



EMERGE
4 Kingsland Road E2 8DA
26th June - 4th July 2025
PV: 25th June 6-8pm
Open times: **12-6pm**

Emerge: A group exhibition featuring work by young artists who have participated in our work placement scheme.

This summer, The Bomb Factory Art Foundation presents *Emerge*, a multi-disciplinary group exhibition celebrating ten years of the organisation through the work of its former interns. Bringing together sculpture, painting, animation, collage and installation, the exhibition showcases emerging artists at the early stages of their careers, many of whom have played vital roles behind the scenes at The Bomb Factory.

The show marks a shift: our internship programme has long offered insight into the workings of a charitable arts foundation; from curation and communications to installation and fundraising, but *Emerge* centres these individuals not as supporters, but as artists.

Works in the exhibition range from raw, hand-built sculpture to playful reflections on digital culture and gallery conventions. Through collage, photography, text, animation and installation, the artists explore ideas around memory, identity, authorship and visibility.

Rather than presenting a single theme, *Emerge* brings together varied voices and practices, offering a snapshot of what it means to begin an artistic career within and alongside the structures of an artist-led organisation.

"This show celebrates our interns not just as a vital part of our organisation, but as serious, thoughtful artists in their own right," says Pallas Citroen, Director of The Bomb Factory. *"It reflects everything we believe in - supporting emerging talent, championing young people, and creating space for artists to experiment in meaningful ways that genuinely support their growth."*

The Bomb Factory Art Foundation is a charitable arts organisation dedicated to supporting emerging and established artists through exhibitions, residencies, and studio provision. With five sites across London, we champion artist-led programming that is experimental, socially engaged, and accessible to all.

ARTISTS Alex Ford is a British visual artist and filmmaker whose work explores the relationship between the physical and digital, questioning concepts of material truth. His films have been screened at venues including Artsect Gallery, NotForSale Gallery, and RUMP Gallery, while his sculptural works have been exhibited internationally at Art SG Singapore and the Venice Biennale, as well as at Paradime Studios and Bowman Sculpture in London. Ford has collaborated with the Royal Academy of Music, presenting works accompanied by live opera and orchestral performances at various charity events. His practice is characterised by the cyclical reuse and recontextualisation of motifs to challenge conventional modes of artistic perception.

Canaan J. Brown is a London-based artist and writer whose work uses speculative fiction and magical realism to explore Black excellence, restitution, and freedom. He graduated with first-class honours from Birmingham City University in 2023 and earned a master's from the Royal College of Art in 2024, supported by the Sir Frank Bowling Scholarship. His work has been featured by institutions such as Tate Modern, Southbank Centre, and Lisson Gallery.

Georgie Haslam is a London-based painter whose layered collage and paintings transform everyday scenes into works that balance the familiar with the abstract. She studied Fine Art at Chelsea College of Arts and is currently completing a master's in Art History at UCL. Her work explores visual relationships through a process-driven approach.

Elodie Graf is an artist and musician whose work explores existentialist feminism within a post-internet context. Her practice interrogates what it means to be a woman today, examining how power relations, internalised violence, and performative expectations shape female identity, particularly within the current political climate. Influenced by a religious upbringing, queerness, and a deep engagement with Jungian psychoanalysis, Graf's work moves across mediums to investigate the psychological and societal structures that underpin womanhood. Through this lens, she unpacks the tensions between autonomy and expectation, vulnerability and resistance, belief and identity.

Emily Bowden is a Fine Art student at Central Saint Martins, specialising in 4D. Her interdisciplinary and multimodal practice explores the potential of multimedia, with a particular focus on sculpture. Traversing themes of anthropology, mythology, and technology, Emily works playfully across materials such as moving image, textile, metal, and foraged forms. In her recent work, Emily draws on medical imagery from André Levret's *Observations sur les causes et les accidens de plusieurs accouchemens laborieux* (1750), referencing the obstetrical instruments depicted in the text. Motivated by a visceral response to the history of childbirth, she reflects on the harrowing nature of labour without pain relief, and pays homage to the resilience of those who have endured the dangers of childbearing throughout history. Using a pyrography tool, she burns 18th-century medical illustrations into leather, which is then stretched within a dismantled, rusted saw, referencing the foreboding and often primitive tools once used to intervene in childbirth.

Jaye Ink is a Libyan-American mixed media artist and recent BA Fine Art graduate from Central Saint Martins. Working across various mediums and styles, Jaye is driven by a desire to create

art that is exciting and fresh. Her practice is best described as experimental, exploratory, and adaptable. Jewellery, piercings, and tattoos are distinctive elements in Jaye's work. These adornments are inspired by her Libyan heritage: jewellery being an integral part of the culture and face tattoos being rooted in North African traditions, particularly among women. Through her art, Jaye celebrates humanity's universal urge to personalise their world, embedding objects, spaces, and bodies with touches that reflect individuality and meaning.

Maisie Ridpath is a UK-based artist exploring the overlap between societal structures and human experience. Her work draws on the aesthetics of branding and advertising to question what we value in commercial versus public spaces. Typography is central to her practice, not just for communication but as emotional texture—how fonts can soothe, persuade, or unsettle depending on context. She treats language as a sensory experience, using familiar visual cues to disrupt or subvert meaning. Working across painting, graffiti, photography, video, and graphic design, Maisie prioritises concept over production, using comfort as both material and critique in a visually saturated world.

Thuraya Seren, Shlebak is a British-born Welsh-Libyan photographer and visual researcher based in East Sussex. Her practice explores themes of memory, identity, and cultural hybridity, drawing on her North African heritage and the Western media environment that shaped her upbringing. With a background in Sustainable Design (MA), Seren combines academic research with visual storytelling, working across photography and archival material to examine belonging and personal history. Her work is marked by emotional nuance and a commitment to authenticity, often merging personal narrative with broader cultural commentary.

Poppy Critchlow is a London based painter currently studying on the Painting MA program at the Royal College of Art. Poppy paints primarily in Oils, with key concerns in her work including ideas of identity, self expression and anxiety. She has exhibited at several galleries including the Saatchi Gallery.

Leila Mistretta is an artist and set designer whose work merges the quiet depth of contemplative spirituality with the clean lines and edge of modern design. Using mostly repurposed materials, she creates immersive environments that invite reflection and transformation. Her distinctive playful aesthetic has been featured in Wonderland magazine as well and a range of commercial campaigns.

Bia de Sousa Costa is a multidisciplinary artist from Lisbon, Portugal, currently based in London. Her practice explores the absurdities of performance, participation, and the female experience, often through sculpture and playful theatrical prompts. Working across media, Bia uses humour, especially dark humour and mimicry, as a way to invite audiences into a space of complicity, reflection, and touch. Materiality plays a central role in her work, with a focus on tactile engagement and the physicality of objects. Recent works explore collective identity and agency, using sculptural installations as platforms for collaborative performance. Her latest piece, *What can you gift?* (210cm x 75cm), was exhibited at the Camberwell College of Arts Degree Show.

WORKS

1 Thuraya Seren, Shlebak *Straw Mat on Marble*. Digital photograph, 2020. 14.8 x 21 cm

2 Leila Mistretta *fluro mountain*. Spray paint and screen print on wooden canvas, 2020. 29.2 x 43.2 cm

3 Bia de Sousa Costa. *The Handbook*. Sculpture, 2025. 250 x 80 cm (fabric), 15 x 6 cm (etching plate)

4 Elodie Graf *If you don't know by now, you never will*. Oil on wood, 2023. 80 x 84 cm

5 Jaye Ink *FALSE IDOL*. Corrugated cardboard, alcohol markers, coloured pencils, acrylic paint, ink, resin, 2025. 30 x 40 cm

6,7,8 Georgie Haslam *Untitled*. Acrylic and mixed media on paper, 2024. Each 21 x 29.7 cm

9 Maisie Ridpath. *All talk and no trousers*. Oil on canvas, 2024. 61 x 50.5 cm

10 Poppy Critchlow *Mohini in Her Studio*. Oil on canvas, 2025. 90 x 120 cm

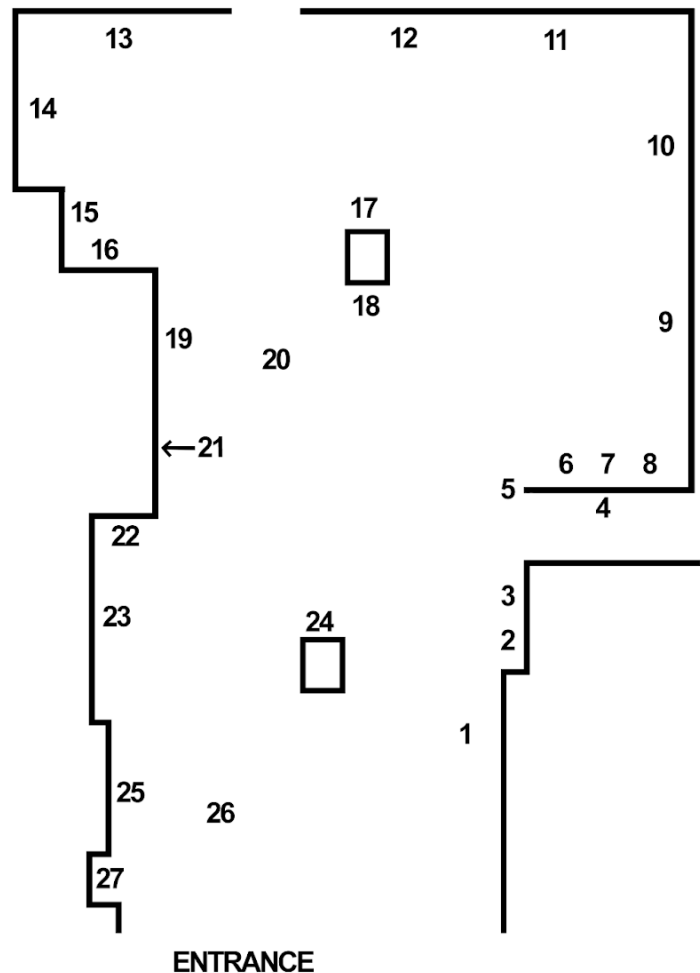
11 Elodie Graf *Intoxication*. Oil on wood, 2022. 64 x 58 cm

12 Poppy Critchlow *Self Portrait with Grace and Pink Lilies*. Oil on canvas, 2025. 100 x 120 cm

13 Jaye Ink *Imagination Is Better*. Collage, acrylic paint, wax, stickers, rhinestones, and resin on MDF wood, 2024. 59.4 x 84.1 cm

14 Elodie Graf *Night and Day*. Oil on wood, 2022. 28 x 109 cm

15 Maisie Ridpath. *Sanguine*. Mixed media on canvas, 2024. 29.7 x 21 cm



16 Thuraya Seren, Shlebak *Tea Leaves for Supper*. Digital photograph, 2020. 14.8 x 21 cm

17 Thuraya Seren, Shlebak *Kaftan and Go-Go Boots*. Digital photograph, 2020. 14.8 x 21 cm

18 Emily Bowden *Obstetrics*. Leather, 2025. 32 x 13.5 cm (25 cm with handle)

19 Georgie Haslam *Untitled*. Acrylic on canvas, 2024. 84 x 114 cm

20 Leila Mistretta *Hairy chair*. Chair, wall paint and raffia string, 2025. 43.2 x 91.4 cm

21 Canaan J. Brown. *Turbulence*. Film, 2025. 7 min, 16 sec

22 Leila Mistretta *graffiti of the heart*. Spray paint oil pastels and wooden canvas, 2024. 38.1 x 27.9 cm

23 Maisie Ridpath. *Wash*. Mixed media on canvas, 2025. 150 x 141 cm

24 Maisie Ridpath. *Blew*. Mixed media on canvas, 2025. 25 x 21 cm

25 Jaye Ink *BUSY DOING NOTHING*. Acrylic, ink, pencil on wood, 2025. 60 x 60 cm

26 Alex Ford *Daydreamer*. Sculpture, 2025. 35 cm

27 Georgie Haslam *Untitled*. Acrylic and mixed media on paper, 2025. 18 x 21 cm