



Press Release 10 July 2024

**Monster Fun by Bruce Asbestos  
A New Exhibition at Lakeside Arts**

**Press launch event and photo call: Wednesday 31 July, 10.30am**

**Thursday 1 August – Sunday 8 September 2024  
Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham  
Free Admission**

High res [images here](#).

This summer, artist Bruce Asbestos will transform Lakeside Arts' Djanogly Gallery at the University of Nottingham with his ever-growing cohort of inflatable monsters. Colourful and playful, these giant sculptures attempt to redefine and update Pop Art for the 2020s.

Bruce Asbestos' work draws from a rich history of painting, sculpture, popular culture, folklore, and fairy tales. His interdisciplinary practice frequently mixes everyday objects with high art, fashion, and responds to global pop culture, combining performance, painting, clothing, social media, and video games.

This summer the artist brings together his inflatable monster friends in his largest exhibition to date. The Hoobos, Asbestos' newest creations, are joined by friendly monsters in all shapes and sizes including giant Mega Bunny, Octopus and Egg Cat. Visitors can immerse themselves in the exhibition soundtrack which guides them through Asbestos's imaginative world. The exhibition extends out of the gallery where visitors can follow a trail of Hoobos around Highfields Park.

Witty, seductive, and extravagant, Asbestos's work feels both unique yet strangely familiar. His playful use of popular culture, commerce, and high art places his brand firmly within the realm of participation, play, and pop art. In particular, the work aims to make sense of national and regional identity in a world where we are increasingly exposed to a shared global pop culture, prompting audiences to reflect on their own cultural experiences.

Bruce Asbestos, artist, said:

*"My work is increasingly focused on ideas around play and participation and creating ways for visitors to interact with contemporary art. It would be wonderful if the exhibition was someone's very first experience of a gallery. I hope that visitors feel very welcome and included, the exhibition is for them."*



Neil Walker, Head of Visual Arts Programming, Lakeside Arts, said: *“Bruce Asbestos is an established figure on the Nottingham art scene, therefore we are delighted to show his biggest solo exhibition yet to Nottingham audiences. We hope this show designed for children and families in the summer holiday season will make his art even more accessible, introducing pop culture to our everyday lives.”*

Lakeside Arts is thankful to [John E Wright](#) for their support in promoting Monster Fun.

-- ENDS --

For further information on Bruce Asbestos: Monster Fun, please contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Manager Mária Konyeliccka-Visky [maria.konyeliccka@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:maria.konyeliccka@nottingham.ac.uk)

For further information about Bruce Asbestos contact Sarah Ragsdale 07817 194 750 [sarah@sarahragdalepr.co.uk](mailto:sarah@sarahragdalepr.co.uk)

## LISTING INFORMATION

**Exhibition Dates:** Thursday 1 August – Sunday 8 September 2024

**Opening Hours:** Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm | Sunday 12noon-4pm (Closed Mondays)

**Address:** Djanogly Gallery, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

**Admission:** Free

## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Lakeside Arts** is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, music, theatre, dance, children and families' productions, workshops as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Gallery showing temporary exhibitions of contemporary and modern art; the University Museum which has a permanent collection of archaeology; the Djanogly Recital Hall which stages concerts by internationally renowned soloists and chamber ensembles; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance.

[www.lakesidearts.org.uk](http://www.lakesidearts.org.uk)

Lakeside Arts Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @LakesideArts

## Bruce Asbestos

"Through his shrewd use of social media, personal re-hashing of global pop culture and use of new digital technologies, he has established an unmistakable visual identity and unique brand (complete with logos) to almost become a living artwork." - Art Review



Bruce Asbestos earned a degree in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University, winning a scholarship at Musashino University in Tokyo, and went on to attend the Hive business school. He obtained a Master's Degree at Nottingham Trent, during which he was awarded a scholarship at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

Exhibitions and projects include Mega Bunny & Friends (SPILL Festival), Bootleg Shreg & Friends (Humber Street Gallery), Eye of Newt 2.0 (QUAD, Derby), New British Informal (Browns East, London), Burple Purple (Recent Activity, Birmingham), Ok! Cherub! (Bluecoat, Liverpool), S/S 2021 (Power, National Justice Museum), S/S 2020 (Bonington Gallery), Bruce Asbestos X Juliana Sissons (Primary), A/W Collection (Kunstraum, London), A/W 2018 (Nottingham Contemporary), an Arts Council International Fund project to NYC and Philadelphia, and Bruce Asbestos A-B Testing (Concrete, Hayward Gallery, London). Asbestos was also commissioned by EM15 for 'Sunscreen' at the Venice Biennale and participated in the Ivan Poe / Reactor project for the Plymouth Art Weekender. In 2013/4, he was nominated for the £300,000 Paul Hamlyn Breakthrough Fund. Bruce Asbestos' artworks have been accessioned into the Government Art Collection and the collection of the National Justice Museum.

Recent and current projects include Hooboos at Aviva Studios, home of [Factory International](#) (June 2024), and an exhibition of Asbestos' fashion catwalks at [The Gallery](#), De Montfort University (until 29 August). The Hooboos will tour to [Rosehill Theatre](#), Whitehaven, Cumbria (August 24-31) and [Ah Haa School for the Arts](#) Telluride, Colorado (19-21 July)

In 2024 Bruce Asbestos became CEO of his own company Bruce Asbestos Ltd.

[www.bruceasbestos.com](http://www.bruceasbestos.com)  
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