

2019:
The Year in Review



“Nottingham Contemporary is a place for imagining and shaping the future of art, education and ideas. This year marks our tenth anniversary. Since opening in 2009, we have welcomed over 2 million visitors to more than 60 exhibitions and over 1,000 events.

Along the way, we have become one of the most vibrant and vital centres of contemporary art in Europe. 2019 was a watershed year for us. It saw a run of pathbreaking exhibitions, a redoubled focus on education and performance,

and transformations that range from a new website and café to VR experiences.

We are honoured to have had this work recognised in our nomination for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2019.

This report gives an overview of this past year, as well as some highlights from our first decade.

Thank you for your support, and here’s to our next ten years.”

Sam Thorne, Director of Nottingham Contemporary

Our Mission

We are a place for art, experimentation and meaningful encounters.

Together we engage with the current moment and with the wider world, creating a forum for reflecting on the past and imagining what’s ahead.

Our Vision

A world-leading place for shaping and imagining the future of art, education and ideas.



“Nottingham Contemporary succeeds because of the scale of its ambition and bravery: it doesn’t play it safe.”

Linder, *The Guardian*

“Happy Birthday Nottingham Contemporary! An encyclopaedic show that leaves you thinking that what we need now is a revolutionary approach to art and education.”

Will Gompertz, *BBC*

Our Team



Image: Lara Favaretto, *Thinking Head*, 2017.
Photo Emma Lloyd

Image Top Right: Photo Sam Kirby

Image Bottom Right: The Nottingham Contemporary Team.
Photo Nick Seaton

Ten Years of Exhibitions

Left: David Hockney: 1960 - 1968: *A Marriage of Styles*, 2009.

Right: Glenn Ligon: *Encounters and Collisions*, 2015. Photo Andy Keate



Designed by Caruso St John Architects, Nottingham Contemporary’s RIBA Award-winning building has been described by the architecture critic Owen Hatherley as “the first masterpiece of British architecture of the twenty-first century”.

Two million visitors have attended Nottingham Contemporary’s 60 exhibitions, featuring over 500 artists, since its opening on 14 November 2009.

Since opening, we have welcomed over 125,000 family visitors, and around 50,000 school and college participants.

Left: *From Ear to Ear to Eye*, 2017. Photo Stuart Whipps

Right: *Star City: The Future Under Communism*, 2010. Photo Andy Keate



Nottingham Contemporary has become known for its acclaimed thematic exhibitions, bringing international practices and perspectives to the city. These have included: *Still I Rise* (2018–19), exploring a global history of resistance movements from the perspective of gender; *The Place is Here* (2017), a landmark survey of Black British Art; *Rights of Nature* (2015), about environmental collapse; and *Aquatopia: The Imaginary of the Ocean Deep* (2013).

Supporting artists at all stages of their careers, Nottingham Contemporary has commissioned major new works from artists including Simon Starling, Otobong Nkanga, Wu Tsang and Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, and a public artwork by Lara Favaretto, *Thinking Head* (2017), which took the form of a cloud of steam billowing above the building for six months, and was presented at the 2019 Venice Biennale.

Working in partnership with both of the city’s universities, our vibrant programme of public events and research engages with cutting-edge cultural debates and artistic practices. Every year, we present more than 100 free-to-attend public events, ranging from tours and performances to conferences and screenings.

Left: *The Place is Here*, 2017. Photo Andy Keate

Right: Yelena Popova: *Afer Image*, 2016. Photo Andy Keate



Between 2015–17, Nottingham Contemporary led three seasons of “The Grand Tour”, a partnership spanning cultural venues across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Supported by Arts Council England, this programme alone has generated £47 million towards the local economy.

In 2019, Nottingham Contemporary was shortlisted for the Art Fund Museum of the Year Award, with the judges noting: “With an acclaimed exhibitions and events programme, its award-winning galleries, hewn right into the city’s sandstone, make up one of the largest contemporary arts centres in the UK, and present an international array of solo and group shows by the most exciting artists working today.”

Our 2019



Exhibitions

We presented major critically-acclaimed exhibitions including *Still I Rise*, exploring a global history of resistance movements from the perspective of gender; and *Still Undead*, which traced the legacies of the Bauhaus, by way of pop culture and art-school education. We presented three solo shows by Elizabeth Price, Daniel Steegmann Mangrané and Lis Rhodes (supported by the Freelands Award), all of which featured major new commissions.

Public Programmes and Research

In October we launched CAMPUS Independent Study Programme, a year-long and city-wide initiative in curatorial, visual and cultural studies, based on collaborative knowledge production and innovative research practices.

In November, we hosted the Architectures of Education conference with presentations, screenings, keynotes and workshops seeking to reflect on cultures and architectures of education today.

January marked the culmination of “The Bigger Picture” - a major ACE-supported research project exploring the experience of arts programming on older generations and people from culturally diverse backgrounds. A website and a series of resources were produced to share findings, including ideation cards, a graphic novel, and a theatre piece created by local community researchers.

Public Programmes and Research are funded via a pioneering partnership with Nottingham Trent University and The University of Nottingham.

“I have been involved in a number of art projects supported by Nottingham Contemporary. Pupils relish working first-hand with artists as this leads them to believe that they too can create, become artists and tell their story. The impact is far reaching - our pupils are so enthusiastic about art, in all its forms, and recognise the value that this plays in their lives today and in the future.”

Melany Pemberton,
Headteacher at Edna G. Olds Academy



Families, Young People and Schools

Over 25,000 people took part in our free-to-attend learning programme.

We have launched the Schools of Tomorrow programme, supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. We are working in partnership with eight city schools between September 2019 and September 2022 taking a holistic approach to cultural education. Engaging children, artists and teachers, but also families, governors, support staff and senior leaders. We aim for creativity to move from the classroom into the whole school and respond to school priorities.

16,000 people took part in our family activities, taking place every weekend and during school holidays. A record-breaking number of families participated in our “Zoom” summer 2019 activities.

We worked in partnerships with 26 schools and welcomed some 4,000 pupils and teachers for workshops and projects. Over 800 students presented their work in three special exhibitions.

Our young people’s collective, 1525, explored art and political activism through events and projects attended by some 2,500 young people from across the city. We worked with over 1,000 college and university students, and supported 60 student placements.



“Nottingham Contemporary is absolutely phenomenal!

An art gallery of a different breadth.

Their bandwidth of creativity in relation to display and exhibitions is cutting edge. Wow!”

Visitor Comment

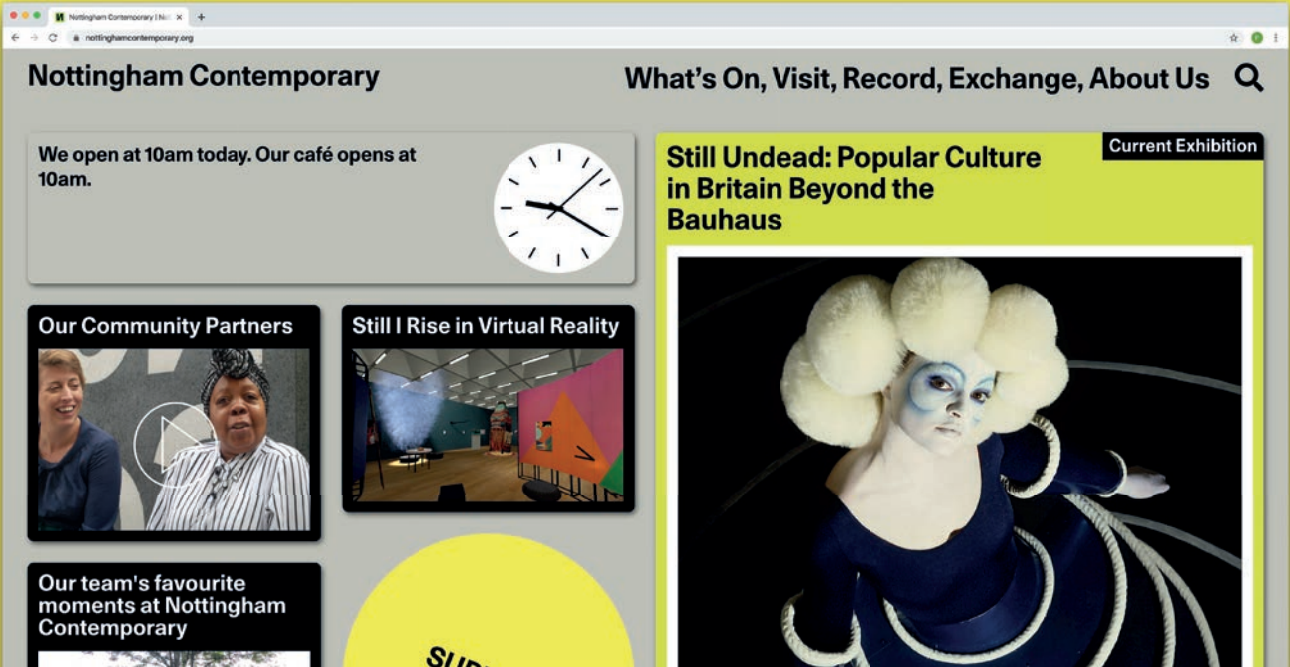
Image: *Still Undead*: A Space for Making.
Photo Sam Kirby

Image: Edna G Olds Academy,
Nottingham Contemporary’s tenth birthday party.
Photo Sam Kirby

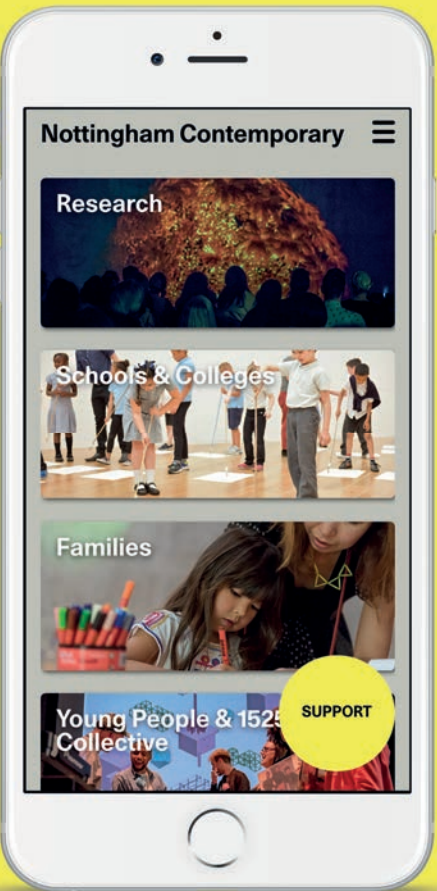
Image: Bauhaus-inspired family activities.
Photo Sam Kirby

Image: School Group.
Photo Sam Kirby

Image: Visitor to Daniel Steegmann Mangrané
exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary.
Photo Marc Atkins



Nottingham Contemporary



We launched a new website and graphic identity. Its innovative design and dynamic archive of rich video content brings together a decade’s worth of images and video, essays and experimentation.

We created virtual-reality versions of all of our exhibitions, allowing visitors from around the world to experience our exhibitions remotely.



27 Oct 2018 – 27 Jan 2019

Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender and Resistance, Act 1

With over 100 exhibits by some 50 practitioners, *Still I Rise* explored the history of resistance from the perspective of gender. Featuring new commissions by Carolina Caycedo, Jesse Jones, Ad Minoliti and Osias Yanov, and works which have rarely been seen in the UK.

Still I Rise toured to De La Warr Pavilion and Arnolfini.

“It is the collective voice that shouts the loudest in this exhibition. When “Still I rise” is said in unison, a future without patriarchal hierarchies starts to appear”

★★★★★ *The Guardian*

16 Feb – 6 May 2019

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané: The Word for World is Forest

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané’s first major UK solo show. Through a newly commissioned immersive installation, architectural interventions, a 16mm film and a virtual reality work, the Rio-based Catalan artist conveys aspects of the Mata Atlántica, a rainforest stretching along the Atlantic coast of Brazil.

Image: Lis Rhodes, *Dissident Lines*, 2019.
Photo Stuart Whipps

Image: *Still Undead Popular Culture in Britain Beyond the Bauhaus*, 2019.
Photo Sam Kirby



16 Feb – 6 May 2019

Elizabeth Price: FELT TIP

A highly ambitious solo-show from Turner Prize-winning artist Elizabeth Price, featuring all-new works, including a series of large-scale pinhole photographs, architectural interventions and an immersive video installation.

“Machine-cool the works may be, but not alienating. Once you’re in, they yield deeper oddness and affinities”.

Hettie Judah, *Frieze*

25 May – 1 Sept 2019

Lis Rhodes: Dissident Lines

The first-ever survey exhibition of Lis Rhodes spanning the artist’s entire career, from iconic pieces such as *Dresden Dynamo* and *Light Music* to a specially commissioned new work. *Dissident Lines* was accompanied by a comprehensive monograph.

21 Sept 2019 – 12 Jan 2020

Still Undead: Popular Culture in Britain Beyond the Bauhaus

Coinciding with the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus, this exhibition explored how the ideas of the pioneering art and design school lived on in Britain, via pop culture and art schools.

Highlight Events

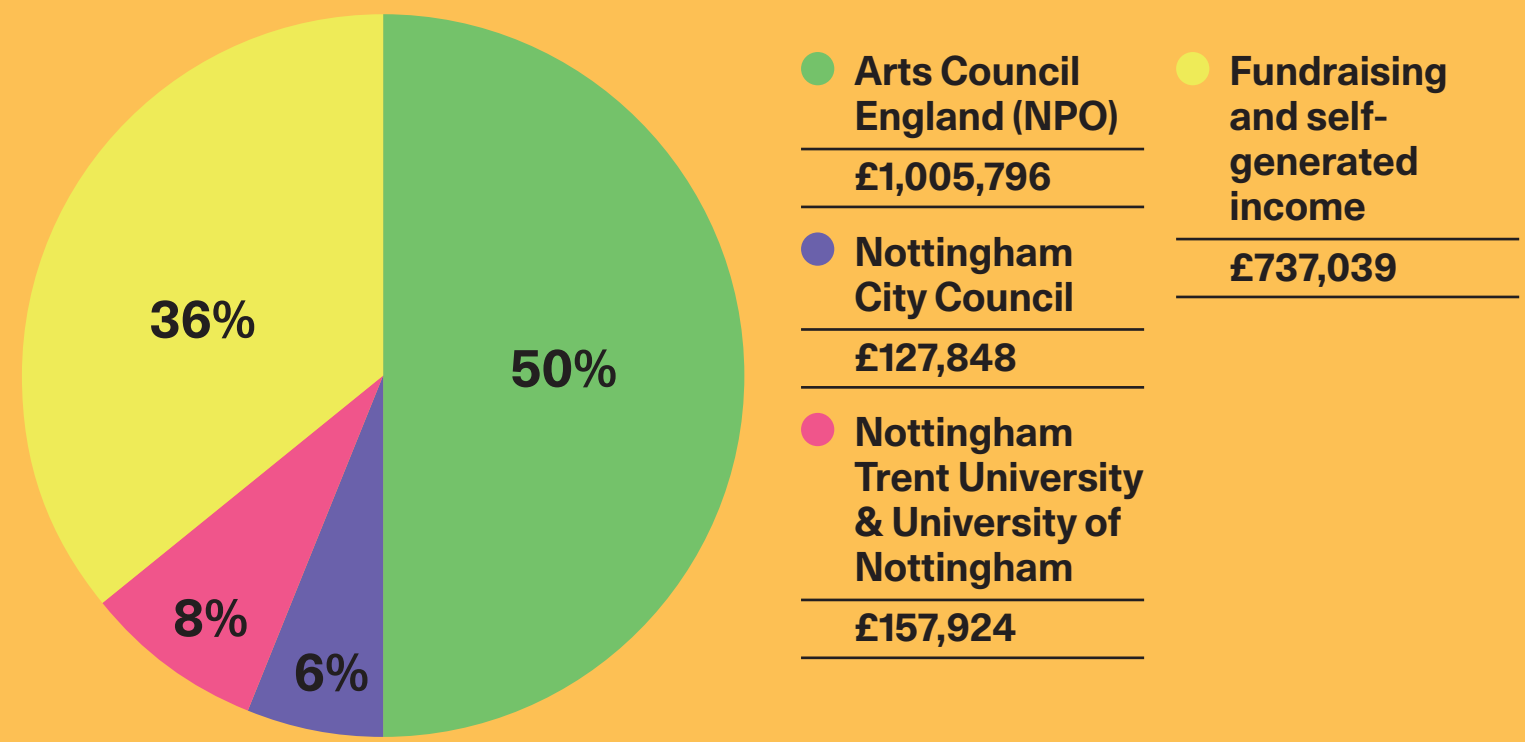
Image: Okwui Okpokwasili, *Poor People's TV Room*. Part of *Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance*, Oct 2018 - Jan 2019. Photo Sam Kirby.



Image: Tai Shani, *Dark Continent*, Dec 2018. Part of *Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance*, Oct 2018 - Jan 2019. Photos Stuart Whipps.



Annual Income



Every year we raise more than a third of our total income.

Our gala dinners are crucial to our fundraising efforts and to presenting our ambitious artistic and educational programmes. We are very grateful to all of our benefactors for their ongoing support.

Our Tenth Birthday Gala Dinner in November 2019 raised over £120,000.

Image: Nottingham Contemporary Gala dinner 2019. Photo Sam Kirby

Thank you

Nottingham Contemporary would like to thank all of our benefactors and partners for their support.

Principal funders

Arts Council England
Nottingham City Council

Partnership funders

Nottingham Trent University
The University of Nottingham

Director’s Circle

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David Zwirner Gallery
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Jack Kirkland
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Contemporary Circle: Benefactors

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Mercure Hotel Nottingham
Polestar Interactive
Smith Cooper
TDX Group

Exhibition Supporters

Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance, Act I, 2018–2019

Alison Jacques Gallery
Canada House
Czech Centre London
De La Warr Pavilion
Pro-Helvetia
Exhibition Circle: Belmacz, Catherine Petitgas, Young Collectors Collective, Camel Assembly

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, *The Word for World is Forest*, 2019

Acción Cultural Espanola
Esther Schipper Gallery

Elizabeth Price, *FELT TIP*, 2019

Artangel
Film and Video Umbrella
Walker Art Center

Lis Rhodes, *Dissident Lines*, 2019

Freelands Foundation

Learning and Community Supporters

Schools Programme

Children and the Arts
David Ross Education Trust
The Garcia Family Foundation
The Mighty Creatives
Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Young Peoples’ Programme

Garfield Weston Foundation
The Thomas Farr Charity

Loudspeaker Programme

(Part of the national Building Better Opportunities programme through the Opportunity and Change project)
The European Social Fund
The National Lottery Community Fund