GALLERY 44

PRESS RELEASE

In The Living Room

Betty C Fan & Hannah Dowling



A LIVE PERFORMANCE · **WED 24 JUNE 2026** · 9PM · 44 CHALCOT ROAD, PRIMROSE HILL, LONDON NW1 8LS

GALLERY 44 PRESENTS

In The Living Room

A live performance by Betty C Fan & Hannah Dowling

LIVE PERFORMANCE · GALLERY 44, PRIMROSE HILL · 24 JUNE 2026, 9PM

Gallery 44 is pleased to present *In The Living Room*, a live collaborative performance by artists Betty C Fan and Hannah Dowling. Bringing together improvised soundscape, live writing, handmade instruments and poetic exchange, the performance unfolds as an intimate dialogue shaped by presence, listening and response.

Working across distinct yet deeply responsive practices, Fan and Dowling explore the possibilities of communication as it emerges in real time. Dowling's practice is rooted in language, poetry and the embodied act of writing, while Fan investigates sound, materiality, poetry and the resonant potential of hand-crafted sculptural instruments that function as living archives. Together they create a performance that unfolds through a state of flow — neither fully composed nor entirely spontaneous, lingering in the space between order and impulse, where meaning is found through instant exchange.

Set within Gallery 44's home-gallery environment in Primrose Hill, the performance responds directly to the architecture, atmosphere and social intimacy of the house. Rather than presenting a fixed work, Fan and Dowling invite audiences into a live process shaped by gesture, sound, silence, language and the shifting energy of those present.

The work arrives at a time when most communication is mediated, delayed or algorithmically filtered, compelling us to question how rare moments of true immediacy have become. In this work, presence is not passive; the artists propose presence itself as a material. Through their dialogue, each vibration, pause and phrase captures not only sound or speech, but the shared frequency of being alive in the very same moment — between the artists and the audience.

Audience participation forms an integral part of the work. Throughout the performance, guests are invited to engage in a collective word exchange, contributing language that enters the evolving dialogue between the artists. At the conclusion of the evening, visitors are encouraged to record reflections, impressions or fragments of thought generated by the experience — contributions that remain in the gallery alongside the artworks, creating a living archive of memory, encounter and collaboration.

Through acts of real-time making, *In The Living Room* opens a space for uncertainty, intimacy and attention, inviting audiences to inhabit the fleeting moment before it slips into memory and becomes history. We invite you to join us.

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTS

"We came together to improvise and compose live in an age where undoing has become second nature — where the digital gesture of deletion shadows every act of making. We met at the RCA in autumn 2023, and came to know each other across many pub conversations, and through them rediscovered the pleasure of thinking creatively between languages and mediums. For the duration of the performance, the living room becomes shared ground: an open dialogue between sound and word, unfolding in real time among everyone present."

— BETTY & HANNAH

THE ARTISTS

Betty C Fan

B. TAIPEI · HONG KONG / USA-RAISED · LIVES & WORKS IN LONDON

Betty C Fan is an artist working across sculpture, sound, poetry and performance, delving into how identity, matter and memory resonate across time, place and ecology. Using elemental materials such as clay, rice and metal, Fan creates dynamic, tactile sculptures reminiscent of ancient archaeological objects. For her ephemeral, one-off commissioned performances, she transforms these sculptures into instruments — both sonic tools and ritual vessels — using them to recreate and reverberate sounds collected across her lived experience, which together form a living archive. Trained in Western classical music, Fan pairs her vocals with reinterpretations of her heritage to build layered, textured performances that invite reflection, healing and connection across cultures. Originally trained in architecture, she studied at Pratt Institute and Columbia University before completing an MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art. She has exhibited and performed at venues including the Saatchi Gallery, the Nicoletta Fiorucci Foundation with the Courtauld, Hypha Studios, Copeland Gallery and Alisan Fine Arts.

Hannah Dowling

B. 2000 · WRITER, CURATOR & CREATIVE · LIVES BETWEEN LONDON & MALTA

Hannah Dowling is a writer, curator and creative based between London and Malta, whose practice explores presence, memory and affect through curatorial frameworks, poetic text and live writing. Drawing on a background in art history, theatre and contemporary art curation, she is interested in writing and curation as performative acts that create space for encounter, participation and transformation — where viewers can feel a project and potentially 'find themselves' in it.

She graduated with a BA (Hons) in History of Art from the University of Malta, where she received the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, and an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art. Her curatorial projects include work for the Mdina Biennale 2020, the Venice Art Biennale 2022 and the Malta Biennale 2024, among others.

EVENT DETAILS

PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 24 June 2026
Doors 8.30pm · Performance 9pm

EXHIBITION

24 June – 24 July 2026

VENUE

Gallery 44, 44 Chalcot Road
Primrose Hill, London NW1 8LS

RSVP

gallery44.co.uk/rsvp

ABOUT GALLERY 44

Gallery 44 is an intimate contemporary art gallery and residency space in Primrose Hill, founded by Jino Murad. Its programme supports emerging and early-career artists through exhibitions, performances, residencies and salon-style gatherings — creating a space where art can be experienced through proximity, conversation and presence.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

Gallery 44 · 44 Chalcot Road, Primrose Hill, London NW1 8LS
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In The Living Room

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