

AtkinsonHR

nsead

Beyond Boundaries

A conference exploring innovative teaching methods, interdisciplinary practices, and how artist-teachers can push the boundaries of traditional adult community learning.

Date: 22nd March 2025

#ATACL25

Where: Online

Contents

Welcome	1
Programme	2
Schedule	3
Keynote	4
Parallel sessions	5-6
Speaker	7
Speaker	8
Creative workshop	9
Conference partners	10-11

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to Beyond Boundaries, the third Artist-Teacher in Adult Community Learning Conference. Following the success of Coming Together (2023) and The Next Chapter (2024), this one-day online event continues to support and celebrate the work of artist-teachers in adult community learning.

This year, we turn our focus to innovation, interdisciplinary practice, and the ways in which artist-teachers can push the boundaries of traditional adult education. Through a rich programme of talks, discussions, and creative sessions, we will explore key themes shaping the sector today. We will consider how artist-teachers integrate their creative and teaching identities across different spaces, from the classroom to the studio and beyond. We will look at innovative pedagogies that challenge conventional approaches to learning. We will reflect on the power of community-driven practices, exploring how artist-teachers can empower adult learners to create work that engages local communities, drives social change, and fosters a sense of belonging. We will discuss confidence—both in our learners and in ourselves as artist-teachers—considering how we navigate different identities and professional landscapes with assurance and creativity.

Our programme brings together artist-teacher, offering a platform for discussion, reflection, and hands-on exploration. We are pleased to welcome keynote speaker Lou Chiu of AtkinsonHR, who will share insights on identity, belonging, and professional growth. Claire Penketh will lead an iJADE talk exploring inclusivity and representation in art education, while Vega Brennan's Artistic License session will challenge us to embrace risk and rethink creative practice. The day will conclude with a hands-on workshop led by Ronnie Houselander, designed to inspire new ways of thinking and making.

As we come together for this event, we invite you to engage, share, and collaborate. Let's explore what lies beyond boundaries and imagine new possibilities for artist-teachers in adult community learning.

Welcome—we're so pleased to have you with us.

Programme

Key note address

Research and development talk

Parallel sessions

Creative workshop

Schedule

10am–10.10am

Start and welcome

10.10am–11am

Keynote with Lou Chiu of AtkinsonHR

11am–11.10am

Break

11.10am–12.40pm

Parallel sessions

12.40pm–1pm

iJADE talk with Claire Penketh

1pm–1.20pm

Artistic License with Vega Brennan

1.20pm–1.50pm

Lunch

1.50pm–3.20pm

Parallel sessions

3.20pm–4pm

Creative workshop with Ronnie Houselander

4pm

End

Keynote: Lou Chiu

Lou Chiu (she/her) is a Culture and Relationships coach and consultant specialising in developing allies. She uses her expertise and skills in trauma-informed and anti-oppressive practices to support those in helping professions to create safer, inclusive spaces where more people can be more of themselves. Lou is also a People and Development Consultant at Atkinson HR with specific interest in EDI and organisational culture.



Making Sense of Allyship

AtkinsonHR

Allies are people who want to create safer, more inclusive spaces where everyone has the chance to thrive. In this session, we will explore what allyship is, why it is important, and gain a better understanding of allyship behaviours. We will interrogate knowledge and education; how we know what we know and why we might not know what we don't know.

This is intended to help all of us reflect on the influences we have and the impact we make as educators.

Parallel sessions

Panel 1

Chair: Abbie Cairns

11.10am-11.30am

Lesley Gena

11.30am-11.50am

Ranae Lee

11.50am-12.10pm

Natalie Parfitt

12.10pm-12.30pm

Mary Pullen Deacon

Panel 2

Chair: Michele Gregson

11.10am-11.30am

Haf Weighton

11.30am-11.50am

Charlotte Chapman

11.50am-12.10pm

Dr Garry Nicholson

12.10pm-12.30pm

Lina Ivanova

Parallel sessions

Panel 3

Chair: Sophie Leach

1.50-2.10pm Karen Davies

2.10-2.30pm Victoria Doyle

2.30-2.50pm C J Sams

2.50-3.10pm Cally James

3.10-3.30pm James Rees

Panel 4

Chair: Abbie Cairns

1.50-2.10pm Lesley Gena

2.10-2.30pm Dr Abbie Cairns

2.30-2.50pm Anne Reardon-James

2.50-3.10pm Prof. Samantha Broadhead

3.10-3.30pm Holly Sandford

Speaker: Claire Penketh



Claire Penketh is Professor of Disability Studies & Art Education and Head of Disability Studies at Liverpool Hope University. She is a core member of the Centre for Culture and Disability Studies. Claire is author of two monographs: *A History of Disability & Art Education* and *A Clumsy Encounter: Dyspraxia and Drawing*. She is co-editor of *Disability, Avoidance and the Academy* with her colleague Professor David Bolt. She is Principal Editor of the *International Journal of Art and Design Education* and a member of the National Society for Education in Art and Design Education (NSEAD) and InSEA, the International Society of Education through Art.

iJADE

iJADE: Building our research community - This session will introduce iJADE, the International Journal of Art and Design Education, highlighting ways that the editorial team have sought to build an academic community through our conferences and publications. It will provide an opportunity for raising questions regarding researching and publishing in art, craft and design.

43.3

The International
Journal of Art & Design
Education

Special Issue: Revisiting Art's Education



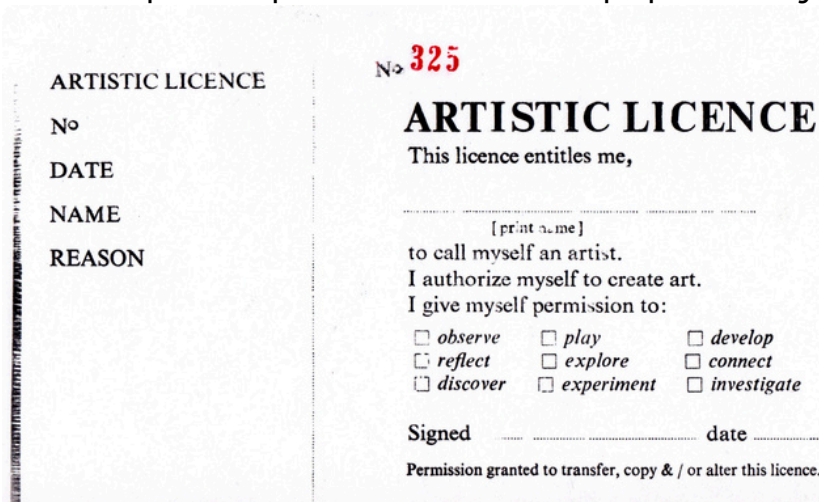
Speaker: Vega Brennan

Vega, who lectures on the PGCE course at the University of Cumbria, has over 20 years' experience working in the arts, art education, art practice. She is particularly interested in how to grow the ecology of rural arts, working with schools, communities and local and national arts organisations. Her art practice involves printmaking, using the medium to subvert norms about value and inviting her audiences to play and reflect.



Artistic Licences

Vega will be describing how a tongue-in-cheek Artistic Licence gives learners the confidence to embody the role of artists. She will talk about how Fluxus and her own art practice which involves print and ephemera. She will share her thoughts on how small interventions can be influential and powerful. There will be a bit of making involved so have a pen or pencil and a bit of paper ready.



ARTISTIC LICENCE

No

DATE

NAME

REASON

No **325**

ARTISTIC LICENCE

This licence entitles me,

.....

[print name]

to call myself an artist.

I authorize myself to create art.

I give myself permission to:

observe play develop

reflect explore connect

discover experiment investigate

Signed date

Permission granted to transfer, copy & / or alter this licence.

Padlet Link:
<https://padlet.com/NSEADevents/atacl-r8v5dglz693b9bs0>

Creative Workshop

Ronnie is an artist, teacher, and researcher based in the Southwest of England. Her multidisciplinary practice explores arts-based research, appropriated imagery, collage, and zines. Currently pursuing a Doctorate at UWE Bristol, Ronnie is developing a project titled "All bugs are insects, not all insects are bugs: Magnifying the motivations and experiences of artist-teachers practising in Further Education."



Instagram: @ronnieisapainter

Website: www.ronniehouselanderblog.weebly.com

Workshop

Join Ronnie for a zine making workshop inspired by the conference and your personal practice. Bleyer (2004) defines zines as handmade and self-published books that are a complex intersection of art, protest, confession and theory. Zines explore esoteric topics (Cogan, 2020) and are circulated by individuals participating in special interest communities (Radway, 2011). Zines hold cultural significance within many underrepresented cultures (Kempson, 2015) and are often a source of advocacy and empowerment for those who make them (Chidgey, 2006).



Materials

- An A3 or A4 piece of paper
- A magazine
- Pens
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stickers (if you're feeling fancy)

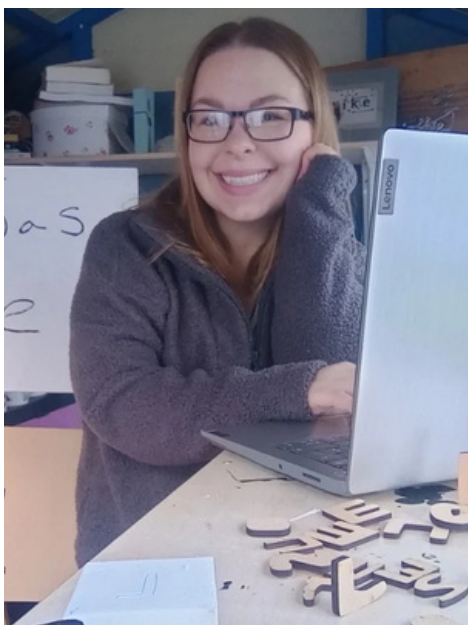
Conference partners



NSEAD

The National Society for Education in Art and Design (NSEAD) established in 1888 is a Trade Union, Subject Association, and Learned Society.

We believe in a just and equitable society that values high-quality art, craft, and design education. Led by and accountable to our members, we protect and promote our subject and your professional interests to achieve that vision.



Dr Abbie Cairns

Cairns identifies herself as an artist-teacher and is engaged in art and teaching practices. Abbie is interested in how those who identify as artist-teachers in adult community learning came to develop their identity.

Abbie is a text-based artist who makes and exhibits work regularly. Her art practice uses language to communicate with audiences inside and outside of gallery settings.

Conference partners

The logo for AtkinsonHR, featuring the text 'AtkinsonHR' in white on a dark blue rectangular background.

Atkinson HR

Atkinson HR is a strategic HR consultancy helping values-driven organisations become exceptional employers. We create tailored HR strategies and solutions aligned with our clients' core values, enabling teams to thrive and building workplace cultures that inspire excellence.

Our expert consultants take the time to understand each organisation's unique goals, delivering innovative talent management approaches, outstanding recruitment experiences, impactful reward framework and much more. Atkinson HR is committed to exceeding expectations and empowering organisations to achieve lasting, values led, success.