

PRESS RELEASE

**Abbas Zahedi:  *Holding a Heart in Artifice*  at Nottingham Contemporary**

Sat 27 May – Sun 3 Sep 2023



Abbas Zahedi,  *Holding a Heart* , 2023. Courtesy of Belmacz and the artist.

**Abbas Zahedi's exhibition  *Holding A Heart in Artifice*  explores care, grief and support systems at Nottingham Contemporary**

Nottingham Contemporary is delighted to announce  *Holding A Heart in Artifice* , a new solo exhibition by British artist Abbas Zahedi, open to the public from Saturday 27 May to Sunday 3 September 2023. Zahedi (b.1984) is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice blends contemporary philosophy, poetics, and social dynamics with sound, sculpture, and other gestures. With an emphasis on how personal and collective histories interweave, his artistic work explores the connections that are found or formed around specific contexts.

*Holding A Heart in Artifice*  is a newly commissioned installation and engagement programme that continues Zahedi's ongoing investigations into care, grief, and contemporary philosophy. The exhibition combines visual and sensory elements including a large architectural intervention, sculpture, an original music score and enactments of tenderness. Recognising the similarities between clinical, medicalised spaces and sites of contemporary art, Zahedi spent time with a local hospital specialising in Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) – a life support therapy that uses an artificial heart-lung machine to oxygenate the blood outside the body of a patient. In the exhibition, an ECMO unit pumps moisture gathered from the gallery around a closed system,

representing the ways in which artists, artwork, galleries and audiences are contingent upon one another.

Throughout the exhibition an engagement programme will expand on the ideas held in the work. These include a series of skill-sharing “How to Make” sessions, co-devised by Zahedi and Nottingham Contemporary’s Learning and Live Programme teams which will reflect on themes within the exhibition; such as community-building, grief, care and emotional processing.

Zahedi’s work highlights the importance of support systems in navigating complex emotional and physical experiences. The exhibition is a poignant exploration of the human experience and promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking experience for visitors.

For more information about *Holding A Heart in Artifice*, other exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary and associated exhibition programming please [visit our website](#).

### Notes to Editors:

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### Exhibition Credits:

*Holding a Heart in Artifice* is generously supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, Belmacz, and Abbas Zahedi Exhibition Circle: Kimiya Minoukadeh.

### About Nottingham Contemporary

[Nottingham Contemporary](#) is one of the leading centres of contemporary art in Europe. Since opening in 2009, we have welcomed over 2 million visitors – with free admission for all – to our highly ambitious programme that has featured hundreds of artists and cultural practitioners from across the globe.

Our programme champions international art and artists who invite us to imagine the world in new ways, and empower different perspectives into the most pressing cultural, social, and political questions of today. We support artists at different stages of their careers – from first-time solo shows in the UK to surveys of renowned or overlooked figures – and regularly present significant thematic exhibitions and major artist-curated projects. Nottingham Contemporary was shortlisted for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2019. Nottingham Contemporary is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and regularly funded by Nottingham City Council and through our partnerships with the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

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[www.nottinghamcontemporary.org](http://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org)