

MARIE-ANNE MCQUAY
CURATOR
LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL 2025

Curatorial Statement LB2025

‘BEDROCK’, Liverpool Biennial 2025 is inspired by the physical and social foundations of Liverpool and the people, places and values that ground us.



Fig.1 Salt and Sister Studio (2024) *Bedrock Liverpool Biennial 2025*. <https://www.saltandsister.co.uk/>

‘BEDROCK’ draws on Liverpool’s distinctive geography and the beliefs which underpin the city’s social foundations. It is inspired by the sandstone which spans the city region and is found in its distinctive architecture. ‘BEDROCK’ also acts as a metaphor for the social foundations of Liverpool and the people, places and values that ground us.



Fig.2 Marie-Anne McQuay

The city's geological foundations and its psyche have provided the starting point for the conversations of Liverpool Biennial 2025, with the invited artists bringing us their own definition of 'BEDROCK'. Definitions which include family and chosen family, cultural heritage carried across the generations, and the environments that nurture and restore them. Central to this understanding of BEDROCK is the sense of loss that comes from the ongoing legacies of colonialism and empire so formative to Liverpool's foundations.

In responding to the city, artists have taken inspiration from Liverpool's archives and histories, from its communities and civic spirit, and from taking time to dwell in its green spaces which support plant, insect, and bird life in unexpected ways through planned and unplanned urban developments.

Biennial Reading List Includes:

Jeff Young, (2020) *Ghost Town: A Liverpool Shadow Play*, West Dorset: Little Toller Books

Malik Al Nasir (2021) *Letters to Gil*, New York: Harper Collins

Jennifer Lee Tsai (2019) *Kismet*, Oxford: Oxford Brooks University

Amitav Gosh (2021) *The Nutmeg's Curse*, London: John Murray Press

Kathryn Yusoff (2018) *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press