Thirty-two Texts with Distress

Thirty-two Texts with Distress presents two interlinked new video works by Irineu Destourelles: 'Thirty-two Texts Concerning Different Spaces' and 'Distressed Animal'. Shown at the Gorbals Library, the works revisit personal memory — of being in public spaces in Glasgow and elsewhere — alongside reflections on how public spaces are represented in media.

The project was commissioned by *Many Studios* as part of the redevelopment of the former Cumberland Street Station. The redevelopment proposes to transform this heritage building in the Gorbals into a new cultural hub. *Thirty-two Texts with Distress* is part of an ongoing conversation about the future use of the building as a public space.

Writing is a central element of Destourelles' artistic practice. 'Thirty-two Texts Concerning Different Spaces' is an autobiographical series of written reflections on public spaces such as libraries, supermarkets, and cemeteries. 'Distressed Animal' emerged from a chance encounter with a young seagull in distress on a Glasgow housing estate.

In developing these works, the artist engaged with existing research on the local area, including studies of the genealogical and industrial heritage of Cumberland Street Station and its surroundings, alongside a comprehensive feasibility study and community consultation process. The project was also informed by archival material from the National Library of Scotland, particularly film archives documenting urban regeneration projects led by Glasgow City Council during the 1960s and 1970s in predominantly working-class areas such as the Gorbals.

'Thirty-two Texts Concerning Different Spaces' is shown on a loop on a standard library computer, similar to those used by library visitors, inviting audiences to sit and experience the work individually. The video includes a low, haunting soundtrack composed of manipulated audio of seagull made sounds, which subtly signals the presence of a second work, 'Distressed Animal', embedded within a reading area of the library. This single-channel video is displayed on a 6-inch portable CRT television from the 1980s and depicts a distorted image of a young seagull.

Together, these works invite audiences to reflect on what makes public spaces feel welcoming, fragile, or imperfect. If you would like to share your thoughts on the work or the wider project, you can contact info@manystudios.co.uk.

This project has been commissioned by *Many Studios* and its production supported by *Glasgow Life* and *Outer Spaces.*

Thirty-two Texts Concerning Different Spaces, 2026
Text-based Single channel 4K video, 31 minutes, sound, colour.

Distressed Animal, 2026
Single channel 4K video, 31 minutes, sound, colour.

Opening Times

2 February 2026 - 13th April 2026

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Irineu Destourelles

Experiences of creoleness, migration, diaspora, and living between languages and places lie at the core of Irineu Destourelles's artistic practice. Working across media—namely moving image, text, and drawing—Destourelles interweaves autobiographical, fictional, and historical elements to make sense of personal multiplicity within a contemporary society he sees as marked by a pervasive colonising drive.

Destourelles trained in Fine Art at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam and Central Saint Martins in London, and holds a PhD in Film Studies from University College London. His solo exhibitions include Subtitulizar / Subtitling at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum (Lisbon), The Beat That Makes You Dirty at CAPC (Coimbra), and Tainted Verbal at Transmission (Glasgow). His work has also been shown at venues such as the Art Institute of Chicago, MAMA Showroom (Rotterdam), and Transmediale (Berlin) and Videobrasil (São Paulo). Destourelles was born in Cape Verde and lives and works in Glasgow.

Many Studios

Many Studios is a women and LGBT+ led arts organisation and Community Interest Company, founded in 2012. The organisation provides affordable, quality workspace in the city centre and creates locally rooted, internationally reaching projects that showcase arts and culture in Glasgow and across the world.

We host over 35 industrious workspaces for a community of 70+ people, from visual artists and designers to writers and engineers. Our ambition is to provide long-term, quality workspaces, programmes and venues that enable artworkers and organisations to develop practice in new and exciting ways, placing creative practice in Scotland on a global platform.

Outer Spaces

Outer Spaces was established in 2021, and presents an annual programme of critically-engaged, contemporary visual art developed within their studio network of over 1000 artists across Scotland. This programme is presented in tandem with the provision of free-to-access, meanwhile studio spaces in vacant commercial properties.

Spanning exhibitions, studio-residencies, commissions and events, through their programme they work with artists, curators and partners. Their projects provide opportunities for artists at all career-stages, including new graduates, mid-career artists, and those returning to practice. Commissioning and supporting artists to take risks as they develop new work is integral to their programme.

www.manystudios.co.uk/thirty-two-texts | www.cumberlandstreetstation.co.uk

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