E L S A J A M E S

Born in London, England 1968. Lives in Essex, works in London and Essex
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Education

2020-21 - Syllabus VI, Alt Learning Programme with Wysing Art Centre, Eastside Projects, Iniva, Spike Island and Studio Voltaire
2013-15 - Postgraduate Certificate, Participatory and Community Arts, Goldsmiths, University of London
2006-10 - BA (Hons) Fine Art, Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London (Awarded First-class Hons)

Current | Upcoming

May-Jun 21, *Estuary Festival*, Co-Curator, Opening Weekend: Online Live Broadcast Programme, Metal | Cement Fields
Feb 21, In Conversation with Sepake Angiama (Artistic Dir, Iniva) chaired by Jon Blackwood (Writer | Curator), Firstsite Online
Jan 21, WE STAND WITH YOU, Black Lives Matter Special Edition Print commission, Firstsite | Fraser Muggeridge Studio
Sept 20-Mar 21, The White House (Create London), Commissioned artist to deliver New Town Culture programme, London

Exhibitions

2020 - *Policy No.1 Disrupt The Existing Narratives*, Policy Making: The Agency of Visible Women, Beecroft Art Gallery, Essex
2019 - *Black Girl Essex: Here We Come, Look We Here*, Super Black, Firstsite, Essex
2019 - *Black Girl Essex*, (Solo) Firstsite, Essex
2019 - *Circle of Blackness*, Time Portals, Furtherfield Gallery, London
2018 - *Forgotten Black Essex*, (Solo) Chalkwell Hall, Metal Culture, Essex
2018 - *The Agency of Visible Women*, Beecroft Art Gallery, Essex
2012 - *Already Here*, Curated by Osei Bonsu, Central Saint Martins, London
2011 - *Pause*, Artside festival, Southend on Sea, Essex
2011 - *The Pier Project*, AVA Gallery, University of East London, London
2010 - *Goat Curry & Rap*, Lecture Theatre, Chelsea College of Arts, London
2010 - *Inscriptions*, Chelsea College of Arts, London
2010 - *Rituals* | *Shifted*, The Triangle Gallery, Chelsea College of Arts, London

Screenings

2020 - *Forgotten Black Essex* film screening, part of the Essex Girls exhibition, Beecroft Art Gallery, Essex
2020 - *Forgotten Black Essex*: Princess Dinubolu, One Southend BHM Event, Online
2020 - *Black Girl Essex: Here We Come, Look We Here*, IWD event, Beecroft Art Gallery, Essex
2019 - *Love in Social Practice*, Going Places Festival, Cubitt and All Change, London
2018 - *Forgotten Black Essex*, Big Screen Southend, Focal Point Gallery, Essex
2018 - *Goat Curry & Rap*, The Agency of Visible Women, Beecroft Art Gallery, Essex
2011 - *Inscriptions*, Last Friday Shorts, The Old Waterworks, Essex
2010 - *Goat Curry & Rap*, Lecture Theatre, Chelsea Collage of Arts, London
2006 - *Lies*, *Myths and Truths*, Havering College, Essex

Commissions | Awards

2020 - *In Other Words* book publication, Contributing artist, Metal and the Live Art Development Agency

2020 - *WE STAND WITH YOU*, Black Lives Matter poster download commission, Firstsite, Essex

2020 - *Covid-19 Survival,* Emergency Response Award to continue work on creative development, Arts Council England

2020 - *Generation Rebellion R&D*, Co-lead Artist with Sue Mayo, Intergenerational workshops and Zine, Magic Me, London

2019 - *Black Girl Essex,* residency at Firstsite and new work for the *Super Black* exhibition, Arts Council England

2019 - *Circle of Blackness*, Commission exploring a past and future black woman narrative, Furtherfield, London

2019 - *Love in Social Practice*, Artist film commission, Cubitt, London

2018 - *Decorum*, Co-lead Artist, Intergenerational workshops and film, Magic Me & Metal Culture, Essex

2017 - *Forgotten Black Essex*, Solo Artist & Producer, Moving Image films, Arts Council England

2016 - *The Garden of Remember*, Lead Artist & Development, Digital App, Southend Borough Council, Essex

2015 - *Changing Face of the Rise*, Producer & Lead Artist, Community Engagement, Thurrock Council, Essex

2015 - *Asylum Seekers & Refugees in Southend*, Community Researcher commission, Written Report, CAST, Essex

2014 - *Covered*, Producer & Lead Artist, Workshops and Public Exhibition, Essex County Council, Essex

2013 - *The Chatterbox Project*, Producer & Co-lead Artist, Sound Installation, Arts Council England

Residencies

2020 - *Remote Residency*, Selected artist for month-long residency focusing on new research, Metal Southend, Essex

2019 - *Black Girl Essex*: Four-month residency exploring the black British voice in Essex, Firstsite, Essex

2016-17 E+E: Five-month Time and Space residency with Everton Wright, Metal Culture, Essex

2013 - Switch Ideas Lab: Five-day residency, Arts Council England Digital Escalator programme, Writers' Centre, Norwich

Public Talks & Interviews

2020 - Artist talk, POC in the Industry, Blackground BHM event, University of the Arts London, Online

2020 - In Conversation with actor/writer Anne Odeke, Queens Theatre Hornchurch, YouTube Video

2020 - Live Radio Broadcast on the Ian Wyatt BBC Introducing show: 12/10/20, BBC Essex, Essex

2020 - Panellist with Marc Garrett, Cassie Thornton and Tomislav Medak, RadicalxChange Conference, New York, Online

2020 - In Conversation with artists R.M Sanchez-Camus and Sian Williams, Axisweb, Online

2020 - Artist discussion with Q&A, Quarantine Dialogues curated by Jon Blackwood and Maja Zeco, Online

2020 - Live Radio Broadcast on the Sonia Watson breakfast show: 08/06/20, BBC Essex, Essex

2020 - Artist Talk with Q&A, PEER Ambassadors programme, PEER Gallery, London

2019 - Live Radio Broadcast on the Ben Fryer and Sonia Watson breakfast show: 22/11/19, BBC Essex, Essex

2019 - Artist Talk with Q&A, Norwich University of the Arts, Norfolk

2019 - Live Radio Broadcast on the Dave Monk Drive time show: 17/10/19, BBC Essex, Essex

2019 - TV News Presentation Feature on BBC Look East: 16/10/19, BBC, Essex

2019 - Live Radio Broadcast, The Essex Girl stereotype panel debate with Emma Bullimore: 30/07/19, BBC Essex, Essex

2019 - TV News Feature on BBC London: 24/07/19, BBC, London

2019 - TV News Feature on BBC Look East: 22/07/19, BBC, Essex

2019 - Live Radio Broadcast on the Kath Melandri Saturday Breakfast: 29/06/19, BBC Essex, Essex

2019 - Live Radio Broadcast on the Tony Fisher Show: 27/06/19, BBC Essex, Essex

2019 - Live Radio Broadcast, Windrush Diversity Panel on the Jodie Halford Show: 19/06/19, BBC Essex, Essex

2019 - No Frills Working Dinner Party, part show part discussion with Scottee & Friends, The Albany, London

2019 - The Guilty Feminist Live Tour panel chat with Deborah Frances-White, Cliffs Pavilion, Essex

2019 - Artist Talk with Q&A, Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

2019 - Artist Talk with Q&A, School of Art and Digital Industries, University of East London, London

2018 - *Forgotten Black Essex*, Presentation with Q&A for BHM18, The Sixth Form College, Essex

2018 - *Who am I? Identity and Belonging*, panel discussion with Q&A, Focal Point Gallery, Essex

2018 - *The Archive & Historical Geographies of The Black Presence*, Talk, panel discussion with Q&A, Autograph, London

2018 - Radio interview for Peter Holmes Sunday Breakfast: 18/02/18, BBC Essex, Essex

2018 - Babble Arts Chat, Internet Radio interview on Forgotten Black Essex, Essex

2017 - Stories of Resistance and Solidarity, International Women's Day panel discussion, Metal Culture, Essex

2016 - Three-Minute Wonder, Future Parks, Metal Culture, Essex

2014 - *Essex Girls Guide to Life with Syd Moore,* Show guest, Independent Radio, Essex

2013 - Three-Minute Wonder, Future Parks, Metal Culture, Essex

2012 - Video interview, Chelsea Alumni, Chelsea College of Arts YouTube Channel, London

Appointments | Workshops

2021 - Artist Mentor, George Morl for the Agency of Visible Womxn and The Old Waterworks residency, Essex

2020 - Contributing Artist, Self-portrait drawing for Focal Point Gallery's 30th year 'commemorative tea-towel', Essex

2020 - Guest Artist Selector, New moving image works for Big Screen Southend programme, Focal Point Galley, Essex

2020 - Lead Artist, Protest Placard Making workshop for International Women's Day March, Beecroft Art Galley, Essex

2019 - Panel Artist Judge, New Voices Auditions, BBC Essex, Essex

2019 - Lead Artist, *Change the Conversation*, Young women's 4-day Art and Activism Project, Autograph ABP, London

2019 - Panel Selector, Social Art Network + Kickstarter PBC, Coaching Programme, London

2019 - Lead Artist, Social Art Assembly, Lab sharing and discussion, Tate Exchange, London

2019 - Lead Artist, Mark making workshop for Muslim women's group, Essex

2019 - Lead Artist, Printmaking workshop for Muslim women's group, Essex

2018 - Lead Artist, Social Art Summit, Participatory lab discussion and debate, Site Gallery, Sheffield

2018 - Nominated Artist, *No Shortlists* experimental Joshua Sofaer workshop, Social Works? Axisweb, London

2018 - Participating Artist, *For The Love of Labour, Get-Together*, Social Works? Axisweb, Nottingham

2018 - Lead Artist, Relief Printmaking Workshop Activity for Redbridge Council at Fairlop Annual Fair, Essex

2018 - Co-lead Artist, Alexandra Leykauf *Caprona* workshop for Start Children's programme, Focal Point Gallery, Essex

2018 - Lead Artist, *The Digital Selfie Portrait*: ProCreate workshop for Suffolk Libraries staff, Suffolk

2017 - Associate Artist, *HenPower* weekly workshops for young people with mild learning disabilities, London

2017 - Co-lead Artist, Hilary Lloyd *Theatre* workshop for Start Children's programme, Focal Point Gallery, Essex

2017 - Lead Artist, 50 Notable Black Britons: Black History Month drawing workshop for Basildon residents, Essex

2017 - Lead Artist, Open Arts: A six-week wellbeing arts programme for Muslim women's group, Essex

2016 - Artist Facilitator, HenPower Southend, working with dementia participants, Essex

2016 - Lead Artist, The Digital Selfie Portrait: ProCreate on iPads for retired participants, Essex

2015 - Artist Facilitator, NetPark Education Programme, working with primary pupils, Metal Southend. Essex

2011-12 Project Development Manager, The Old Waterworks (formally TAP) Artist-run space, Essex

Publications | Features | Press

2020 - *Essex Girls: For Profane and Opinionated Women Everywhere* written by Sarah Perry cited on page 8

2020 - *Art by the Water* feature by Rick Jordan, Condé Nast Traveller magazine in print and online

2020 - *How a Black slave brough to Harlow left behind a legacy remembered for centuries* by Elliot Hawkins, Essex Live online

2020 - *The Black princess who took on a white Southend community and caused national uproar* by Elliot Hawkins, Essex Live online

2020 - *Black Girl Essex* editorial featured by Nicky Adams, Essex Life magazine in print and online

2020 - *Scarlet Lipstick and Theology*, quoted in Sarah Perry's essay, Guardian Review in print and online

2020 - *Place 2020*, contributing writer, Centre for Place Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University online

2020 - *The Great Women Artists Podcast,* Chloe Austin talk with Katy Hessel, Episode 29 online

2020 - *The Black British Artists Challenging Super White* Britain by Chloe Austin, Black Ballad online

2019 - *Coming Out as a Black Essex Girl* contributing feature article, Trawler X EGLF newspaper publication

2019 - *The black princess who 'took on a white world* by Laurence Cawley*,* BBC News online

2019 - *I want to challenge people's perceptions* by Darryl Webber, Essex Chronicle newspaper

2019 - *Exhibition on Black identity and experience in Essex,* by Darryl Webber, Essex Chronicle newspaper

2019 - *Elsa James shows just what an Essex Girl looks like,* by Neil D'arcy, Colchester Gazette newspaper

2019 - *The black artist taking on the 'Essex Girl' stereotype*, by Dawn Gerber, BBC News online

2019 - *Firstsite presents three film works by Elsa James*, Art Daily online

2019 - *Black identity exhibition*, Essex Enquirer newspaper

2019 - *Reflection of different cultures at Firstsite shows*, by Neil D'arcy, Colchester Gazette newspaper

2019 - *Southend artist Elsa takes exhibition to Firstsite gallery*, by Kelly Ann Buckley, The Echo (Southend) newspaper

2019 - *Exhibition explores black identity in Essex*, Essex Chronicle newspaper

2019 - *Exhibition to celebrate park's 150th anniversary,* Enfield Independent newspaper

2019 - *The Invention of Essex*, Long read article by Tim Burrows, Guardian newspaper

2019 - *New Ways of Seeing, Making & Telling*, Commissioned contribution, a-n The Artist Information Company online

2018 - *Essex black history film closes,* by Kelly Ann Buckley, The Echo (Southend) newspaper

2018 - *Forgotten Black Essex,* cited on page 27 -28 by Tim Burrows, Radical Essex publication

2018 - *Artist responds to forgotten black Essex,* by Kelly Ann Buckley, The Echo (Southend) newspaper