

# *Get the Dark Out*

Lisa Selby and Dudley



**Exhibition Dates:** 5<sup>th</sup> November – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Opening:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 6-8pm

**Location:** Artcore Gallery, 8 Albert Street, Osnabruck Square, Derby, DE1 2DS

*\*Content Warning- drink, drugs, prison, violence, death\**

**Dudley:** Mostly I remember as a kid feeling like scum. That's what I was called at school when people found out my dad was a dealer. And when he was sent to prison. I've been demoralised, humiliated and groomed by people with much more power than me throughout my childhood and after having my home taken, I've had nothing stable because I was dependent on someone who relied on illegal labour to survive.

**Lisa:** I was called 'disease', because I was scruffier than everyone else, dirtier. I'd never invite friends back to my council flat, their houses weren't like mine. But I was proud of my dad, he was raising me and doing his best. My mother had issues with drink and drugs, and issues with motherhood, she wasn't around. The year of my birth she had a breakdown and was put in a psychiatric ward. I told school friends that she was dead. It was easier that way.

I thought I'd be the same as her, due to my drinking. But her issues ran deeper than drink and drugs. I worked hard on my mental health, now I'm four years sober and ready to be a mother. At 44, I'm finding it hard to conceive, having just gone through IVF twice. I'm mourning my mother and her legacy in me. This is brutal. Loss of motherhood from both ends is grinding me down.

**Dudley:** Sometimes I can't begin to explain. I live in a different reality to most people. PTSD or as I prefer to call it, a war. At the same time, I wanna be open because other people being candid helped so much.

During the residency, whilst exploring threads of sobriety trauma recovery, my dad relapsed and died. Now he lives with his ancestors. The addict alcoholic ones. Next to those who died in custody. And those who died homeless.

**Lisa:** I'm having discussions around breaking down the ideals of the capitalist model - building a nuclear family. If mothering is about care and helping someone to develop, then we can have many mothers, parents, people. Conversations with queer friends have been valuable, as they have been prominent in building these new models. This is about universal care.

Family is time, family is community.

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Nottingham-based artists Lisa Selby and Dudley were selected for one of three Collaborative Project Bursaries in partnership with New Midland Group, aimed at pairs looking to work collaboratively to develop and deliver a project together.

Lisa and Dudley were in residence at Artcore from August – October, working together on a new series of work with a focus on changing public perceptions around addiction and incarceration, helping to connect people who are affected by these issues. The artists chose to use this period of time to care for themselves through practice, to then help others to process, reflect and make – making trauma count in society.

This residency has been supported by the New Midland Group Development Programme. New Midland Group is a consortium of three artist-led organisations located in Nottingham: Backlit, One Thoresby Street and Primary.

## About Artcore

Artcore is an international centre for contemporary art and creativity based in Derby, UK, and is home to Artcore Gallery, studios and work spaces as well as a shop and café. A vibrant hub for commissioning, production, presentation and debate, we offer opportunities for diverse audiences to engage directly with creative practices through participation and discussion.

Here at Artcore we believe that contemporary art and creativity are central to the development of people and places. We have an extensive exhibition and residency programme which helps support early, mid-career and established artists to create work which deals with pressing social, political and environmental issues.

[www.artcoregallery.org.uk](http://www.artcoregallery.org.uk)  
[www.newmidlandgroup.co.uk](http://www.newmidlandgroup.co.uk)



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