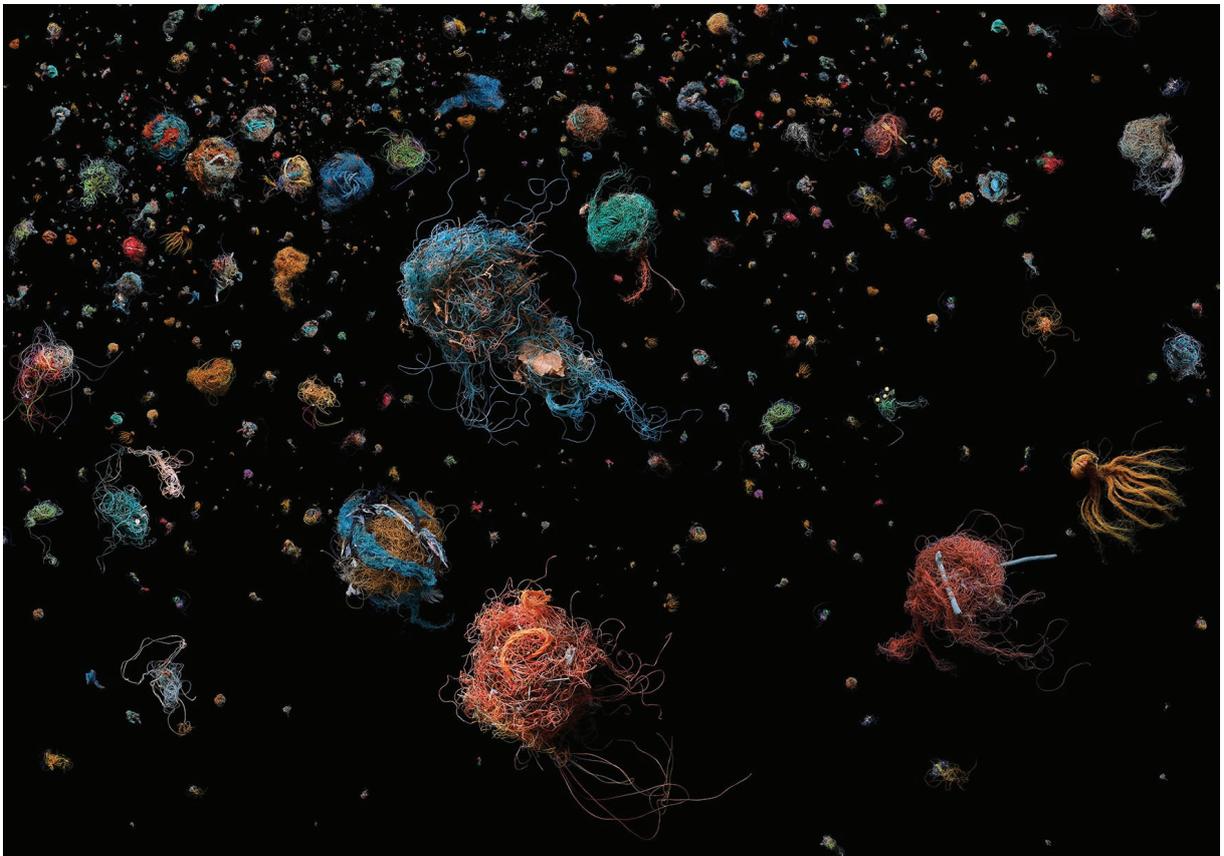


# Our Plastic Ocean

Mandy Barker



Touring Information



**500+**  
From the series *Soup*

**Our Plastic Ocean, by international award-winning photographer Mandy Barker, addresses the current global crisis of marine plastic pollution.** Barker collects debris from shorelines across the world and transforms them into powerful and captivating images. The exhibition, which premiered at Impressions Gallery in Summer 2019, is the first major touring retrospective of Mandy Barker's work.

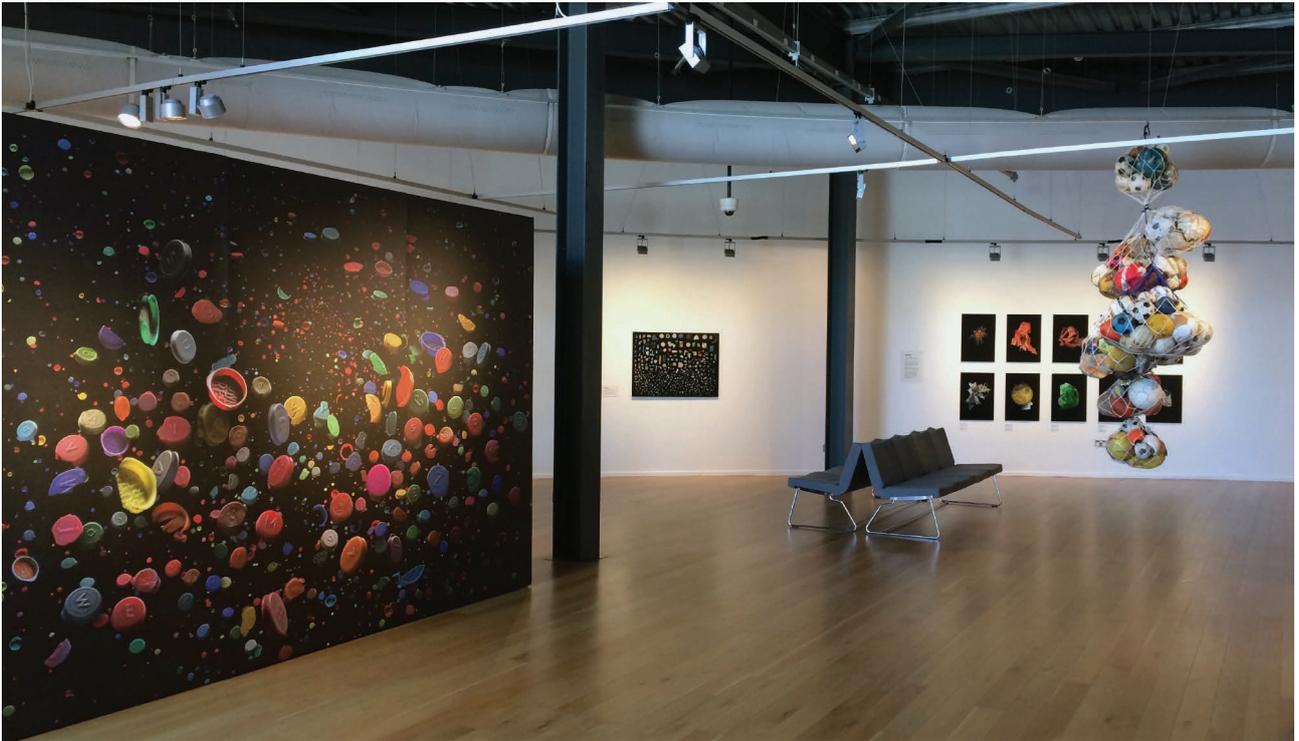
At first glance, Barker's images are reminiscent of sea creatures and corals suspended in a dark void beneath the sea, but closer inspection reveals a more disturbing reality. From footballs to fishing nets, cotton-buds to coffee-cup lids, Barker highlights the incongruous plastic items now ubiquitous in our seas.

*Our Plastic Ocean* provides an overview of a decade of work by Mandy Barker, including the series *Indefinite*, *Soup* and *Beyond Drifting*, as well as other standalone images. The exhibition also features a number of installation elements, including a mass of suspended marine debris footballs, sand permeated with microplastics sourced from Kamillo Beach, Hawaii and a virtual reality experience to enable visitors to fully immerse in Barker's work.

The exhibition is available to hire for a fee of £3,000+VAT.

For further details, contact Angela Sheard, Associate Curator, on 01274737843 or at [angelasheard@impressions-gallery.com](mailto:angelasheard@impressions-gallery.com)

# Exhibition installation at Impressions Gallery



*The beauty of the pictures gave so much impact to the ugliness of what's happening... superb (and chilling).*

*This is the kind of art we need at this time.*

Exhibition Visitors

# Selected artwork

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## Indefinite

*Indefinite* shows plastic objects, presented unwashed and unaltered, as they were found on the shore.

The forms and shapes might seem reminiscent of sea creatures, but are actually man-made from different plastics.

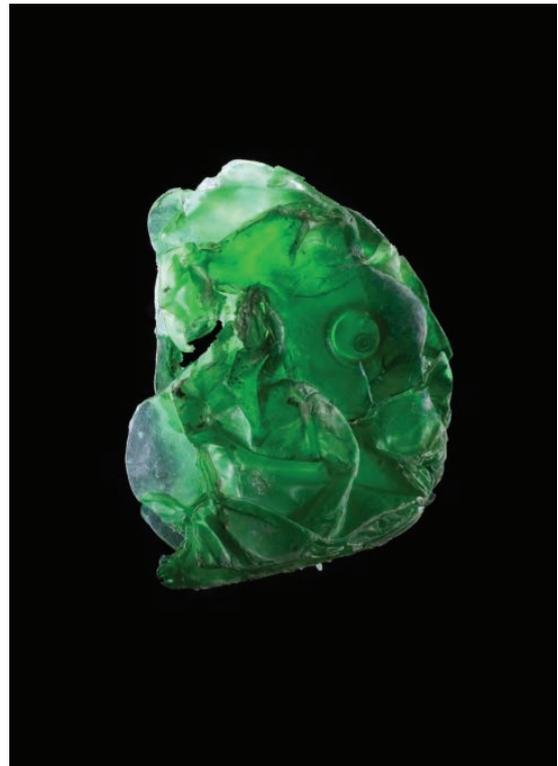
The images are captioned with the estimated time it takes for discarded plastics to degrade in the sea.



1 - 5 Years  
Clothing and Fabric



10 - 20 Years  
(Plastic Bag Seams)



1 - 5 Years  
Clothing and Fabris

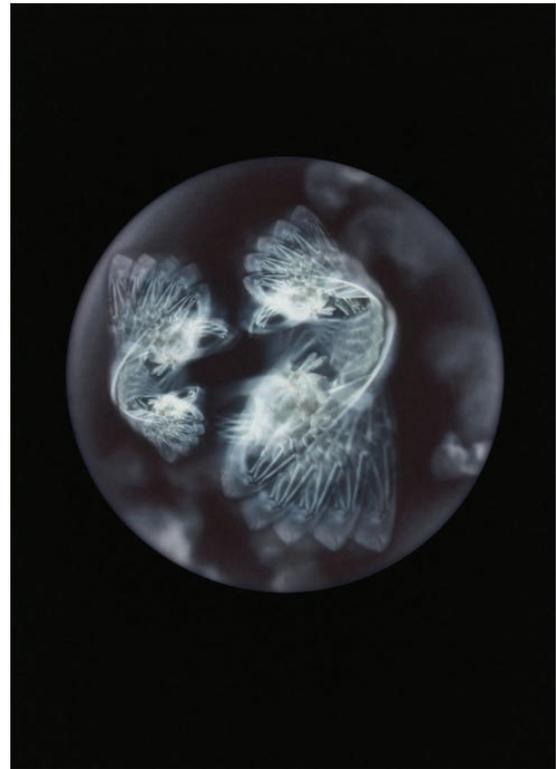
# Selected artwork

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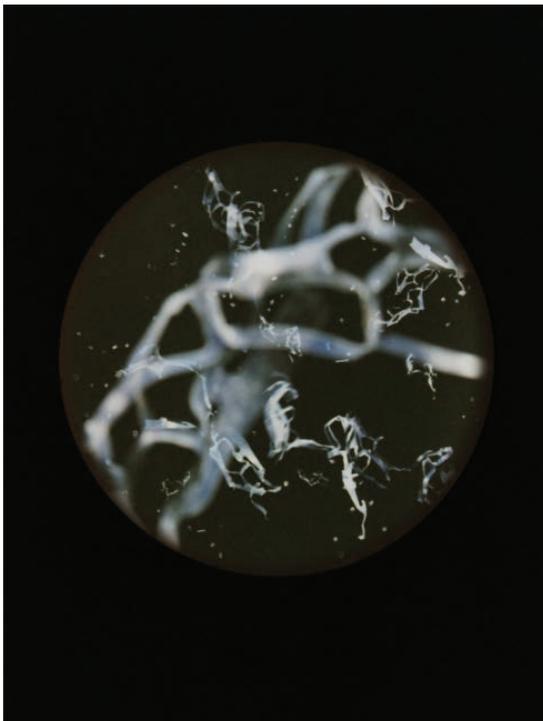
## Beyond Drifting

In *Beyond Drifting*, Mandy Barker traces the footsteps of 19th century botanist John Vaughan Thompson. Thompson collected and studied plankton, the ocean's most basic life form, at Cobh, Cork Harbour, in Ireland.

When Barker visited this site, her search revealed plastic wiring, fragments of bottles, discarded limbs of plastic dolls and other items now commonplace in our seas.



**Ophelia medustica**  
(Pram Wheel)



**Copepod langisticus**  
(Six pack plastic yoke)



**Plamacina retroversta ic. III**  
(Plastic White Horse 3)

# Selected artwork

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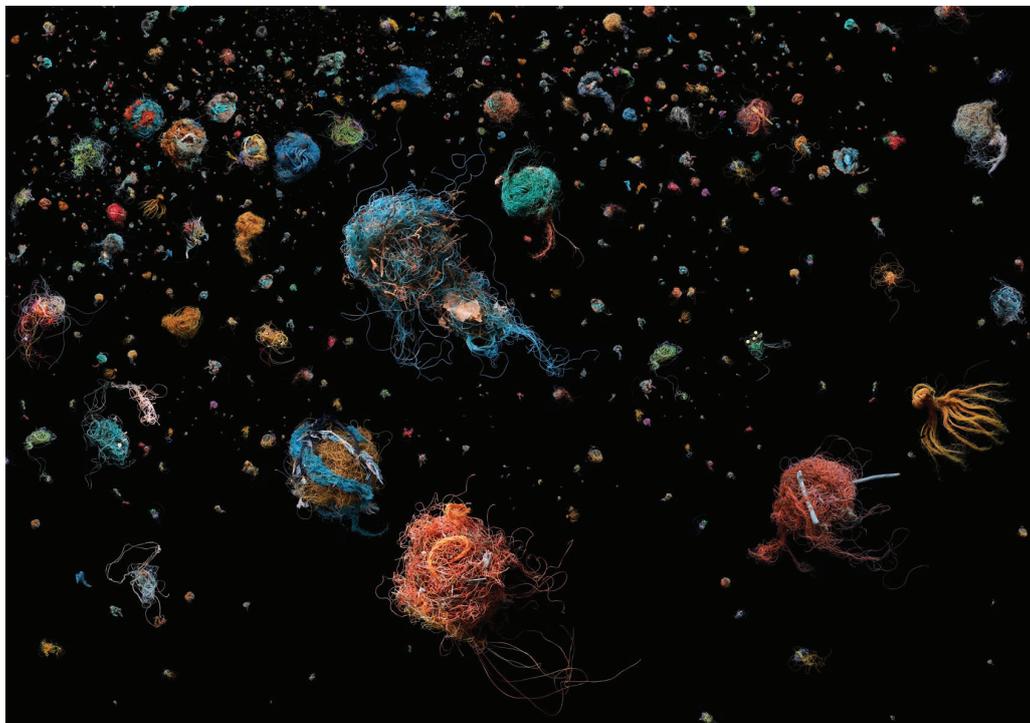
## Soup

'Soup' is the term for plastic debris suspended in the sea. It particularly refers to the mass accumulation in the North Pacific Ocean widely known as the 'Garbage Patch'.

The plastics photographed for this series have been collected from beaches around the world, representing a global collection of debris that demonstrates the mass of plastic in our seas. Some of the images featured are part Barker's sub-series Hong Kong Soup: 1826, referencing the 1,826 tonnes of municipal plastic waste that goes into landfills every day in Hong Kong.



Transform from Hong Kong Soup: 1826  
Ingredients: Recovered toys, action heroes and transformers



Bird's Nest  
Ingredients: discarded fishing line that has formed nest-like balls due to tidal oceanic movement.  
Additives: other debris collected in its path.

# Ripple: Virtual Reality Interactive Experience

Enable your visitors to fully immerse in Mandy Barker's artwork with *Ripple*, a virtual reality experience developed by a team of eight students from Stanford University, California, under the guidance of Professor Geri Migielicz.

*Ripple* takes you on a journey through four of Barker's photographs, allowing you to exist for a few minutes in an ocean of discarded plastic. See and feel the fate of the items we throw away, and learn about our planet's most polluted places in this immersive experience.

Oculus Go headset included with tour.



*An amazing piece of art. The visuals are truly spectacular, a very thought provoking piece!*

*Brilliant experience! Well done for making the problem we face so visual*

VR users



Visitors taking part in VR experience

# Installation pieces

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## **Beyond Drifting Artist's Research Cabinet**

Notes, inspirations and objects from Mandy Barker's Archive that informed her series *Beyond Drifting*



## **Sand polluted with microplastics, collected from Kamillo Beach, Hawaii, 2012**

1 tub of microplastics available  
Venue to provide display case and sand.



## **Penalty: Suspended Football installation**

Balls supplied in nets for venue to install securely.

# Additional Visual Material



Map showing locations of recovered plastics including facts on marine plastic pollution

- Created by projection and hand drawing onto wall
- Pinned red flags note areas of recovered plastics
- Optimum area required 8m x 2.5m



Plastic Pledge area

- Interactive comments space
- Pledge 'stamp' supplied with tour
- Suggested presentation, string line and bulldog clips



# Exhibition Content

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## Artworks

### 28 photographs

- *Indefinite* series: 10 colour photographs drymounted on aluminium - 45 x 63.9cm
- *Soup* series: 9 colour photographs drymounted on aluminium, 118 x 83.6cm (2 images) and 83.6 x 59cm (7 images)
- *Beyond Drifting* series: 8 colour photographs drymounted and presented in black oak frames, glazed 63 x 82.5cm
- *Albatross* series: 1 colour photograph drymounted on aluminium, 118 x 83.6cm
- Virtual Reality experience, *Ripple: The Unintended Life of Plastic at Sea*

### Installation pieces

- Artists' research cabinet
- Footballs suspended in nets to be presented alongside Penalty image
- Microplastics from Kamillo Beach, Hawaii

### Additional visual material

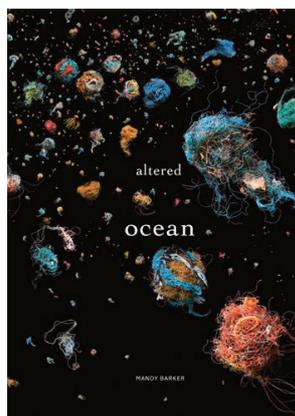
- Sketchbooks showing development of artistic process and ideas.
- Template for hand-drawn world map, including locations of recovered plastics and facts and statistics about plastic pollution.
- Plastic Pledge stamp and 'call to action' cards for interactive comments area
- Artwork supplied for large wallpaper image featuring collected Smarties lids. Venue to cover costs of site-specific installation.

### Education

- Advice from Impressions' Education team for school engagement workshops, including visual literacy and creative writing sessions
- Mandy Barker is an articulate speaker and can deliver artist talks and workshops (by direct negotiation with venue)

## Interpretation

- Artwork for captions for each image
- Artwork for introduction panel and information sheet (venue to produce in their preferred format to suit their space)
- Artwork for exhibition guide featuring extended captions
- Artist information folder, artist questionnaire, and links to further resources
- A selection of contextual and recommended books
- Gallery trail for 5-12 year-olds (venue to adapt to their own context)



### Publication

*Altered Ocean*, a full colour 144 page hardback publication published by Overlapse (2019), is available to stock in your bookshop. RRP £30.

### Marketing

- Text for venue to produce press release
- Four hi-res press images

### Space required

Approximately 50 - 80 linear metres. We can help advise on adapting the show to suit your space.



## About Mandy Barker

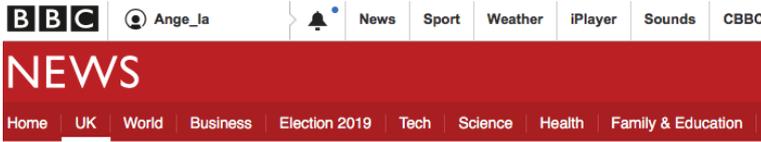
Mandy Barker's work has been published in over 40 countries including; *TIME Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *Smithsonian*, *New Scientist*, *El Pais*, *De Standaard*, *Wallpaper\** *The Explorer's Journal*, *The UNESCO Courier* and photography publications including, *BJP*, *FOAM Magazine*, *GUP*, *The RPS Journal*, *Fotografi Magazine*, *LensCulture*, *Fotoii*, *Fotographia*, and *Monthly Photography South Korea*. She has exhibited globally including in New York, London, and Hong Kong.

Barker was shortlisted for the Prix Pictet Award SPACE 2017, nominated for the Deutsche Börse Foundation Photography Prize 2018 and 2019, and the Magnum Foundation Fund. She is a recipient of the 2018 National Geographic Society Grant for Research and Exploration enabling an expedition to Henderson Island, a remote, uninhabited Pacific island which has the highest density of plastic waste anywhere in the world. Her book '*Beyond Drifting: Imperfectly Known Animals*' was selected as one of the Ten Best Photography Books of 2017, selected by Smithsonian. In 2019, *Altered Ocean*, an overview of a decade of her work was published by Overlapse.

"For the past decade, I have researched and documented the impact of oceanic waste, combining art and science to raise awareness. I hope to inspire positive action in tackling this increasing environmental challenge which is of global concern".

Mandy Barker

# What the papers say...



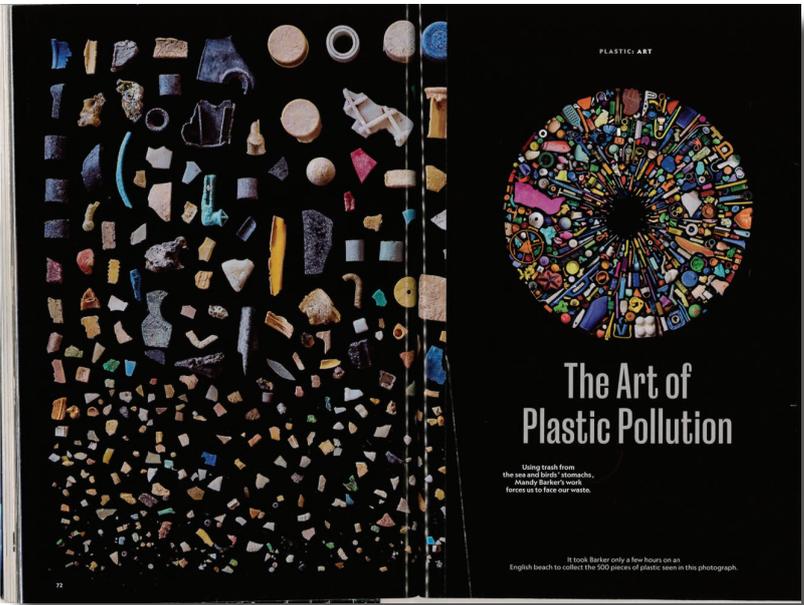
**Art from 'what ends up in birds' stomachs'**  
Mandy Barker says the amount of waste washing up on the East Yorkshire coast has increased.  
15 November 2018  
Share

## It's Nice That

*Mandy Barker's photography is a beautiful and shocking commentary on our excessive plastic consumption.*

## THE YORKSHIRE POST

*Barker's work is a perfect example of the unique ability of art to communicate urgent ideas.*



*A series of photographic projects that illustrate plastic's ubiquity as well as its reach.*

## What the hire fee covers

The hire fee of £3,000+VAT includes the following:

- Loan of exhibition and all artworks for up to 12 weeks at your venue, plus additional time for installation and take-down, up to 14 weeks in total. Please see inventory for full list of works.
- Loan of Oculus Go headset for virtual reality experience.
- Artist exhibition fee to Mandy Barker.
- Digital copies of exhibition interpretation to use and reproduce, including information sheets, exhibition guides, and family activities.
- Media pack with high resolution rights-cleared digital images and press release for your own press campaign.
- Support from the curator and Impressions' team, with advice on curatorial and technical matters to help you plan the exhibition.
- Advice on producing a plastic-free exhibition, in keeping with the ethos of the work.
- Support from Impressions' Learning Manager to advise on creative workshop ideas.

Touring venues to cover the following:

- Two-way transport of the exhibition and insurance in transit and in situ.
- Exhibition installation.
- Fabrication of large wallpaper image (sizing site specific) featuring collected Smarties lids.
- Travel and accommodation for the curator to oversee installation, if required.
- Fabrication of interpretation, such as wall vinyls and info sheets.
- Exhibition launch (if applicable) and costs for the artist and curator to attend from within the UK.
- Your education and learning programme, and any engagement activities involving the artist and/or curator (if applicable).
- Press and marketing for your own venue.

*It has been wonderful working with Impressions Gallery... the exhibition is so expertly researched, curated and put together.*

Naomi Miller, Development Director,  
Bristol Cathedral, on No Man's Land (2018)



## About Impressions Gallery

Impressions Gallery is a charity that helps people understand the world through photography.

Based in Bradford, Impressions Gallery works internationally to bring the best of contemporary photography to wide and culturally diverse audiences. Since opening in 1972, as one of the first photography galleries in Europe, we have been at the forefront of photographic practice, making us an influential UK venue for photography.

We support ground-breaking, new and mid-career artists to resource and develop artistic talent through world class, confident exhibitions that explore timely and relevant issues in society, identity, and politics.

Impressions Gallery is funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation and supported by Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

## Contact

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email: [angelasheard@impressions-gallery.com](mailto:angelasheard@impressions-gallery.com)

