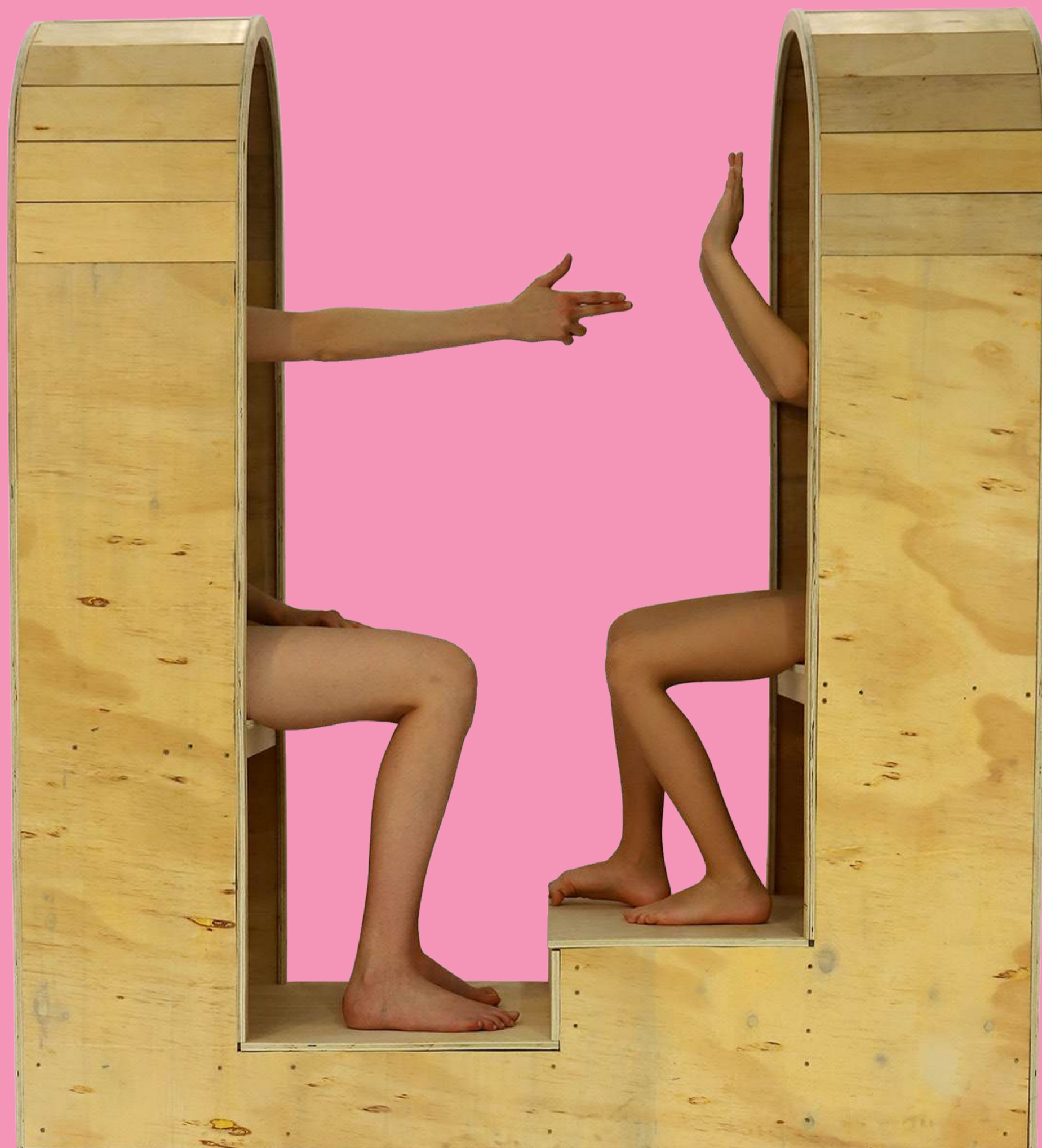


Birth Rites Collection

Summer *School*



Online 1st - 29th July 2026

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 2026 — Online

The world's only contemporary art collection dedicated to childbirth invites you to a programme of lectures, workshops, seminars and one-to-one tutorials.

This year's theme: **Reproduction and the State**

How do artists contest dominant narratives of birth and maternity? Whose bodies are heard, treated and believed in maternal healthcare? How do states instrumentalise reproduction through policy, imagery and ideology? How can the maternal become a site of resistance and reimagining?

Led by artist and BRC Curator, Dr Helen Knowles and artist, Dr Leni Dothan, the course brings you into dialogue with the collection, this year's themes, and your own practice. You will leave with bespoke visual, textual, auditory, photographic, filmic or performative work to carry into your future practice.

This year, participants gain exclusive access to a curated selection of works from the collection not ordinarily available to the public, presented in a dedicated online space.

Workshops explore the aesthetic, ethical, political and visual discourses of birth through text, film and performance. Lectures from leading artists and academics open up:

Institutional bias in maternal healthcare — race, class, and the politics of care

Pronatalism, border regimes, and reproductive justice

The Collection's impact on feminist art and the visual history of birth

Censorship, ethics and the law around artworks on birth

How the Collection can shape practice and policy in midwifery, medicine and education

Open to midwives, artists, academics, curators, medics, health professionals, art historians, policy advisors — and anyone engaged with childbirth through the lens of art.

Five-Week Course (Online):

Dates: Wednesdays, 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM BST
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Saturday 18, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM BST.

All lectures, workshops, and discussions will take place online.

Cost: 600 GBP per person 450 GBP concession rate.

A 100GBP deposit is required to secure a place for the course.

There is one bursary place available.

To book your place click [here](#) for more information, or email

helen@birthrites.org.uk

