

The Touching Contract
Sarah Browne and Jesse Jones
17 – 20 November 2016

The Court Room
Toynbee Studios
28 Commercial Street
London, E1 6AB

This November in the historic Court Room at Toynbee Studios, artists Sarah Browne and Jesse Jones will investigate the political gesture of touch through a series of immersive performances in The Touching Contract.

Following previous events in Dublin, Derry and Liverpool, this project examines The State from the perspective of the female body. Audience members at the performances will be asked to sign a “touching contract”, detailing their consent to participate in the performance. This contract, devised in collaboration with legal academic and activist Máiréad Enright, has been developed in discussion with an invited group of women in London. This group has explored with the artists how we encounter the touch of the law every day, with and without consent. This contact with the State will be interpreted by an ensemble of female performers who will deliver a variety of forms of touch directly to the audience, from playful to medical, set against a soundscape by composer and sound designer Alma Kelliher.

In each city where the project has taken place, Browne and Jones have brought together experts in law, medicine, material culture and music, as well as engaging with women’s groups and communities of interest, to explore and critique statehood from the perspective of the female body.

The Touching Contract is part of In the Shadow of the State, a collaborative project by artists Sarah Browne and Jesse Jones held in historically resonant spaces in the UK and Ireland throughout 2016. The project examines how institutions, laws and practices of the State have impacted on the female body. This is the first collaboration between Browne and Jones.

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For further press information or images, please contact Nick Chapman
Artangel Communications Co-ordinator nick@artangel.org.uk or Anna Larkin
Artangel Head of Communications anna@artangel.org.uk t. 0207 713 1400.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Performances

Dates & Times:	Thursday 17 November	19.00 – 20.15
	Friday 18 November	19.00 – 20.15
	Saturday 19 November	14.00 – 15.15 19.00 – 20.15
	Sunday 20 November	14.00 – 15.15 19.00 – 20.15
Tickets:	Free but must be booked in advance by phone calling	
Booking:	07391924258 Lines open Monday – Friday, 10am – 6pm	
Address:	The Court Room, Toynbee Studios, 28 Commercial Street, London, E1 6AB	

Sarah Browne

Sarah Browne is a Dublin-based Irish artist. Her research-based practice investigates the materiality of knowledge, attending to the intersection of invisible structures of power with bodily experience. This sculptural practice includes writing, publishing, performance and public projects, encountered both within and outside gallery environments, as well as extensive collaboration.

In 2009, Browne co-represented Ireland in the 53rd Venice Biennale with Gareth Kennedy and their shared practice Kennedy Browne. Solo exhibitions include Hand to Mouth at CCA Derry-Londonderry and Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, and The Invisible Limb, at basis, Frankfurt (all 2014).

Browne currently lectures in the Department of Sculpture and Expanded Practice at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

Jesse Jones

Jesse Jones is a Dublin-based Irish artist. Her practice crosses film, performance, and installation. Often working through collaborative structures, she explores how historical instances of communal culture may hold resonance in our current social and political experiences. Her project and exhibition NO MORE FUN AND GAMES at Dublin City Municipal Gallery, the Hugh Lane, established a “parasite” institutional structure within the museum space. Jones is interested in how political movements and ideas might be expanded to institutional performative gestures.

Previous exhibitions include the Istanbul Biennale 2009 as well as solo exhibitions at Artsonje Centre Seoul and RedCat Los Angeles. Jones will represent Ireland’s pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale 2017.

Artangel

Artangel produces and presents extraordinary art in unexpected places in London,

the UK and beyond. For over 30 years Artangel has generated some of the most talked about art of recent times, including projects with Clio Barnard, Jeremy Deller, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, Steve McQueen, Rachel Whiteread, PJ Harvey and most recently at Reading Prison. Appearing anywhere from vacant department stores and subterranean vaults to a decommissioned prison and London's night sky. Artangel produces art that challenges perceptions, surprises, inspires and wouldn't be possible within the confines of a gallery.

artangel.org.uk

The Court Room at Toynbee Hall

The Stepney Juvenile Court at Toynbee Hall opened in 1939 and was one of the first Juvenile Courts established in the UK, recommendations in the 1908 Children's Act were to move juvenile courts away from adult courts. In the case of Toynbee Hall, its location also placed the court closer to welfare services that families could call upon or be directed to as part of routine court and probation business. When not in use the room was used for classes and the wooden paneling was designed to resemble open books.

The Court Room was part of a complex of buildings known as Toynbee Hall. Opened in 1884 and created by vicar Samuel Barnett, it was a settlement built to house future leaders and volunteers in London's East End, bringing them face to face with poverty. Among the young men and women who lived at Toynbee Hall was Clement Atlee, who went on to become Prime Minister and bring radical social change to post war Britain.

In the Shadow of the State is co-commissioned by Artangel and Create (Ireland), and is a key project in the Arts Council's ART: 2016 programme for Ireland 2016. Additional support for the project has come from Dublin City Council, Liverpool Biennial and Heart of Glass (St. Helens)

Artangel's commissioning programme is generously supported by Arts Council England and the private patronage of The Artangel International Circle, Special Angels, Guardian Angels and The Company of Angels.



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