

PRESS RELEASE

3 APRIL 2024



Harbour House launches New Vision for the community with the opening of Jarman Award nominated artist Naomi Frears' exhibition, *The Days of the Future Stand Before Us*.

Hear from the Director and Chair of Trustees about the new vision to enrich the lives of people in Kingsbridge and surrounding communities through art, creativity and wellbeing practices.

New Vision Launch Event: Friday 26 April 2024, 5.30pm - 8pm, speeches 6:00 - 6.30pm. All Welcome.

Exhibition: Sat 27 April - Sat 15 June 2024 (Mon - Sat: 10am - 5pm)

Artist Talk: Thursday 9 May Dinner: 6.30pm, Talk: 7.45pm - 8.45pm. All Welcome. Booking Essential.

Artist Workshop: Saturday 11 May 1pm - 3pm South Milton Sands. All Welcome. Booking Essential.

HARBOUR HOUSE NEW VISION LAUNCH AND NAOMI FREARS OPENING EVENT

Harbour House is delighted to announce their new vision Launch Event, which will be an opportunity to hear from Harbour House Director, Amy Dickson and Chair of Trustees, Nigel Llewellyn about the new vision to enrich the lives of the people of our town and surrounding communities through art, creativity, and wellbeing practices. It will also be an opportunity to see the new exhibition, *The Days of the Future Stand Before Us* by celebrated Cornwall-based artist Naomi Frears and to sample free, delicious light refreshments from Harbour House's new vegetarian cafe in the garden at the front of the gallery.

Harbour House has launched a brand new visual identity and website today with information on its new vision and highlights from its forthcoming programme. www.harbourhouse.org.uk

The Days of the Future Stand Before Us, brings together two of Frears' film works, *Men Falling* (2020) and *Ten* (2016/24) for the first time. In both works, Frears uses the studio window as a camera, capturing and choreographing the movements of the surfers and beachgoers on the beach beyond. The exhibition

is part of Harbour House's programme exploring the intersection between movement and art and follows on from the successful exhibition *Bowland Beth*, which showcased the work of Kingsbridge-based choreographer Catherine Seymour.

The first part of *Men Falling* observes surfers as they come to the end of their ride on a wave. In these final moments they seem to give themselves to the sea, each bringing their own particular style to the dismount. This is paired with a second section that recounts the artist's memories of the days leading up to the death of her father.

In *Ten*, Frears explores how people typically behave on the beach, for example rolling in the sand, pointing or playing ball. Observing how the beach goes disappear briefly behind the frames of her studio window, like characters in the gutter of a comic book, Frears playfully choreographs their movements, exploring the space between what is past and what is yet to happen. Harbour House has commissioned Frears to make a new soundtrack for *Ten* with sound artist S J Blackmore. This is the first time this new version of the work has been shown.

Visitors can also explore a FREE drop-in Stop Motion Clay Animation activity in the gallery.

The Days of the Future Stand Before Us will open at 5:30pm on Friday 26 April at Harbour House with a speeches from Amy Dickson, Director, Harbour House; Nigel Llewellyn, the Chair of the Board of Trustees; Kingsbridge Mayor, Philip Cole and Tina Graham, Headteacher of Kingsbridge Community College from 6pm. The launch event and the exhibition are free to attend and open to all.

Naomi Frears is based in Porthmeor Studios in St Ives, Cornwall. Her practice includes work with film and video, as well as printmaking, painting, and collaborative curatorial projects. The themes frequently present within Frears' work are - the use of text and image to plot emotional states; strategies of detached observation; forms of everyday choreography; ambiguous gestures; disembodied dialogues; humour; pleasure; and the tension between distance and intimacy.

Men Falling, Exeter Phoenix Moving Image Commission, shown at Exeter Phoenix 2021, CAST 2022, Newlyn and the Exchange 2023, Harbour House 2024.

Ten was screened at Kestle Barton in 2016 and has been used in a different form by hospitals in Scotland after a call out to contemporary artists working with film. Shown with a new soundtrack for the first time at Harbour House 2024.

Artist Talk:

In conversation with artist Naomi Frears, Amy Dickson and Matt Burrows

Thursday 9 May 2024

Dinner: 6:30pm, Talk: 7:45pm - 8:45pm

Harbour House First Floor Cafe & Ground Floor Gallery

Naomi will be in conversation with Matt Burrows, Curator at Exeter Phoenix, who commissioned *Men Falling* as part of the Phoenix's artist's moving image commission and Harbour House Director Amy Dickson. Join us for dinner and an enjoyable evening of conversation where we will hear from Naomi and Matt about how the work was made.

You can also attend the talk for free without dinner but will still need to book a space via eventbrite.

Booking Essential Via Eventbrite:

[Dinner & In Conversation Booking Link - £15 + booking fee](#)

[In Conversation Booking Link - FREE](#)

Workshop:

Stop Motion, New Moves Beach Workshop:

Saturday 11 May 2024

1-3pm, South Milton Sands

Come and join artist Naomi Frears to make stop motion films on the beach.

Booking Essential Via Eventbrite:

[Naomi Frears Workshop Link - FREE](#)

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Artist Talk: 9 May Dinner: 6.30 Talk: 7.45 - 8.45 [insert link?]

Artist Workshop: 11 May 1-3pm South Milton Sands [insert link?]

~ENDS~

LINKS:

NEW Harbour House website: <https://harbourhouse.org.uk>

Harbour House Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/harbour-house-68065898243>

Exeter Phoenix: <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/>

Naomi Frears: <https://www.naomifrears.com/>

Kestle Barton: <http://www.kestlebarton.co.uk/>

BIOGRAPHIES:**Amy Dickson - Director, Harbour House and CEO, Harbour House Trust**

Amy joined the team in January 2022 and has worked as a curator for over 20 years including at Tate Modern, Tate Liverpool, National Galleries of Scotland and ARTIST ROOMS, where she worked with numerous regional arts organisations across the UK. She is also a qualified yoga teacher and yoga teacher trainer and is passionate about making contemporary art and movement accessible and inclusive for all. She lives with her family in Kingsbridge.

Nigel Llewellyn - Chair of the Board of Trustees, Harbour House Trust

Nigel Llewellyn was Professor of Art History at Sussex University and also Dean of European Studies and Pro-Vice-Chancellor. After a time at the Arts and Humanities Research Council he established and ran the Tate Research Department. He has curated exhibitions at the V&A and written over 50 scholarly publications. He lives near Kingsbridge.

Naomi Frears - Artist

Naomi Frears is based in Porthmeor Studios in St Ives, Cornwall. Her practice includes work with film and video, as well as printmaking, painting, and collaborative curatorial projects. She has shown her films and paintings widely in contemporary galleries, museums and institutions across the UK.

Recent solo shows and film commissions include *Men Falling* (Artist Moving Image Commission, Exeter Phoenix) and *In Other Words*, a film commission for RAMM (Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter), *Red River*, a film commission in collaboration with poet John Wedgewood Clarke shown at COP 26, *Looking for Ray*, for Kestle Barton, and *Somebody Loves Us All*, a film commission and collaboration with poet Ella Frears, Bold Tendencies Peckham.

Recent group shows include *CLUSTER*, a collaborative work with SJ Blackmore and Alice Mahoney for Flamm, *Bridge the Tamar*, Mirror Gallery, Plymouth, where she showed Frears *All Going Nowhere Together*, a collaboration with DJ Luke Vibert and performance for 40 cars for *Groundwork* and *Pebble/Shoe* at Kingsgate Project Space, London.

She undertook a large painting commission for *Hospital Rooms* at Bethlem Royal Hospital, London and her work appears regularly on the cover of the *London Review of Books*.

Frears' work is held in public and private collections including *Government Art Collection* and in 2023 she was nominated for the Film London *Jarman Award* for artists moving image. Frears teaches art students at Falmouth University and among other projects, she is currently making new work as a guest of *Britten Pears Arts* in Aldeburgh, Suffolk



NOTES TO EDITORS

About Harbour House

Welcome to Harbour House, a contemporary art and wellbeing centre in the heart of Kingsbridge, South Devon. We believe in the power of art, creativity, and wellbeing practices to enrich the lives of the people in our town and surrounding communities.

Our mission is simple: we tackle the challenges and celebrate the opportunities that Kingsbridge offers while also exploring the broader issues that affect us all.

How do we do this? Through an inspiring and inclusive programme of exhibitions and performances, alongside a range of engaging and educational activities that invite participation. We're also here to support your wellbeing with a range of flexible spaces dedicated to yoga, movement and mindfulness.

Whether you're an art enthusiast, a wellbeing seeker, or simply curious, join us as we explore, create, move and thrive together.

For further information/images or interview requests please contact:

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