

Spike Island

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SPIKE ISLAND'S ANNUAL OPEN STUDIOS RETURNS FOR A JAM-PACKED WEEKEND SHOWCASING BRISTOL'S CREATIVE TALENT



Spike Island is pleased to announce the dates for Open Studios 2024, the hugely popular annual event offering free behind-the-scenes access to its 80,000-square-foot arts space.

From 3–5 May, fans of art, culture and design are invited to see the expansive network of artist studios, galleries, and creative businesses that inhabit the former tea-packing factory, as well as the working studios of UWE Fine Arts programmes and award-winning Spike Print Studio, the largest open-access print studio in the South West.

Beginning Friday 3 May (6–9pm), visitors are free to explore Spike Island, an integral part of the South West's cultural ecosystem and one of the UK's largest spaces for contemporary art. With much of the building closed to the public during the rest of the year, this is a rare opportunity to immerse yourself in its community, learn about your favourite creative practices – from graphic design to sculpture, see works-in-progress, and even buy original pieces from both emerging and established talent.

Across the weekend, as well as the opportunity to visit the 70+ artist studios, there is a 3-day programme of performances, film screenings, family-friendly events, talks and workshops where attendees can release their inner artist and discuss ideas with creative experts firsthand. This year, programme highlights include hands-on screen-printing workshops with artist Cliff Andrade; girlhood-inspired collage-making tutorials with Comfy Club Collective; and experimental audio-visual performances from UWE BA Fine Art students.

On Saturday 4 May, a special ticketed event with exhibiting artist Olu Ogunnaike will take place in the gallery where he will be in conversation



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with curator Cédric Fauq. (booking required). The weekend gives attendees a final look at Ogunnaike's *Fix Your Face* and Korean artist Young In Hong's *Five Acts* before both exhibitions end on Sunday 5 May.

Additionally, a variety of Bristol-based street-food vendors will be situated across the site to fuel your Open Studios visit, including handmade dim sum chefs *Ah-Ma's Dumplings* and festival favourites *Small Fire Pizza*. Spike Island's ever-popular on-site café *Emmeline* will have a selection of colourful salads, their famous mega toasties, and tasty cocktails and coffees all weekend.

With so many discoveries to be made and surprises around each corner, Spike Island Open Studios is an unmissable opportunity to join, celebrate and support the best of Bristol's renowned art scene.

[.spikeisland.org.uk/programme/open-studios/](http://spikeisland.org.uk/programme/open-studios/)

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For further information and high-resolution images please contact Niquita Munowenyu, Communications Manager at Spike Island on niquita.munowenyu@spikeisland.org.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- Spike Island is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. All our exhibitions and the majority of our events are free.
- **ABOUT SPIKE ISLAND**
Spike Island supports, produces and presents contemporary art and culture across an 80,000 square foot former industrial building in Bristol. Its diverse artistic programme includes free major exhibitions, events and engagement activities taking place on-site and online. Championing outstanding work by emerging and underrepresented local, national and international artists, the programme enhances access to contemporary art for audiences from all backgrounds.

Alongside its public offer, Spike Island directly supports artists through new commissions, over 70 subsidised studios, and sector-leading artist development opportunities that widen access to its programme and facilities. Its Exhibition Services business supports the bespoke production and installation of artists' film and video throughout the UK and internationally. Spike Island is home to a dynamic community of hundreds of artists and creative businesses, working in flexible, affordable workspaces, alongside UWE Bristol's Fine Art department, Spike Print Studio, and café bar Emmeline. www.spikeisland.org.uk