**CLAY Press Release**

**Embargo Date: August 21st**

**The only Centre for Live Art in the North is opening in Yorkshire**

**CLAY: Centre for Live Art Yorkshire will put Yorkshire on the map** as the only venue in the UK dedicated toLive Art and interdisciplinary practice. The new venue will open on the site formerly known as Live Art Bistro on Regent Street, led by Jessica Sweet and Matt Allen.

* **CLAY** is a new centre for artworks that test boundaries and artists whose practice is hard to define
* **CLAY** is a new hub in Leeds focused on affordable working space for artists
* **CLAY** supports risk, experimentation and interdisciplinary artwork.

The venue is situated next door to the brand new Leeds Playhouse and Leeds City College arts campus, widening the thriving cultural offer around the SOYO area. Programming risky and provocative work from the 19th of September, **CLAY** will support artists working on the experimental edges, cementing Leeds as a cultural capital.

“Leeds City Council excited to see the only dedicated space for Live Art open in Leeds. We support the development and growth of CLAY and their programme. We are proud to fund such an innovative company who are keen to support emerging artists and develop new work.” **Ann Wishart - Arts Development Manager, Leeds City Council**

**CLAY's** 2019 programme of vibrant performance includes the sublime LA artist Ron Athey, performance artist and prosecco anarchist Lucy Hutson and award-winning fabulous femme Louise Orwin. Alongside performances from internationally recognised artists, **CLAY** will host residencies and professional development platforms, and be a space for arts professionals from Leeds and beyond to create in. **CLAY’s** Launch Party will take place on September 21st.

“CLAY is an important part of the cultural ecology of Yorkshire and highlights Leeds as a northern hub for arts. East Street Arts are supporting CLAY through our GUILD programme, as they grow and develop their brand over the next few years. They are bringing some amazing artists to Leeds this Autumn and we are really excited to see the impact for artists in the region too.”

**Nicola Greenan - External relations director at East Street Arts**

“We are so excited about this new adventure, and overwhelmed by the support from artists and organisations from across the UK who have helped us get here” said Company Director Jessica Sweet.

**CLAY** is supported by Leeds City Council through arts@leeds and will be growing through the support of the Guild programme from East Street Arts.

**CLAY** invite you to join them as they Launch on September 21st; visit <https://www.clayleeds.co.uk/whatson> to reserve your launch ticket now! You can keep up to date with What’s On at **CLAY** and opportunities for artists at [https://www.clayleeds.co.uk/](https://www.clayleeds.co.uk/opportunities)

-Ends-

**Editor's Note:**

CLAY’s 2019 programme includes;
**September 19th: Lucy and Addrian Hutson:** [**Bi-Curious George and Other Side Kicks**](https://www.clayleeds.co.uk/event-details/lucy-and-addrian-hutson-bi-curious-george-and-other-side-kicks)**.**

**September 21st: CLAY** [**Launch Party**](https://www.clayleeds.co.uk/event-details/clay-launch-party)
**October 4th: Louise Orwin:** [**Oh Yes Oh No.**](https://www.clayleeds.co.uk/event-details/louise-orwin-oh-yes-oh-no)
**October 18th: Ron Athey:** [**Acephalous Monster**](https://www.clayleeds.co.uk/event-details/ron-athey-acephalous-monster)
**Tickets are on sale now.**

**CLAY** continues the legacy of Live Art Bistro, working with experimental and groundbreaking artists. Live Art Bistro operated as curatorial team including CLAY founders Jessica Sweet and Matt Allen between 2012 and 2019, programming national and international artists in their Leeds City Centre venue and at music festivals and venue takeovers across the UK. CLAY’s focus is on providing space for artists to make and show performances. From intimate one to one shows to hedonistic performance parties CLAY is welcome to anyone that wants to experience something new.

You can support **CLAY** in making a Centre for Live Art in Yorkshire by joining **Clay Makers. Clay Makers** is a brand new tiered membership scheme; members will be the first to receive **CLAY** news, have access to exclusive events and will directly support the artists **CLAY** works with.

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