

bethlem  
gallery

## Art & Protest: What's there to be mad about?

7 Sep - 8 Nov 2019

Bethlem Gallery

Bethlem Gallery is pleased to present this group exhibition of artworks and protest ephemera curated by artist and activist Dolly Sen. Dolly became involved in mental health activism after her own experience as a psychiatric patient and as a witness to other's experience.

There are people who rise up against what has hurt them, whether it be psychiatric coercion, benefit cut deaths, austerity, or any other form of oppression. Art & Protest: What's there to be mad about? is a celebration and acknowledgement of the role of art in political activism by those who take a stand.



Help the Normals, Dolly Sen

*Dolly says: "This exhibition will honour our right to be ourselves and to be treated with humanity and respect, and even our right to stay alive, by using art to confront, to embolden ourselves with, to stand tall, and to show others they are not alone."*

*We need to protest to reject the status we have been given. It is art to create an effect and affect; it is to change things; it is switching the power relations to make perpetrators look like twats.*

*Art is our armour to go into battle with; a way to create a world where we can claim some of our soul back.*

*The mental health protest movement has been around for decades, this exhibition presents and rejoices in some of the current and recent work coming out of the UK and aims to provide a platform for dialogue around art, activism and the mental health care system."*

Featuring: Bobby Baker, Dolly Sen, Nat F (F.E.E.L. - Friends of East End Loonies), gobscore, Hamja Ahsan, John Hoggett, Mad Chicks, Mad Pride, Nick Lloyd, Rachel Rowan Olive, Recovery in the Bin, Speak Out Against Psychiatry (SOAP), Thompson Hall, the Vacuum Cleaner and Hana Madness, Vince Laws and BA Curating students from Goldsmiths College.

### Events Programme

Dolly Sen and contributing artists will bring live performances and acts of protest to the gallery and site of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, including 'bedlamb', a 'mad citizenship test' and an online 'anti-anti

stigma' campaign day. Arts and mental health festival Bonkersfest will be resurrected for one day at the Dragon Café, and Denise McKenna, co-founder of Mental Health Resistance Network will deliver the annual Robert Dellar memorial lecture.

Art & Protest: What's there to be mad about? Is running in parallel to the Bethlem Museum of the Mind's exhibition Impatient! Stories of service user advocacy.

Impatient! Stories of service user advocacy  
7 SEPTEMBER 2019 – 4 JANUARY 2020

Those with a history of contact with mental health services have sought representation, support and advocacy for centuries. Service user advocacy groups are varied in nature: from grassroots to national, informal to established, conservative to radical, they reflect the diversity of society. This exhibition highlights the material culture of some of these groups, and charts the development and impact of their voices, and the challenges they have faced.

### Visiting Information

Our opening hours are Wed-Fri 10am-5pm and the first and last Saturday of every month 10am-5pm. Entry is free.

Bethlem Gallery  
Bethlem Royal Hospital  
Monks Orchard Road  
Beckenham  
Kent  
BR3 3BX

[Info@bethlemgallery.com](mailto:Info@bethlemgallery.com)  
[www.bethlemgallery.com](http://www.bethlemgallery.com)

### Getting here

Eden Park Station (30 mins from London Bridge) followed by a 15 min walk or 5 min bus ride (356 bus towards Shirley).

East Croydon Station (15 mins from London Victoria), followed by roughly a 30 min bus ride (119 bus towards Bromley or 198 towards Shrublands).

### Notes to Editors:

1. The Bethlem Gallery is a platform for artists who are current or former patients of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, which specialises in mental health. We present exhibitions of painting, sculpture, photography and video; engage audiences in the subject of mental health; run an artists-in-residence programme; campaign for access to the arts within healthcare environments; and work in partnership with Bethlem Museum Of The Mind and other UK and international organisations.
2. The Bethlem Gallery and Bethlem Museum Of The Mind share a building at the centre of Bethlem Royal Hospital. Presenting art by today's artists and also centuries of significant historic artworks, the Gallery and Museum aim to lead the UK in mental health arts and learning.
3. The Bethlem Gallery is funded by the Maudsley Charity, which supports mental health and wellbeing by investing in projects that aid innovation in health services, training and education, and research and infrastructure. (<http://www.maudsleycharity.org>)
4. Bethlem Royal Hospital is the oldest psychiatric hospital in the world. Today, the Hospital provides mental health services for people locally and specialist services for people from across the UK. (<http://www.slam.nhs.uk>)