

## **Donald Butler, 'FLARE'**

### **Easy Read**

We are excited to show a new film by artist Donald Butler.

The film is called 'FLARE'. It was commissioned by LUX Scotland as part of a project called We Contain Multitudes.

'FLARE' can be viewed on the LUX Scotland website. It is available from 1–30 April 2026.

A recorded conversation with Donald and David Upton is available with the film. David is the Public Programme Manager at LUX Scotland. Their conversation explores how and why Donald made the film.

### **ABOUT 'FLARE'**

'FLARE' is an experimental film. It is 7 minutes long.

The film is made up of photographs, drawings, and writing. These materials have been manipulated and distorted. The materials are collaged together to make the film. The photographs are from Donald's personal collection and the Falkirk Archives.

The film has abstracted sound and piano music, and no dialogue.

The film reflects on Donald's experience of growing up in Grangemouth. Grangemouth is a town near Falkirk in Scotland. Grangemouth used to have Scotland's largest oil refinery. An oil refinery processes oil into products.

The film brings together industrial and emotional processes. Donald uses the Grangemouth oil refinery to think about this. The film queers typical narratives of industrial heritage. To queer something means to challenge or disrupt established norms.

The title of the film has multiple meanings. Flares are used in oil refining processes to burn excess materials, which creates flames and smoke. The word 'flare' can be used to describe strong emotions. The word 'flare' can also be used to describe an increase in symptoms of chronic illnesses. Donald brings these ideas together in the film.

## **ABOUT DONALD BUTLER**

Donald Butler is an artist. Donald is from Grangemouth and now lives in Glasgow.

Donald uses film, writing and drawing to make art. His art works explore personal experiences, bigger infrastructures and politics.

Donald's work has been shown with CCA Annex in Glasgow, and Lunchtime Gallery in Glasgow. Donald's writing has been published by MAP, TACO, Bloomberg New Contemporary, The Skinny, The List, The Yellow Paper, and LUX Scotland.

Donald studied Contemporary Art Practice at Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen and Art Writing at The Glasgow School of Art.

## **ABOUT WE CONTAIN MULTITUDES**

We Contain Multitudes is a project with Collective, Dundee Contemporary Arts, and LUX Scotland. The project was 3 years long. It was funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

The project seeks to change the way organisations in Scotland work with disabled visual artists, arts professionals, and audiences.

We Contain Multitudes focuses on research and working with artists. It aims to test out and learn from new ways of working.

We Contain Multitudes explores how institutions and programmes can better represent the widest range of different experiences across Scotland.

We Contain Multitudes is, most of all, a learning process. It aims to understand the ongoing challenges and barriers to better futures.

## **ACCESS MEASURES**

The film has closed captions and audio description.

The captions were made by Valery Tough with Jamie Rae.

The audio description was made by Elaine Lilian Joseph with Kirin Saeed.