

Julia McKinlay

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Biography

I am an artist and researcher based in Leeds, UK and curator of [Threshold](http://www.thresholdsculpture.space). Threshold is an open-air gallery for exhibitions of sculpture in the garden of a back-to-back terrace in LS4, Leeds. I design and edit limited edition publications to accompany exhibitions at Threshold under the imprint [Threshold Editions](http://www.thresholdsculpture.space). I am a part-time (0.6) Lecturer in Fine Art at University of Leeds and previously taught on BA and MA programmes at Leeds Arts University (2021-22) and at Newcastle University (2016-2017) as Bartlett Teaching Fellow in Printmaking. In 2022 I completed a practice-based PhD at Leeds Beckett University in collaboration with Yorkshire Sculpture International, titled: [Acid-Soaked Molluscs: a xenophoric approach to practising sculpture and print](http://www.thresholdsculpture.space). My thesis proposed a xenophoric methodology for making sculpture and print in response to the sculpture making and curating behaviours of the xenophora snail. During this project, I produced [Feeling the Underside \(2019\)](http://www.thresholdsculpture.space) to be an experiential and tactile artist book that embodies the xenophora snail, and expands out of its box to become a portable exhibition.

Education

2018 – 2022: PhD by practice, Yorkshire Sculpture International and Leeds Beckett University

2012 – 2014: MFA Fine Art (Sculpture), (Distinction) The Slade School of Fine Art.

2006 – 2009: BA (Hons) Fine Art: Sculpture and Environmental Art, (1st) Glasgow School of Art.

Solo/Duo Exhibitions:

2025: *Constructing the Surface*, Gloam Gallery, Sheffield

2025: *Shift Across These Planes*, Hyde Park Art Club, Leeds

2024: *Surface and Form*, AIR3331 Iwamotocho Studio, Tokyo

2023: Julia McKinlay and Hiroko Nakajima: *A Pair of Lungs*, Nakanojo Biennale, Gunma, Japan. Duo with Hiroko Nakajima

2022: *Acid-Soaked Molluscs*, Leeds School of Arts, Leeds Beckett University

2022: *Xenophora II*, Sandford Vitrine, London

2021: *Scoria*, duo with Jacob Farrell, Threshold, Leeds

2021: *Undergrowth*, BLANK_, Leeds City College

2016: *Swab Art Fair*, duo with Anthony Banks, Barcelona, presented by Square Art Projects

2016: *Blokc*, duo with Lauren Wilson, Project Space Wapping, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024: *Making Poetry with Solid Objects II*, Komegome SOKO, Tokyo

2023: *Leeds Artists Show 2023*, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds

2022: *Figureheads: Members Show 2023*, Bloc Projects

2021: *Material Matters*, Sunny Bank Mills

2019: *Kuroko*, Index Festival at Gallery House and Yorkshire House, Leeds

2018: *MI:LAB Group Exhibition*, CfSHE Gallery, Tokyo

2016: *Artists' Village*, Village Green Festival, METAL, Southend-On-Sea

2015: *Oh For You! I Would Do Anything*, Tritongatan5, Gothenburg

2015: *Out in the Open*, Listhus Gallery, Olafsfjordur, Iceland

2015: *Re-Launch*, UCL Art Museum, London

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2015: *Broomhill National Sculpture Prize 2015*, Broomhill Sculpture Park, Barnstaple

Collections:

Henry Moore Institute Archive; Leeds Museums and Galleries; UCL Art Museum; Newcastle University Law Library; Yorkshire Sculpture International; Leeds Beckett University Archive and Special Collections; The Lawrence Sterne Trust at Shandy Hall, York.

Selected Residencies/Networks:

2024: AIR 3331, Tokyo (DYCP funded)
2024: Production residency at Glasgow Print Studio (DYCP funded)
2020: Yorkshire Sculpture International Sculpture Network 2020
2018: MI-LAB Mokuhanga Artist in Residence at Mokuhanga Innovation Laboratory, Japan
2017: Joya: AiR, Joya: arte + ecologia, Almeria, Spain
2016: Village Green Festival Artist in Residence, Chalkwell Park, Essex
2015: Skaftfell, Seyðisfjörður, Iceland
2015: Listhus, Olafsfjordur, Iceland

Awards and Prizes:

2024: Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice Grant
2024: International Research Mobility Award – University of Leeds – participation in exhibitions in Tokyo
2023: Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Grant – towards participation in Nakanojo Biennale.
2022: International Research Mobility Award – University of Leeds – Nakanojo Biennale 2023.
2021: Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant – Threshold.
2021: Leeds Inspired Small Grant – Threshold.
2021: Curatorspace Grant – Threshold.
2019: Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Grant – *Kuroko*, Index Festival 2019.
2019: 3 year full-time PhD studentship – Yorkshire Sculpture International and Leeds Beckett University.
2018: Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Grant - MI: LAB residency, Kawaguchiko, Japan
2014: The Boise Travel Scholarship, The Slade School of Fine Art, funding a period of research and residencies in Iceland.
2014: The Peter and Betty McLean Prize, The Slade School of Fine Art.

Commissions:

2021: Leeds City College Arts Fund Commission
2021: Yorkshire Sculpture International Engagement Commission with Rydale Community Centre
2018: YSI Artist's Book Commission. The final work 'Feeling the Underside' was published by Leeds Beckett University.
2016: Village Green Festival Artist's Village
2015: Broomhill Sculpture Prize 2015 Finalist

Selected Speaking

2025: 'Julia McKinlay in conversation with Marion Harrison', HPAC, Leeds.
2024: 'Translating Making', paper presentation at 'Talking Sculpture: Dialects of Making: Symposium', at York St John University.
2024: 'Making Poetry with Solid Objects II: Sculpture and Drawing,' panel discussion, Komagome SOKO, Tokyo.

- 2022: 'Undergrowth', artist talk and film screening at Lancaster Arts with UCLAN, online.
- 2021: 'Threshold', talk at 'Breaking the Mould Study Day', hosted by Arts Council Collection and Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts.
- 2021: 'Setting up Threshold', paper presentation at 'The Artists Journeys Conference #4', hosted by Bloc Projects and Yorkshire Visual Art Network, online.

Publications (artist):

- Julia McKinlay, ed., Victoria Sharples, ed., *Victoria Sharples: Cut, Gutter, Section*, (Leeds, Threshold Editions, 2026).
- Nakanojo Biennale, *Cosmographia: Nakanojo Biennale 2023 Catalogue*, (Nakanojo Biennale, 2024).
- Julia McKinlay, ed., Jacob Farrell, *Jacob Farrell: [A Snake Shaped Key](#)*, (Leeds: Threshold Editions, 2021).
- Julia McKinlay, *[Feeling the Underside](#)*, (Leeds: Yorkshire Sculpture International and Leeds Beckett University, 2019).
- Lauren Wilson, ed., Hiroko Nakajima, Julia McKinlay, Eiko Soga, Jon Kipps, *Kuroko*, (self-published, 2019). Exhibition catalogue.