

pub.lic characters

Alex Billingham, Jaz O'Donohue Emily Scarrott, Ev Thresher, Dinosaur Kilby, Leah Hickey, Sophie Mackfall, Jaz Morrison. Curated by Lucy Grubb.

5 September 2025, 6-8PM

FREEHOUSE Studios, Birmingham

pub.lic characters explores the porosity of objects and the quiet choreography of what happens in the studio — fingertip touches, spatial jolts, dwelling gestures. Objects begin to slip, becoming a cast of characters in a loose pub-like gathering, echoing this space's past as *The Royal Oak Inn*. They lean, bounce, soak each other up — .lic(ing), licking. Their edges blur; they become public, porous, and orbital objects — constantly forming, foaming, circulating. Leaking into one another, becoming one another, relating, holding, refusing.

In a pub, a cast of characters are at the table. They are talking about *things*.
BLOBS:YEAH

FLUFF: WHAT ARE YOU ALL HAVIN?
GREY CLOTH: THERE WAS SO MANY CANCELLATIONS
PAINT: DID YOU SEE THE NEWS
CAN: YEAH YEAH
LINKS: *NODDING*
GREEN THING: HALF PINT, ANYBODY
LINKS: ITS BEEN CORNERED OFF
GREEN THING: HALF PINT
GREEN THING: I HAVE PUT US DOWN FOR KARAOKE
BLOBS: YEAH THING
PAINT: WHAT FLAVOUR?
BLUE: IT'S A BIT HOT
CAN: WHERE'S THE BATHROOM
BLUE: WHAAATTTTTTTTTTTT
GREY CLOTH: IT'S THE HUMIDITY, IT JUST FEELS STICKY
PAINT: YEAH YOU CAN'T SLEEP
FLUFF: YOU WANT A DOUBLE OR SINGLE
CAN: SINGLE YEAH
CAN: WHERE'S THE BATHROOM
PAINT: I'LL GET THE SAME
BLUE: IT'S DOWN THE CORRIDOR, TURN LEFT
LINKS: YEAH YEAH IT'S LEFT
GREY CLOTH: IT'S OVER THERE
FLUFF: I'LL HEAD OFF IN A BIT
A DRINK HAS SPLIT ON GREY CLOTH. EVERYTHING IS WET
WE NEED MORE TISSUES
UUURGGGGHHUUUUHHHHBHH
WHERE ARE YOU WE'RE AT THE PUB
WHAT BUS YOU ON 45
SAY WE ARE IN THE BACK
I'LL COME WITH TO THE TOILETS
ARE WE DOING THE QUIZ
SAY WE ARE IN THE BACK
DOES ANYBODY WANT CRISPS
WHAT FLAVOUR PICKLED ONION
BECAUSE I CAN TOTALLY DO THE PICTURE ROUND
AH LOVE PICKLED ONION
HOW MANY PEOPLE
LISTEN TO ME YEAH YOU DESERVE SOMEBODY SO MUCH BETTER
MY DATAS NOT WORKING
KARAOKE
WHAT ARE THE RULES
I'M GOING OUTSIDE
WHERE'S THE PIN
I'LL ADD YOU TO THE LIST
I'M COMING
OVER THERE
YEAH CAN I PLEASE HAVE A CAN OF RED BULL
I'M COMING I'LL COME
WHERE IS EVERYBODY
I'LL COME WITH
OUTSIDE
GETTING OFF NOW
I'M COMING
THERE
AH I'LL GO OUTSIDE
SHOULD WE WRITE A MANIFESTO
OH YEAH
WE NEED ANOTHER CHAIR
ARE YOU USING THIS

WE ARE IN THE BACK

List of works 05.09.2025

Alex Billingham,

What could possibly...., 2025

Grandparents gas mask, silk rose petals, mirrored floor vinyl

Jaz O'Donohue

Emergency Break Box, 2025

Bus Screen Studies, 2024

Prints

Emily Scarrott

The Dudley Dorito, 2024-5

Mild steel, oiled and aluminium chain mail, galvanised steel straps, knuts and bolts, safety pins and vintage fridge magnet

Believer, 2025

Holographic sticker

Ev Thresher

To your right, 2025

11 reclaimed mini pool balls, acrylic paint, self-adhesive vinyl lettering, satin varnish spray, steel rod

Dinosaur Kilby

brain rot, 2025

Painted resin cast toy dinosaur, from artists collection

Leah Hickey

Love's Treasure, 2025

Found object

Sophie Mackfall

Night Walk (The Tagus at Dusk), 2021

Oil on aluminium

Jaz Morrison

The House of God, 2023

Mosquito netting, paint, UV ink

[Mask], 2023

Found objects, paint, UV ink

I SEE YOU NOW