

Augustas Serapinas

Physical Culture

06.06 – 06.09.26

***Physical Culture* is the first institutional solo exhibition in England by Lithuanian artist Augustas Serapinas (b. 1990, Vilnius). The first iteration of Physical Culture was created in 2012 while Serapinas was a third-year student at the Vilnius Academy of Arts' Sculpture Department, where art education follows a classical methodology emphasising the importance of traditional techniques and mastery of life drawing, painting and sculptural practices.**

Revisiting the art school's archives, Serapinas has reconstructed copies of his own student work, including portraits of his classmates, an earthworm, and an alien, as well as plaster models once used for drawing classes, and replicas of well-known sculptures, such as Michelangelo's *David* (16th century) and *Apollo Belvedere* (2nd century), long considered

exemplars of classical antiquity. Fixed to metal exercise machines typically found in gyms, the work looks at crossovers between the repetitive and diligent skills required to create classical forms in Western art history, and the discipline required to sculpt the body in the gym. In this vein, the work draws attention to the dominance of able-bodied white male canonical figures in fine art education and the structured beauty standards still prevalent today.

A running track connects the gym installation across Galleries 2 and 3, punctuated by newly created hurdles incorporating casts of the Waverley Heads. These sculptural busts were made of figures chosen as pillars of Western art history, including Raphael, Benvenuto Cellini, and William Hogarth, to decorate the exterior of the Waverley Building - purpose-built to house Nottingham School of Art in 1865. The casts – developed in collaboration with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) Archive and NTU casting specialists - map Nottingham's own art education histories as

embedded in the school's architectural frontage, bringing questions about the canon of Western art history, the function of institutions, and collective cultural memory into focus within a local site.

The exhibition will be regularly activated by a variety of performative and participatory mixed ability workout sessions, organised with Nottingham based personal trainers and community groups, as well as student-led life drawing classes organised with NTU BA Fine Art students.

This exhibition was made possible thanks to the generous support of The Augustas Serapinas Exhibition Circle: Ilma Nausedaite, Lithuanian Council for Culture, Lithuanian Culture Institute, APALAZZOGALLERY and Emalin, London.

**The Nottingham Contemporary Commissioning Circle:
Nissreen Darawish, Gabriela Galcerán, Il Posto,
Rafik&Najoua, Hamza Serafi and Mercedes Vilardel.**

**Waverley Heads casting by Dr. Richard Arm and
Andreea Pîslaru.**

**Waverley Heads loan courtesy of Nottingham Trent
University Art Collection.**

**We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Tom
Godfrey, NTU The Square Gallery, Jayni Patel, Rita
Parmar, Dr. Paul Jones, Dr. Emily Strange, students and
staff at Nottingham Trent University, Marta Marsicka,
July Styles, Jason Redwood, Dominik Ozga, and
Sarogini Reddiar. And finally, a very special thanks to
the entire team at Nottingham Contemporary.**

Exhibition graphics by Waste Studio.

Nottingham Contemporary is a registered charity and dependent on the generosity of our visitors, partners and supporters.

If you would like to use any alternative forms of interpretation, we have a range of accessible versions on our Access Wall beside Reception or alongside the wall text in the exhibition.

Environmental: Nottingham Contemporary is committed to advancing sustainability within the organisation and aims to explore and embed sustainable working practices and habits within our workplace and across the sector. This includes standardising environmental considerations at all stages of decision making.

Where possible other materials have been borrowed, re-used or re-purposed. Our exhibitions are always built and installed by local fine art technicians. The exhibition graphics have been produced and installed by local suppliers Hayman Creative. Since spring 2026

we have switched our wall texts from cut vinyl to Xanitaprint, a recyclable material. Our exhibition notes are printed on FSC Mix paper (Forest Stewardship Council ® certified products manufactured with a variety of sources including FSC-certified virgin fibre, controlled wood and/or recycled materials).

RELATED EVENTS

WALKTHROUGHS

Wed 17 Jun, 12pm

Welcome Walkthrough

Explore the exhibition with Sarogini Reddiar and our team followed by a creative workshop in Studio 1.

Wed 8 Jul, 1pm

Curators' Walkthrough

Join Nottingham Contemporary's curators for a tour of our summer exhibitions.

Wed 22 Jul, 1pm

BSL Exhibition Tour

Large Print Wall Text – Augustas Serapinas: *Physical Culture*

With Jason Redwood, BSL tour guide for the Turner Contemporary & British Museum, BSL teacher & presenter.

Wed 29 Jul, 1pm

with Marta Marsicka, curator, researcher, and art historian.

Wed 2 Sep, 1pm

With July Styles, trauma informed coach.

INSTALLATION ACTIVATIONS

Watch local exercise groups activate the gym installation alongside life drawing classes run by The Square Gallery. Sign up to join a free life drawing class by visiting our website.

Fri 5 Jun, 6.30pm

With The Square Gallery and July Styles

Sat 18 Jul, 12pm

With The Square Gallery and Dominik Ozga

Sat 15 Aug, 12pm

With The Square Gallery and Dominik Ozga

Guided 1:1 Work Out Sessions organised by July Styles

Sign up to join a free public work out session by visiting our website.

Wed 24 Jun, 12 Aug & 19 Aug, 12pm

12.30 Talks

12.30pm every Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun, starting Tue 16 Jun

Join one of our friendly Gallery Assistants for a short exploration of one of our current exhibitions. For more details visit our website.

For more information about the exhibition, related events and learning programmes, visit nottinghamcontemporary.org or scan here:



The exhibition is curated by Katie Simpson and Klara Szafrńska

Exhibition build lead: David Thomas

Exhibition build and installation: Helen Bartholomew, Jon Chambers, Craig David Parr, Billy Hughes, Jack Narewski, Emily Stollery, and Hannah Templeman

Condition Checking: Lachlan Hui, Jenna Jones, Lara Mattinson, Millie Quick and Simon Withers

Development: Emma Graves and Antonia Seroff

Marketing: Catherine Masters and Holly Nowak

Learning programme: Sandra Austerfield, Amelia Daiz, Chan Hyacinth Fagan, Pasha Kincaid, Susannah Lambert, Milee Lee, Holly Nowak, Ursula Rae, Peter

Rumney, Rachel Scanlon, Amanda Spruyt, Andrew Martyn Sugars, Holly Tea, Charlotte Tupper and Sian Watson Taylor

Exhibition Invigilators: Winter Beaumont, Tom Chamberlain, Nadim Chaudry, Lynn Chippendale, Olwen Davies, Quinn Greytryx, Lachlan Hui, Jenna Jones, Milee Lee, Karen Lunt, Holly Matthews, Lara Mattinson, Craig David Parr, Millie Quick, Nikki Stevenson, Olu Taiwo and Simon Withers

Visitor Experience: Emma Beischer, Paul Buddle, Nadim Chaudry, Olwen Davies, Craig David Parr, Sam Harrison, Jenna Jones, Lucy Martin, Holly Matthews and Jordan Sterry

People and Culture: Lauren Riley

Finance and Operations: Andy Batson, Jon Chambers, Mandy Newbold and David Thomas