

DRAWING ROOM

Drawing Research Forum 2026/2027 Sessions – Part 1

Friday 6th November 2026

This afternoon of presentations and discussions, selected from an open call, provides access to recent research examining critical issues around contemporary drawing.

The session will feature presentations and a plenary discussion with artists examining diverse themes, and utilising and developing current discourse around contemporary drawing. The Drawing Research Forum provides a space for knowledge exchange between disciplines, encourages cross-fertilization of ideas and methodology, and fosters collaborations between artists and researchers.

SCHEDULE

2 – 2.05 pm	Welcome and Introduction
2.05 – 2.25 pm	Nicole Morris - Making Room (not Art Therapy)
2.30 – 2.50 pm	Anna Korbel - The Diagram as a Bridge Across Communication Divides: Towards a Rhizomatic Pedagogy of Drawing
2.55 – 3.20 pm	Chaired plenary discussion

ABSTRACTS

Nicole Morris - Making Room (not Art Therapy)

At the Drawing Research forum, I will present the work to date on the artist-led project, *Making Room*. Established in 2024, the project explores art practice as a critical service in mental health support and is currently based on the acute psychiatric wards for women at South London and Maudsley Hospital as well as from within the community studio at Drawing Room. The presentation will reflect on the impact of sharing art practice alongside staff and service users and consider the benefits of working through the lens of not Art Therapy.

Anna Korbel - The Diagram as a Bridge Across Communication Divides: Towards a Rhizomatic Pedagogy of Drawing

Centred around experimental diagrammatic drawing and critical theory, this project lays a foundation for a radical method of teaching drawing that is designed specifically for those who are constrained or excluded by the current art education system, simultaneously working to remove design and illustration practices from their entanglement with late-stage capitalism. Through a series of publications, community workshops and an on-going collaboration with a group of artists with learning disabilities at supported studio Venture Arts, I have been developing ways in which the act of drawing diagrams becomes an accessible mode of communication for loose qualitative information and complex perspectives – creating deeper interpersonal connection and understanding at a time when we are more atomised than ever.

BIOGRAPHIES

***Nicole Morris** is an artist working across gallery, healthcare and community settings both in a solo and collaborative context, with a primary focus on working within mental health and wellbeing. Her work uses textiles, drawing and creative writing to explore how making can become a space for reflection, repair and connection. Her work has recently been included in exhibitions and projects at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London; Drawing Room, London; Alcultura, Algeciras, Spain; Foundling Museum, London; ACAVA, London; National Maritime Museum, London; [SPACE], London; Baltic, Gateshead; South London Gallery; Bluecoat, Liverpool; G39, Cardiff; Jerwood, London and The National Gallery, Prague. Her most recent work in collaboration with service users at The Coborn Centre for Adolescent Mental Health and at the Maudsley Hospital are now on permanent display.*

***Anna Korbel** is an illustrator, designer, musician and educator from Stockport. She has recently completed an MA in Visual Communication from the Royal College of Art.*

Focusing on non-figurative drawing, publication design, printmaking, participatory workshops and critical theory – her research explores the inclusive, emancipatory potential of experimental drawing and design pedagogy.

Alongside her academic practice, Anna works as a freelance illustrator and creative facilitator for organisations such as Venture Arts, Richmond and Wandsworth Council, London Philharmonic Orchestra and Broadside Hacks Folk Club.