



# The Big Draw Press Release

Contact: Electricians' Shop, Trinity Buoy Wharf, 64 Orchard Place, London, UK, E14 0JY T.  
0203 758 4118 | E. [press@thebigdraw.org.uk](mailto:press@thebigdraw.org.uk) | W. [thebigdraw.org](http://thebigdraw.org) | #TheBigDraw

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## The Big Draw Digital Residencies Judging Panel announced

The Big Draw has announced the judging panel for their first ever digital residencies today (Thursday 29 April 2021), looking at submissions that respond to their 2021 Big Draw Festival theme, *Make the Change*.

Currently open to submissions, The Big Draw is offering three paid digital residencies for three UK-based artists. These residencies are open to all artists, and The Big Draw encourages applications from immigrant and diaspora artists, artists who identify as LGBTQIA or as disabled.

The judging panel includes:

- **Jade Montserrat**, artist,
- **Yiying Lu**, entrepreneur, educator and creative digital artist,
- **Tanya Raabe-Webber**, visual portrait artist, and illustrator,
- **Dapo Adeola**, award-winning illustrator, designer and writer

Kate Mason, Director of The Big Draw, and Eleanor Pender, Communications and Marketing Manager at The Big Draw will join the panel.

**Kate Mason, Director of The Big Draw said:** “It is a great honour to welcome Jade Montserrat, Yiying Lu, Dapo Adeola and Tanya Raabe-Webber as judges for our digital residencies, to sit alongside myself and Eleanor. Our panel shares an inspiring level of industry experience, real expertise in both tactile artistic methods and digital innovation and engages with the need to encourage under-represented artists into the sector.

“We are so very proud to be able to offer three funded digital residencies to artists based in the UK. This was a golden opportunity for The Big Draw to make real steps as a national and international non-profit organisation championing visual literary and arts education to help support artists during this difficult time.”

Learn more about the judges below:

**Jade Montserrat**'s work uses mark-making and performance drawing installation to explore transformative justice, ethical practice, and the healing and connective qualities of drawing. She lives and works in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. Recent solo exhibitions include Iniva, London; Manchester Art Gallery as the first Future Collect artist (both 2020); Humber Street Gallery; Bluecoat, Liverpool (both 2019). Group shows include Lisson Gallery (2021); ICA, Philadelphia (2018). Residencies include Hospitalfield (2020-2021); East Street Arts (2020). awards include Henry Moore Foundation (2020) and Jerwood Drawing Prize: Student Award (2017) and she was the Stuart Hall Foundation practice-based PhD candidate at The Institute for Black Atlantic Research, The University of Central Lancashire (2017 - 2020).



**Yiying Lu** is an award-winning artist, entrepreneur, global educator, and bilingual TEDx speaker. Born in Shanghai China, and educated in Sydney, Australia, and London, Yiying runs her innovation studio in San Francisco while being an Adobe Global Creative Ambassador and serving as a San Francisco Arts Commissioner. Named one of the “Fast Company’s Most Creative People in Business”, Yiying speaks about Cross-Cultural Design, Creativity & Innovation in English and Chinese, at conferences around the world. Yiying has created iconic art and campaigns for corporations from Disney to Apple. She is also the artist behind the dumpling 🥟 and Boba Tea Emoji, the “Twitter Fail Whale” and the Chinese paper-cut style Mickey Mouse for Disneyland Shanghai.



**Tanya Raabe-Webber** is an acclaimed disabled/visual artist challenging the notion of identity within contemporary portraiture. She often creating portraits of high profile disabled and diverse people during live sittings in high profile public art galleries and venues. Tanya uses a mixture of traditional and digital painting and drawing techniques, often fusing the two together in an interactive live environment, inviting physical and online audiences to join in. A Big Draw Ambassador, Tanya works to raise awareness of Disabled Creatives. In April 2021, Tanya announced a new Collaborative Sketchbook series, working with four artists in separate hand-folded sketchbooks, taking turns to respond to each other’s artworks.



**Dapo Adeola** is an award-winning illustrator and designer who creates characters and images that challenge expectations around race and gender in a fun and upbeat way. He is the co-creator and illustrator of bestselling picture book *Look Up!* — winner of the Waterstones Children’s Book Prize and the Number 1 debut picture book of 2019. Dapo is also illustrator of the Versify fiction series *The Last Last-Day-of Summer* and other upcoming series with Macmillan and Bloomsbury. London born and bred but of Nigerian heritage, when he’s not busy cooking up new characters and adventures, Dapo runs illustration and character design workshops with children or organising events to help highlight the possibilities of a career in illustration to underrepresented members of the Black diaspora.



**Kate Mason**, Director at The Big Draw, has worked consistently in a variety of roles across the arts, heritage, community, cultural and creative industries sectors for 26 years. Kate is a Companion of The Guild of St George, an educational charity devoted to the arts, crafts and the rural economy which was founded in 1871 by John Ruskin. Kate is a Trustee of the House of Imagination, an arts-based action research charity which supports children in their exploration and expression of ideas, helping them develop creative skills for life. Kate has also recently become Chair of the Society of Designer Craftsmen, an organisation established in 1887 and originally called The Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society. Kate is an RSA Fellow and likes to draw, sew and knit.



**Eleanor Pender** is Communications and Marketing Manager at The Big Draw. A life-long supporter of the arts and creative industries, Eleanor is a communications strategist, writer and likes to draw, paint and print. Eleanor has worked across the creative industries for close to 10 years, in theatre, literature, festivals and libraries, coordinated collaborative digital media and urban art projects across Europe, and supported creative initiatives for children and young people in the UK and internationally. Alongside her work in the sector, Eleanor is an experienced event moderator, chairing book festival events, literary panels and conventions since 2015, including the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Cymera Festival and Bristol Women’s Literature Festival.



## About the Digital Residencies

These residencies are open to all artists, and The Big Draw encourages applications from immigrant and diaspora artists, artists who identify as LGBTQIA or as disabled.

The digital residencies will take place in late May and June 2021 and encourage artists to propose challenging, engaging and intriguing work in any discipline or medium, and work with both digital and physical materials. The digital residency will look to spotlight the chosen artists' work, feature them on The Big Draw blog, undertake an Instagram Live with The Big Draw Director and invite them to takeover The Big Draw social media channels. Work produced and any connected content will be shared online with The Big Draw audiences around the world.

The digital residences are open to submissions until **6pm on Sunday 2 May 2021**.

The full brief can be found on The Big Draw website: <https://thebigdraw.org/digital-residencies-2021>

*This project work is funded through the Cultural Emergency Fund – Arts Council England.*

## ENDS

### CONTACT

For further information, comments, images and interviews:

E. [press@thebigdraw.org](mailto:press@thebigdraw.org)

T. +44 (0) 203 758 4118 | 07966 847580

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### NOTES TO EDITORS:

#### The Big Draw

The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity promoting the universal language of drawing as a tool for thought, creativity, social and cultural engagement. The Big Draw (formerly The Campaign for Drawing) was launched in 2000 with support from and spearheaded by The Guild of St George, the charity founded by John Ruskin in 1871 - becoming an independent arts education charity in 2006.

The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world's biggest celebration of drawing. The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through its national contemporary art prize, The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for anyone who wants to draw.

[www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) | Charity no. 1114811

#### The Big Draw Festival

Launched in October 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over five million people back to the drawing board. It has notched up two world records – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000). The first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number has risen to over 1,000, with over 500,000 people participating each year.

What began as a one-day celebration of drawing in October 2000 in the UK, is now an annual month-long festival of drawing across the world.

**Arts Council England**

Our recent programme has been supported through funding from The Cultural Recovery Fund: Arts Council England. Arts Council England is a government-funded body dedicated to promoting the performing, visual and literary arts in England. Since 1994, Arts Council England has been responsible for distributing lottery funding. This investment has helped to transform the building stock of arts organisations and to create much additional high-quality arts activity.

**[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)**