



Press / media release – for immediate release

**July 2019**

**MIDDLESBROUGH ART WEEKENDER IS BACK FOR A THIRD YEAR AND IT'S PLANNING A TAKEOVER!**

GET READY FOR **#MAW19** THIS AUTUMN - **26TH -29TH SEPTEMBER.**

**MIDDLESBROUGH ART WEEKENDER (MAW19)** now in its 3rd year promises to be the biggest and most ambitious programme yet. Featuring an eclectic range of local and international to emerging and established artists.

From small beginnings the weekender has rapidly grown and is now the biggest annual contemporary arts festival in the North East attracting audiences and artists from across the globe.

A key player in Middlesbrough's flourishing cultural scene. The last week of September will see the festival initiate a 'town takeover', with workshops, exhibitions and happenings throughout the town. **MAW19** will explore the theme of Autonomy framed by current economic & political realities.

Organisers are hailing 2019 as their most dynamic programme yet, igniting cultural engagement and activity throughout the town with a mix of large-scale installations and performance, talks, action workshops, info sharing, networking & bursary opportunities.

Some of the artist taking over are ... **Troika Collective** -with a particular interest in the subjective and objective readings of reality and the various relationships we form with technology, they investigate the ways in which the digital world informs and crosses over into the physical one and how technological advancement influences our relationship with the world and with each other. Photographer **Willie Doherty**, twice nominated for the Turner Prize and artist and activist **John Jordan**, co-founder of Reclaim the Street (1995 - 2001). Local artist **Emily Hesse** will run a day long performance and there will be dye making workshops by **Sacha Rowe**.

At the centre of this contemporary art movement **MAW19** will present **ADA...** A huge, immersive, audience friendly installation, perfect for all ages and **free** of charge. Based in the heart of the town at Middlesbrough Town Hall this interactive experience enables visitors to make and be part of the art with a freely floating helium balloon that moves around a room making marks on the floors and walls as it goes.

**ADA** is an internationally renowned work by **Karina Smigla Bobinski**. Her works have been shown in 45 countries on 5 continents at festivals, galleries and museums internationally, including Singapore Art Museum, Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris (France), Science Gallery in Dublin (Ireland), IPARK Museum of Art in Suwon (Korea), Microwave International New Media Arts Festival in Hong Kong (China), GARAGE Centre for Contemporary Culture in Moscow (Russia), ZERO1 Biennial in Silicon Valley (US),

All events are free or pay what you decide.

For more information, please go to [www.middlesbroughartweekender.com](http://www.middlesbroughartweekender.com)

**PARTNERS:**

MIMA, Middlesbrough Town Hall, Middlesbrough Council, TVCA, Creative Darlington and Creative Factory. Northern Film and Media and The Auxiliary.

In kind partners Holiday Inn Express and Off the Ground Coffee House.

**Notes to editor:**

Founded in 2017, The Middlesbrough Art Weekender is an artist-led festival for the production, practice and exhibiting of contemporary art in Middlesbrough, championing regional and international artists through exhibiting, happenings and residencies. Its early career artists have gone on to greater acclaim - Fiona Kelly was recently acquired by the National Gallery of Ireland. It has also exhibited established artists such as Benedict Drew, David Shrigley & Amanda Beech.

Over 4 days, MAW19 embeds culture through exhibitions, projects, talks & workshops in an ambitious, multi-site 'town takeover', utilizing slack & public spaces, institutes & galleries eg. Middlesbrough Town Hall (MTH) & Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA). With strong regional partners inc. Middlesbrough Council & TVCA, as well as new partners & collaborators; Newcastle University, BLOC Projects, Sheffield & Matts Gallery, London, MAW19 works with artists, artist-led projects & the arts community to place a critical lens over Autonomy.

**ENDS**

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**Images -**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p2wjquo7yme1o34/AABeuAWAQyfkMD9ArjwShk4a?dl=](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p2wjquo7yme1o34/AABeuAWAQyfkMD9ArjwShk4a?dl=0)

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