



# Articulated

Contested Territories

5th May 2022

# Space

**Contest** (noun): engage in competition to attain (a position of power).

**Territory** (noun): An area of knowledge, activity, or experience.

*Brought together by the conversation of the two definitions listed above, ten artists explore the prominent thematic rooted within ‘contested territories’, seen as an acting term within the everyday. Individually, their artistic practices are a foundation for expression, working in their chosen medium to evidence their findings, many telling a story of others or their own.*

*Being faced with the opportunity to examine relevant connotations, exploring running themes such as the body, environment, and contention, ‘Articulated Space’ encourages you to engage in the presented topics in their entirety. This exhibition acts as a space for unpacking territories and disputes within them while navigating you through the showcase of mixed-media artworks.*

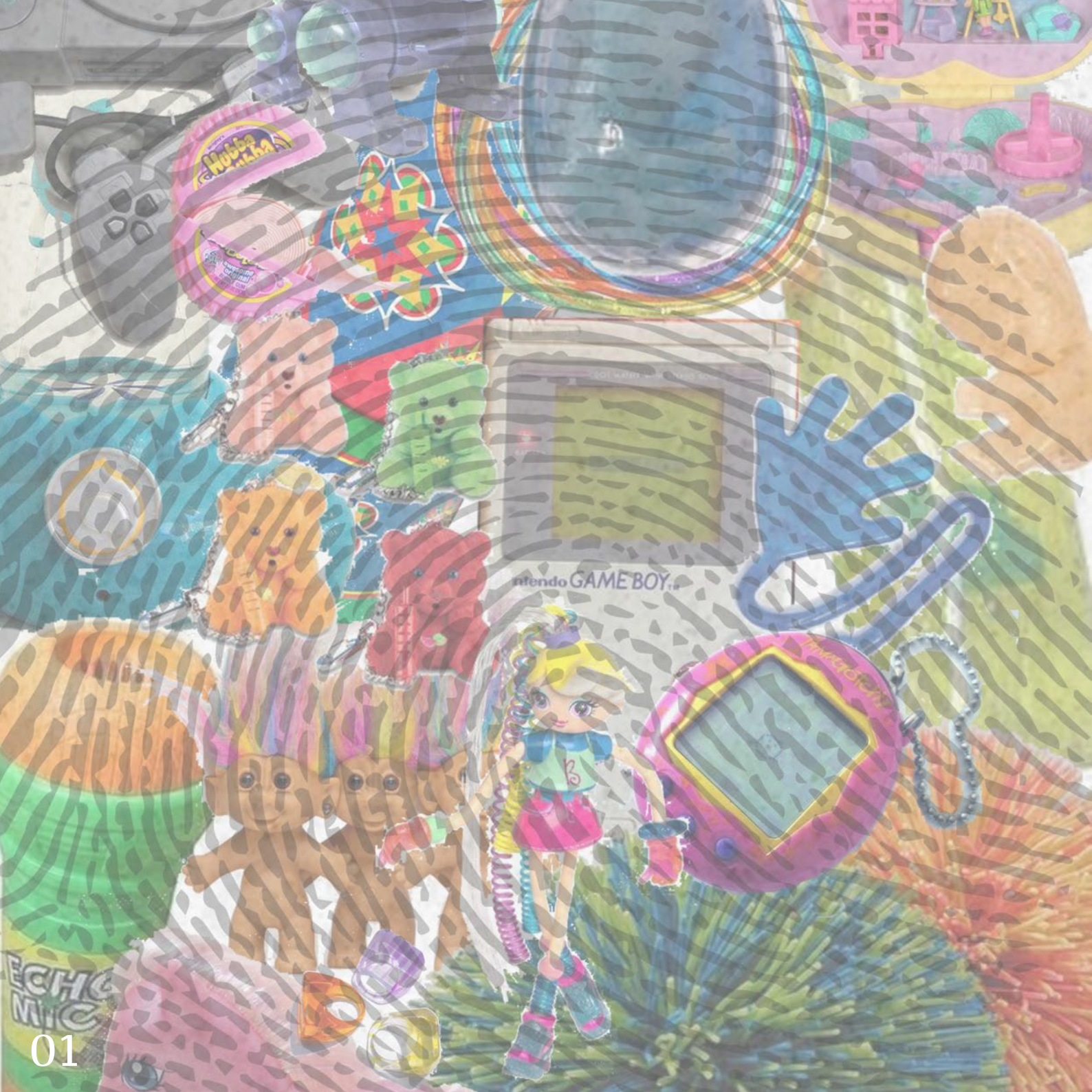
## Featured Artists:

*Sara Alwagfi,  
Lois Blackwell,  
Eileen Bradbury,  
Will Dobbs,  
Sarah Hartley,  
Ali Kavanagh,  
Rebecca Mace,  
Lucy Macpherson,  
Lynn Murphy,  
Alison Thompson*

## Curated By:

*Sophie Edmondson,  
Georgie Parker,  
Lillie Tew,  
Melis Yilmaz*





‘Play as a  
pretence  
seperate  
from  
reality’



*‘But what, then, is the function of the studio?’*

*It is the work’s place of origin.*

*It is most often a private place; it could be an ivory tower.*

*It is a fixed place where objects are created that must be transportable.*

*It is an extremely important place, as is already evident.*

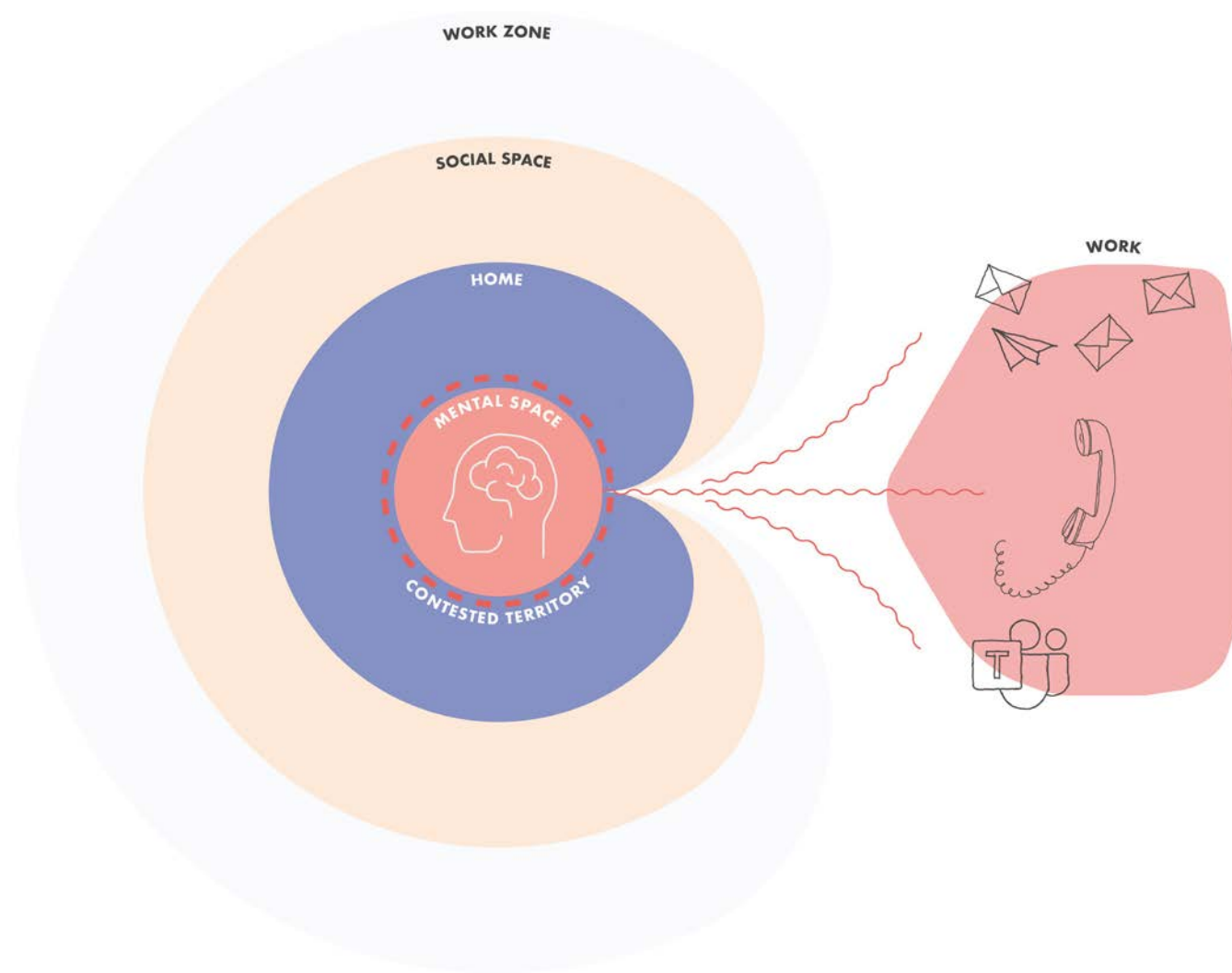
*It is the first frame, the first limit, upon which all the other ones will depend.’*

- (Daniel Buran, 2004)

# Art as studio process

In *Studio to Situation*, Daniel Buran explores the relationship between gallery and museum spaces parallel to the studio. He uses the term ‘Art system’ to describe the overarching factors contributing to an artist’s practice. In this discussion, Buran begins re-examining the art system, investigating “the studio as a unique place where the works originate”, whereby the museum is referred to as “a unique place where the work is seen” (Buran, 2004). Briefly commenting on two studio types, European and American, explorations evidencing architectural differences are evident throughout this comparison. Highlighting factors such as natural lighting, location and ceiling height, which vary depending on its origin, Buran reviews the echoing correlations that occur when the work is removed from this space and curated within an institution. Mirroring the environment of its creation, he comments, “it is possible to see the architectural relationships thus installed between the studio and the museum-whereby one inspires the other”. (Buran, 2004)

Suppose an artist is responsive to the space in which their artwork originates. Is it fair to argue that the outcome has been created to its best resolution only within these parameters and, once removed, can be read alternatively? Unendoubtedly, site-specific artworks will differ significantly, but those developed within these guidelines vary by the social and financial restrictions the individual may face, ultimately reflecting in their work as an extension of its maker. As the artwork transitions from its ‘origin’ into its temporary ‘exhibit’, it is interesting to acknowledge the accommodations achieved by institutions to engage the artwork within its new environment. The lighting, sound and space are adapted to mirror resemblances of its true origin, although the connections feel detached from the characteristics of the artist’s studio. Is there potential in creating a studio and gallery hybrid, whereby the audience can experience the artwork parallel to the artist? Simultaneously creating a space that acknowledges the process as necessary as the outcome, including the environment in which it evolves.



## *'The Antidote To The Work Place Stress'*

Stress,  
It's a bad thing.  
It can cause.  
Cancer.  
Heart attacks.  
Depression.  
And a myriad of unpleasantnesses.  
So.  
If you encounter stress in the  
workplace.  
There is nothing more.  
Calming.  
Serene.  
And soothing.  
Than a cup of herbal tea.  
Or tisanes to use their real name.  
Try Lobelia.  
But be careful.  
In large amounts it can cause,  
Vomiting.  
Diarrhoea.

So a small quantity in a large mug.  
Choose a light green mug if you have  
one.  
For the colour green,  
Has been specifically proven to,  
Have a calming affect on people.  
Add a greedy spoonful of organic  
honey,  
And a smidgy light sprinkle of  
cinnamon,  
Stir slowly.  
Then pour,  
The entire contents...  
Over the desktop PC,  
Of the person's who's,  
Getting right up your nose,  
Instant,  
Stress,  
Relief,  
Works like a charm.

- Shaun Cronick

The UNHRC figures speak for themselves. Increasing numbers of families are displaced by war, famine and terrorism. They leave behind the security of citizenship, heading into an unknown future. They become the “undocumented aliens”, the “sans papiers”. The journeys they take involve great danger, deprivation and fear. And yet they have to flee:

Excerpt from “Home” (Warsan Shire)

‘no one leaves home until home is a sweaty voice in your ear  
saying –  
leave,  
run away from me now  
I don’t know what I’ve become  
but I know that anywhere  
is safer than here.’

Many never return. Some settle successfully in new countries; others remain stateless and helpless, in camps, under railway bridges. Given what is happening in the world today, I wanted to express my emotional response through my painting. The final painting, the turbulent windswept land, is full of hidden danger. But the bubbles symbolising the family are ascending. I wanted to end with the family rising, with hope.

UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency

Figures from 10th November 2021 (Before the Russian & Ukrainian War) From the Refugee Data Finder:

84 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide (35 million of these are children)  
48 million are internally displaced  
26.6 million are refugees (1 million children were born as refugees)  
4.4 Million are asylum-seekers





**Bohemianism:** the practice of an unconventional lifestyle, often in the company of like-minded people and with few permanent ties.



One of the main characteristics of Bohemianism is the travelling aspect of their lives, and this is not only seen in the lifestyle of many of the artists, but also where Bohemianism was found at the end of the nineteenth century and the start of the twentieth century. Paris and New York were some of the main cities across the world where Bohemian lifestyles were adopted into particular areas of the metropolises. The mindset and styles of Bohemianism have been broken down into five distinct groups that clearly show the different types of bohemians. Nouveau; bohemians that are rich who attempt to join traditional Bohemianism with contemporary culture. Gypsy; the expatriate types create their own Gypsy ideal of Nirvana whenever they go. Beat; also drifters, but non-materialistic and art-focused. Zen, 'post-beat', focus on spirituality rather than art. And Dandy; no money, but try to appear as if they have it by buying and displaying expensive or rare items. Many bohemians had a disregard for convention, an opposition to Bourgeois society, a commitment to aesthetic values and culture in opposition to philistinism, and an opposition to commodification and money. There were also many other characteristics that bohemians were meant to adopt into their life, such as; they were not supposed to own property, must have left home, shouldn't have their parents around, and, if possible, they shouldn't be married or have children.





- First introduced to the UK in 1839
- A relative of the Busy Lizzie

- Grows rapidly and spreads quickly, smothering other vegetation as it goes.
- The plant is often spread by people planting them in their gardens and via waterways.
- Seeds are viable for two years and they produce 800 a year.

*Impatiens glandulifera*



- Reported to have been first introduced to the UK in the early 1700's.
- Often grown in gardens due to its pretty blue forget-me-not flowers.

- It can self-seed so grows new plants close to the original, but is also distributed at long distances on animal fur or clothing.

*Pentaglottis*



# 'Psychoanalysis

offers a lens of how multiple and contradictory forces can produce fixedness and on the permeability of the apparant boundary between 'inside and out'. Well-established motions such as identification, introjection and internalisation as well as more contemporary psychoanalytic thinking of recognition offer routes to conceptualise the process whereby human subjects become invested in particular identities. Because both the constructive processes and the investment are largely or wholly unconscious, identities are lived as if they were 'given' rather than chosen; that is, they are often felt to be fundamental to the subject, as if they have been received whole and constitute the subject's essence. /

- (Anthony Elliott , 2009)



# An Anthropology of Borders

*Borders are a point at which boundaries between territorial land are defined, and have become a site to be studied, encouraging the force of a variety of social sciences and other disciplines to meet. Border studies intersect with concepts like identity, power, state, which borrow lenses from geography, history, politics, sociology, and anthropology. They are featured in popular discourses, many of which are controversial such as those regarding the migration and armed conflict, which reinforce each other to a degree. The influx of refugees from war-torn states is often met with hostility with bordering countries who wish to defend their land and nationality. However, war puts civilians at immense risk and forces them to find other nations to move to protect their families. The Syrian refugee crisis reinforced the political realist view that states reflect human nature; essentially self-serving and nationalistic, therefore their reactive immigration policies became an indicator of the progressiveness within a national government.*

*Since the 1990s, anthropology has used borders to study everyday lives and narratives towards the conceptual and physical boundary that borders represent – “it is in the emphasis on how borders are constructed, negotiated and viewed from ‘below’ that the value and distinctiveness of an anthropology of borders arguably initially relied” (Wilson & Donnan, 2012, p.8). Hence, nation and state are viewed as two different entities, the former referring to cultural identity and the latter to physical territory. Through the adoption of ethnographic methods, both geography and sociology have drawn towards anthropology in their research of borders. Articulated Space is a curated artistic expression which serves the anthropological purpose of giving access to individual stories and specific communities affected by the permeation of physical or conceptual borders in daily lives.*



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Biopolitics

Green Line

Invasive

Place/Space

Border