



**LEEDS
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ZARA WORTH

#PORTAL

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK DATA COLLECTION

February 2023

The University's Research & Enterprise Service has requested information on knowledge exchange and engagement with the public and communities. Please complete the form below and return it to Professor Simon Morris (S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) and Dr Tina Conkar (t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) by **21 February 2023**.

Many thanks for your support with information gathering for this submission.

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Please use the template below to detail information on all projects you have undertaken since 1 January 2019 that involved public and community engagement. Please use one form per project.

Project Title:	#Portal
Project Date(s):	1 June 2021 – 6 June 2021, Linz, Austria 11 December 2021 – 7 January 2022, Newcastle Contemporary Art, UK
URL Link to Project:	#Portal at Linz FMR on the artist's website: https://www.zaraworth.com/portal-at-linz-fmr.html Linz FMR 2021 Festival website: https://21.linzfmr.at Artist page on Linz FMR website: https://21.linzfmr.at NOW THAT's WHAT I CALL ART at Newcastle Contemporary Art: https://www.visitnca.com/exhibitions/now-thats-what-i-call-art
Brief Description of Project (250-1000 words max.) In the field below please give a brief outline of the project and what it entailed.	#Portal consists of sculptural and pictorial elements, comprising two large, gilded polythene sheets draped over a frame-like structure. This sculptural element of #Portal is composed of golden frames reminiscent of doors or archways, the outline of one lit with pink neon lighting. Two gilded polythene sheets constitute the pictorial component of the work; partially transparent, diaphanous paintings, these hang like curtains or veils over the top of 'Portal's sculptural gateways. Both the sculptural and pictorial elements of the work blend forms and imagery derived from religious icons, selfie-filters and smartphones. The design of 'Portal's golden frames echoes the bezel of an iPhone and the compositional inclusion of an archway to frame the depiction of a miracle in a Russian

Orthodox icon from the British Museum’s collection. In the gilded paintings, elements such as hand gestures, haloes and decorative features from religious icons are tangled amongst augmented reality adornments from selfie-filters.

Through this combination of imagery borrowed from the sacred and the profane, both the sculptural and the pictorial elements of ‘Portal’ allude to the promises of proximity offered by both icons and handheld, networked devices. One offering us proximity to the divine, and the other offering us proximity to people, places and events geographically and/or temporally absent. The forms and decorative features appropriated from icons, smartphones and social media all orbit intangible bodies which in their original contexts are conveyed to us respectively as painted and digital faces – mirages; representations, recognisable but not real.

#Portal was created for LINZ FMR 2021 and developed during a residency at the Atelierhaus Salzamt in March 2021.

LINZ FMR – Art in Digital Contexts and Public Spaces is a biennial festival and format for artistic processes and positions, that reflects the ephemeral nature of our digital and connected present. The ever-advancing digitalization of everyday life implies an intense overlapping and layering of familiar physical, but also finely interwoven digital spaces. LINZ FMR focuses on the shifts, distortions and rifts that arise in this process and presents current artistic positions in this context.

The festival, whose title alludes to ephemerality and short-livedness, presents works whose initial ideas can be found in virtual and/or digital space or have a strong reference to it, but are shown (sometimes in a transformed way) in the physical surroundings of the city of Linz. The focus is primarily on the interstices that arise during these transformations into public space – outside of museums, galleries or art spaces. At the same time, LINZ FMR attempts to subject the concept of sculpture to a contemporary update and to reflect on questions of transience, ephemerality and obviousness.

The second edition of the festival, FMR 21, is curated and organized by the artist collective qujOchÖ, the net culture initiative servus.at, Atelierhaus Salzamt of the City of Linz, Department of Media Theories at University of Art and Design Linz and Sturm und Drang Galerie.

In its next iteration at Newcastle Contemporary Art, #Portal’s paintings (originally created for the installation in Linz Austria), were revisited and combined with further additional elements including a suspended pink LED frame and a mobile golden frame. The form of this additional frame set on wheels is based on an icon from the collection at [The British Museum](https://www.britishmuseum.org). The Icon with four Church Feasts shows four biblical scenes depicted within gold arches; in the last scene the figure of Christ appears within a circular mandorla (a painted frame surrounding a divine figure in religious art). In #Portal, the golden arched frame is scaled up and the space of the mandorla omitted to create a large circular window at head height. Whilst the mandorla in the icon offered a way of seeing through into heaven at the moment of Christ’s transfiguration, the sculpture’s circular window acts to create new spaces through their framing. Complete with handles, the sculpture can be wheeled around providing a window onto the new spaces it delineates. New windows were also introduced to #Portal’s paintings by cutting out small sections of polythene, these too created new ways of experiencing the work through windows which could be peered through.

Organisations Engaged with:	Qujochö: https://qujochoe.org Servus.at: https://core.servus.at	Total participants:	Visitor numbers in Linz: 1500 (approx.)
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<p>Please list the names of any organisations engaged with, such as Schools or Community Groups.</p>	<p>Atelierhaus Salzamt: https://www.linz.at/kultur/salzamt/index.php Kunstuniversität Linz: https://kunstuni-linz.at Sturm Und Drang Galerie: https://www.facebook.com/sturm.drang.galerie Newcastle Contemporary Art: https://www.visitnca.com System Gallery: https://systemgallery.co.uk/About The Spaghetti Factory: https://spaghettofactoro.weebly.com/about.html</p>	<p>Please give an approximate figure for the number of people who engaged with your project.</p>	<p>Visitor numbers at NCA: 700 (approx..)</p>
<p>Knowledge Exchange Outcomes: If relevant, in brief, please describe any knowledge exchange outcomes such as new approaches to working with a community.</p>	<p>Public engagement with art installation</p>		
<p>Quotes In the field below please include any relevant quotes that you would like to share which evidence the knowledge exchange and engagement your project received.</p>			
Empty space for quotes			
<p>Images In the field below please include any relevant images you would like to share.</p>			
Empty space for images			



Image credit: Sarah Maria Schmidt





Image credit: Jaakko Myyri



Image credit: Jaakko Myyri



Image credit: Sarah Maria Schmidt



Image credit: Jaakko Myyri











Image credit: Phyllis Christopher



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