

**EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Image: Thompson Hall and Simone Kennedy working at ActionSpace, courtesy Art et al.

**Making Together**

9 October - 24 November 2023

Royal Society of Sculptors, Dora House,  
108 Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, SW7 3RA

**Opening Hours:**

Monday to Friday, 11.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays, 12pm- 5pm (October only)

**Relaxed Viewings:**

Designed for neurodivergent and autistic children and adults, and those who may face difficulties visiting at busier times: Monday 16 Oct 5-7pm, Saturday 28 Oct 9-11am, Tuesday 7 Nov 9-11am

Art et al. is delighted to announce our new exhibition "Making Together", the result of our brand new partnership with the Royal Society of Sculptors: an innovative collaborative programme and inclusive exhibition featuring artists working from UK supported studios, alongside their artistic peers, members of the Royal Society of Sculptors. The exhibition features the work created during two peer-to-peer collaborations. Thompson Hall, an artist with ActionSpace in London, has been working with Simone Kennedy MRSS while Leslie Thompson, an artist with Venture Arts in Manchester, has been collaborating with Eleni Maragaki MRSS.

They have spent the last four months visiting each other's studios, meeting on Zoom, and feeling their way towards something that is unreachable within the confines of their individual practices. "Making Together" represents a desire to support and facilitate dialogue between neurodivergent and learning disabled artists from UK supported studios and the Royal Society of Sculptors. The aim was to foster a richer, more diverse visual art infrastructure that challenges expectations and traverses boundaries.

The Royal Society of Sculptors champions contemporary sculpture and the artists who create it. They are leading the conversation about sculpture today through exhibitions and events for all, welcoming everyone interested in exploring this art form and its many possibilities. With a focus on partnering with supported studios, Art et al. is an inclusive, curated international art platform that commissions and presents collaborations between neurodivergent or learning disabled artists, alongside their artist peers and arts professionals.

This commission was supported by the Royal Society of Sculptors, Hallett Independent, Sadie Sherman Gallery, Jennifer Lauren Gallery and Slominski Projects. Art et al. is founded by Arts Project Australia, Sim Luttin, Jennifer Lauren Gallery, and Slominski Projects.

**Exhibition Events**Making Together & Collaboration: Artists in Conversation

Wednesday 18 October, 6.30 - 7.45pm, Dora House (in-person)

Come along to hear from the four artists involved in the collaborations, and how they chose to work together.

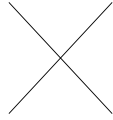
Making Together: Neurodiversity

Wednesday 15 November, 6.30 - 8.00pm, Dora House & online (hybrid event)

This event features three neurodivergent speakers: Sonia Boué, Isobel Smith and Natasha Trotman.

**Access**

Resources including a wheelchair ramp, large print exhibition guides and additional seating will be available to improve the visitor experience. The exhibition is on one level. We welcome guide dogs, hearing dogs and assistance dogs. We will have members of staff available during the event to support with wayfinding. We have toilet facilities on the ground floor but they are not yet wheelchair accessible. More on the RSS website at Plan Your Visit.



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### Leslie Thompson X Eleni Maragaki

#### “Fantastic animals, jungles and mountains from Africa, Greece and beyond”

With a practice dedicated to drawing and ceramic making from his imagination and memories of popular culture over the years, Leslie Thompson has helped steer this collaboration into looking at and discussing African animals, their habitats, and landscapes more broadly. In contrast, Eleni Maragaki's practice is rooted in the natural or urban environment, working delicately across drawing and sculptural objects in a myriad of materials and with precise detail. She has shared with Leslie cultural references related to her home country of Greece, and together they have created new worlds and learnt new techniques. Fantastic animals, jungles and mountains from Africa, Greece and beyond showcases drawings, ceramics, spring flower folded books and flag books, as well as an interactive puzzle made from linocut prints. A dinosaur even makes an appearance!

Leslie Thompson is an artist working out of Venture Arts Studios in Manchester, who has completed several commissions and murals including for LADbible and has recently been commissioned by the Government Art Collection to create new artwork for the Coronation of King Charles III. Eleni Maragaki MRSS studied painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts (2013-2018) and has an MA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins, London (2022) as a recipient of the Mona Hatoum Bursaries Award. She was shortlisted for the First Plinth: Public Art Award (2023) and has just completed an Art for the Environment Residency (UAL) at Mahler and Lewitt Studios in Spoleto, Italy.

### Thompson Hall X Simone Kennedy

#### “Absence/Presence”

Inspired by inequalities in society, Thompson Hall's practice often implements brightly designed symbols and graphic icons to express his observations of the world around him. His concerns around social change and marginalisation created immediate synergy with collaborating artist, Simone Kennedy, whose multi-media practice centres around the human condition, re-imagining the realms of being human. They connected deeply over the meanings of 'absence' and 'presence' in personal and political ways. Absence/Presence explores personal identity, in particular the experience of growing up without a father figure, and broadens to consider the relationship between identity and the home. Each artist explored father figures with a shared departure point of men's suits, and The Sanctuary (2023), a large tent-like sculpture, made collaboratively, brings to the forefront the societal issue of homelessness.

Thompson Hall is an artist working out of ActionSpace in London. In 2022, he was the first artist-in-residence at Autograph, resulting in a public billboard display of his paintings on Autograph's exterior on Rivington Place in London. Simone Kennedy MRSS received her PhD in Visual Arts from the University of South Australia (2015) and recent achievements include being a finalist for the Mosman Art Prize NSW 2022, and visiting a.i.r. at the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations. In 2023, she was selected for the Royal Society of Sculptors summer show, “The Shape of Life”.

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#### Websites and socials

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#MakingTogether #ArtEtAl



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GALLERY

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