

East End Open

10 - 26 July 2026

Opening: 9 July, 6-8pm

Mike Hill, Samantha Wilson, Filip Velkovski, Madeline Mackay, olesya ilenok, Sofya Mikhaylova, Kimberley Bright, Cora Weiss, Iona Jones, Rebecca Lavery, Oscar Marcus Boyle & a live music set from **medb** on the opening night

In the game sleeping lions, players lie down on the floor with their eyes shut and pretend to sleep. They must remain completely still. If a player is caught moving, they are out of the game. I have this hazy childhood memory of my dad explaining to me that the reason we were told to play sleeping lions was to trick us into being quiet. I think about this now when, as an adult, I sometimes need to pretend to be sleeping in order to trick my body into falling asleep.

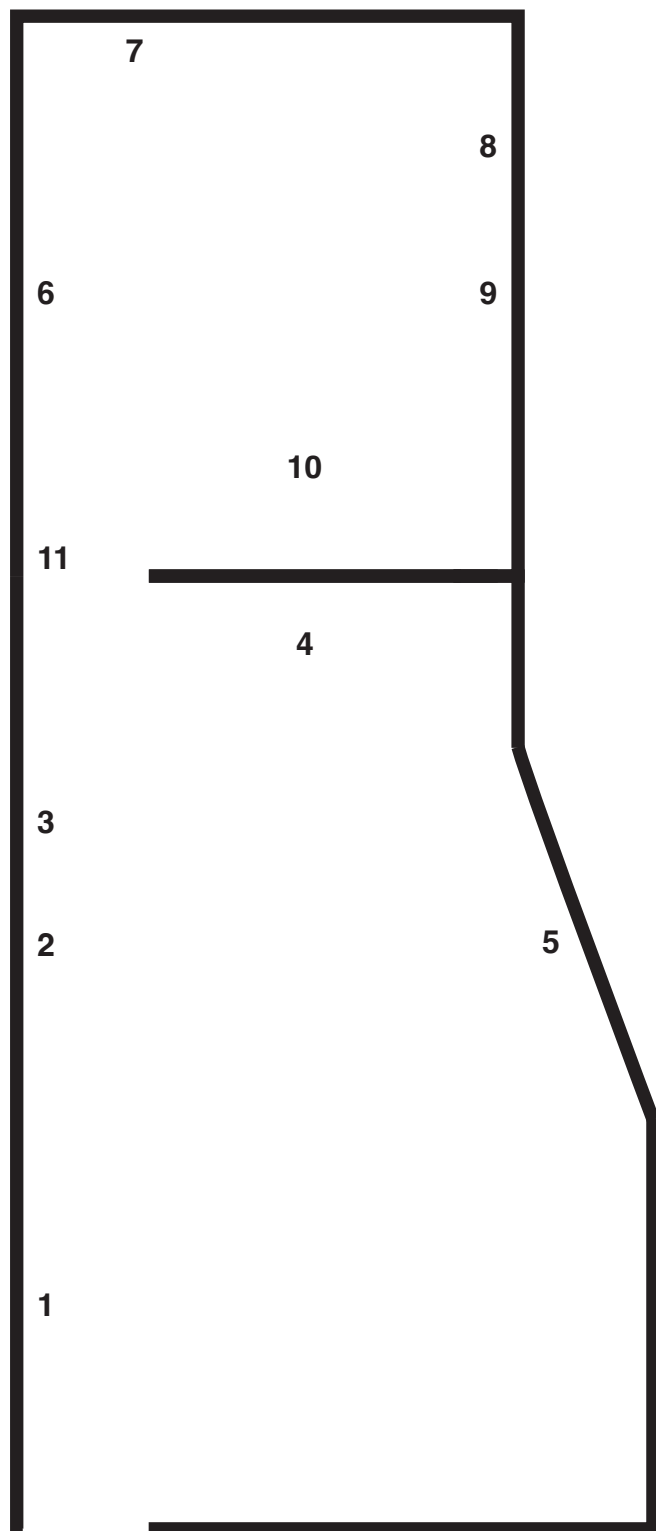
In **Samantha Wilson's** *Rest in Limbo*, the figures are resting but they are not at peace. Pressed elbow to elbow, they struggle to get comfortable. Only their closed eyes suggest sleep. From behind the doors of an altarpiece, the woman in **Sofya Mikhaylova's** *Secret Gift* meets our gaze. She reclines like the *Venus of Urbino*. The lounging figure in **Madeline Mackay's** animation is perfectly still as flesh moves independently across her abdomen. She is host to activity she seems to play no part in. In **Oscar Marcus Boyle's** *Staircase Descending a Nude*, the figure is tense, prone beneath the weight of an ambling staircase.

These sleeping lions are overlooked by **MIKE HILL LOVES YOU**: a replica of the sign that has been above the entrance to this building for over 20 years. In the next room, the works turn towards you in their own ways.

Filip Velkovski's embroideries read like artefacts from another world. Their dreamlike scenes are entered mid-action, where the meaning of gestures cannot be known. In *Hand of Chance*, a hand rises up into our world or perhaps it sinks down into waters below. **Iona Jones's** hand is suspended from the ceiling. It is a fragile construction of chicken bones, tin, copper and varnish, rotating in place like a shop window display.

The hands in **Rebecca Lavery's** *My Secret* hold out an offering. **Kimberly Bright's** *Which Sentient Blob Are You Today?* also offers something out – not to take, but to choose between. The blobs are precious objects in their own right. In **Cora Weiss's** painting, it is us who have been selected. Their staring stares us down, red eyes like blob no. 6. The bird becomes the watcher.

Looking down to **olesya ilenok's** *A message to our descendants*, we find we have been under another eye the entire time. It is at once tombstone and oracle, search engine and slab. It offers no question, only a command: ask anything.



1. Samantha Wilson
@samantha_wilson_art
Rest in Limbo
 Oil on canvas
 100cm x 150cm

2. Oscar Marcus Boyle
@secondhandflowershop
Staircase Descending a Nude
 Oil on packing foam
 17cm x 28cm

3. Madeline Mackay
@madelinemmackay
Meat Body 2
 Animation

4. Mike Hill
@SoundsJustLikeMichael
MIKE HILL LOVES YOU
 Installation

5. Sofya Mikhaylova
@spidyprue
Secret Gift
 Pencil on paper, stained glass, solder
 50cm x 65cm

6. Filip Velkovski
@fikoakamiki
Anyway That You Want Me
 Embroidery on canvas
 75 x 75cm

Hand of Chance
 Embroidery on canvas
 40 x 40cm

7. olesya ilenok
@ilenok.art
A message to our descendants
 Ceramic sculpture, found rocks
 37 x 60 x 35cm

8. Rebecca Lavery
@reebobeebo
My Secret
 Coloured pencil on paper
 21 x 29.7cm

9. Kimberley Bright
@kimberley__bright
Which Sentient Blob Are You Today?
 Oil on canvas
 100 x 60cm

10. Iona Jones
@iona.joness
Untitled
 Chicken bones, tin, copper, varnish, steel chain, motor

11. Cora Weiss
@weiss.cora
Metallic Starling
 Oil on canvas
 22 x 19cm

12. medb
@m_e_d_b_
 Live music set on the opening night
 featuring "Nasty" Nico Ndlovu and
 "Jumping" Jack Faulds