

H A A R L E M A R T S P A C E

Alana Lake
WANTING
yearning

20 March—12 April

Private View
Friday 20 March
6—9pm

Exhibition Open
Friday—Sunday
12—6pm

The Red Lion
Market Place
Wirksworth DE4 4ET

Playing
Fields





Alana Lake
WANTING
yearning

"Things have started to float. It's as if the solid ground has given away, leaving us hanging like tender cocoons, suspended in a dream world... A vibrancy alive with gamers, hoarders, addicts, and shopping malls."

– Kathleen Stewart, *Ordinary Affects* (2007, p. 61)

Haarlem Artspace is pleased to present *Wanting / Yearning*, a solo exhibition by Sheffield-based artist Alana Lake. Bringing together works developed during Lake's practice-led PhD at Manchester School of Art, the exhibition is grounded in autoethnography and queer minimalism. Drawing on her post-industrial, working-class background, Lake mobilises materials including glass, ceramic, wax, metal and concrete to examine how addictive forces are not only lived, but sedimented – embedded within culture as both material and affective conditions.

Across the exhibition, objects appear at once grounded and unmoored. Weighty, industrial materials are held in delicate suspension: surfaces shimmer, soften, or begin to give way. Echoing Stewart's description of a world untethered, Lake's works occupy a space in which stability feels provisional – where desire circulates through bodies, objects and environments, binding them together in subtle and often troubling ways.

A key driver of Lake's practice is lived experience, which operates as a lens through which to examine desire, risk and compulsive repetition – dynamics that resonate across many facets of contemporary life, from consumption and labour to intimacy and dependency. Her works frequently hover at the threshold between pleasure and pain, attraction and repulsion, seduction and threat, inviting a bodily as well as intellectual encounter.

Concrete paving slabs embedded with syringes carry the weight of the street while transforming it into something at once abject and aestheticised. A daredevil hoop of steel and glass holds a precarious tension, suggesting both spectacle and danger, its form caught in a moment of suspended action. Elsewhere, glass-cast vapes glimmer with a seductive clarity, their polished surfaces recalling both luxury commodities and fragile relics, while wax vapes slowly burn – melting, pooling and deforming over time – as emblems of a contemporary still life in slow collapse.

Throughout, processes of casting, embedding and combustion become metaphors for attachment: how desire fixes itself to objects, how it accumulates and repeats, and how it ultimately leaves its trace. What emerges is not a moralising account of addiction, but a more diffuse and ambient field – one in which longing, compulsion and consumption are understood as conditions that structure everyday life.

Born in Tamworth (1981), Lake earned her bachelor's degree in photography from Arts University College Bournemouth in 2004, and later completed postgraduate study at the Royal Academy Schools, London, in 2009. She has received numerous awards and funding, including a Developing Your Creative Practice (DYCP) grant from Arts Council England (2024/25), a Research Scholarship and Project Space Award from the Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa (2022, 2018), a NEUSTART Stipendium from Deutscher Künstlerbund (2021), and the Dunoyer de Segonzac and Michael Moser Awards from the Royal Academy of Arts (2008, 2009).







Revolution, 2025
Stained Glass
70 x 70 cm
Made at Norman Harraps, Hull





Sacramet (stem), 2024
24 Karat Gold, copper, plastic
Dimensions variable



Sacramet, 2024
24 Karat Gold, copper, plastic
Dimensions variable





*HITS (You are the crack like haze
in my brain), 2022*
Hand Blown Glass
26 x 23.5 x 23 cm



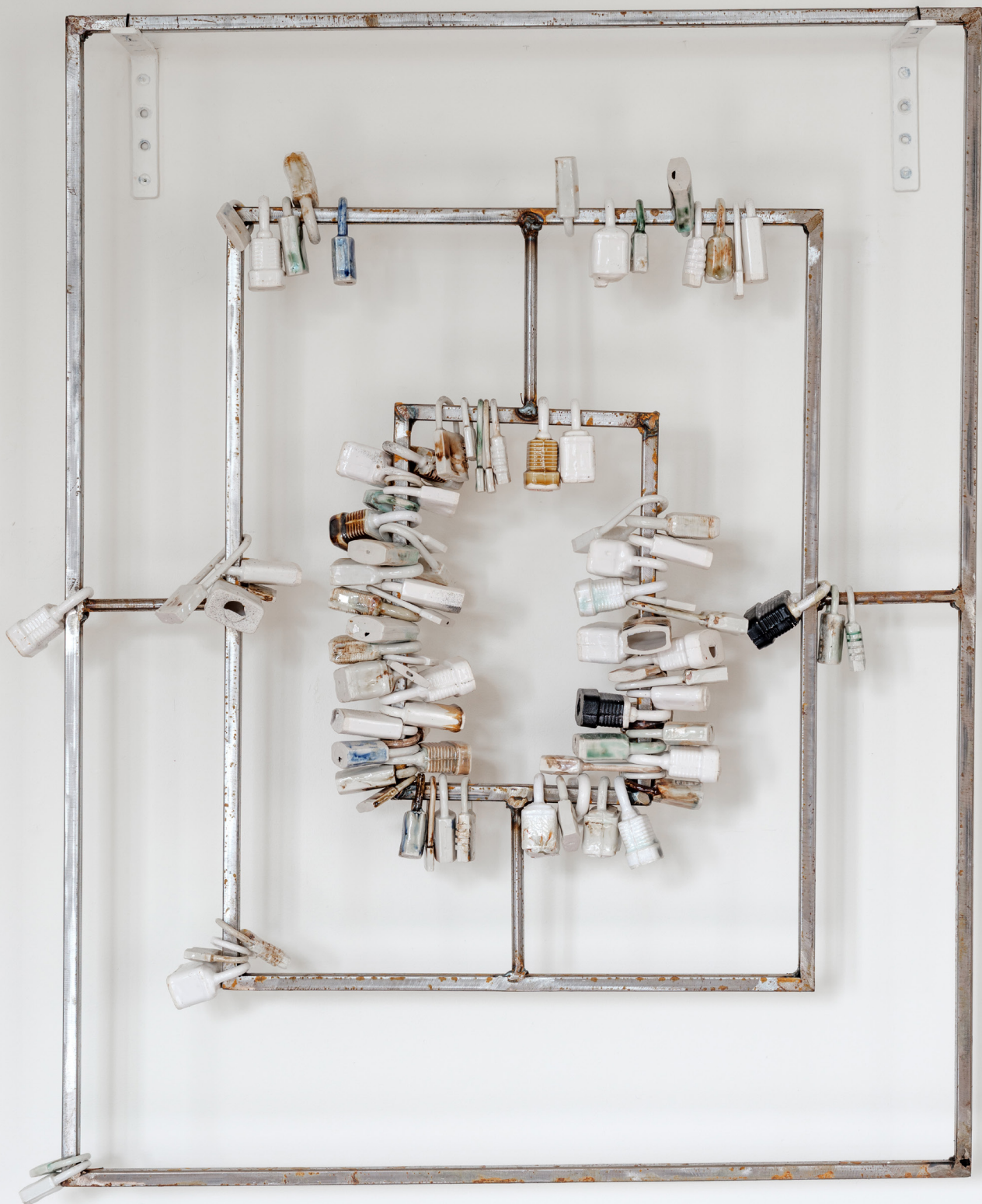


Things have started to float, 2026
Found objects, concrete and silver leaf
1 of 6, each unique
42 x 42 cm

Cloud 9, 2026
Found objects, concrete and silver leaf
1 of 6, each unique
42 x 42 cm









What we hold on to, 2023
Steel, ceramic and oxide
Internal dimensions variable, outer
size 90 x 70 cm

The Volcano Lover, 2022
Hand Blown Glass
26 x 26 x 27 cm









Messed Up, 2022
Hand Blown Glass and Steel
24 x 23 x 22 cm



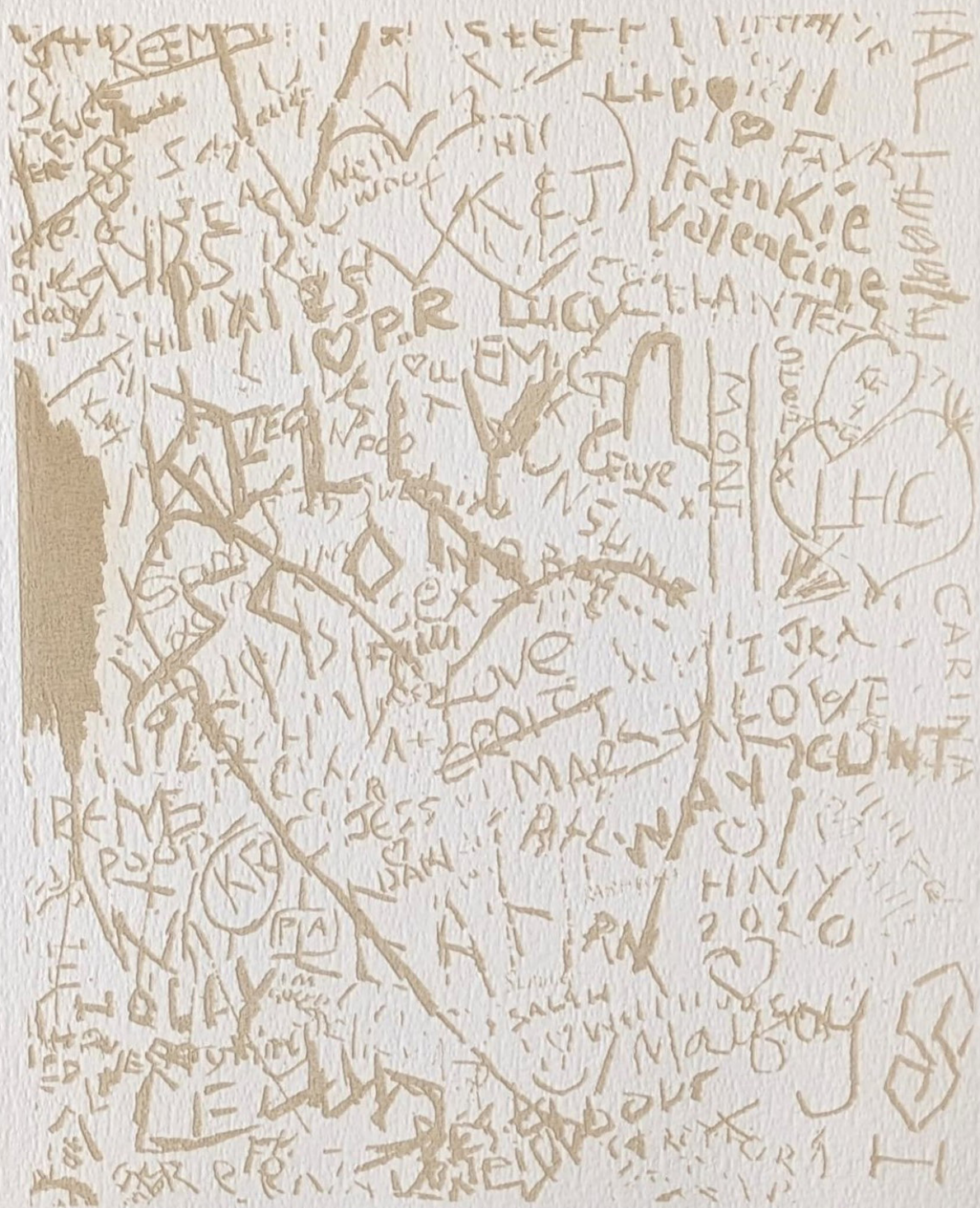


Ring of Fire, 2024
220 x 200 x 60 cm
Steel, glass, silicone



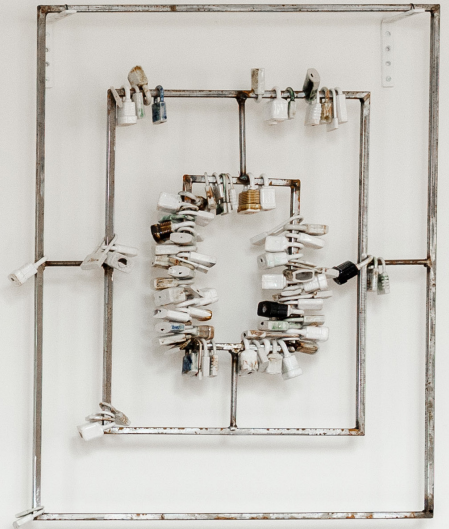






KELLY. 2023.
Scorched paper, 50 x 40 cm.
Edition of 5. Each unique -
Framed £200, Unframed £100





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