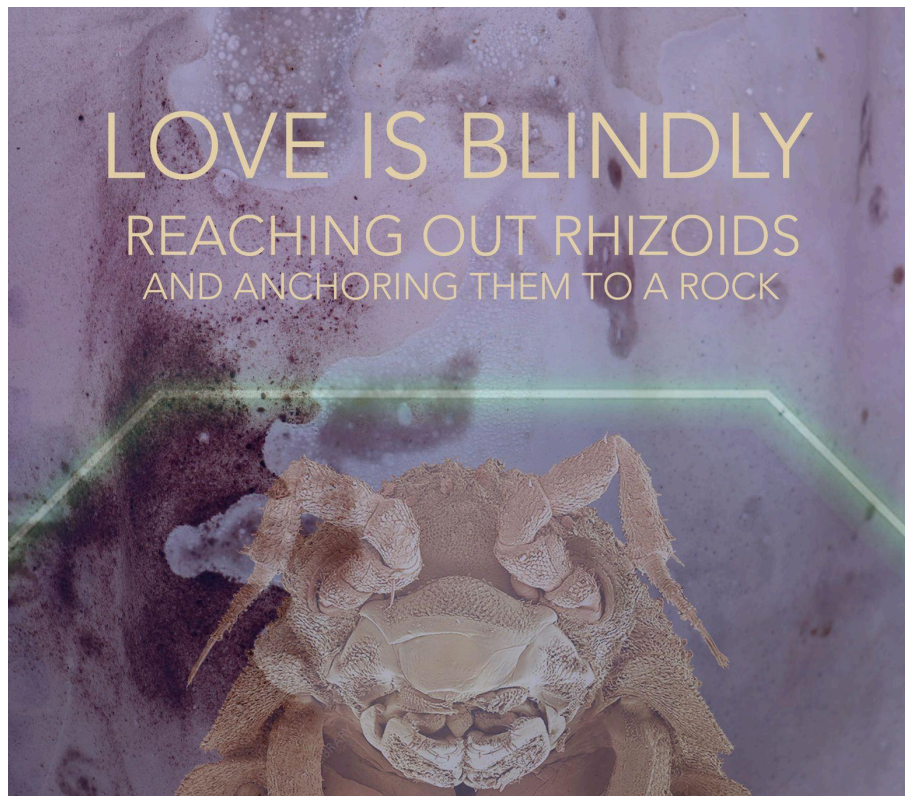


PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: June 2025



***LOVE IS BLINDLY REACHING OUR RHIZOIDS AND ANCHORING THEM TO
A ROCK***

ARTISTS: MCGIBBON O'LYNN

SATURDAY 29 MARCH-SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2025

LAUNCH:FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2025, 7-9PM

'Love is blindly reaching out rhizoids and anchoring them to a rock' is the newest manifestation of the world of Xenophon, a collaborative world-building project by McGibbon O'Lynn.

Rooted in the fictional world of the Xenothorpians - a fluid species mutating across vegetal, human, and ecological entanglement - the exhibition activates a multispecies romance beyond the species and the sexual. The project expands ideas of intimacy and relations through flings, courtships, longings, and liaisons with the garden.

The artistic duo consider how the gamification of dating has shaped how humans relate to one another, from 1960s TV shows like *The Dating Game* to 1990s board games like *Dream Phone*, and today's swipe-based apps like *Tinder* and *Bumble*. These formats reduce love to strategy, speed, and surface, often reinforcing transactional and disposable dynamics. This exhibition responds to that shift, questioning what we lose when intimacy becomes a game. It proposes a radical reimagining of connection - towards a more expansive, inclusive, and multispecies form of love and relationality.

The audience is invited into this multispecies dating game through ritual, material, and speculative storytelling. The project asks: what new intimacies arise when we love without species' boundaries?

ARTISTS

MAEVE O'LYNN is a writer, filmmaker and researcher based in Belfast.

SIOBHÁN MCGIBBON is a visual artist and researcher based in Cork.

This project is supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Derry City & Strabane District Council and Cork County Council.

For more information visit [CCADLD.org/exhibitions](https://ccadld.org/exhibitions).

Image: Courtesy of Siobhan McGibbon

ENDS

Centre for Contemporary Art Derry~Londonderry

10–12 Artillery Street, Derry~Londonderry, BT48 6RG, Northern Ireland

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Opening times: Tuesday–Saturday noon–6pm. Free admission

About CCA Derry~Londonderry:

The Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) is a publicly funded space within the historic city walls of Derry~Londonderry. CCA creates opportunities for audiences to experience ambitious, experimental and engaging art and for emerging artists to develop successful careers. CCA fosters a wide range of artistic, curatorial and critical practices through five programme streams: research and production, exhibition-making, public programmes, publishing and residencies.

CCA was a Finalist in Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021, the largest museum prize in the world. CCA was recognised for its resilience and adaptability throughout the pandemic, and their continued effort to support audiences and artists including creating paid opportunities for artists and freelancers when they needed it most.

CCA is a member of Plus Tate: Plus Tate is a network, which comprises 35 cultural institutions – including the Tate galleries – that have strong artistic vision, a focus on contemporary art, outstanding public programming and a commitment to local community engagement through art. Plus Tate aims to support the development of the visual arts across the UK.

For media enquiries:

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