

Press Release

PHOEBE COLLINGS-JAMES
LET THIS BE THE ANCHOR

6 June–16 August 2026



With **Let this be the anchor**, the Künstler:innenhaus Bremen presents a new series of works by British artist Phoebe Collings-James from early June to mid-August 2026. Collings-James describes clay as a material with memory — one that remembers and makes tensions visible within its materiality. For the exhibition in Bremen, Collings-James dedicates herself to a technique new to her — building ceramic sculptures — and expands her sculptural practice through a more intensive engagement with surface structures and glazes. Inscription is central to her practice and forms a poetic foundation from which the works grow and continuously evolve. She draws from her ever-growing vocabulary of signs, taken from urban space.

For **Let this be the anchor**, the artist developed a new series of sculptures that move between architecture and support structure. At the centre is the motif of the tower. Conceptually, it appears simultaneously as a vantage point, scaffold, or sign, as well

as a fragile construction, opening up a condensed field of symbols and references that the artist interrogates for its cultural and formal layers. Both in the creative process and in moving through the exhibition, the tower appears not merely as an architectural object, but also as a conceptual figure – one that stands for uprightness and orientation, but equally for fragility and potential collapse. The tower is one of the oldest and most ambiguous figures in our collective visual memory: a symbol of power, utopia, and threat all at once. As a sign of stability and growth, as well as a representation through its monumental form in urban space, it always carries within it the possibility of collapse.

In vivid colours, raw surfaces, signs and drawings, as well as impressed elements, the towers in the exhibition always retain something playful. Collapse is a constant structure within Collings-James's artistic practice: as the collapse of bodies and ideas, and as a reconfiguration of emotional residues – traces of knowledge about feelings, sediments of violence, language, and desire, inextricably woven into the lived environment and the power relations inscribed within it. Collings-James speaks of memories of histories still written into the facades of buildings, of new constructions, safety and shelter, and of an urban vocabulary that reappears in the form of markings and fragments on facades.

The exhibition was conceived by Marie Oucherif at Künstler:innenhaus Bremen and will travel to Kunsthaus Glarus, Switzerland, in September 2026.

Curator: Marie Oucherif

Curatorial Assistant: Johanne Jordan

Biography:

Phoebe Collings-James (*1987 in London, GB, lives and works in London) completed her studies in Fine Art at Goldsmiths College in London. Exhibitions: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, London (2026), Albuquerque Foundation, Sintra (2026), KINDL Berlin (2025), Mendes Wood, Brussels (2025), Sculpture Center, New York (2024), arcadia missa, London (2024), Camden Arts Centre, London (2021), Picture Room, New York (2021), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020), Ginerva Gambino, Cologne (2020). Her ceramics studio, Mudbelly, began as a personal research project, but has since grown into a shop and teaching platform that offers free ceramics classes for Black people in London, taught by Black ceramicists.

Notes for the editorial team

Phoebe Collings-James – Let this be the anchor

6 June–16 August 2026

Künstler:innenhaus Bremen

Press Conference: 5 June 2026, 11 am, register via presse@kh-bremen.de

Exhibition Opening: 5 June 2026, 7 pm

The artist will be present at both events.

Download press images and further information:

www.kh-bremen.de/en/presse

Educational Programme:

6.6. 3 pm: In Conversation: Artist Talk with Phoebe Collings-James and Marie Oucherif (EN)

11.6. 6 pm: Curator's Tour with Marie Oucherif (DE)

2.7. 6 pm: Guided Tour in Turkish with Elfin Açar (TR)

11.7. 3–6 pm: Can Art Convey Art? Workshop with Marisa Müller und Clara Kramer (DE)

22.7. 10 am–3 pm: Cast / Slip / Pour / Stack! Taumelnde Türme und instabile Formen. Clay and plaster workshop for children 8–11 years, with Tabea Felicitas Amrei Erhart & Noelle BuAbbud (DE)

23.7. 6 pm: Guided Tour with Johanne Jordan (DE)

About Künstler:innenhaus Bremen:

Künstler:innenhaus Bremen is an interdisciplinary institution that, in addition to artists' studios and exchange and support programmes for Bremen-based artists, also presents contemporary art in its exhibition space. At its location Am Deich in Bremen's Neustadt district, it presents exhibitions as well as event and education formats for a diverse audience each year. We commission new productions and collaborate with local and international artists and institutions to develop exhibitions and publications grounded in new research, thereby providing artists with a platform. Through our work, we aim to offer a comprehensive space for exchange and discussion, and to foster discourse around contemporary art in all its forms.

Künstler:innenhaus Bremen thanks:

Künstler:innenhaus Bremen is supported by Senator für Kultur. The exhibition is generously supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, Karin und Uwe Hollweg Stiftung, Bremische Volksbank Weser-Wümme, Beate+Hartmut Schaefers Stiftung as well as Arcadia Missa Gallery. The educational programme is kindly supported by VGH Stiftung.

Address and Information

Künstler:innenhaus Bremen

Am Deich 68/69, 28199 Bremen

www.kh-bremen.de

+49 (0)421 508 598

galerie@kh-bremen.de

#PhoebeCollingsJames

#KHBremen

@kh_bremen

Opening Hours

Thursday–Sunday: 2–6pm

Press Contact

Johanne Jordan

presse@kh-bremen.de

+49 (0)421 508 598