

# Mimosa House

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# Mimosa House

## INTRODUCTION TO MIMOSA HOUSE

Mimosa House was founded by curator Daria Khan in 2017 as an independent non-profit arts institution focusing on artistic experimentation and collaboration in the heart of London. It is the UK's only non-commercial arts organisation dedicated to exhibiting women and queer artists, placing an emphasis on QTBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color).

Since opening, Mimosa House has become a leading institutional voice in showcasing women and queer artists, as well as producing and sharing knowledge on innovative feminist and diversity-oriented practices. We recognise and address underrepresentation of these practices within the mainstream arts canon and create a safe space for diversity through artistic programming. These artistic practices significantly inform our institutional approach, ensuring that progressive strategies of inclusion, sustainability and innovative forms of organising are at the core of our work.

As an agile institution, we are able to facilitate international and intergenerational artistic collaborations as well as actively engage with our local communities. Over the past two years we have forged strong working relationships with other grassroots organisations that focus on empowerment of women and queer people such as Mosaic LGBT Youth Centre, Women for Refugee Women, Shadow Sistxrs Fight Club, Queerdirect & CAMPerVAN amongst others. Mimosa House has commissioned large-scale works by emerging artists such as Zoe Williams and Chooc Ly Tan.

In autumn 2020, Mimosa House made the vital decision to relocate from 12 Princes Street, Westminster, to our new permanent home at 47 Theobalds Road, Holborn. Our new premises represent an exciting new phase of development and offers unprecedented opportunities to expand the gallery's programme as well as its audiences.

### **Additional information:**

More info about our team can be found [here](#).

[Press](#) for Mimosa House

**Collaborations:** We have collaborated on various projects with Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Fluxus, Frieze Art Fair, Austrian Culture Forum, Lithuanian Culture Institute, Swiss Cultural Fund, Hauser & Wirth, Lisson, Art Licks, Mother Art Prize, RER Q, Feminist Durational Reading Group, UCL and De Appel.

## MISSION AND VISION

Mimosa House aims to be a creative community space for women and queer artists and audiences, and to provide a safe and supportive environment for artists to make experimental work. Our mission is to celebrate diversity and to raise people's awareness about gender inequality and discrimination, offering learning opportunities and a safe community space as well as generating international discourse. We are committed to giving visibility to international and UK-based intergenerational artists with marginalised narratives.

Over the last year we have taken significant steps towards future sustainability by securing a permanent venue in Holborn, growing our staff and developing new operational procedures. With the ambition of

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securing Arts Council England National Portfolio status in 2023, our attention will be focused on establishing Mimosa House Holborn as the premiere space within the UK for artists who are underrepresented due to their gender, sexuality and/or ethnic identity. Within this, the gallery will continue to provide a safe space for individuals and groups to share these experiences, through a generative, artistic context. Key to this ambition is the permanent appointment of a community curator who supports our embedded practice and outreach. Through this role as well as our strategic development, we will continue to build sustainable partnerships and support structures with those who recognise the value of black, queer and feminist art production - both locally and internationally.

Alongside our core programme of exhibitions and new artists commissions, we continue to expand our vision and activities across different strands, including community work, discourse and education. In addition to our on-site events and workshops, Mimosa House is currently focused on maximising our digital space with the launch of a new educational programme, as well as the commissioning of online resources which will be accessible to new and wider-reaching audiences. In order to ensure the delivery of these ambitious plans, Mimosa House is also focused on the growth of its team, working with a strategic recruitment plan to ensure the placement of expertise across these key growth areas of education, digital and community.

## **GALLERY PROGRAMME**

Since our opening, Mimosa House has programmed 11 exhibitions and over 60 free public events, including talks, reading groups, live performances and screenings working with 100+ artists prioritising emerging voices from BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. Our programme has focused on giving opportunities to artists never shown in the UK before, fostering dialogue between emerging artists and those established such as Adrian Piper, Lee Lozano, Rose English, Howardena Pindell, Polvo de Gallina Negra. A highlight of our 2019 programme was a solo exhibition by the long overlooked Italian artist Tomaso Binga.

We have commissioned new artworks by Leah Capaldi, Georgia Horgan, Zoe Williams and three new texts in response to Lee Lozano's work. Emerging artists we exhibited and supported include Ayesha Tan Jones, Kent Monkman and Marikiscrycrycry who went on to be included in prominent shows at the Serpentine and Hayward Galleries.

After our successful collaboration with De Appel Amsterdam on Georgia Sagri's first traveling exhibition, we intend to work in international exhibition partnerships for upcoming shows further raising Mimosa House's international profile.

Alongside our exhibition programme Mimosa House hosts related educational events. Previous examples include self-defence workshops for womxn with Shadow Sistxrs Fight Club, the Feminist Durational Reading Group and discursive talks in collaboration with Maura Reilly and Brooklyn Rail.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Mimosa House aims to build on its existing programming streams as well as increase its organisational resilience and sustainability through strategic development and fundraising. This strategy is predicated on the following core ambitions:

- Build our reserves through private, corporate and philanthropic support;

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- Develop a holistic fundraising approach to support the annual programme and operational needs of Mimosa House;
- Extend the programming planning horizon to 12 months to enable more strategic development campaigns and allow more lead-time for establishing partnerships;
- Ensure the sustainability of Mimosa House through securing ongoing and longer-term support and partnerships;
- Work towards becoming a registered charitable company, enabling new funding streams in line with our ambitions and community support work;
- Raise the profile of Mimosa House through a structured marketing campaign which supports our fundraising ambitions;
- Create a digital strategy which provides greater access to Mimosa House's resources and enables its future development
- Optimise the new space at Theobalds Road for accessibility and create new opportunities which service the creative community as well as our partners and prospective partners.

## AUDIENCES

Since opening, our average daily visitor numbers have tripled with the gallery now welcoming up to 5000 annually to its exhibitions and events. Our online audiences include over 20,000 followers on our social media (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook) as well as 60,000 visits to our website each year.

Mimosa House has a strong commitment to developing new audiences and to ensuring our programme is fully accessible and inclusive. We have a strong record of attracting arts students from across London, intersectional LGBTQ+ audiences interested in our identity politics topics, specialist art audiences/collectors.

Mimosa House's new site on Theobalds Road in Holborn, opened in September 2020, brings the gallery into a new and exciting developmental phase. Critically, the gallery has been optimised for accessibility, ensuring that all two floors represent inclusive audiences. Alongside the gallery spaces, the new Theobalds Road space has been designed to include smaller office and workshop spaces which can be utilised for its public programme. This includes reading groups and smaller gathering spaces for the local community which reflect and work with the artistic programme, as well as providing a safe space for engagement and community dialogue. Through experimental new formats such as an on-site hairdressing studio within an exhibition setting, we aim to draw in specific local non-arts audiences to facilitate inclusion of local women and queer people and work with local partnerships and businesses.

To reach global audiences, we are continuously working to raise our international profile through touring and partnership opportunities, as well as develop our digital strategy and initiatives.

## GOVERNANCE

Mimosa House is a registered Community Interest Company supported by an Advisory Board.

Our Advisory Board comprises representatives from public and private sector creative industries who act as stewards and ambassadors for Mimosa House. They provide invaluable experience to the Mimosa House team and offer strong but informal support to the gallery in achieving its ambitions. The Advisory Board operates informally but meets on a regular basis. All decisions are ratified by the full Board and staff of Mimosa House. The collaborative relationship of the Board and Mimosa House staff ensures a

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transparent model of governance and allows for an invaluable exchange of expertise and skills across organisational planning.

Our current advisory board includes:

Gabriela Cala-Lesina (Relationship Manager, Arts Council England)  
Louise Hayward (Senior Director, Lisson Gallery)  
Rose Lejeune (independent curator and collections consultant)  
Svetlana Leu (Account Manager, Sutton PR)  
Andrea Lissoni (Artistic Director, Haus der Kunst, Munich)  
Taus Makhacheva (artist)  
Stefano Rabolli Pansera (Director, Hauser & Wirth Gallery)  
Kayza Rose (Creative Producer, Artistic Director, Filmmaker, BLM activist and cultural leader)  
Jessica Vaughan (Senior Curator, Art on the Underground)

Responsibility for strategy, planning and day-to-day management of operations is delegated to the executive team which is led by Mimosa House's Director and Founder, Daria Khan.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Following our establishment over a period of three years, we are now taking steps towards transforming into a registered charity. As part of this process we are at the stage of wishing to appoint a Board of Trustees. This is a great opportunity to join Mimosa House at a critical point of growth and partake in the future direction of the UK's only public gallery dedicated to exhibiting women and queer artists, placing an emphasis on QTBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color).

The Board of Trustees will be responsible for ensuring that there are effective and adequate risk management and internal control systems are in place:

- Design of internal governance procedures
- Overview of Finance and Operations
- Review and Management of Mimosa House's Risk Management framework
- Assessment of major risks on a regular basis including strategic, financial performance, knowledge management and compliance
- Ensuring the effective design and delivery of Mimosa House's business planning to achieve the gallery's objectives

## TRUSTEE ROLES

Each Trustee will support the Director setting the strategic direction of the organisation, to help ensure the organisation is run effectively, to act as an ambassador for the organisation, its programme and its artists and to help make a difference within the community. We welcome applicants with specific experience within the business sector, law, human resources, digital transformation and fundraising. To support Mimosa House in realising this vision, the Trustees will address these key issues over the next 3-5 years as the institution moves into the next phase, including:

1. **Fundraising:** Take an active role in developing a highly effective fundraising function to support Mimosa House's core activities

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**2. Income Diversification:** Working with the Director, Advisory Board and Development Manager to diversify the organisation's income, including the creation and delivery of a new business plan and membership schemes.

**3. Organisation:** Restructuring and overseeing the development of the organisation through this important transformation and ensuring a sustainable future including the securing of Arts Council NPO status; working with the Director, Advisory Board and other Trustees to ensure appropriate staffing levels and strategy to be successful in the new building and local context; ensuring that the organisation is increasingly diverse.

**4. Policies and procedures:** Ensuring Mimosa House is operating within best practice guidelines and has a business plan, strategy, and accompanying set of policies, procedures and guidelines.

**5. Stakeholder management:** Deepening relationships with key stakeholders including local communities, funders and developing relationships within the cultural sector, business, local authorities, and government. Acting as an advocate and ambassador for the organisation with a diverse range of senior partners and stakeholders.

Trustees will be responsible for active engagement in board meetings to set the future agenda & direction of the organisation and review strategic planning. In addition to meetings, trustees also respond to any pressing governance needs of the organisation, carry out any actions agreed at the meetings, and provide support in their area of expertise (for example, finance or fundraising). Much of this is done electronically.

We are aiming to appoint an initial 3 members. For role specifications please see the [Appendix](#).

## TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- The post is for a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years
- The post is non-remunerative
- The typical trustee commitment is 8 hours per month, with the time involved for chairing or co-chairing likely to be 12 hours per month. The Board typically holds evening meetings quarterly on site in London (where possible), with trustees working electronically in between, collectively ensuring the good governance of the organisation.

## HOW TO APPLY

The first round of Trustee appointments have now been made however we welcome expressions of interest for future Trustees outside of the specific roles detailed.

## APPENDIX

### CHAIR

#### **The role & person specification**

We are seeking a candidate that will bring all or most of the following:

- Significant senior level experience within a high-profile organisation in the arts, charity, voluntary, commercial, private or public sectors;
- Specific experience in business development and financial management;
- Strong interest in the cultural and creative sector, and a commitment to supporting women and queer artists;

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- Knowledge of the role, responsibility, characteristics and skills that contribute to establishing a Board of Trustees, internal governance procedures and to being an effective Chair and managing board meetings; knowledge and experience of working with Directors, staff, trustees and stakeholders and how to get maximum results from board meetings;
- A collaborative, empathetic coaching style, ability to build consensus, interaction and dialogue;
- Experience of implementing and managing organisational change and building capacity as and when required;
- Entrepreneurial approach, experience of establishing and diversifying public and private income streams, new partnerships, membership schemes, and commercial opportunities;
- An ability to act as an advocate and an ambassador for Mimosa House across a diverse range of stakeholders including local authorities, funding bodies, patrons, national and regional bodies, donors, sponsors, supporters, media, and visitors;
- A demonstrable commitment to diversity. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from candidates who are under-represented in the Visual Arts sector.