



Janet Charlesworth is a 39-year-old artist living with a physical disability label based in Manchester.

Her most recent piece of work *In My Own Time* (2017), is an individual live art installation as part of Proud and Loud Arts production *Cells – A Body of Work*. The piece was her first independently created performance piece.

In 2015 at Contact Theatre, Manchester, in a modern adaption of *Pyramus & Thisbe*, written by Cathy Crabb, Danielle Maycox and Rhys Worthington and directed by Tom Hogan, Janet played Elizabeth, the uptight controlling mother of Sophia Thisbe.

In 2013 she played a leading role in *Beyond The 4<sup>th</sup> Wall*, written by Cathy Crabb, which toured regionally including - The Lowry, Pyramid and Parr Hall, The Met and Knowsley Cultural and Leisure Park.

Janet enjoys creating work that provokes a conversation and flirts playfully with feelings of discomfort and shame. She became interested in discomfort and shame as themes for her work after playing the outrageously determined and provocative character 'Laura' in 'Salford Stuffers,' which was written by Chris Marshall and directed by Christopher Bridgman and toured nationally including Edinburgh Fringe.

**Proud and Loud Arts Collaborators:** Phillip Breadney, Daryll Duncan, Michael Gleave, Katherine Godfrey, Kelly Hoye, Chrissy Jones, Danielle Maycox, Nick Prince and Toby Taylor

### **Creative Team**

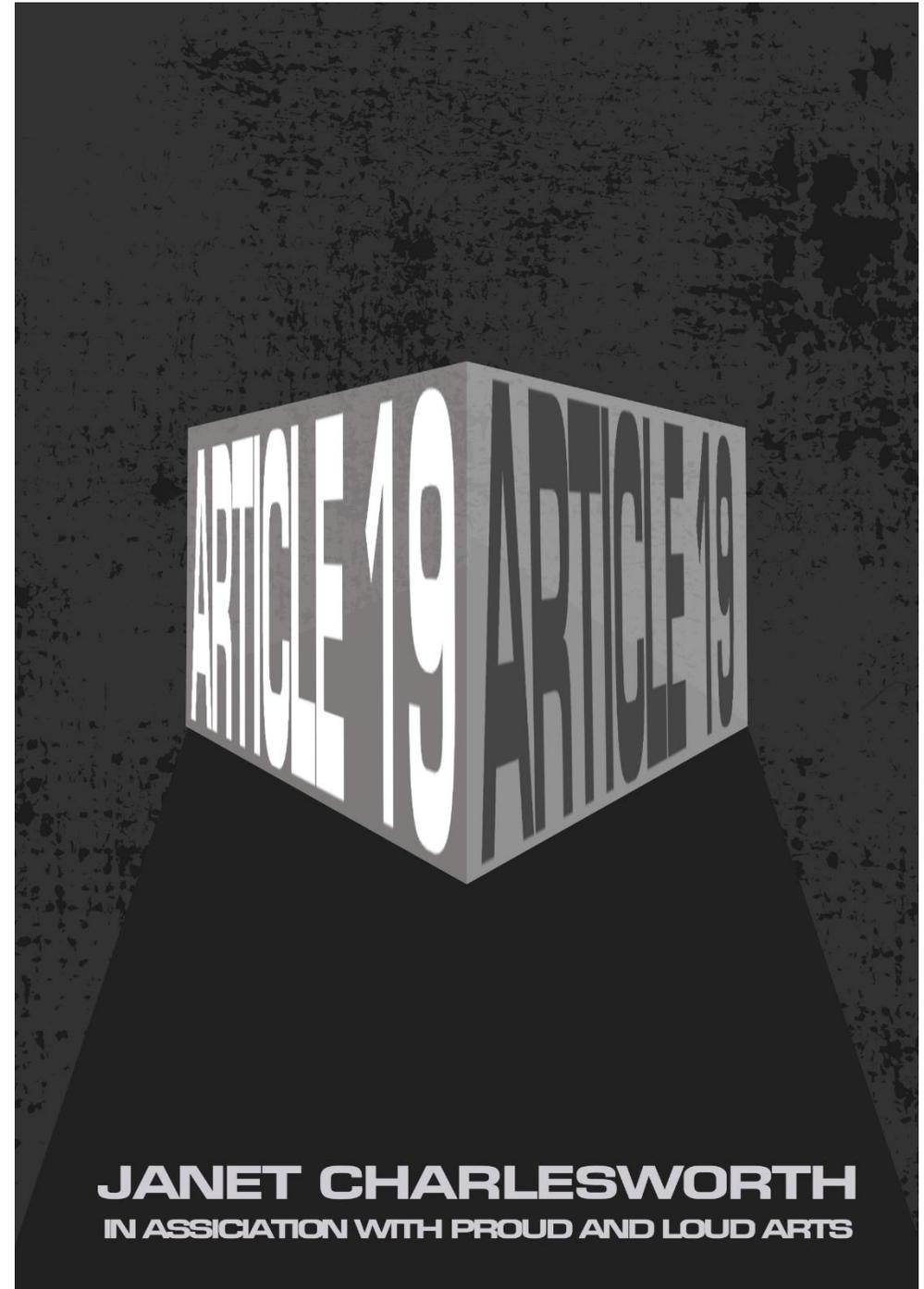
**Director** – Tom Hogan

**Set Design/ Lighting Design/ Technical Editor** – Stacey Potter

**Audio/Visual Design** – Phil Smethurst

**Access Coordinator** – Jenny Battle

**Creative Support** – Imogen Barton-Wells & Katherine Godfrey



## ***The Work***

Janet has led performances at Manchester Art Gallery, Tate Exchange, Tate Liverpool and Whitworth Art Gallery with work that playfully challenges audiences by highlighting societal bias and prejudices.

Her new work draws together extensive research into historical attitudes and treatment of people living with disability labels, with recent media reports describing the harmful effects of cuts to adult social care to expose negative narratives around disability.

Article 19 adds a vital new narrative which is candid, ambitious and striking, by exposing the government's failure to meet their commitment to promote, protect and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.

## ***The Research***



Janet spent considerable time delving into the archives at Central Library and Salford Museum and Art Gallery alongside online research to develop the concept for this piece. When Janet began her research, the form that the work would take was the hardest thing to imagine. With such huge ideas for raising awareness about choice and the rights of disabled people, the artist discovered the challenges that come with making great art – how to conceptualise it.

Bringing her findings to the Proud and Loud Arts rehearsal room, the company improvised ideas inspired by Victorian attitudes to disability to support the development – cue: the box.

This 3D digital piece had humble beginnings with our troupe of performers playing with ideas about what incarceration and freedom means to them. The findings through exploration and theatrical play revealed further complexities of independent living and the right to choose. Janet discovered that drawing together political, medical and disability perspectives in both the writing and multi-media elements of the design allowed her to utilise the various strands of research in an innovative way.



## ***What's Next?***

**We are eager to engage as far-reaching and diverse an audience for this vital work. We encourage you to speak to one of the team if you have a venue that will host Article 19.**

Our showing at Salford Museum and Art Gallery is the culmination of the first phase of research and development for Article 19. We are in discussion with new commissioning and project partners for the next phase. This new phase will further develop and enhance the audio and visual material of the box.



**Please contact Artistic Director, Tom Hogan - [tom@proudandloudarts.com](mailto:tom@proudandloudarts.com) to express your interest and to learn more about getting involved with this show's development.**