



## ARTIST BRUCE ASBESTOS CELEBRATES FRIENDSHIP WITH HIS GIANT INFLATABLE MONSTERS –COMING TO LAKESIDE ARTS THIS SUMMER

Free Family-Friendly Exhibition at Lakeside Arts

**Press launch event and photo call: Wednesday 31 July, 10.30am**

**Thursday 1 August – Sunday 8 September 2024**

**Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham**

**Free Admission**

High res [images here](#).

- Leaping from the imagination of **Nottingham based artist Bruce Asbestos**, colourful inflatable pals **The Hooboos** and **Mega Bunny + Friends** will be taking up residence at Lakeside Arts' Djanogly Gallery
- Inspired by the **secrets of Blue Zones** the artist hopes to encourage friendship and a positive outlook with his giant inflatable animal sculptures.
- **Bruce Asbestos: Monster Fun** opens on **1 August and runs until 8 September** at the **Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham**

This summer, artist **Bruce Asbestos** brings his colourful inflatable monsters to Lakeside Arts at the University of Nottingham from **1 August to 8 September 2024** in a **free family-friendly exhibition**. Renowned for his playful and engaging works, Asbestos encourages audiences to reflect on the power of friendship with his joyous collection of misfits.

Asbestos' work draws from a rich history of painting, sculpture, popular culture, folklore, and fairy tales. He frequently mixes everyday objects with high art, fashion, social media, video games, and global pop culture. Inspired by Japanese culture and the concept of 'Kawaii' or cuteness, Asbestos creates works that delight audiences of all ages. His work has attracted over **6 million views on TikTok** and **1.5 million views on YouTube**. Asbestos earned a BA and MA in Fine Arts at Nottingham Trent University, he has been part of the **Nottingham arts scene for over 20 years**, and his work has been widely exhibited nationally and internationally.

For his largest exhibition to date, Asbestos' newest creations, **The Hooboos**, are joined by friendly monster pals – the four-metre high **Mega Bunny**, purple **Octopus** and giant **Egg Cat**.



The galleries will be transformed into an **immersive experience** with an exhibition soundtrack that guides them through Asbestos's imaginative world. At the hands-on monster lab, gallery-goers can create and exhibit their own plasticine monster, perhaps a new ally for Hooboo or a friend for Egg Cat. The exhibition extends out of the gallery where visitors of all ages can follow a **trail of Hooboos** around Highfields Park.

Drawing inspiration from the **global fascination with Blue Zones** (areas in the world where people live longest) Asbestos hopes visitors will reflect on the rewards of supportive friendships and the benefits of cultivating peace of mind with a positive outlook. Both are common across all Blue Zones and are the most likely secrets of a long and happy life.

**Visitors are encouraged to befriend Mega Bunny and friends.** Why is the giant purple Octopus unhappy? Can you cheer them up with a smile, a cheery wave, or your funniest joke? Is the four-metre high Mega Bunny hungry? Will they steal your chips or your heart?

Bruce Asbestos, said: *"My work is increasingly focused on ideas around play and participation and creating ways for visitors to interact with contemporary art. It would be wonderful if the exhibition was someone's very first experience of a gallery. I hope that visitors feel very welcome and included, the exhibition is for them."*

Neil Walker, Head of Visual Arts Programming, Lakeside Arts, said: *"Among the activities for children and families offered at Lakeside this summer we're delighted to be making a home for Bruce Asbestos' colourful and friendly family of inflatable monsters. Mega Bunny and friends are sure to put a smile on small faces and our monster trail is a fun way to discover more of his creations in the beautiful setting of Highfield Park."*

Lakeside Arts is thankful to [John E Wright](#) for their support in promoting Monster Fun.

-- ENDS --

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Managers Mária Konyeliccka-Visky [maria.konyeliccka@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:maria.konyeliccka@nottingham.ac.uk) and Amy Steels [amy.steels@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:amy.steels@nottingham.ac.uk) and Marketing Assistant Becky Owen [becky.owen@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:becky.owen@nottingham.ac.uk)

## LISTING INFORMATION

**Exhibition Dates:** Thursday 1 August – Sunday 8 September 2024

**Opening Hours:** Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm | Sunday 12noon-4pm (Closed Mondays)

**Address:** Djanogly Gallery, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

**Admission:** Free

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Lakeside Arts** is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, music, theatre, dance, children and families' productions, workshops as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Gallery showing temporary exhibitions of contemporary and modern art; the University Museum which has a permanent collection of archaeology; the Djanogly Recital Hall which stages concerts by internationally renowned soloists and chamber ensembles; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance.

[www.lakesidearts.org.uk](http://www.lakesidearts.org.uk)

Lakeside Arts Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @LakesideArts

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