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**CULTURES *In*
RESISTANCE**

CiR CULTURES **in** RESISTANCE

A five-day cultural residential hosted by the
Hans Hess Foundation in collaboration with
Wortley Hall, Sheffield

6 – 10 April 2026

AiM

To bring together those involved in art, cultural activism and social justice today in a residential of expression, creativity and campaign organising. This gathering aims to explore the vital role of the arts in social and political movements, examine contemporary working class culture, and consider the impact of new technologies on creative practice. In homage to the life and work of Hans Hess, the event will foster collaboration between creative practitioners working from the trade union, solidarity and working class movements.

THE COLLABORATION

This collaboration between the Hans Hess Foundation and Wortley Hall is a reflection of shared values and aims. The Foundation's dedication to the arts as political struggle finds a natural home in Wortley Hall, a historic centre of trade unionism and co-operative action. Together, they aim to create a forum at the "Cultures in Resistance" (CiR) residential, which tackles deep challenges and key questions, coupled to the living tradition of grassroots organising. CiR is rooted in internationalism, drawing on experience from around the globe to strengthen knowledge and cultural interventions in Britain.

ABOUT

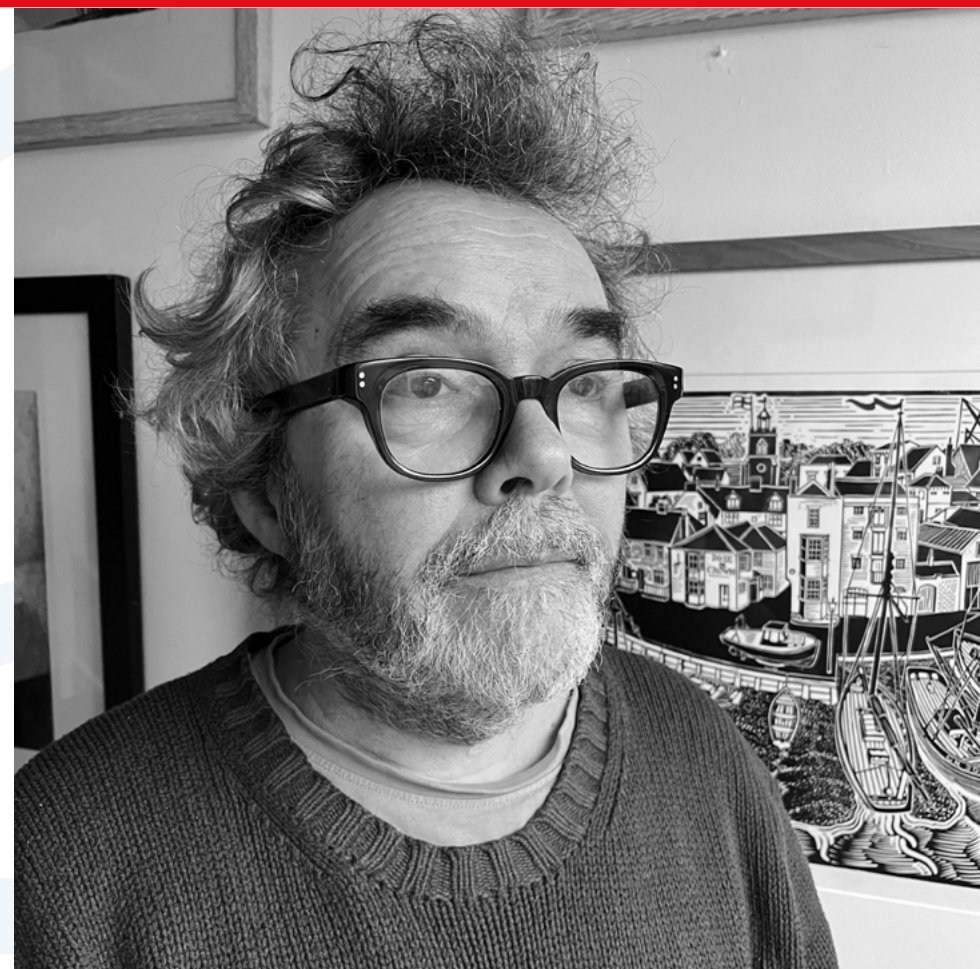
THE VENUE

Wortley Hall is a former stately home in the small village of Wortley, located south of Barnsley, Yorkshire. It has been owned by shareholders associated with British trade unions and the labour movement since 1951. It operates as a non-profit co-operative, which maintains a beautiful Grade II listed home and 26 acres of showcase gardens and woodlands. The historic and political significance of the hall makes it an ideal setting for an event dedicated to cultures of resistance and social justice.



DR MICHAEL BAILEY

The Hans Hess Foundation is delighted to collaborate with Dr. Michael Bailey as an ideal lead host for the Cultures in Resistance residential. As political secretary to Wortley Hall, Britain's only co-operatively owned labour movement conference centre, he is ideally suited to guide and help shape this critical, cultural and pioneering residential assembly. As a Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Criminology at the University of Essex, he brings to the project a powerful combination of academic rigour, a lifelong commitment to public activism and practical experience of cooperation.



DR LUCY BURKE

Dr Lucy Burke is an academic, researcher, writer, and trade union activist. She is based in the School of English at Manchester Metropolitan University and specialises in the areas of critical medical humanities, literary and cultural disability studies, critical and cultural theory and twentieth century literature, art and cultural politics. She is the lead curator of the inaugural Hans Hess Foundation residential.



MANIFESTO PRESS

Manifesto Press publishes bold, battle-ready books on working-class struggle, socialist theory, and progressive culture. For nearly 30 years, it has championed democracy, workers' power, and the fight against barbarism—with 100 titles, global events, and digital editions, podcasts, and audiobooks bringing radical ideas to the frontlines. Its authors tackle imperialism, racism, climate crisis, women's liberation, and socialist economics—arming movements for change.

Manifesto Press is the publisher for Hans Hess' Selected Writings Volumes 1-3 and is working to reproduce the Hess family guestbooks on behalf of the Hans Hess Foundation in collaboration with the Bauhaus Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung.



manifesto

TARING PADI

Taring Padi collective of art workers was founded in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 1998 by a group of progressive art students and activists. In the past 28 years, Taring Padi has evolved from an orthodox old-school left organization, which required a rigid and strong organizational discipline to a collective with a connective principle on the interface of ideology and camaraderie, which is in parallel with utilizing art and activism as tools for political action and education. Taring Padi's recent active participation in the global contemporary art circuit traverse us to an unfamiliar territory where we engage our works more in discussion on the formulation of iconography, visual characteristic, motif, and pattern, as well as historical specificities of their making. However, our ideological standpoint and methodological approach remains unchanged: direct engagement with and to be an organic part of social changes in the form of collective works that are progressive, inclusive, and militant. Recent solo exhibition includes: *Bara Solidaritas/Flame of Solidarity* (Documenta 15, 2022), *Tanah Merdeka/Liberated Land* (Framer Framed, 2023), *Tanah Tumpah Darah/The Land where We Spill Our Blood to Defend It* (GUAM, 2024) and *Educate, Agitate and Organise* (Cantadora, 2025). *People's Justice* series exhibition will take place in *Sale Dock*, Venice in May 2026.



THE HANS HESS FOUNDATION

Established in 2025 by Anita Halpin, Hans Hess's daughter, and the Hess Family Trust, the Hans Hess Foundation is an international organisation devoted to research, political education, and furthering critical understanding of the role of the arts in social justice, political struggle, and the migrant experience.

The Foundation is the custodian of the Hess family archive, which includes Hans Hess's extensive personal papers and writings. These important documents detail his intellectual and political life in Germany during the 1920s and his subsequent experiences as a political refugee in England from 1935 until his death in 1975. The Foundation maintains a close working relationship with the Bauhaus Archiv, to whom the family's historic guestbooks from the early twentieth century were donated.

A core mission of the Foundation is to address significant gaps in our contemporary cultural discourse. In a landscape where the interrelated art, ideology, and activism are often under examined, the legacy of Hans Hess provides a vital and compelling voice. His work demonstrates how cultural practice is inextricably linked to political consciousness and social change, a perspective urgently needed today. The Foundation seeks to amplify this core message by fostering dialogue and commissioning work that explores how artistic expression can be a powerful tool for critique, resistance, and community building.

To advance its mission, the Foundation actively collaborates with a broad spectrum of organisations. These partnerships include educational establishments, trade unions with members in the cultural industries, galleries, museums, and community based arts groups. This collaborative

approach ensures the work reaches diverse audiences and remains grounded in arts practitioners at all levels, from community to established professionals.

The Foundation supports and promotes research projects across several key areas. These include any aspect of Hans Hess's papers and writings; the history of German Jewish political refugees in the twentieth century; the history of the Communist Party and radical political organisations; the history of political activism, art criticism, cultural theory, and cultural production, the arts and social justice, censorship, and political oppression; and new models of supporting the creative industries.

Alongside its research commitments, the foundation supports public education through events, short courses, and workshops. It works closely with Manifesto Press, a workers' publishing cooperative. The Foundation regularly runs events in collaboration with a wide network of institutions, including the Marx Memorial Library, Insiders Outsiders Project, Wortley Hall, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, the Working Class Movement Library in Salford, the Bauhaus Archiv, Biblioteca Hertziana and the Max Planck Institute in Rome, Leicester Art Gallery and Museum, The Willi Munzenberg Forum, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, and the Marx Engels Institute in Wupperthal, Germany.

It is in this spirit that the Foundation is sponsoring the annual Culture in Resistance residential event at Wortley Hall, creating a dynamic forum for practitioners and activists to explore these vital themes.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to Wortley Hall

Dr Michael Bailey, a message from the political secretary of Wortley Hall and unveiling of artwork by Jamie Dodds

Welcome to CiR

Dr Lucy Burke (Hans Hess Foundation) and Anita Halpin (Hans Hess Foundation)

Protest, performance, perceptions

Malandra Jacks Theatre Company – Josh Wilkinson and Chloe Malandra

Art in the age of degenerative capitalism

Nick Wright (Manifesto Press), Anita Halpin (Hans Hess Foundation) and Conrad Landin (New Internationalist Magazine)

Art and labour in the age of AI

Simon Brignell (Unite the union) and Victoria Holmes (Music/culture journalist)

Cultural value and the problem of funding

Professor Alexander Supertono (Taring Padi and Napier University), Dr Ben Lunn (Workers' Music Association and Musicians Union) and Gavin Clayton

Arts manifestos in a time of crisis – change everything now!

Dr Lucy Burke (Hans Hess Foundation), Ladija Dewi (Taring Padi) and Mike Quille (Culture Matters)

2027! Now is the time for a working class culture festival

Dr Michael Bailey (Wortley Hall) and Oliver Snelling (Manifesto Press and Thinking Hands)

CiR is based on a workshop model and a focus on creativity, collaboration and collective learning – no 'talk at' or 'talk down', but lots of doing and 'talking with'.

Expect provocations, hands-on activities and group exchanges, every day. Look out for your nearest soap box and paper and scissors!

DAY ONE – MONDAY 6 APRIL

1.00 – 3.00 PM

Check-in and arrival

‘Meet and greet’ with Dr Michael Bailey and Johnathan Da Rosa and Wortley FoH staff. Participants staying on site to arrive and check in by 3.00 PM

SESSION ONE

4.00 PM

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to Wortley

Introduction and greeting by Dr Michael Bailey, a message from the political secretary of Wortley Hall

Welcome to CiR

Introduction and welcome from Dr Lucy Burke and Anita Halpin on behalf of the Hans Hess Foundation

5.00 PM

Drinks reception and supper

Unveiling of oil triptych painting depicting Jimmy Reid and the work of the UCS work-in donated by artist Jamie Dodds

EVENING EVENT MUSIC NIGHT

7.30 PM

Music and Protest with Riognach Connolly with support and DJ.



7.00 – 9.00	AM Breakfast
8.00 – 8.30 AM	Optional walkie-talkie tour of the Wortley Hall grounds (weather dependent)
9.00 – 9.45 AM	Registration for day pass holders
9.30 AM	Crèche opens and children's activities start

SESSION TWO

10.00 AM	Protest, performance, perception Engaging, talking, breaking down boundaries with Malandra Jacks theatre company
11.00 AM	Creativity and protest with Taring Padi, art collective An introduction and puppet making workshop
1.00 PM	Lunch

SESSION THREE

2.00 PM	Discussing and doing through puppet-making
2.30 PM	Working with objects with Taring Padi 'Getting to know you' warm-up drama exercises with Malandra Jacks theatre company
4.00 – 6.00 PM	Free time
6.00 PM	Supper

EVENING EVENT DRAMA NIGHT

7.30 PM	Census – A show by Malandra Jacks Followed by a Q&A with Josh Wilkinson, Chloe Malandra and James Quinn.
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7.00 – 9.00 AM	Breakfast
8.00 – 8.30 AM	Optional walkie-talkie tour of the Wortley Hall grounds (weather dependent)
9.00 – 9.45 AM	Registration for day pass holders
9.30 AM	Crèche opens and children's activities start

SESSION FOUR

10.00 AM	<p>Art in the age of degenerative capitalism.</p> <p>We Were Here – The Hess Family guestbooks and new social relations of art.</p> <p>short presentations from Dr Lucy Burke on the guestbooks and Conrad Landin on art and politics in interwar Germany.</p> <p>An introduction to early 20th century manifestos.</p> <p>Workshop Activity – We are here making and doing</p> <p>Professor Alexander Supertono on posters, slogans, placards and banners with Mike Quille.</p>
1.00 PM	Lunch

SESSION FIVE

2.00 PM	<p>Art and labour in the age of AI – problem, challenge or both?</p> <p>Simon Brignell, Victoria Holmes and a representative of the Italian trade union federation CGIL.</p>
2.30 PM	<p>Talking, sharing, documenting</p> <p>Dr Lucy Burke and Professor Alexander Supertono</p>
3.30 PM	<p>Is social media a performance space? – Politics, propaganda and social media.</p> <p>Tackling hyper-individualism and clicktivism.</p> <p>Provocation from Tricontinental Institute for Social Research (20 minutes) followed by discussion.</p>
4.15 PM	<p>Cultural value and the problem of funding.</p> <p>If You want to kill the revolution buy it – who owns art</p> <p>Provocations by Professor Alexander Supertono and Ben Lunn & Gavin Clayton followed by a group discussion about the funding landscape and alternative strategies.</p>
5.00 – 6.00 PM	Free Time
6.00 PM	Supper

EVENING EVENT FILM NIGHT

7.30 PM	<p>Abridged showings of 'Oliver Tambo's London Recruits' and 'Unsung Hero – The Jack Jones Story'.</p> <p>Paul Seagrove, journalist in discussion with Molly Dhlamini, South African activist and directors Gordon Maine and Sol Pappadopolous</p>
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7.00 – 9.00 AM	Breakfast
8.00 – 8.30 AM	Optional walkie-talkie tour of the Wortley Hall grounds (weather dependent)
9.00 – 9.45 AM	Registration for day pass holders
9.30 AM	Crèche opens and children's activities start

SESSION SIX

10.00 AM	Arts manifestos in a time of crisis – change everything now! Introduction to arts manifestos by Dr Lucy Burke and members of art collective Taring Padi and Dr Michael Bailey.
11.00	Art or propaganda ? Making, thinking, talking, writing slogans, manifestos, posters and prose. Work in groups, take an issue, collectivise your response – art collective Taring Padi
1.00 PM	Lunch

SESSION SEVEN

2.00 PM	The collective is always more than the sum of its parts. Organising, editing, designing, presenting. (Continuation of working together on your manifesto, poster or campaign idea.)
3.00 PM	Sharing, reflection and discussion
4.00 – 6.00 PM	Free Time
6.00 PM	Supper

EVENING EVENT (TBC)

7.00 – 9.00AM Breakfast

8.00 – 8.30AM Optional walkie-talkie tour of the
Wortley Hall grounds (weather dependent)

9.00 – 9.45AM Registration for day pass holders

9.30 AM Crèche opens and children's activities start

SESSION EIGHT

10.00 AM 027! Now is the time for a working class
culture festival?

Dr Michael Bailey and Oliver Snelling,
Thinking Hands and Manifesto Press

12.00 PM Closing of session and residential –
Moving from cultures in resistance to cultures of
resistance with Dr Lucy Burke

Participants staying on site to Check-out by 4.30 PM



BOOKING DETAILS AND COSTS

WHEN

Monday April 6th to Friday 10th, 2026

WHERE

Wortley Hall, near Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S35 7DB.

PLACES AVAILABLE

There are 35 full board residential places and 70 day passes available. Evening events attract a maximum of 200 guests.

THE RESIDENTIAL PACKAGE

The full residential package costs £1000. This includes four nights' accommodation with full board, a takeaway lunch on Friday, and full access to all events and activities for the duration of the residential.

FULL WEEK DAY PASS

A full week day pass is available for £500. This includes lunch, refreshments, and access to all events and activities from Monday to Friday.

ONE DAY PASS

A one day pass is available for £150. This includes lunch, refreshments, and access to all events and activities on your chosen day. As a half day, Friday costs £75 at half rate.

FAMILY PASS PER DAY

A family pass for one day is available for £200.* This covers entry for up to four people and includes lunch and refreshments.

* Day rate for low income families can be reduced by as much as 70 per cent if you are interested in applying for a reduction please email CiR@hanshess.foundation.

EVENING EVENTS

Individual evening events begin at 7.30 PM. The standard ticket price is £15 per person. A concessionary rate of £5 is available for the unwaged, and a £30 solidarity ticket option is offered. Discounts are available for block bookings of evening events.

The Monday evening programme includes a performance of 'Census' by Malandra Jacks, introduced by Maxine Peake. Tuesday features a music night with Riognach Connolly. Wednesday is a film night with showings and a meeting with the directors of 'Oliver Tambo's London Recruits' and 'Unsung Hero – the Jack Jones story', Gordon Maine and Sol Pappadopolous. Thursday offers a comedy night with Mark Thomas and others.

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT

An early booking discount of £50 is available for both the full residential package and the full week day pass. This discount

applies to all bookings confirmed before February 20th, 2025.

ACCESSIBILITY

We are keen to ensure that this event is accessible to all. Please contact the organisers with details of any specific support requirements when making your booking contact CiR@hanshess.foundation

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

The Hans Hess Foundation Residential offers a dedicated children's programme. The creative activities for older children will be facilitated by Thinking Hands, a South-east London based free after-school art club open to all. They provide access to art facilities and engagement as well as providing important child care for families. Thinking Hands staff are qualified in arts education and hold enhanced DBS certification. Activities will mirror the adult programme interweaving the theory and practices in an age appropriate manner. With an opportunity to bring together the adults and children at the end of each day.

Crèche facilities are available for children aged 12 months to 5 years, engaged by Wortley Hall. Creative art activities are provided for two age groups: 6–10 years and 11–16 years.

HOW TO BOOK

To book your place, please fill in the booking form accessible through our Google Drive:

BOOK HERE

The form will require the following details: your name, address, email address, and phone number; your booking type. Please nominate which days you will be attending where appropriate, the numbers attending and ages where appropriate and your payment details. Please indicate if your payment is tax deductible and include contact details for your funding organisation if applicable.

FOR ENQUIRIES

For any further questions or information, please email CiR@hanshess.foundation