

OCULA Magazine | News | Institutions

# 'Radio Ballads' Artists Embed With Social Services for Serpentine Show

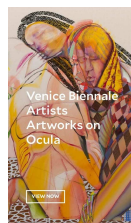
By [Cam Cammack](#)  
Last updated  
23 March 2022

### RELATED CONTENT

- [ARTIST PROFILE: Helen Cammack](#)  
VIDEO: SOC. SERVICES & EXHIBITION
- [ARTIST PROFILE: Sonia Boyce](#)  
VIDEO: SOC. SERVICES & EXHIBITION
- [ARTIST PROFILE: Simon Lee Gallery](#)  
VIDEO: ARTISTS' UNION

### LATEST OCULA EDITORIAL

- [OCULA NEWS: James Award 2022: Video Encroaches From The Netherlands](#)  
1 July 2022
- [OCULA NEWS: Affandi and Other Indonesian Masters Appear at MASTERPIECE Online Auction](#)  
23 June 2022
- [OCULA NEWS: What is Showing at the First Ever Frieze South?](#)  
22 June 2022



Videos by Sonia Boyce, Helen Cammack, Rory Pilgrim, and Bona Sagar touch on issues ranging from work-life imbalances to domestic abuse in a new exhibition that asks how art can effect change.



Rory Pilgrim, 2017. 2022. Barking and Dagenham. Photo: © Helen Cammack

From 1967 to 1964, the BBC developed a legendary series of eight 'Radio Ballads' focused on workers' struggles. Over the past three years, four artists were commissioned by [Serpentine](#) and East London borough Barking and Dagenham to create new works responding to life in Britain's struggling care sector.

The artists embedded themselves in social care services and the local community to create videos that will be exhibited in the [Radio Ballads](#) exhibition at Serpentine North from 31 March to 29 May. The exhibition will then travel to the Barking Town Hall and Learning Centre from 2 to 17 April.

In her video ballad, [Sonia Boyce](#) OBE, responded to Barking and Dagenham having the highest reported rate of domestic abuse in the UK. She partnered with the borough's Domestic Abuse Commission for her ballad, inviting individuals, community organisations and social care services to make art about their experiences. Boyce is represented by [Simon Lee Gallery](#), and will represent Britain at the Venice Biennale this year.

'An essential part of my process relies on a variety of people getting involved to help me to conflate something concrete and visible out of this immaterial thing that we call talking,' Boyce said. 'As such, I have a social practice, but beyond that I make no grand claims.'



Helen Cammack, The Radio Ballads (2022). Photo: © Helen Cammack

For her contribution, artist and poet [Helen Cammack](#) invited adult social care and youth offending workers, as well as people who use their services, to discuss ways to survive and overcome adversity. Cammack, who is represented by [Kate MacGarry](#) in London, was joint winner of the Turner Prize 2019.

Artist and filmmaker Bona Sagar worked with the London Abuse Support Awareness Group on her video ballad exploring Barking and Dagenham's distinction as the London borough with the highest rate of abortion cancers. People working on the docks, factory workers, and trades such as plumbers, carpenters and electricians continue to suffer from their exposure to hazardous materials, which they often unwittingly brought home to their families.

For his video ballad, artist and composer Rory Pilgrim adds a second chapter to his project [ZAPTS](#), which explores the unfolding climate crisis in performance, film and sound. With both the environment and the economy changing fast, he collaborated with people who have experienced migration, homelessness, and unemployment.

Radio Ballads is curated and produced by Serpentine's Civic Curator [Anna Wilson](#) with Elizabeth Graham, Lavinia Garcia, and Natalia Grabowska.

'Testing the potential for art to build political power, create life-sustaining relationships, and enact community and systems change, [Radio Ballads](#) build on legacies of listening, voicing and collaboration,' said Thelma.

She said the new ballads 'honour the voice of the people holding up the structures and systems of care that are keeping many of us afloat.' —[O]

SUBMIT ART NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND TIP TO NEWS@OCULA.COM



### SELECTED WORKS BY SONIA BOYCE AND HELEN CAMMACK

**Helen Cammack**  
Thoughtful/Powerful/They Call  
2019  
2019  
2019  
2019  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Sonia Boyce**  
Epitaphs, 2005  
2005  
2005  
2005  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Simon Lee Gallery**  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Sonia Boyce**  
Jungles, 1997  
1997  
1997  
1997  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Helen Cammack**  
Clear Consciousness, 2001  
2001  
2001  
2001  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Sonia Boyce**  
Zigzagging, 2005  
2005  
2005  
2005  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Helen Cammack**  
Sheepskin Whispers (Practice), 2017  
2017  
2017  
2017  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Helen Cammack**  
The Edge, 2019  
2019  
2019  
2019  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Sonia Boyce**  
The Audition in Cilek 1997/2020  
1997/2020  
1997/2020  
1997/2020  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Helen Cammack**  
Stalagmair and Owl in America, 2021  
2021  
2021  
2021  
CONTACT GALLERY

**Helen Cammack**  
Singing They Call It 2014/2020  
2014/2020  
2014/2020  
2014/2020  
CONTACT GALLERY

JOIN US FOR THE VOICES WITHOUT BOUNDARIES JUNE 9-JULY 29, 2022

### SELECTED OCULA MEMBER GALLERIES

Gallerie Albrecht

ANNE BARRAULT

MARTA CONTEMPORARY

THINKING GALLERY

GAZELLI ART HOUSE

Galerie Albrecht

BA S.A.K. ART

David Zoller

Two Rooms

ENSEMBLE GALLERY

Gallerie Albrecht

**ABOUT OCULA**

About OCULA  
OCULA  
OCULA  
OCULA

**OCULA MEMBERSHIP**

To find out more  
OCULA  
OCULA  
OCULA

**QUICK SIGN UP**

To make artwork enquiries, follow artists & galleries, save & share artworks and receive our newsletter.

**GALLERY MEMBERSHIP**

In order to present the best of contemporary art our gallery membership is by application or invitation only. Additional galleries will be invited to join the OCULA network. For more information, visit us.

