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Image by Achieng Oneko, 20



Young Creative Awards  
Nottingham

who's this?...ART BY AONEKO

# YOUNG CREATIVES NOTTINGHAM 2024

 AFFINITY





# WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2024 Young Creative Awards.

It is a momentous year for us. We are excited to be back at the Nottingham Playhouse for the first time since 2019. We have had some great years of celebrating Nottingham's young creatives since then, including the lockdown years, but this year is special as we are able to get back together for an in person event.

Thank you to Notts TV who broadcast annual Young Creative Awards specials, when we were unable to come together. I hope to see more of the young creatives on Notts TV in the future.

I am excited to see this year's shortlisted entries. The quality of the work has once again been very high, providing yet more evidence that Nottingham's young people are imaginative, creative and talented. I personally congratulate and thank them all for taking part.

I am thrilled that our special guest is Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, to share with us the inspirational story of her talented musical family. Our event is kicked off and hosted by television journalist Geeta Pendse.

Thank you to everyone who makes these awards possible. To our sponsors who provide valuable finance and skills and to all of our partners who work behind the scenes of the competition for the exhibition, workshops, showcases and activities which take place around it.

Can I also thank all of the teachers, staff, friends, mentors, parents, carers and everyone who supports our creative young people, particularly in encouraging them to

enter these awards. Importantly, there are many who keep creative and cultural activities going for our young people at a time when creative education is being devalued and local councils are cutting ALL their funding to cultural activities.

Nottingham is a cultural and a creative city. Our assets are our young people. Our future is with them and our creative industries. The creative skills that young people have are a value and a benefit to so many more businesses and economic sectors. We will work to keep it that way.

Enjoy your evening and enjoy this brochure. It bursts with great things.

**Nigel Cooke**

**Chair, Young Creatives Nottingham**





# INSPIRING, SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING YOUNG CREATIVE TALENT

The Young Creative Awards has been inspiring, supporting and celebrating young creative talent in Nottingham for 16 years. We have received nearly 6,000 entries and presented more than 400 awards.

Run by Young Creatives Nottingham (registered charity number 1168804) and supported by a brilliant network of partners and sponsors, the Young Creative Awards is open to anyone aged 11 to 24 who lives, studies or works in Nottingham. The Awards champion creativity, celebrating achievements across 10 categories: Animation & Digital Media, Creative Writing, Dance, Design & Architecture, Fashion & Textiles, Film, Graphic Design, Music, Photography and Visual Arts. This year over 300 young people entered the Young Creative Awards.

Past winners include successful musicians Rob Green and Philip George, writer and performer Bridie Squires, embroidery designer Liss Cooke,

movement artist. Jamal Sterrett Phoenix, social media star R-J Tulloch, photographer Lamar Francois and award-winning theatre designer Nikki Charlesworth. YCA winners are making a positive impact across the creative industries: setting up their own businesses, developing innovative projects and events, and bringing their skills, experience and creativity to benefit a wide range of organisations, companies and communities.

YCA winners are awarded prizes, promotion and professional development opportunities. It is our aim to provide recognition, encouragement and support for young creatives, as well as paid employment and commission opportunities. We also strive to deliver free sessions for education, training and participation (including masterclasses, workshops and exhibitions) to inspire the next generation of Nottingham young creatives.

[To find out more go to youngcreativeawards.org](https://www.youngcreativeawards.org)



Marla Harker-Gill, 17



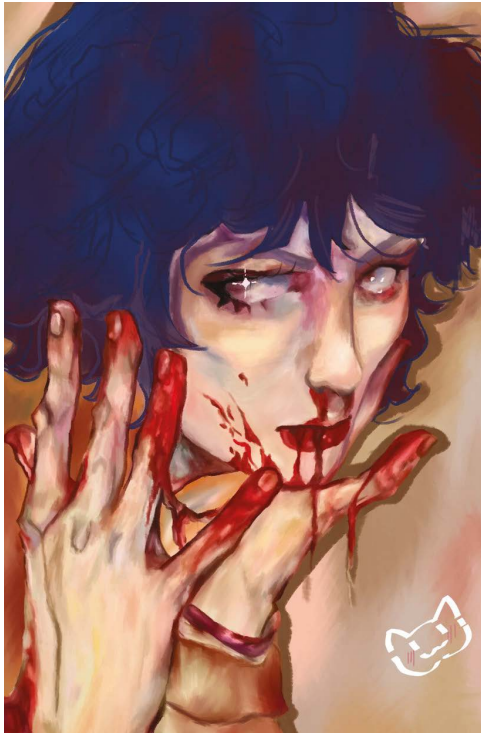
Akhifesh Veimurugan Harishkumar, 19

Photography by Rae Dowling, 21



Young Creative Awards 2024

# FINALISTS



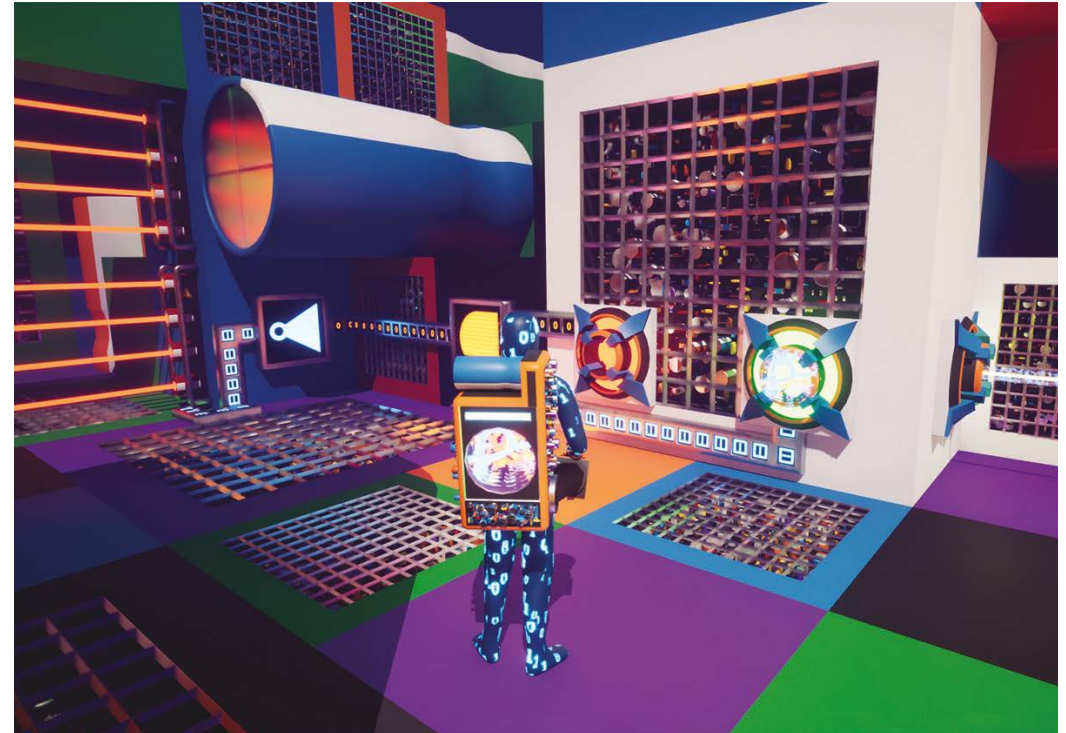
## ▲ Laraiba Abbas Ali Shah, 13

The judges felt this digital artwork was a highly accomplished piece showing good use of digital painting techniques. The artwork also demonstrated excellent understanding of colour theory and was commended for its realistic flesh tones. Overall a well executed and evocative entry. Well done!



## ▲ Tin Yu Chow, 20

The judges appreciated the quirky aesthetics of this piece. The animated sections worked well and the accompanying music really enhanced the watching experience. All elements flowed well, although it was felt that some more hand drawn animated elements would have enhanced the more straightforward video content, particularly at the end of the piece. Overall an excellent piece of work.



## ▲ Ethan Marle, 19

The judges unanimously felt that this game idea had both an excellent concept and was well executed throughout. The judges appreciated the amount of effort that has been put into creating this entry: from animated segments, to full gameplay sections, the attention to detail is stunning. They particularly liked the news broadcaster elements in the animated sections and the really well constructed puzzle-based gameplay elements. All judges commented positively on the aesthetic elements of the game and animation elements and a special mention has to be made of the well-recorded voice overs. A fantastic entry.



# CREATIVE WRITING

**Judges:** Andrew Tucker (Young Creatives Nottingham), Edwina FitzHugh (Potter Clarkson), William Ivory (Writer), Paty Bennett (Nottingham City of Literature)

**Sponsor:**  Potter Clarkson

## ► Anya Bansal, 15 - 'A Series of Firsts'

Skilfully weaving the past into the present, Anya's sincere and vivid story charts her grandfather's journey from Bombay to Naples to Nottingham. This is an assured piece of writing - sensitive story-crafting from an exciting young writer.

'No passport, no visa, no money. When consulted, his family were very supportive; however, he was still battling with a blizzard of nerves and confusion.'

## ► Gabrielle Smith-Strachan, 15 - 'Tea Time'

Finding the meaning within household objects, awash with arresting images, the judges found Gabrielle's poem substantial and rewarding. A truly moving poem.

'The plates have started to pile up, Ever since she had that heart attack, She's never been the same, I can only watch and wait for her to finally eat again'



'The steady man swayed back and forth on his soothing chair, gazing up towards the midnight blackness above. It was an old friend whom he had known since birth, returning old Jeremy Parrant's familiar stare with an icy glimpse of cosmic indifference.'

## ► Elliot Beal, 15 - 'Our Everlasting pit'

Elliot's captivating story puts the reader on existential tenterhooks using prose that's starry-eyed and surreal. The judges were impressed by Elliot's unique style, and we can't wait to see where it develops now.

All sympathy I had previously established was gone, for she must have brought her misfortune upon herself. Why else would she have been cast into the streets, to fend for herself? 'I whispered one word into the silence, my breath steaming up my face like smoke. "Witch."

## ◀ Lily Horsfall, 17 - 'The Girl With The Crimson Hair'

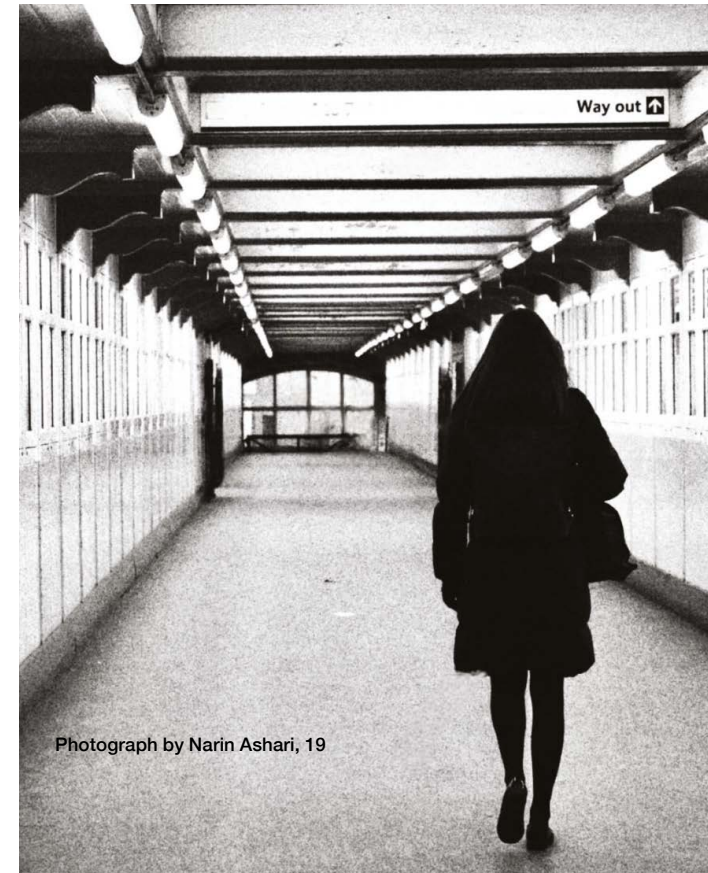
This is goosebump-raising Gothic storytelling - well-paced, stirring and startling. In developing her characters with such confidence, Lily has written a piece of work of which to be proud.

## ► Lisa McArthur, 16 - 'Ravena'

Lisa's story brings a futuristic chase to life with riveting, precise use of language. A fabulous example of world-building - and an absolute page-turner to boot.

"Do you understand how impudent you're being?" the head snapped. "Do you have no respect for your seniors at all, Blackwood?"

"Well..." he could feel anger building behind his words. "Maybe I would if they didn't all act like bloodthirsty animals."



Photograph by Narin Ashari, 19



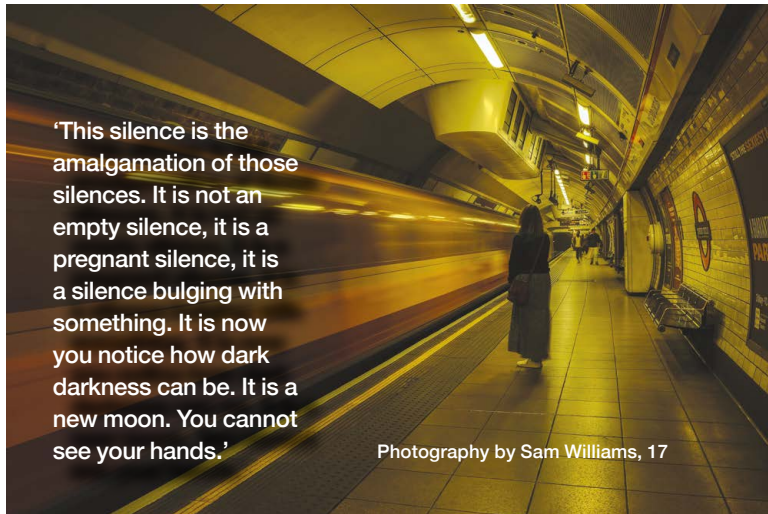
► **Maia Redgate, 17 -  
'Why Don't You See Me'**

Cobblestones, apothecaries and a complaining cat - Maia's fantastic story, which concerns a young woman who suddenly becomes invisible, is magical and tongue-in-cheek. It's not easy to have the judges so engrossed - we need to know what happens next!

'Chairs scraped against the wooden floor as the final stragglers sat down, the unnerving screech being the only sound in the room. Everyone held their breath. Then...footsteps.'

► **Oluwatosin Eburnola, 22 -  
'4.13 a.m.'**

In 4.13 a.m, a remarkable second-person view pulls the reader inescapably into a story of wide-eyed insomnia. Oluwatosin writes with a sense of unshakeable purpose and command, and this is a remarkable piece from a future professional.



'This silence is the amalgamation of those silences. It is not an empty silence, it is a pregnant silence, it is a silence bulging with something. It is now you notice how dark darkness can be. It is a new moon. You cannot see your hands.'

Photography by Sam Williams, 17

► **Georgia Hamblett, 23 -  
'The Making of Merrier Men'**

Comical, off-the-wall, empathetic and reflective - it takes real talent to be all these things at once. Georgia's tale of war-time immigration, set against the turbulence of school life, is a bravura effort from a powerful new voice.

'Oh fabulous! A full house! It will be just like home!  
'Just like home,' Andriy repeated.  
He looked at the bouquet of flowers, fresh, on the windowsill.  
Maybe this time, things would get brighter before they began to wilt.'

Portrait by Tilly Jones, 20



'I love my plain and I love my covered, But the colours are so beautiful and so am I, so why not splash some colour onto my paper skin until I am flushed crimson And no-one knows it's me?'

▲ **Rosie Rogers, 21 -  
'Paper Skin'**

This affecting poem, in which identities are painted over and reimagined, gave several strong tugs on the judges' heartstrings. We've written down several quotes to remember - and that's a sign that Rosie has done incredible work here.



# DANCE

**Judges:** Jessica Ashley (FABRIC), Jamaal O'Driscoll (O'Driscoll Collective/ FABRIC), David Stewart OBE (Deputy Lieutenant, Nottinghamshire)

**Sponsor:** **FABRIC**



## ◀ Lily Reyes, 14 and Maia Dajas-Portillo, 16, supported by Samuel Onwuteaka, 18 - "Celebrat3"

Lily and Maia chose to dance to the song Baiana as a celebration. The Baianas originate in Brazil and were the descendants of slaves who eventually bought their freedom. They honour their tradition of a melting pot of cultures and African heritage through music and dance. Lily and Maia brought their own interpretation of their richly mixed heritage and friendship to the piece, inspired by their time together on the Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) programme, creating a dance that is upbeat, celebratory and carefree, full of joy, togetherness and hope for the future.

## ▶ Flora Hawker-French, 17 and Samuel Onwuteaka, 18 - "Rhythm"

Rhythm' is a piece of work about the interaction between music and movement. Flora and Samuel were heavily inspired by a performance they saw by Ailey 2 which used deep ritualistic music that is strongly linked to the fierce choreography. They wanted to pursue a similar idea of letting the rhythm, textures and instruments of the music dictate the movement; as if they are echoes of the accompaniment. The judges were impressed by Flora and Samuel's technical performance ability as well as their choreographic skills and creative choices. It was also noted how well Flora and Samuel performed as a duet.



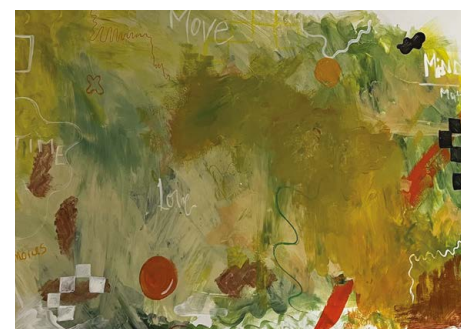
## ▲ Florrie Booth, 13 and Mylee-Anais Walker, 14

Inspired by their music and freestyle dance videos, Florrie and Mylee-Anais demonstrated good performance skills in their piece. Their work is energetic and flows nicely with the music, incorporating street dance moves. The judges reflected on Florrie and Mylee-Anais' teamwork and could see that a great deal of rehearsal had gone into their work.



## ▲ Olivia Richardson-Purdy, 12 - "Barbie"

Olivia's submission for YCA was a character dance piece, which the judges thought was a great example of the genre. Using the character of Barbie as a starting point, Olivia used this image as a vehicle to question perfection and ultimately celebrate uniqueness. The judges commended Olivia's use of choreography to tell a story and thought that their submission was emotive and brave.



## ▲ Hannah Alvey, 24 - "Daydreaming"

Based on a series of abstract paintings, Daydreaming is an exploration into dance improvisation and escapism. Hannah developed a series of improvised solos to build the work and devised the movement material around moving more freely and letting go of fixed choreographic structures. The judges found Hannah's entry to be a good example of dance improvisation and could see the journey Hannah had taken to devise the work.



## ▲ Anastasia Roccioletti, 18

Anastasia demonstrated a clear passion and commitment to her dance development through her YCA entry. The judges were impressed with how much dance activity Anastasia is part of across the city and it was clear that Anastasia works incredibly hard to hone her dance skills in areas such as performance, choreography and dance teaching.



# DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

**Judges:** Alex Lipinski (maber), Ben Viney (Serif), Mariana Paschidi (maber), Rona Pettigrew (maber), Ruzha Sirmanova (maber)

**Sponsor:**



## ▲ Dylan Spence, 12

The judging panel felt that Dylan's entry showed a level of design, detail and sensitivity that they would expect in entries from much older people. The different techniques used show great skill, care and resourcefulness. The themes explored are hugely relevant in the current climate crisis both through the use of recycled materials and the expression of the imaginary dystopian future in which Dylan sees the machine and its owner.

## ► Jasmine Walton, 18

The judges felt that Jasmine's lamp was carefully constructed showing a good understanding of the materials used. A well presented piece.



## ▲ Alyssa Meadows, 18

Alyssa's entry was well crafted and based on a creative and original idea. The judges felt that the teapot designs showed a sound understanding of ceramic techniques which resulted in a witty and well-executed tea set.



## ▲ Maia Noglik, 21

Maia's work - a design for an archaeological centre in Bath - showed consideration towards materiality and the associated sustainability with a sensitive and selective use of concrete as part of a cooling strategy with timber for the majority of the built structure.



## ▲ Joshua Margerison-Robarts, 19

The judges loved the amount of hard work Joshua had committed to these incredibly well executed costume accessories. The mixture of 3D artefacts, sketching and illustration all helped to contextualise the visual storytelling.



## ▲ Jessica Nagle, 23

The judges loved the innovative approach used in the creation of this lamp and its shades/reflector. The re-use of waste products (in this case, eggshells) very much aligns with current topics surrounding circular economy and adaptive re-use.



## ▲ Andrea Mayumi Suenaga Becerra, 21

The judges were captivated by the beautifully curated imagery in this submission. Incredibly powerful visual communication showing great composition incorporating plan form, axonometric and elevational information.



# FASHION & TEXTILES

Judges: Katie Freeman (Nottingham College),  
Rosie Heath (NTU), Liss Cooke (Hand & Lock)

Sponsor:  NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE



## ▲ Isobell Shephard, 17

The judges found Isobell's concept really interesting and liked how she had linked it to her family. The presentation of Isobell's work was strong and each portfolio page was consistent in quality and content. The final garment demonstrated a contemporary aesthetic and the technical elements of the garment were executed well.



## ▲ Ruby Stretton-Clarke, 18

Ruby has based her submission on raising awareness about dyslexia. Through this project Ruby has highlighted parts of dyslexia that are uncommon, successfully communicating this story through her research and final design. The judges were impressed by Ruby's presentation of her moodboard and the images selected to visually represent her ideas.



## ▲ Eamon Samandari, 19

Eamon's work really showed his personality. The magazine looked striking and informative - the judges felt the design could represent a brand or a new vision for Grazia magazine, with a modern twist. Presentation features that stood out were the sliced image and use of yellow highlights.



## ▲ Kate Magro, 20

The judges liked Kate's quirky idea - a textile sculpture of a puffin - and effective use of materials and techniques. Although the concept was unusual, the final product worked well in a commercial space as the colours matched the store well.

## ◀ Marla Harker-Gill, 17

The judges felt that Marla executed the textiles on her skirt well. The refined final design showcased Marla's ability to explore, experiment but then select which techniques would work best on the final skirt which showed strong design development skills. The photoshoot showcasing the final garment was well styled demonstrating Marla's strength in visual fashion presentation.



## ▲ Emma Robertson, 18

Emma used a technique that was innovative which none of the judges had seen before. The class bodice was well executed, intricate and innovative. The portfolio pages demonstrated the process well and what inspired Emma to create the final piece.



## ▲ Freya Quinton, 20

The judges thought that Freya translated her concept and ideas through to the final garment well. Freya had considered various textile techniques, deciding which techniques worked the best for her final design. The judges were impressed with how Freya had taken a brutal concept and turned this into a commercial and wearable garment by carefully considering the target market.



## ▲ Amandine Lucas, 22

Amandine's work was visually well executed and professional. The design process demonstrated how materials, dying, sustainability and finishing had been well considered. The judges felt that the final product could be sold in a high end homeware store.







► **Matt Gleave, 18 - "Tik Tok Brain"**

Matt's video installation was short but very impactful. The judges particularly liked the clever use of effects, especially the fire burning out to black smoke. The video has a clear message and was powerfully executed with the voice and music gradually getting louder to create a disturbed feeling. A really talented creative.



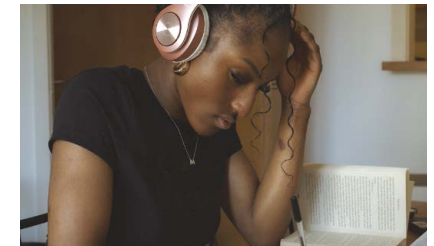
▲ **Joe Callow, 17 - "There is a light that never goes out"**

The judges loved Joe's fantastic use of location shots and smooth editing. The music video has a teen rom-com style with a strong story structure and character development. The judges remarked on the thoughtful framing along with the variation of shots evidencing how well considered the entire creative process was. The video packs in a lot and it was impressive that it was shot in 1 day. A very talented filmmaker with an exciting future ahead of him. Would love to see more of his work.



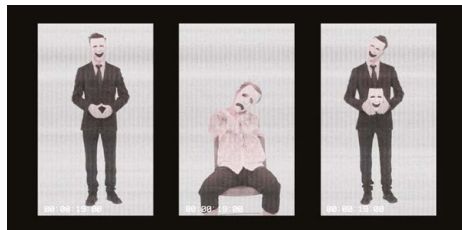
▲ **Akhilesh Velmurugan Harishkumar, 19 - "Dreamer"**

Akhilesh's film was something completely different and the judges praised the slick camera work and extremely impressive use of special effects. The camera angles and clever transitions made this film stand out, especially the VFX on the bullet scene. The camera angles are impressive and the strong protagonist made this a very intentional film. The story develops well and the SCI-FI genre is very considered. A visually creative talent in the making.



▲ **Sally Birago, 20 - "Its Not It Seems"**

Sally's film about the struggles at university really stood out to all the judges. It was superbly thought out, timely and honest. The judges felt it was very emotive and moving with flawless framing throughout. Every shot was immaculate and the editing seamless. Sally has her own unique style which is clear to see within the opening moments of the film. The technique of conveying conflicted emotions is extremely clever and Sally does this effortlessly. Sally is extremely talented and the judges are excited for her future as a creative - she is one to watch for sure.



▲ **Kristian Smith, 18 - "The Mask"**

This video installation impressed the judges on many levels. The theme of masking autism is very personal to the filmmaker and this was felt by the judges. The Mask is a very powerful video, but sinister and scary in parts, with elements of horror. Kristian's piece showcased a strong sense of feeling due to it being a deeply personal expression. It's high quality throughout with great use of colour, sound and special effects. The judges are excited to see what Kristian will do next.



▲ **Heath Lennox, 17 - Sequel to M3GAN**

Heath's horror takes awhile to get into with perhaps too much text and explanation at the start. However when the film does begin, the judges were extremely impressed by the polarising effect and use of colour. Heath has a natural flare of building up tension. The judges wanted to see more of her filming style.



▲ **Max Williams, 20 - "The Haunting at the Old House"**

All judges commented on the impeccable use of sound, especially the natural sound (birds, chopping vegetables etc). The judges were extremely impressed by Max's ability of context setting; he builds tension and sets an eerie tone effortlessly. The framing of every shot and use of colour is criticism-proof. There was also fantastic use of lighting in particular the colour grading. The use of low lighting was successfully executed and praised by judges. There continuity and story development was also strong - Max is an all round talented filmmaker.



▲ **Louis Leivers, 21 & Albert Natan, 23 - "Ext. Empty Field"**

The judges were extremely impressed by the poetic video highlighting the cost of living crisis. Every shot was perfectly framed and in-focus accompanied by flawless sound. The concept was very original and Louis delivered this with confidence. The judges could tell the project was well thought out from production to post and the editing transitioning from scene to scene was very smooth. Louis is a remarkable talent.



# GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Judges:** Sam Bowles (STENCIL), Ben Viney (Serif), Maëlle Daub (Confetti), Selma Delic (PKF Smith Cooper), Ariana Marrin-Cleal (STENCIL)

**Sponsor:** **STENCIL**



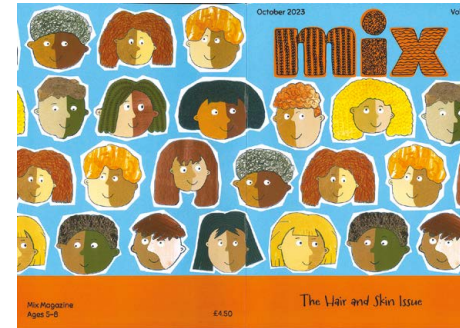
▲ **Desmia Gonzalez-Brown, 15**

This confident, Manga-influenced illustration employs a nice composition. The judges liked the story-telling element and made particular reference to how light, lighting effects and the background detail add great depth to the artwork.



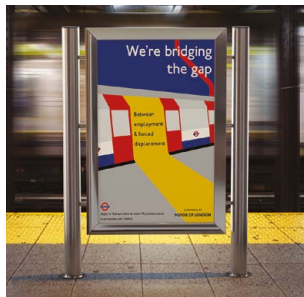
▲ **Chloe Duck, 15**

Chloe's illustration of a hyena achieves an impressive level of realism. The judges particularly appreciated the careful consideration to the line work within the illustration and the technical proficiency shown within the shading.



▲ **Imogen Gray, 22**

Imogen's project is underpinned by a strong concept, and the judges appreciated the amount of work she produced for her entry. The characters developed for this piece were particularly well-received, showcasing Imogen's style and attention to detail.



▲ **Lucy Hales, 18**

Lucy's careful consideration of her audience and the brand development that followed was integral to producing this strong piece of work. Judges agreed that a lot of thought has gone into the piece, and were impressed with the strength of the final illustrated poster.



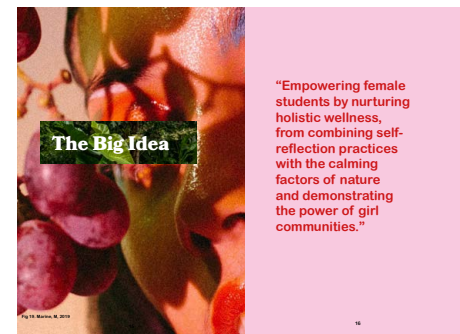
▲ **Lauren Quinn, 17**

Taking inspiration from the Pop Art movement, Lauren produced a detailed and well-considered illustration. The high-quality execution of shading adds depth and dimension to the piece. The judges agreed the desired style was well captured and technically impressive, taking a simple item (in this case a single boot) and developing a richly layered artwork.



▲ **Noah Crew, 18**

As part of his project, Noah created a cohesive set of posters in response to the brief. The artwork built on Icelandic symbolism and reflected a well thought-out process. The judges particularly appreciated the chosen imagery, and the way in which they are presented.



▲ **Anna Hardy, 20**

The judges were impressed with Anna's magazine concept. It is a brave and hard-hitting entry, with a strong, considered message behind it – and represents an undeniable amount of work. This piece presents a high-level of creativity and demonstrates a fresh approach to editorial design.



▲ **James Ennin, 20**

A complex and mutating artwork, the judges were impressed by James' ambition and commitment to this piece. He has delivered strong styling with intelligent adjustments between perspectives. The seamless ease in which the colours present mask the attention to detail in this illustration and the hard work it will have taken to complete it.



**Judges:** Claire Dyer, Matt Appleyard, Tony Lovell, Belinda Burnard, Nathan Gregory, Ben Thompson, Hannah Crawford, Cindy Lin, Kong Chan (Nottingham Music Service), Joe Patten (DHP Group), Tommy Farnyard (The Hustle Collective)



◀ **Finn Perrey, 11**

Finn's track 'Brutality' is filled with potential, with strong musical elements showing creativity and vision. A great effort for someone so young!



▶ **Isaac Marette, 12**

Isaac has created an intricately composed thrash metal track. The judges agreed it ticks all the boxes you'd expect – it's loud, fast and busy. An intense and impressive experience.

▼ **Hannah McCormack, 15 "Isolated"**

Singer-songwriter Hannah's song is a beautiful snapshot of life in lockdown. Showing an honesty in the lyrics, a relatability, simply accompanied by a single guitar.



"Isolated" – Lyrics

Remember, not long ago  
 We lost sight of all we know.  
 Under the skies of blue,  
 Came that bittersweet year of youth.  
 No-one had ever seen the likes  
 Of a world locked up in fright,  
 And though everyone was the same  
 We'd never felt so separated.  
 The rainbows were out in hordes,  
 But what really struck a chord  
 Was how the world could feel so small  
 When we were locked within our own  
 four walls.  
 Isolated  
 Frustrated  
 Contaminated  
 Isolated

▶ **Cara Flynn, 17**

Beautifully written lyrics expertly matched to the musical content. The acoustic guitar is full of personality but does not overpower Cara's gorgeous voice, which floats above the rest of the sound. Brief piano interjections add colour to the vocals and guitar partnership, and the drums and vocal harmonies enter at just the right time to keep us wanting more.

(section of) Lyrics to  
 'The golden days' by Cara Flynn

Carefree laughter,  
 Happy ever after, then  
 Now I just want to see your face  
 again

The world seemed so small when  
 I wasn't tall enough  
 To see just how big it was

Those were the golden days  
 And that was the golden age  
 Covered in golden rays, as if  
 they were painted over with  
 blissful ignorance, oh how I miss  
 The golden days



▶ **Aminata Kanneh-Mason, 18**

Energetic, elegant and skilfully executed, showing a mastery of the classical genre; adherence to sonata form, musicality and expression, technical proficiency and artistic integrity. The judges loved the delicate almost improvisational compositional approach, and could have assumed this was composed by Mozart himself.



▼ **Dan Ottewell, 17**

Singer-songwriter Dan shows an ability to evoke a powerful emotional response through his unique voice and lyrical content, but it was from when the violin comes in that really got the judges hooked. The final minute is pure perfection.







► **Rachel Aryee-Brown, 17**

Rachel's score triumphs in reflecting and shaping the sentiment of the short film through delicate, intelligent arrangement and effective orchestration. She shows passion, emotional expression, musical knowledge, creativity, adaptability and attention to detail, and would make a promising film score composer.



▲ **Eleanor McGregor, 19**

A well-executed world of contrasting sounds, textures, tempos, sections, tension and release. A clear structure that doesn't let you get too comfortable and that keeps you engaged, and slightly - but not too - wonky.



▲ **Cali Green, 21 - "Waiting"**

The piano riff and silky horn samples are suggestive of 1940's jazz/high glamour, and contrast well with the grittier flows, which pertain to the mundanity and constraints which reality places on the artist. A well-executed lyrical placement, rhyming patterns, and rhythmic structure throughout.



▲ **George Nash, 23**

George's song 'Orange' is a masterclass on what can be done with just the guitar. Imaginative, compelling, dynamic, and carrying momentum with a layering of parts which continually keep textural interest.

▼ **Oscar Farrage, 20, Sofia Kellas, 21, Eris Papakonstantinou, 19, Lydia Bishop 20, Rob Harrison, 20**

The group Luna & the Lime Slices have produced a driving, well-constructed track, perfectly executed and with beautiful vocals. Changes in texture and timbre keep the listener engrossed. The judges loved the combination of expressive lively instruments and slightly understated vocals: perfection!







▲ **Eva Cook, 13**

Eva has entered this spectacular panoramic view of the Wadi Rum desert in Jordan, showcasing the sheer range of textures in the desert landscape, in her words looking “almost like something like Mars”. She has used the panoramic mode of her iPhone and edited this to enhance the sunset colours and tones. The judges were very impressed with the quality of this image and composition.



▲ **Lylah Pike, 13**

Lylah has produced a series of macro photographs exploring the behaviour of wildlife at some local nature reserves, sharing her love for the natural world. These images would have needed great care to have been taken - not just behind the camera, but also in how Lylah approached the wildlife to avoid disturbing their habitats - which should be recognised.



▲ **Inaya Ali, 14**

Inaya has taken a very visually striking image of a train leaving a subway station in Switzerland, using long exposure techniques. The judges felt her choice of high contrast edit really adds to the atmosphere of this and communicates the energy of the train leaving the platform.



▲ **Mackenzie Lucas, 15**

Mackenzie shows some very clever and creative editing techniques in his image of a skull - taking multiple images of one subject at different scales and then montaging them together to reconstruct the subject as a whole and this is an effective piece of creative expression.



◀ **Sam Williams, 17**

Sam's work shows a great level of imagination and experimentation with deliberate camera/zoom movements to really convey the feeling of being in a busy city like London. The judges were particularly impressed with the technical execution of this, using deliberate movements during the exposure takes a lot of forethought and practice to do; in effect combining multiple images into one.



▲ **Kathleen Kirwan, 17**

The judges were struck by Kathleen's well-produced series of images and written submission. “Whatever has taken place here, it is being taken seriously... Whatever they have seen, it has changed them.” Very strong execution of a narrative that leads the viewer into questions.



▲ **Alex Meakin, 18**

Alex has photographed her father under lighting that delicately embraces the shoulders to beautifully reflect the concept of men being encouraged to “man up”, particularly after bereavement when they should be comforted.



▲ **Ruby Vernon, 18**

Inspired by the works of French writer and photographer, Claude Cahun, Ruby has produced their own interpretation of challenging gender stereotypes with these well composed and considered portraits.



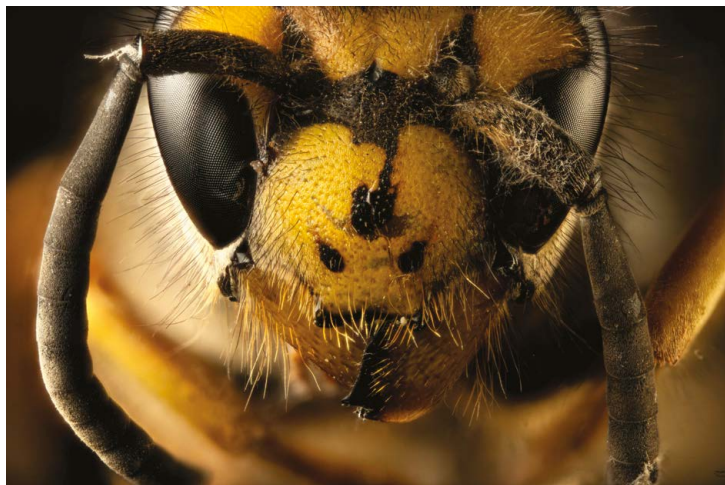


◀ **Narin Ashari, 19**

Captivating images that have been thoughtfully composed to invite inquiry. The judges agreed that the starkness of the figure and use of black and white was very different to many other entries.

▶ **Harvey Tomlinson, 21**

Incredible images that take macro to the max! Harvey's outcomes are otherworldly and bring the viewer up close. The judges were very impressed knowing the techniques and time these images would have taken to create.



◀ **Rae Dowling, 21**

Stunningly beautiful images which are highly skilled in both technical creation and direction. Rae's photographs provide a fairytale narrative quality that is enduring.



◀ **Finn Hanley, 19**

Finn has captured the treacherous struggle of travelling by foot in wet conditions and transformed it into a compelling cinematic and beautiful street photograph that you cannot look away from. Capturing the unplanned moment has been handled with great photographic skill and creating a set of three equally striking images is worthy of celebration.





▲ Adelle Iversen, 14

Impressive. The judges particularly enjoyed connections made to the ibex in both eastern and western cultures and the thoughtful reflection on the symbolism of strength and power. Skill in sculpting is evident, using the air-dried clay, including references to traditional 3D sculpting techniques. Well researched and well articulated.



▲ Lola Yau, 14 – “I Finally See The Light”

The judges appreciated the connection to Nottingham, showing awareness and involvement in what is happening in the city which is very promising. There is depth in the writing and thoughtful imagery of the sun and its followers. Impressed by exploration of abstraction and the considered choice of modelling paste with iridescent paint to create a relief, 3D quality to the work.



▲ Violet Wood, 17

The judges commented on the awareness Violet had of the unique subject and context of digital art, virtual reality and associated technologies, and how she chose to channel this into her artwork. The digital methodology wasn't used to try and mimic analogue artforms, but was embraced and used in a way that was specific to the artist's chosen medium, therefore prompting thought and consideration from the viewer. This demonstrates a strong awareness by Violet of how her art sits within broader contexts.



▲ Achieng Oneko, 20

Through her exploration into digital media, Achieng shares her beautiful perspective of her culture and personal journey. The judges particularly loved her colour palettes and layered textures, forming a distinctive style across both pieces. Achieng's use of humour adds a playful element to the work.



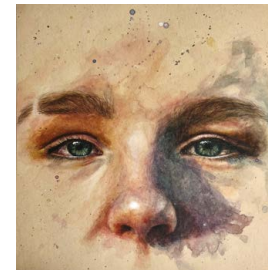
▲ Katie Cook, 18

The judges were impressed by Katie's skilled use of paint, but also the way she is finding her own style and identity through this method. They appreciated the approach to make a diptych and tell a story across two images, prompting the viewer to apply meaning, and maybe a narrative to what is occurring between the images. A sense of emotion has been captured and portrayed very successfully.



▲ Namaa Raof, 18

The judges were impressed with the quality in the execution of the drawing and how Namaa chose to situate it upon a map. This provided historical and geographical context to the life of the artist's subject – her grandad. The judges liked the relationship between the lines on the map and the skin, hair and glasses and how the drawing both integrated and traversed borders.



▲ Tilly Jones, 20

The artworks showcase an impressive level of technical skills and understanding of colour, particularly in the spectrum of hues that she has used to create the skin tones. The deliberate decision to draw and paint partial portraits adds intrigue and an ethereal tone to Tilly's pieces.



▲ Isobelle Farrar, 23

The judges were blown away by Isobelle's skilful execution of the tapestry, which explores the tale of Greek hero Meleager. They thoroughly enjoyed the narrative and the artist's interpretation. The stitching appears expressive and fluid, which adds an unconventional charm to this exciting piece.





# CREATIVE SOFTWARE REDEFINED

[affinity.serif.com](http://affinity.serif.com)



Photograph by Eva Cook, 13

## CAN YOU HELP YOUNG CREATIVES IN NOTTINGHAM?

At the heart of the annual Young Creative Awards is Young Creatives Nottingham, a registered charity (number 1168804).

It is the aim of Young Creatives Nottingham to nurture and support the next generation of writers, musicians, designers, actors, architects, artists and entrepreneurs; helping young people to find ways into education, training and employment; and feeding the creative minds needed to help our communities flourish.

As well as organising the annual YCAs, Young Creatives Nottingham is working with local schools to inspire creativity in young people. We are also investing in and supporting the careers of young creative practitioners, by

working with them to create workshop programmes and to include them in events.

To do any of this we are reliant on the generosity and support of our sponsors and donors and the time and energy of volunteers – a growing community of magnificent individuals and organisations committed to investing in creativity and young people.

If you would like to find out more about how you can join this community, and help to inspire, celebrate and support the next generation Nottingham creatives, then please get in touch by emailing [info@youngcreativeawards.org](mailto:info@youngcreativeawards.org)

**Thank you**



# WORKSHOPS



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Each year we offer opportunities for our Young Creative Network to engage with and learn from creative professionals. This helps provide that vital link between academia and the world of work for practitioners, whilst also encouraging and supporting young people participating to further develop their creative skills.

So far this year, enabled by support from Arts Council England:

Lamar Francois, former YCA winner and founder of Pictured by Lamar, ran a series of photography workshops in Nottingham city centre, sharing his tips on capturing and editing urban images. This was followed by an outdoor exhibition in the centre of the city in April, featuring images taken by six of the student participants, with support

from It's in Nottingham – the city's business improvement district.

Nikki Charlesworth ran a series of accessible, engaging puppet-making and animation workshops with 24 selected students at Nottingham College. Nikki also ran an engaging animation workshop with Himmah Youth Group.

Writer/performer Bridie Squires ran a series of WORDPLAY workshops with students from Bluecoat Aspley academy, exploring the power of language and performance.

Liss Cooke of Hand and Lock Embroidery and former YCA winner ran a fashion and textiles workshop for 13 youth group members at Clifton NG11 Foodbank.



Photograph of Fashion and Textiles workshop at Clifton NG11 Foodbank



Photograph by Lamar Francois



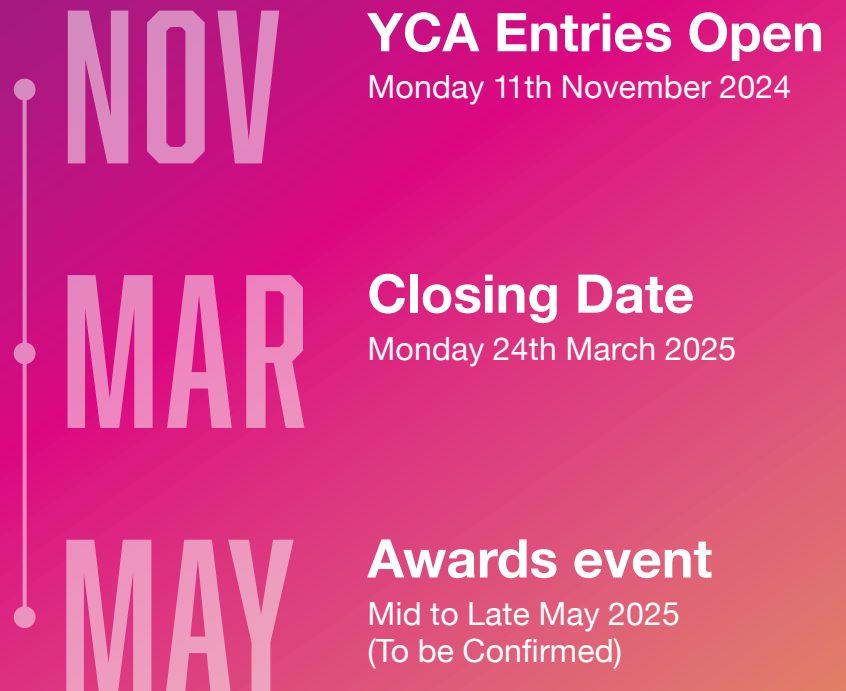
# WHERE ENTRIES CAME FROM THIS YEAR

This year, we were delighted to see a wide spread of entries from the below schools, colleges and universities across Nottingham Urban Area. A big thank you to all educators, teachers, lecturers, parents and guardians for supporting and encouraging young creatives to enter the awards.

- Alderman White School
- Arnold Hill Academy
- Bilborough College
- Bluecoat Academy
- Carlton Academy
- Carlton le Willows Academy
- Christ The King Catholic Voluntary Academy
- City College Nottingham
- Confetti
- Djanogly City Academy
- Fernwood School (The)
- George Spencer Academy
- Hollygirt School
- Nottingham Academy
- Nottingham College
- Nottingham Free School
- Nottingham High School
- Nottingham Trent University
- The Nottingham Emmanuel School
- The Redhill Academy
- The Trinity Catholic School
- The West Bridgford School
- University of Nottingham

# YCA 2025 TIMELINE

To support planning for entering the awards next year, we're delighted to share our ambitions for the 2025 awards timeline:

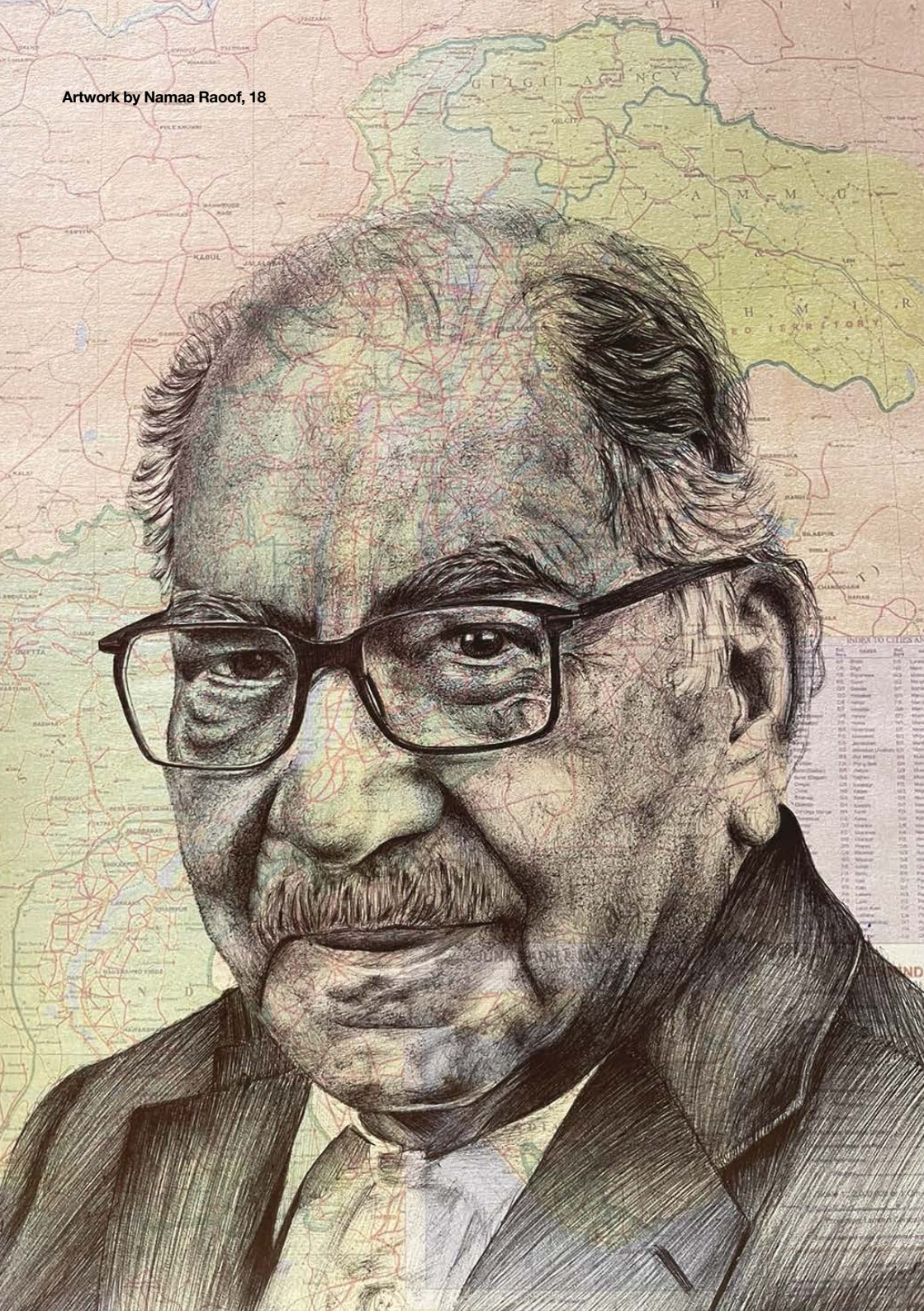


Please look out for further information and updates on Facebook and Instagram

@ycreativesnottm or visit [youngcreativeawards.org](https://www.youngcreativeawards.org)



Artwork by Namaa Raoof, 18



## Young Creative Awards Nottingham

### Young Creatives Nottingham Board of Trustees

Jim Brown, Ian Burton, Nigel Cooke (Chair), Addie Kenogbon, Rohan Patel, Andrew Tucker, Sharon Walia, Kate Wand

### The board of Trustees would like to extend their sincere thanks to:

#### YCA Patrons:

Wolfgang Buttress, Rob Green, Jamal Sterrett Phoenix, Nina Smith

#### YCA Operations Group:

Jess Ashley (FABRIC), Claire Dyer (Nottingham Music Hub), Mandi Chandler (Nottingham College), Dan Doughty (Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies), Rachel Feneley (Lakeside Arts), Helen Garrigan (Nottingham Trent University), Katie Freeman (Nottingham College), Michelle Rensler (Nottingham College), Alexandra Raynor (Nottingham College), Alex Lipinski (Maber), Cathy Mahmood (ChalleNGe), Ash Balwin (ChalleNGe)

#### YCN Project Co-Ordinator:

Alice Veldtman

#### Brochure Design:

STENCIL

#### Accountancy:

Audra Wynter, Wyntax Consultancy Services

Young Creatives Nottingham is a registered charity number 1168804.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The Young Creative Awards is only possible because of the generosity and hard work of our incredible sponsors and partners. We would like to say a HUGE thank you to the following organisations whose support for young creatives in Nottingham is so important:

## Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies

Specialist creative technology education provider, delivering future-driven courses to support graduates into careers in music, gaming, TV, film, live events, graphic design and more.  
[confetti.ac.uk](http://confetti.ac.uk)

## FABRIC

FABRIC is a strategic dance development organisation based in the Midlands with sites in Birmingham and Nottingham. FABRIC is created from the formal merger of DanceXchange and Dance4, bringing together over 60 years of combined experience.  
[fabric.dance](http://fabric.dance)

## It's in Nottingham

Nottingham's central hub for news, information and events. Whether you are visiting or a resident of our fine city, It's in Nottingham - brought to you by Nottingham BID - has all the inspiration you are looking for.  
[itsinnottingham.com](http://itsinnottingham.com)

## Left Lion

Nottingham's guide to the culture, art, music, food, sport and community of the city.  
[leftlion.co.uk](http://leftlion.co.uk)

## Lets Move Nottingham

Socially-engaged property investment management company which owns and manages a residential and commercial property portfolio locally.

## Maber

Award-winning architecture, interior and landscape design practice, aspiring to deliver great buildings for our clients and end users.  
[maber.co.uk](http://maber.co.uk)

## Nottingham College

Offering a comprehensive range of further and higher education training opportunities, including a wide range of expressive and innovative courses for those with a creative flair.  
[nottinghamcollege.ac.uk](http://nottinghamcollege.ac.uk)

## Nottingham Music Hub

Committed to broadening young people's access to music-making through life-changing programmes. Providing world class music education.  
[nottinghammusichub.org.uk](http://nottinghammusichub.org.uk)

## Potter Clarkson

A full-service intellectual property law firm with expertise in patents, trade marks, designs, litigation, licensing and consultancy.  
[potterclarkson.com](http://potterclarkson.com)

## Nottingham Trent University

With its internationally recognised School of Art & Design, NTU is one of the city's creative cornerstones. University of the Year 2019.  
[ntu.ac.uk](http://ntu.ac.uk)

## Serif

Nottingham-based software company behind the award-winning Affinity suite of professional creative applications which have been adopted by over two million users worldwide.  
[affinity.serif.com](http://affinity.serif.com)

## STENCIL

A vibrant and creative full service design agency, providing the best in creative and critical brand communications strategy and thinking.  
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## True Story

An independent creative agency for retailers, brands, businesses and organisations with a story to tell.  
[truestory.uk.com](http://truestory.uk.com)

## University of Nottingham

Home to the country's only entirely student-run theatre – Nottingham New Theatre – and the internationally recognised multi artform programme run by Lakeside Arts.  
[nottingham.ac.uk](http://nottingham.ac.uk)

We are also very grateful to the following organisations who have supported the work of Young Creatives Nottingham over the last 12-months: Arts Council England, Thomas Farr Charity, JN Derbyshire Trust.







**A purpose-led design agency, offering accelerated opportunities to the very best young creative talent.**

To see more work by the 2024 winners and finalists and to find out how to enter the 2025 Young Creative Awards go to:

[youngcreativeawards.org](http://youngcreativeawards.org)



**STENCIL** is a partner of Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies, NTU Business School, YCA and a Goldman Sachs SME Business of 2022







Young Creative Awards  
Nottingham



# I AM A CREATIVE



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