

Birth Rites Collection

# Summer *School*



*In-Person* The University of Kent *September 2022* 5th to 9th

Leni Dothan, The Motherchild Machine n.7, 2019 Photographic prints. Commissioned by Procreate Projects for Oxytocin19. Courtesy of the artist and Birth Rites Collection.

Birth Rites Collection Summer School is a unique programme of lectures, workshops, seminars and one-to-one tutorials. It will introduce you to the collection and facilitate a dialogue between you, your practice and the artworks. The course is led by Helen Knowles, BRC Curator and artist and Hermione Wiltshire, artist and Co-Head of the Photography Programme at the Royal College of Art. The course will empower you to articulate your own responses to the collection in a supportive environment whilst exploring critical perspectives in the field of birth.

If you are a midwife, academic, curator, artist, medic, health professional, art historian or policy advisor, you will enter the course with your own skill set and finish, with a bespoke multi-media pack of visual, textual, auditory and filmic material, to be used thereafter in your own future work.

Workshops include shooting and editing short films on mobile phones and reflecting on the themes through visual and written material. We will introduce different perspectives from international guest speakers and chair in-depth discussions that address aesthetics, ethics, politics and the visual discourses of birth.

#### Themes include:

- How the collection informs and unpacks different perspectives in midwifery, medicine and education, and its potential to improve practice and policy.
- Artistic and midwifery practices that address reproduction in the digital age including AI, simulation, VR, blockchain and NFT tech and, new reproductive technologies.
- Changing perspectives on the non-binary and notions of kinship.
- The Collection's impact on feminist art practices and the rehabilitation of visual discourses of birth into art history.
- Censorship of artworks on birth, institutional responses, ethics and the law.

#### 5-day course (In-person)

University of Kent Campus, Canterbury  
(subject to the ongoing pandemic it would move online).

5th - 9th September 2022, 10 – 5pm

#### Cost

£450 per person / £500 concession (for practicing artists, students and those with a low-income).

10 full-price places per course, 10 concession rate places.

For full price and concession rates make a deposit of £100. Bursaries this year are offered to staff and students at the University of Kent only.

[c: helen@birthrites.org.uk](mailto:helen@birthrites.org.uk)

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

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