

**Pointing the Finger – Tate n Lyle – [www.tatenlyle.com](http://www.tatenlyle.com)  
A proposal for Bury Art Museum, Feb '19**

*Pointing the Finger* is a durational performance of 1-3 hours; for one performer, one hammer, ten nails, twelve prints, and an open exhibition wall. Audience are invited to come and go as they please.

A figure attempts to hang twelve sheets on a wall, each depicting a crude drawing of a pointing hand. They are a number of nails short: before they can mount the last, they are forced to draw out the first. A simple slapstick quandary necessitates continual reorganisation. Each arrangement proposes a new meaning: all in a row, or all pointing in the same direction; two groups point at each other; or, two lightly touch, as another looms above in divine judgement.

Despite – or perhaps due to – the anonymity of these hands, they evoke a potent sense of public gathering. *Pointing the Finger* draws a strong legacy from William Hogarth's prints that depict public scenes to demonstrate moral and civic value. We see gaze, proximity, isolation, assembly, clustering, accusation, excess, desire, exposure, castigation: in seemingly any configuration, these hands map out the dynamics of nearly all social and political violence. The work circles endlessly on. The audience are given opportunity to meditate on the pleasures, and perils, of getting too close to one another. The questions of how, why and with whom we assemble, seem to have a particularly urgency in today's climate.

Like much of Tate n Lyle's work, *Pointing the Finger* proposes a seemingly simple game that begins to reveal a world of meaning, contradiction and possibility. The piece operates within the materials and gestures of art-handling. Logics emerge and fade away as materials are continually exposed, transformed and worn down. As the performer repeatedly and nonchalantly penetrates the sanctified exhibition wall, the work invites a collective sense of possibility, irreverence toward and ownership of the civic space of the gallery itself.

Tate n Lyle is the collaboration of Rohanne Udall (b. 1990) and Paul Hughes (b. 1991). Trained in fine art, philosophy, and dance, we undertake artistic, performance and curatorial projects. Our work is produced within and presented across stages, galleries, studios, universities and digital spaces. Recently presentations include: UKYA Festival (Nottingham, Feb 19), David Roberts Art Foundation (London, Oct 18), DanceXchange (Birmingham, Jul 18). Rhubaba (Edinburgh, Jan 18), DISKURS (Gießen, Germany, Oct 17).

We would welcome the opportunity to perform this work at the Bury Art Museum: Paul has been working as a dramaturg recently with Manchester artists Amy Lawrence ('Such', Royal Exchange Theatre, July 2018) and Gareth Cutter ('Come Closer', HOME, January 2019). We see this as a great chance to begin a relationship with Bury Art Museum, and connect our work with the artistic community of the area. This would be the first time *Pointing the Finger* would be performed for a public.