

LIVE ART AND
INTERACTIVE ENCOUNTERS

COMPASS FESTIVAL

IN YOUR HOME, IN YOUR BUBBLE
AND ACROSS LEEDS

2021

COMPASSLIVEART.ORG.UK



INTERACTIVE ENCOUNTERS ACROSS LEEDS

Every two years, Compass Festival animates the city of Leeds with interactive live art projects in public spaces like shopping centres, markets, museums and the city streets.

This year we're back, but we're doing things a little bit differently.

After an unpredictable year, we decided to move Compass Festival from its original November 2020 date, and spread our activities over the whole of 2021.

Join us for six thought provoking, moving and playful projects, starting in March 2021, and continuing throughout the year.

We're going to take you to your local phone box for a listening experience, visit Leeds' smallest gay bar, play video games about mental health, and 'get a round in' at Kirkgate Market.

Taking you on a journey around Leeds, the festival largely takes place outside and can be explored alone, in small groups or from home.

We want everyone who attends to have an engaging, fun and most importantly, safe experience enjoying this year of #CompassFestival.

Team Compass.

Keep your eye on our website for listings information and updates about our events as they happen: compassliveart.org.uk

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You won't find any dates and times in this programme, as we want to remain responsive so everyone can enjoy a safe Compass Festival year.

Information about when and where each project will be happening is available on our website:

compassliveart.org.uk

Keep up with us on social media:

**@CompassFestLDS
#CompassFestival**

Compass from home

We understand that everyone has different experiences of lockdown so we have made sure that you can still enjoy this year's Compass Festival from home with Compass Podcast which is available on our website.

Compass in your bubble

Our programme doesn't rely on large gatherings and a lot of it is outside, so you can explore our events and interventions as an adventure on your own or in a small group.

Pick Me Up (& hold me tight) is happening through every phone-box in Leeds for two weeks – maybe you have one local to you?

Visit the sonic artwork **The Ballad of Crown Point Bridge** which is situated on a public footpath by the banks of the Leeds-Liverpool canal.

You can experience all the camp and glitter of a gay bar that you've been missing in **One in, One out** – an interactive experience you can enjoy one at a time. The mental health themed arcade game **Anxiety Arcade** is best played alone.

Join us for a series of four podcasts, hosted by Pam Johnson and led by the artists we work with, delving into the themes and concerns of Compass Festival projects.

Episode 1:

The Making of Pick Me Up (& hold me tight) with ZU-UK

Through an invitation to answer a public pay phone, ZU-UK want to give people a chance to reflect, remember and gather in a mass act of contemplation about the relationship between mental health and modern life. Join Jorge Lopes Ramos and Persis Jadé Maravala from ZU-UK to discuss the making of Pick Me Up (& hold me tight).



Episode 2:

Sick and tired with Demi Nandhra

I'm Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired is an ongoing investigation about political depression and incomplete acts of liberation such as; feminism, civil rights and decolonisation. Demi Nandhra will be joined by panellists Amahra Spence, Suriya Aisha and Toni-Dee Paul, as they discuss protest, mental health and collective sadness.



Compass Podcast

We have made sure that you can still enjoy this year's Compass Festival from the comfort of your own home with Compass Podcast.

Episode 3:

Drag, Dance and Disco: The Future of Queer Spaces with Lucy Hayhoe

We're making One in, One Out: Leeds' Smallest Gay Bar. Join artist Lucy Hayhoe, Ray Larman, Amelia Cavallo and Cassie Leon to discuss the disappearance, evolution and digitalisation of queer entertainment, performance and social spaces.



Episode 4:

Chaat Chat with Popeye Collective

Popeye Collective will be serving up their own take on traditional Northern staple: mushy peas. For this podcast their recipe for Mushy Pea Chaat will guide the conversation; charting personal histories, unpicking colonial pasts and how all of this can impact on our vision of culture, community, and ultimately, art.



Produced by Sable Radio.

Available on our website and on all streaming platforms.



ZU-UK

Pick Me Up (& hold me tight)

An invitation for collective listening,
experienced through public pay-phones across Leeds.

Through an invitation to answer a public pay-phone, *Pick Me Up (& hold me tight)* is a mass act of contemplation about the relationship between mental health and modern life.

Created by award-winning theatre and digital art company ZU-UK in response to rising suicide rates across the country, *Pick Me Up (& hold me tight)* is an audio event where every phone box in Leeds rings at the same time.

Pick up the phone to participate in a gentle but thought provoking audio experience that explores contemporary loneliness, and exposes the edges of our humanness. It's an invitation to pause, take stock, and explore what kind of listeners we are.

Many thanks to Mind in Camden for their support in the creation of the pilot of this project, the crowdfunders who made the research and development possible and to our team of volunteers who helped audit all the telephone boxes in Leeds.

At a time when suicide is the most common cause of death for men in Britain aged 20-49 and 1 in 4 people are affected by mental health issues at some point in their lives, *Pick Me Up (& hold me tight)* offers an opportunity to reflect, remember and gather.

It has become more important than ever to listen. *Pick Me Up (& hold me tight)* is a chance to reflect on changes in the fabric of our communities, the shrinking of public space and the innate power of listening – on an ambitious yet intimate scale.

You can find your local phone box on the map on our website. Please follow the local guidance in your area and ensure your visit to a phone box is Covid safe.

Pick Me Up (& hold me tight) by ZU UK.
Commissioned by Compass Festival.



Closed Forum

Anxiety Arcade

Stop. Breathe. Press A to start.

Anxiety Arcade is a full-sized arcade machine exploring themes of anxiety and isolation. A love letter to 80s pop culture and classic video games, Anxiety Arcade is a digital space that allows you to reset and take a break from everything in your world.

Stop. Breathe. Press A to start.

What if there is a game you can't win? How long would you play if you were told there is no end? Explore a virtual world where each room is a song in an album and every puzzle unlocks more mystery. Created by Closed Forum, Anxiety Arcade is bleak, funny and bizarre.

Looking at anxiety through the lens of those that experience it, Anxiety Arcade uses iconic retro gameplay to get people talking about mental health, rather than trying to solve it.

Closed Forum are a collective of artists that specialise in digital interactive experiences that put audiences at the heart of their work. Led by Leeds based artists Adam Sam Sas-Skowronski and Matt Allen, their performances, games, experiments and experiences look at themes of anxiety, dreams and reality.

Created by Closed Forum, commissioned by Compass Festival. With thanks to the Trinity Centre, Leeds.



Lucy Hayhoe

One in, One out: Leeds' Smallest Gay Bar

A playful installation for an audience of one.

One in, One out: Leeds' Smallest Gay Bar is an exclusive club featuring all the camp, glitz, glamour and dodgy disco lighting you've been missing during the past few months, but this time it's all for you.

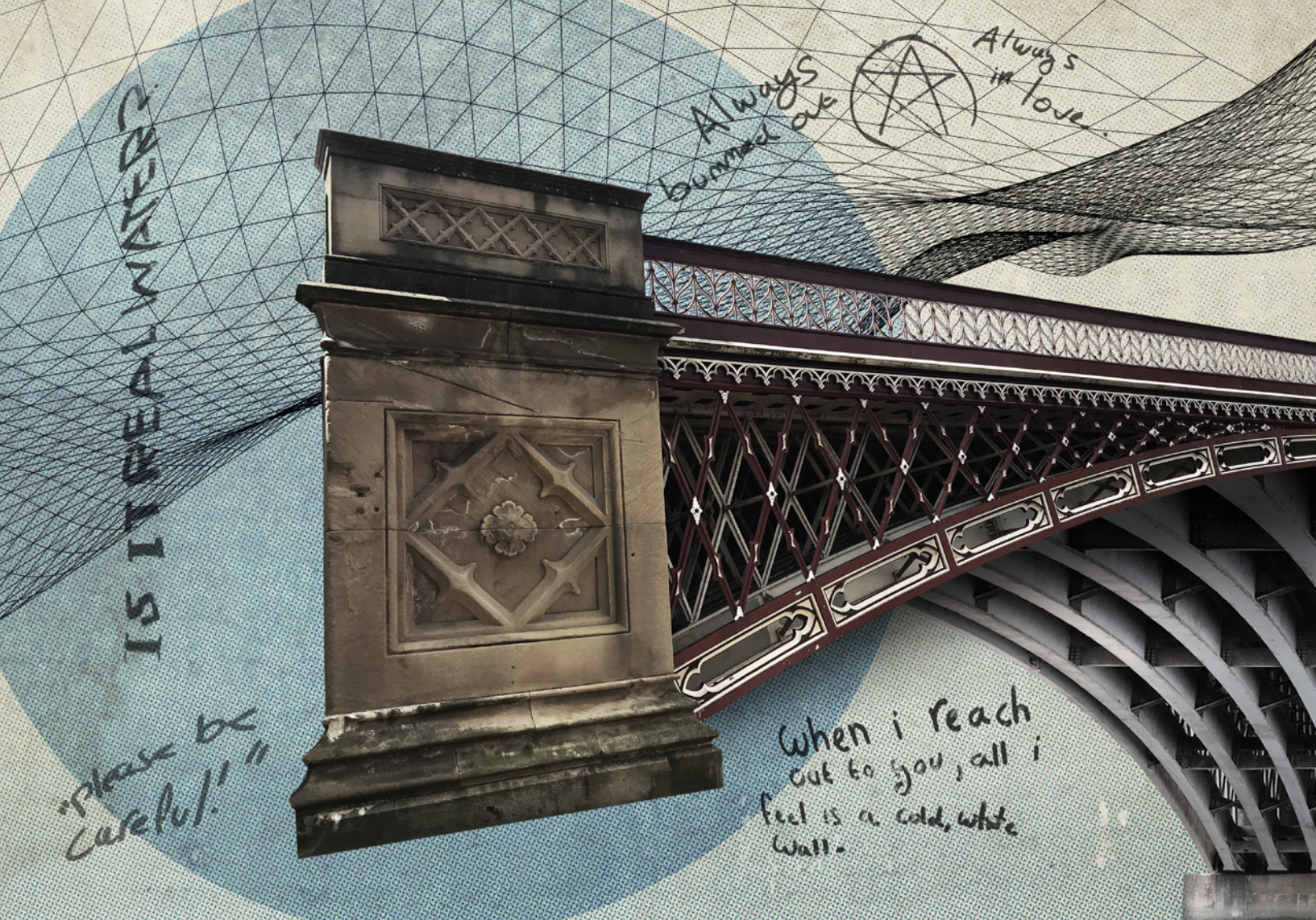
Created by artist Lucy Hayhoe, **One in, One out** explores the role of the gay bar in contemporary queer culture and asks us what we want to preserve and what we want to change.

There's a welcome familiarity to be found in the bright lights and sticky floors of the gay bar; spaces which were often created as a rejection of queer isolation. But as the needs of the queer community change, and we grow more aware of intersecting identities – is the gay bar part of the future of queer space?

Occupying a unique position in cities, the past year has presented huge threats to the existence of queer spaces. **One in, One Out** examines nostalgia for lost LGBTQIA+ scenes, the consumption of queer space as novelty and what it means to be queer and alone.

One in One out is experienced one at a time, so put your glad-drags back on and get those dance moves ready, because the floor is all yours.

Originally commissioned by Compass Live Art for Compass Festival 2021, made possible by Wades Charity, and Leeds Inspired. Developed with support from Broccoli and Arts Council England Lottery funding.



Amy Sharrocks

The Ballad of Crown Point Bridge

A sonic artwork created with the people and water of Leeds.

Crown Point Bridge marks the site where the water of the River Aire meets the urban canal water. In the soft underbelly of the bridge, where the light doesn't shine and the sounds of city life are condensed, recordings of people's voices join with the sounds of the city's water to make a new ballad for Leeds.

Steering 127 miles across the Pennine Hills, The Leeds & Liverpool Canal is the longest concrete enclosure of UK water. Depending on your view, the canal can be seen as an incredible engineering feat or a vast act of control enabling the extraction of natural resources.

The Ballad of Crown Point Bridge by artist Amy Sharrocks with sound designer Tom Hackley, part of Museum of Water, produced by Artsadmin.

The graffiti marks on the underside of Crown Point Bridge speak of the social impacts of austerity, tracing the assault that city life can be.

This is a site of continual movement, where water and people try to make their presence felt. Activated by movement sensors, The Ballad of Crown Point Bridge pulls together words, water and echoes to try to negotiate a different social contract between the environment, the city and its inhabitants.

A Compass Festival commission.
Supported by Leeds Waterfront Enhancement Fund and IVE.
With thanks to The Geraldine Connor Foundation.



Joshua Sofaer

Museums in People's Homes

Would you like a museum to come and visit you in your home?

We've met with people across Leeds who collect things in their homes – we've heard stories about the things they collect, how they collect them, and why they do it.

There's a woman that can't resist a charity shop bargain, a bomb disposal technician's keepsakes, a man that has acquired hospitality gifts from around the world, a Buffy superfan, a recycling obsessive, someone who collects the discarded whiskers of all the cats she's ever had, and a guy who lives in a house of drums.

Working with furniture designers Plaey, artist **Joshua Sofaer** has created a mobile museum comprising 14 separate artworks, each of which represents a collection housed by people he has met in Leeds.

Based on the *Wunderkammer* or cabinet of curiosities, Joshua will present a tour of objects from his portable museum and you can even visit a fun size café and tiny gift shop.

Using a variety of materials and processes, objects which sometimes have little to no monetary value, have been transformed into 'museum standard' artefacts, worthy of the high value we should place on people, their stories and personal collections.

Museums in People's Homes by Joshua Sofaer, 2021. Cabinet designed and built with Plaey.

Featuring stories from the collections of Clare Bentley-Smith, John Boulton, Victoria Boyden, Gill Crawshaw, John Daniel, Tracey Dixon, Kathleen Henwood, Laura Hilton-Smith, Alan H, Ian, Jane Kettle, Christine Osborne, Alison Pidgeon, and Ralph Thoresby. Commissioned and produced by Compass Festival.



Etheridge & Persighetti (Small Acts)

Public House: The Yorkshire Square

A 12ft x 12ft pop-up pub bringing a ferment of connections, conversations and experiences, to the heart of Leeds iconic Kirkgate Market.

Modelled on the dimensions of the fermenting vessel made famous by Tetley's Brewery, The Yorkshire Square has been reimagined as a four-sided pub serving brews and views from across Leeds.

Prolonged closures during the pandemic of the UK's already endangered pubs, have thrown into sharp focus the fragility and the importance of the Public House. From mediated social hub to traditional tavern, The Yorkshire Square invites you to explore the idea that *the pub of the future has many faces*.

Pick from a menu of tap talks and heritage tours from guest presenters, help create tomorrow's heritage by adding your opinions and views to the brew, or simply pop in for a pint.

Since 2017 Katie Etheridge and Simon Persighetti (Small Acts) have been working with Leeds brewers, publicans, campaigners and individuals to explore the future of social landscapes by investigating the enduring role of pubs as places of community, intergenerational exchange, entertainment, (hi)story telling and activism.

The Yorkshire Square is the culmination of this work shining a spotlight on the relationships between pubs, people and places.

Public House: The Yorkshire Square by Etheridge & Persighetti (Small Acts). Commissioned and produced by Compass Festival. Made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund with support from Leeds Civic Trust. Many thanks to Leeds Kirkgate Market and Nomadic Beers. Public House is dedicated to the memory of writer, beer enthusiast & pub champion Richard Coldwell.

Thank you

Compass Festival is the culmination of 18 months planning and preparation. However, Compass is busy all year round and we would love to stay in touch about some of the wonderful new things we will be doing in 2022 and beyond.

For all this, and more please keep in touch via Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and join our mailing list at www.compassliveart.org.uk

#CompassFestival

@CompassFestLDS



Team

CoDirector - Annie Lloyd

CoDirector - Peter Reed

Senior Producer - Anna Turzynski

Assistant Producer - Polly Cuthbert

Communications & Engagement Manager - Jack Lynch

Technical Manager - Matt Sykes-Hooban

Build Manager - Tom Woodland

Press Agent - SM Publicity

Photographer - Lizzie Coombes

Web and Graphic Design - Tim Jukes

Young Producers:

Elle Money

Yasmin Goodison-Braithwaite



Printed on recycled paper



COMPASS FESTIVAL

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Join us for six thought
provoking, moving and
playful projects, starting in
March 2021, and continuing
throughout the year.

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