

Birth Rites Collection

Autumn *Program*



Online 19th Nov - 10th Dec, 2025

Each Wed 19-21.30 GMT+ ⁺Sat, Dec 6th 14-17.30 GMT

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's Summer School is a unique programme of lectures, workshops, seminars and one-to-one tutorials around the Birth Rites Collection, the world's first and only contemporary art collection dedicated to the subject of childbirth.

Birth Rites Collection's Summer School is an intensive 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, this year's themes and the artworks. The course is led by artist and BRC Curator, Helen Knowles and artist Dr. Leni Dothan.

The course will empower you to articulate your own practice and responses to the collection in a supportive environment whilst exploring critical perspectives in the field of birth.

Midwives, academics, curators, artists, medics, health professionals, art historians, policy advisors and the general public interested in childbirth through the lens of art, are all welcome. As a participant, you will enter the course with your own skill set and finish, with bespoke visual, textual, auditory, photographic, filmic and/or performative material, to be used thereafter in your own future work.

Workshops include exploring the aesthetic, ethical, political and visual discourses of birth via text, film, and performance. Additionally, this year, we present a unique opportunity to engage with a curated selection of works from the collection that are not ordinarily accessible to the public. In a dedicated online space these pieces will enrich participants' engagement of the autumn programme's themes.

Through lectures by leading artists in the field, we will introduce different perspectives to initiate in-depth discussions.

Themes include:

- Navigating mortality - from preterm birth to post-partum
- Artistic responses to preterm birth.
- How the collection informs and unpacks different perspectives in midwifery, medicine and education, and its potential to improve practice and policy.
- 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

Online access

£550 per person / £400 concession (for artists, students and those with a low-income)

One online bursary is offered. See application details on the website.

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www.birthritescollection.org.uk

Book Now

