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KATE MCCGWIRE: QUIVER

A major solo exhibition at Nottingham's Lakeside Arts

Saturday 20 September 2025 – Sunday 4 January 2026

Launch event: Friday 19 September, 7-9pm

Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham

Free Admission

Images available [here](#).

Lakeside Arts is proud to present *Quiver*, a major solo exhibition by internationally renowned British artist Kate MccGwire, showing at the venue's Djanogly Gallery this autumn. Known for her extraordinary sculptural works crafted from ethically sourced birds' feathers, MccGwire's unique practice explores powerful themes of duality, beauty, and the natural world.

The exhibition offers an ambitious survey of MccGwire's work over the last 20 years, from gigantic installations to exquisitely detailed pieces. Visitors will experience the full scope of her sculptural mastery, including vast serpentine forms clad in crow feathers, pigeon feathers cascading from gallery walls, and precious works housed beneath antique glass domes. The latter being a nod to the mania for taxidermized animals in nineteenth-century museums and homes. A highlight of the show is *Cavort (West)*, a striking mosaic of pheasant feathers created for the eighteenth-century interiors of Harewood House, Yorkshire, during the Covid-19 pandemic - seen at Lakeside Arts for the first time since its original installation.

MccGwire's art challenges perceptions by elevating materials often deemed as insignificant or undesirable. She transforms pigeon feathers, considered by some to be disgusting, into intricate sculptures that invite viewers to reconsider notions of beauty and value. Her works, such as *SLUICE* (2009) and *QUIVER V* (2012) celebrate these overlooked materials, encouraging a deeper and rethought appreciation for the natural world. Each feather is ethically collected, meticulously cleaned, and selected for its form and texture, creating intricate patterns that shimmer with light and emotional resonance. Ravishingly seductive her works play with notions of disgust, joy, pain and pleasure as they simultaneously explore the dark underbelly of beauty.

MccGwire's studio is as unique as her materials. For more than a decade, MccGwire has worked aboard a converted 100-year-old Dutch barge moored on the River Wey in West London, a tranquil space that mirrors her deep connection to water and nature. This connection dates back to her upbringing in the wild landscapes of the Norfolk Broads, where natural beauty and wild waterways laid the foundation for an art form that breathes alternative life into natural materials.

0115 846 7777 | lakesidearts.org.uk
Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

The University is a body corporate incorporated by Royal Charter with Registered Number RC000664

As Neil Walker, Head of Visual Arts Programming at Lakeside Arts, comments:

“To be able to show Kate’s work is a great coup for Lakeside. She transforms discarded materials into something deeply moving and extraordinarily beautiful. It’s an astonishing achievement. I think our visitors will want to return time and again to fully appreciate her artistry.”

Quiver marks MccGwire’s most extensive UK solo exhibition in recent years. While she has exhibited widely, including at the Saatchi Gallery (London), the Museum of Arts and Design (New York), and the Venice Biennale, this show offers a rare opportunity to see the full breadth of her practice on home soil.

-ENDS-

LISTING INFORMATION

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 20 September 2025 – Sunday 4 January 2026

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

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

Admission: Free

Events: For talks and events please book online or call the Box Office on 0115 846 7777

<https://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/quiver>

RELATED EVENTS

Launch Event | Friday 19 September, 7-9pm

Join us to celebrate the launch of the exhibition – admission is free, no prior booking required.

Bugs, Bones and Birds: the animal body remade in contemporary art | Talk | Wednesday 15 October, 1-2pm

Art historian, Dr. Isobel Elstob, explores how contemporary British artists have used animal and other organic material to create new sculptural forms.

Taking Flight | Talk | Thursday 27 November, 1-2pm

Kate MccGwire gives an overview of her unique artistic practice from early beginnings crafting sculptures from birds’ feathers to her ambitious site-specific installations.

GALLERY TOURS

Wednesday 8 October | led by Kate MccGwire, artist.

Wednesday 5 November | led by Dr. Isobel Elstob

Wednesday 3 December | led by Neil Walker, Head of Visual Arts Programming, Lakeside Arts

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS

Please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Kate MccGwire

Kate MccGwire is a London-based artist celebrated for her use of ethically sourced feathers to create visceral, intricate sculptures. Her work explores tension between beauty and repulsion, the familiar and the strange. She has exhibited internationally and is represented in public and private collections worldwide. Examples of MccGwire's sculptures featured in a group show at Lakeside Arts called *Reimag(in)ing the Victorians* in 2023. Learn more at www.katemccgwire.com.

About Lakeside Arts

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts, manuscripts and museum exhibitions, as well as music, theatre, dance, children and families' productions. Its venues include the Djanogly Gallery, opened in 1992, that stages a year-round programme of 20th-century and contemporary art exhibitions complemented by a lively programme of public lectures and learning activities. Recent exhibitions have included: *Saad Qureshi: Conversations Before the End of Time* (2024), *Reimag(in)ing the Victorians* (2023-2024), *Rhythm & Geometry: Constructivist Art in Britain Since 1951* (2023), *Michael Forbes: Blk this & Blk that... a state of urgency* (2022).

lakesidearts.org.uk

Lakeside Arts Facebook, Instagram and X (formally Twitter): @LakesideArts

IMAGES



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Image Credits (1-5)

- *Gyre*, 2012, mixed media with crow feathers © Kate MccGwire, 2025
- *Discharge*, 2013, mixed media with pigeon feathers © Kate MccGwire, 2025
- *Torsion*, 2024, mixed media with rooster feathers © Kate MccGwire, 2025
- *Turmoil*, 2016, mixed media with pheasant feathers © Kate MccGwire, 2025. Private Collection.
- *Cavort (West)*, 2020, mixed media with pheasant feathers © Kate MccGwire, 2025.