lecturer and researcher and much of the gallery programme promotes artwork that critically engages with the social and political conditions of our time.

Jes Fernie / Curator, Writer and Lecturer

Jes Fernie is an independent curator, writer and lecturer. She works with galleries, visual arts organisations, universities and artists to make exhibitions, public artworks, residency projects and public programmes across the UK and abroad. She is interested in the ways that artworks are viewed, positioned, and transformed by a live relationship with audiences, contexts and conditions. She launched the Archive of Destruction in 2021. Jes is currently Course Leader, MA Culture, Criticism and Curation at CSM and visiting lecturer at universities including the RCA, Royal Academy Schools, the Slade and Goldsmiths College. She is Chair of the Board of Trustees at Matt's Gallery, London.

Charlotte Hollinshead / Head of Artist Development, ActionSpace

Charlotte Hollinshead has worked with ActionSpace for 30 years and has led the ActionSpace South London Studio at Studio Voltaire since 1999. She supports artists with complex disabilities in developing their individual art practice and delivers an extensive range of commissions, residencies, projects, live events, and exhibitions. Charlotte also devised and manages ActionSpace's innovative participatory, live art programme 'Make It Live'. Outside of ActionSpace, Charlotte has her own participatory practice, devising and delivering inclusive projects with SEN schools and community organisations, galleries and museums.

Tom di Maria / Director, Arts Access for All

Tom di Maria is the Director of Arts Access for All, a non-profit project that supports the advancement of art practices for people with disabilities. Prior to this, he served as Director of Creative Growth Art Center for 25 years. As Director, he worked with museums, galleries and international design companies to help bring Creative Growth's artists with disabilities fully into the contemporary art world. He speaks around the world about artists with disabilities and their relationship to both Outsider Art and contemporary culture. Prior to this position, he served as Assistant Director of the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive, at

UC Berkeley. He holds a B.F.A. from Rochester Institute of Technology and a M.F.A. from Maryland Institute, College of Art. He was recently awarded the Visionary Award by the American Folk Art Museum in New York for his work supporting artists with disabilities.

PARTNERS

Stanley Picker Gallery

[Stanley Picker Gallery](#) at Kingston University is one of the leading university galleries and commissioning venues in the UK, working with artists, designers, students, academics and members of the local community to encourage creativity, learning, research and innovation.

Established in 1997 with the ongoing support of the Stanley Picker Trust, the Gallery forms part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio and is a principal cultural interface between Kingston University and its civic communities in South-West London and beyond. From its island location on the Hogsmill River, the Stanley Picker Gallery operates as an "expanded studio" dedicated to commissioning and curating contemporary art and design practice, generating a dynamic programme of exhibitions, events and participation activities staged onsite, offsite and online.

Appointed each year through a public open call, the Stanley Picker Fellowships in Art & Design support a diversity of contemporary practitioners to research, create and premiere ambitious new work, by providing generous grants, free studio space, professional expertise and valuable access to the world-class workshop facilities at Kingston School of Art. Current Fellows include Kat Anderson, FRAUD, Emma Hart, Sophie Huckfield and Abbas Zahedi. The Gallery's Participation Programme involves working collaboratively with schools, colleges, community groups and local residents of all ages, to deliver a range of creative activities and shared learning and professional development opportunities for students, which engage everyone in the life of the Gallery, its partner venue Dorich House Museum and the wider University.

Chair | Lisa Slominski

Lisa Slominski is a writer-curator and PhD candidate at Kingston School of Art. Her practice-based research examines the role of cultural intermediaries in shaping agency, identity, and representation within contemporary art, with particular attention to artists who communicate outside normative verbal frameworks. Titled *A Liminal Site*, her doctoral project develops an original liminal methodology informed by María Lugones' concept of the limen as a relational threshold, foregrounding coalition, praxical awareness, and interpretive responsibility.

Alongside her research, Slominski has an extensive curatorial and editorial practice spanning exhibitions, publishing, consultancy, and public programmes. She has worked with artist Nnena Kalu since 2018, curating her work in exhibitions including *Spring Syllabus* (J Hammond Projects, London, 2018), *Fair Vanity* (Summertime, New York, 2020), and *Attack Decay Sustain Release* (Stanley Picker Gallery, 2026). Kalu's work also features in Slominski's book *Nonconformers: A New History of Self-Taught Artists* (Yale University Press).

Recent research dissemination includes 'Curating Difference' in *Art Monthly* (November 2025), an article for *The Conversation* (December 2025), and a paper presented at the College Art Association 114th Annual Conference, Chicago (February 2026). Slominski is also Senior Art Producer at Contemporary Art Society and a co-founder of Art et al.