

sid motion gallery

Sid Motion Gallery takes decision to close in autumn 2026



Image credit: Luke Fullalove

After celebrating ten years dedicated to supporting artists, Sid Motion Gallery has taken the conscientious decision to close.

The final exhibition, 'That Which Appears', will be the 85th show staged by Sid Motion Gallery, and will run from 18th September – 31st October 2026.

Founder and owner Sid Motion, said of the decision to close her gallery:

“My heart is full when I think of the conversations and connections that the gallery has facilitated over the years, and the opportunities generated for artists at all stages of their careers. I set out to create a space where artists and conversations were welcome, a gallery that was not purely transactional but one that combined ambitious programming with an open and relaxed atmosphere. I’m glad that we achieved what I set out to do.

“As I look ahead to the future, I can see that the gallery is not in the financial position to fully honour the extraordinary potential of each of my artists, and I will not compromise when it comes to supporting them in the way that they deserve. Closing the gallery is a positive and conscious decision. We are stopping while we are ahead, while my artists are properly serviced and the quality of the programme remains high.

“The London art world, as I have experienced it, remains vibrant, internationally significant and full to the brim with brilliant, deeply passionate and genuine people. Being a participant in this scene has been not only enormous fun, but also inspiring. As a gallerist, I have great admiration for the ecosystem of workers and suppliers including gallery staff, art handlers, photographers, framers, writers and the many others who are the often-invisible actors behind a show’s success. I have been lucky enough to have been adopted by the larger art world as well as by the local art community. The generous collaborations that I’ve experienced from gallerists, curators and journalists is indicative of the collegial relationships and mutual respect within our industry.

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“To the collectors who have trusted the vision of the gallery, taking a chance on emerging artists as well as playing an important role in the trajectory of more established names – your support and commitment fuels that ecosystem and has made the gallery entirely possible. Thank you.

“More than anything, I am deeply grateful to my represented artists and to the many artists I have been lucky enough to exhibit, for their commitment and hard work on the shows we have produced together. I will be the front row supporter on their next projects as their confidant, champion and lifelong friend.

“It is my hope that the gallery will remain in London’s memory for these happy ten years which brought artists together with a sense of real community, in a space where people felt truly welcome and discovered new voices.”

Closing after ten years of operation, Sid Motion Gallery will have produced 85 exhibitions. The gallery has extended its reach nationally and internationally with solo presentations at The New Art Centre in Salisbury, NADA Miami and Condo Mexico City, as well as collaborations with AWITA and JW Anderson, other galleries such as Bosse & Baum, and visiting curators such as Tom Cole.

A second iteration of the gallery’s final exhibition ‘That Which Appears’, co-curated by Sid Motion, Olivia Bax and James Fisher, will be exhibited at The Millennium Gallery, Sheffield Museums, in April 2028 with an accompanying publication.

NOTES TO EDITORS

A short history of the gallery, as told by Sid Motion

“I found the disused betting shop that became my first gallery space in 2015 when I was working full time. Stealing pockets of time to strip out and prepare the space in the early mornings, evenings and weekends – and with huge help from my supportive friends and family – I opened this first show ‘What’s It Going To Be?’ in June 2016. This was an intentionally speculative title, mirroring the queries of lovely locals who came in with their coins still turning in their hands asking this same question, but it was also a question to myself as I embarked on this new challenge.

“Taking on a two-year lease with the man who ran the kebab shop next door, I launched the gallery without knowing whether the sales from one exhibition would be enough to sustain the next. It was an exciting and uncertain time. King’s Cross was in the midst of a remarkable transformation, providing a fascinating backdrop to those early years. Yet in 2019, I found myself drawn to South Bermondsey in South London, attracted by its concentration of artist studios and creative communities. I felt the accessibility that this allowed was often lacking from the commercial gallery landscape.

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“In South London, I felt a stronger sense of the openness and connectivity that had always been central to my vision for the gallery. With its high ceilings and abundant natural light, the new space allowed artworks to breathe and gave me the opportunity to create thoughtful conversations between emerging artists and internationally recognised names, placing different generations and perspectives in dialogue with one another.

“The move also allowed me to embed the programme more deeply within an active artistic community. That same year I set up the South Bermondsey Art Trail to champion local artists and creatives. This annual event now features approximately 70 artists, and – over two-days – promotes open studios, exhibitions and creative events to celebrate the diverse range of creatives working in the local area to the gallery. This year’s South Bermondsey Art Trail will take place on the 4th and 5th September 2026.”

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