

States of Independence 2024 Programme

10 AM REGISTRATION

There are two satellite walk-in events to visit throughout the day:

- **DMU's The Gallery** are hosting twin exhibitions: *ShrineShare*, a group exhibition (curated by States speaker David Blandy); and a display of the rugs of Poojah Shah –
- Simon Perril and John Young's audio-visual music and poetry collaboration is installed in the **Pace Building** (visit any time)

10.15 – 11	Beyond the art catalogue: New Spaces for writers - Hugo Worthy <i>Room: Clephan 2.35</i>	Munching as if the more than Human Counted - Zohre Baghban <i>Room: Clephan 3.07</i>	Music and Poetry: a palimpsestic collaboration - Simon Perril and John Young <i>Room: Clephan 3.02</i>	Workshop: with poet Tim Grayson <i>Room: Clephan 2.29</i>
11.15 –12	An Audience with Literary Agent Philippa Sitters <i>Room: Clephan 3.02</i>	What do we hold sacred in times of crisis? – with artist David Blandy <i>Room: Clephan 2.35</i>	Demon Crew book Launch <i>Room: Clephan 3.01</i>	Workshop: novelist Megan Taylor on Lost Things <i>Room: Clephan 2.29</i>
LUNCH				
1 – 1.45: Keynote: Louise Doughty, In Conversation with Dr Josie Barnard Louise is an award-winning author whose works include the novels <i>Apple Tree Yard</i> and <i>Platform Seven</i> – both also adapted to the screen. A native to Leicestershire and Rutland, Louise has also been a tireless mentor of other writers: Welcome, Louise! <i>Room: Clephan 3.01</i>				
2 – 2.45 PM	Writing Diagnosis: a project in progress - with novelist Eva Aldea <i>Room: Clephan 3.07</i>	Indie Showcase: a selection of readings and discussion from writers Carol Leeming, Bobba Cass, Nikki Clayton, Mark Goodwin and Kirsty Whitrow <i>Room: Clephan 3.02</i>	Novelist Ivy Ngeow, In conversation with Dr Josie Barnard <i>Room: Clephan 3.01</i>	
2 – 3.45 PM <i>Agent one to ones with Philippa Sitters (booked in advance) take place in Clephan 0.07</i>				
3 – 3.45 PM	Intergraphia – a performance from BanaramaArtWriting <i>Room: Clephan 2.35</i>	Alan Halsey, a Celebration of the poet and artist – with poet Geraldine Monk <i>Room: Clephan 3.02</i>	Writing with the Archives – Katharine Short and Guests <i>Room: Clephan 3.07</i>	Workshop: with novelist Ivy Ngeow <i>Room: Clephan 2.29</i>

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10.15 – 11

Beyond the art catalogue: New Spaces for writers - Hugo Worthy, Clephan 2.35 One of the most exciting recent developments for writing is the use of creative responses to art in exhibitions. Join The Gallery curator Hugo Worthy as he shows how fiction, graphic novels and poetry are reinvigorating the contemporary exhibition catalogue.

Munching as if the more than Human Counted - Zohre Baghban, Clephan 3.07 How can creative work promote a greater understanding of animal ethics and food consumption? And how does animal welfare concerns relate to Net Zero sustainability goals? Join short fiction writer and visual artist Zohre Baghban to find out more.

Music and Poetry: a palimpsestic collaboration- Simon Perril and John Young, Clephan 3.02 Join poet Simon Perril, and composer John Young as they discuss their recent collaborations, share their working methods, and launch Simon's new collection *Two Duets with Occasion*, and John's new CD *Espaces Lointains*.

Workshop with Tim Grayson – Clephan 2.29 Audience Q&A with Tim Grayson, founding editor of the Leicester Literary Review and poet-in-residence at Belvoir Castle. Discover what it takes to host immersive literary events, edit a literary journal, write poetry for members of the British peerage, and create revenue streams 'beyond the page'.

11.15 – 12

An Audience with Literary Agent Philippa Sitters – Clephan 3.02 States welcomes literary agent Philippa Sitters for an informal talk about her role in the writing industry at one of the UK's leading agencies, David Godwin Associates LTD.

What do we hold sacred in times of crisis? - David Blandy, Clephan 2.35 States welcomes visual artist David Blandy for a talk on the centrality of collaboration and his new project exploring visions of sacred shrines – ancient, personal, or imagined. Learn how writing, gaming, archives and sound weave into his investigations into the stories and cultural forces that inform and influence our lives.

Demon Crew book Launch – Clephan 3.01 The annual States of Independence reading by students of creative writing at De Montfort launching (and selling!) their publications. Come and share the excitement, the triumph, and the sheer diversity of creative work.

Workshop: Megan Taylor on Lost Things – Clephan 2.29

In this practical and playful fiction workshop, we'll be focusing on images and objects to find stories in lost things.

LUNCH

1 – 1.45

Keynote: Louise Doughty, In Conversation with Dr Josie Barnard - Clephan 3.01 We are very happy to welcome this year's keynote, novelist and screenwriter Louise Doughty. Louise is an award-winning author whose works include the novels *Apple Tree Yard* and *Platform Seven* – both also adapted to the screen. A native to Leicestershire and Rutland, Louise has also been a tireless mentor of other writers: Welcome, Louise!

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2 – 2.45 PM

Writing Diagnosis: a project in progress - Eva Aldea, Clephan 3.07 Come and join novelist Eva Aldea as she talks about her project *DX*, a website devoted to exploring Diagnosis and Writing. How does a diagnosis effect a writer's practice? How does it effect our relationships with ourselves, others, our surroundings and our place in society?

Indie Showcase: a selection of readings and discussion from writers – Clephan 3.02 Looking at an Image, Reading a Poem: Confluences and Connotations in the Bobba Cass Poetry Collections. Carol Leeming interviews Bobba Cass, Nikki Clayton, Mark Goodwin and Kirsty Whitrow.

Ivy Ngeow, In conversation with Dr Josie Barnard – Clephan 3.01 Just back from an Indian book tour, States welcomes novelist and commissioning editor for the Asian Anthology New Writing series Ivy Ngeow in conversation. Her first novel, *Cry of the Flying Rhino*, was awarded the International Proverse Prize in Hong Kong). Her most recent novel is *The American Boyfriend*, published by Penguin Southeast Asia in 2023.

3 – 3.45 PM

Intergraphia – a performance, Clephan 2.35 A performance reading by Emma Bolland, Rachel Smith, and Louise Finney (under their collective name of BanaramaArtWriting) of their collaborative pamphlet '800 Libraries'. 800 Libraries is a poetic weaving of Kropotkin, Warburg, and austerity data to protest against library closures and the punitive austerity measures of successive Tory governments.

Alan Halsey, a Celebration – Geraldine Monk, Clephan 3.02 Alan Halsey's passing was such a huge loss: he was Poet extraordinaire, visual artist, Indie publisher and bookseller. Come and join poet Geraldine Monk, Alan's wife and co-conspirator at West House Books, as she reads from his final collection, and shares work from the forthcoming posthumous book *The Last Unravellings of the Logoclast*.

Writing with the Archives – Katharine Short and Guests, Clephan 3.07 how do writers creatively use archives? Join Archivist Special Collections manager, Katharine Short, Dr Joanne Dixon, and writers from the MA Creative Writing as they discuss their *Write for Us* project, encouraging exciting new ways to engage with the diverse holdings of DMU's Special Collections.

Workshop: Ivy Ngeow, Clephan 2.29 Hot from her 'in conversation' slot, and continuing this year's visual theme; come and join novelist Ivy Ngeow for a writing workshop anchored in the visual. Come ready to write!