**Date: 12 Sep 2013**

**PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION – For immediate release**

**Nicola Ellis & Aura Satz**

**6 September to 20 October 2013**

Castlefield Gallery is pleased to present its annual ***Head to Head*** exhibition featuring new work by Nicola Ellis and Aura Satz, two artists who aspire to make overt the materiality of the media they work with.

Programmed under the gallery’s 2013/14 theme of ‘Altered Realities’, the exhibition offers a tangential view of the world through the lens of technologies and materials that are modern but by no means cutting edge. They mark skewed yet fundamental links between the domestic and the primal, the contemporary and the ancient, the cinema and the campfire; illuminating a fabricated moment not forward-looking in the way we know it neither retrogressive, as if from an alternative timeline.

Shot at the post-production facilities of Pinewood Studios, London, Satz’s ***In and Out of Synch*** features the abstract patterns of Optical Sound, taken from the audio section and transposed onto the visual section of the film. Developed in the 1920s, Optical Sound became the dominant method for storing [sound recordings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sound_recording) on film, until the advent of the digital age; using photo-sensitive material to read light shone through transparent forms and a processor to convert the photovoltaic impulses into audio signals. Based on its initial incarnation as a film performance at the Tanks, Tate Modern in 2012, ***In and Out of Synch*** is shown here as a ‘black box’ installation for the first time, creating a space fit as much for solitary viewing as for gathering together by the light of its apparatus. Also on display are selected samples of 35mm film taken from ***Vocal Flame (2012)***; shown on bespoke light boxes, they display footage of a Rubens’ Tube, a device used to visualise sound with flame, like a primitive [oscilloscope](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscilloscope).

Manchester-based artist Nicola Ellis’s practice is underpinned by her interest in the synchronisation of the natural with the unnatural. Recent works involve layering the surface of one material with another, combining and exchanging the properties of incongruous elements such as stone, glass, polyurethane foam and silicone sealant. For our ***Head to Head*** exhibition she has created a new work to inhabit the gallery’s 6-metre, double height space.

This exhibition brings together work on radically different scales by both artists. The drawings and smaller pieces exhibited here have played important roles in the development of larger works, offering the artists opportunities to both experiment and reflect. They are nevertheless works in their own right, and offer the viewer a variety of ways to begin thinking about the artists’ practices. Satz’s ***‘Auricles’*** series of ink on paper drawings of hearing trumpets present an interest in the way technology sometimes mimics the human body. Internal spaces turned inside out, organs and body parts may also be found in Ellis’s works on paper, which combine chance with a controlled sensitivity to the materials she uses, including acrylic ink, embossing enamel, watercolour and gold leaf. Like her sculptures, they depict forms constantly in a state of becoming themselves, neither recognisable objects nor completely abstract, neither alive nor inanimate.

With this exhibition, Castlefield Gallery presents the dialogic nature of how these artists work, creating new work in relation to previous works, with works old and new continuing to inform the understanding of each other. Shown together, this dialogue between their works is extended between the two artists’ practices, suggesting a grand narrative that naturally refuses to be conclusive.

**MEET THE ARTIST**

An invite only event with Aura Satz on Tuesday 1 October at 2pm.

**ARTIST TALK**

Join artist Nicola Ellis for a talk and Q&A about her practice on Thursday 3 October 6:30-8pm.

**LATE NIGHT OPENING**

To mark the launch of The Manchester Weekender and as part of Vogue’s Fashion Night Out, we have a special late night opening for our exhibition by Nicola Ellis and Aura Satz on Thursday 10 October (open till 9pm).

**Nicola Ellis and Aura Satz exhibition at Castlefield Gallery is part of The Manchester Weekender 2013. Returning to the city for its fourth year from 10-13 October The Manchester Weekender is a weekend long snapshot of the best arts and culture the city has to offer. #weekender** [**creativetourist.com/weekender**](http://www.creativetourist.com/festivals-and-events/the-manchester-weekender-2013/)**.**

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For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Jennifer Dean, Communications and Audience Development Coordinator [jennifer@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) or Matthew Pendergast, Interim Programme Manager [matthew@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:matthew@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) T: +44 (0) 161 832 8034.

**Listing information**

**Exhibition:** **Nicola Ellis & Aura Satz**

**Preview:** Thurs 5 Sept 2013, 6-8pm

**Exhibition Dates:** 6 Sept to 20 Oct 2013

**Venue:** Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester, M15 4GB, (behind Deansgate train station)

**Tel:** 0161 832 8034

**Web:** [www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk)

**Opening Times:** Wed to Sun 1pm – 6pm

**Admission:** FREE. The gallery is fully accessible

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**Notes to Editors**

**Nicola Ellis** (b 1987, St Helens. Lives and works in Manchester) received a BA hons in Fine Art from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) and in 2011 graduated from the MA in Fine Art at the Manchester School of Art. Ellis’ work compromises of painting and sculpture and is underpinned by an interest in the synchronisation of the natural with the unnatural. Since graduating she has shown in several group exhibitions including; FOUR, Cornerhouse, Manchester; *Meanwhile See This,* Castlefield Gallery, Manchester; *Cabedal*. Plataforma Revolver, Lisbon, Portugal; neo: artsprize, Bolton; *We are all in this together*. Bureau, Manchester; Part of the Programme, FAFA Gallery, Helsinki, Finland; Paper 3, Paper Gallery, Manchester. Upcoming exhibitions include Number 1: Osseous (2013) at The Open Centre, MediaCityUK, Salford. Ellis is supported by Mark Devereux Projects. [nicolaellis.com](http://www.nicolaellis.com) / [markdevereuxprojects.com](http://markdevereuxprojects.com)

**Aura Satz** (b. 1974, Barcelona, Spain. Lives and works in London) gained her practice / theory PhD in Fine Art Media at the Slade School of Fine Art, London in 2002. Her practice encompasses film, sound, performance and sculpture and she has performed, exhibited and screened nationally and internationally, including FACT, Liverpool; Site Gallery, Sheffield; Galleria Civica di Arte Contemporanea di Trento, Italy; De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea; the Zentrum Paul Klee, Switzerland; Färgfabriken, Stockholm; Tatton Park Biennial, Cheshire; AV festival, Newcastle; Arnolfini, Bristol; Ikon, Birmingham; BFI Southbank, Whitechapel Gallery, the Victoria & Albert Museum, Barbican Art Gallery, ICA, Jerwood Space, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Beaconsfield Gallery, Artprojx Space, and the Wellcome Collection, London. She is currently included in the exhibition *Curiosity: Art and the Pleasures of Knowing*, as part of Hayward Touring exhibition in association with Cabinet Magazine, curated by Brian Dillon.

During 2002/05 she was a recipient of the Henry Moore Post-Doctoral Sculpture Fellowship, hosted at the Slade School of Fine Art and in 2012 she was shortlisted for the Samsung Art+ award, and the Jarman award. Satz currently teaches at the London Consortium, where she is a Fellow (2004-2013). She has works in collections including Deutsche Bank NY collection, Zabludowicz collection, Science Museum, and other private collections. Satz is represented by Paradise Row. [iamanagram.com](http://www.iamanagram.com/) / [paradiserow.com](http://www.paradiserow.com/)

**Head to Head** is an annual exhibition exploring relationships between two artists’ practices, developing an intergenerational dialogue between an artist from the North West and an artist of national and international recognition.

**Castlefield Gallery (CG)** Founded in 1984, CG is one of Northern England's most active and successful organisations/agencies for developing emerging contemporary artists and practice. Its ambitious curated exhibitions programme responds to national and international trends, promoting artists at key stages of their careers, including subsequent Turner Prize nominees/winners and exhibitors at international festivals. Central to CG’s activities is an artist development programme including the CG Associates members scheme and the recently launched New Art Spaces. CG's vision is for the North to be where artists can develop work of international standing. Its mission is to nurture talent, explore cultural trends and deepen audience's relationship to contemporary art.

Castlefield Gallery is supported by Arts Council England through Grants for the Arts (2012-14) and is a cultural partner of Manchester City Council (2012-15).



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