

# **CASTLEFIELD GALLERY**

**Press Release: 7 December 2023**

## **CASTLEFIELD GALLERY FIRST REVEAL FOR 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME LAUNCHING 20 MARCH 2024**

### **CASTLEFIELD GALLERY: 40 YEARS OF THE FUTURE**

- **Centred around Castlefield Gallery's Manchester venue, other locations and partners will see the programme reach across the city of Manchester, city region and North West of England.**
- **Free exhibitions with work by Sir Frank Bowling, Sarah Feinmann, Tricia Gillman, Gary Wragg, and John Hoyland joined by artists and new commissions by those including Jeffrey Knopf, Jamie Kirk, Jo McGonigal, Robin Megannity, Azraa Motala, Theo Simpson, Hope Strickland and Katie Tomlinson.**
- **A dynamic series of public events, performances, screenings, creative community activities and artist development programmes will unfold across the year, spotlighting the city and region's reputation for, and wealth of artistic talent, production and its vibrant cultural scenes.**
- **Further announcements to follow on outdoor work and 40 Years of the Future: Editions.**

**Castlefield Gallery was established in 1984** by graduates of Manchester School of Art, (Manchester Metropolitan University), operating under Manchester Artists' Studio Association (MASA). The foresight of this group led to the first gallery and charity of its kind opening its doors in the city of Manchester. At the time, outside of London it was one of only a few public not-for-profit galleries dedicated to contemporary visual arts.

That the gallery continues today is testimony to the MASA group and all those who have followed, especially the inspiring roster of artists the gallery has worked with over the last four decades. In the earlier years this included names such as Sir Frank Bowling, Ana Genovés, Patrick Heron, Howard Hodgkin, Andy Goldsworthy, Michael Lyons, Mali Morris, Paula Rego, Bridget Riley and Veronica Ryan. In its later years these have included, David Alker, Cory Arcangel, Omid Asadi, Ruth Barker, Hannah Leighton-Boyce, Lindsey Bull, Jacob Cartwright and Nick Jordan, Suki Chan, Gordon Cheung, Nina Chua, Marcus Coates, Emma Cousin, Gordon Dalton, Shezad Dawood, Frances Disley, Nicola Ellis, Leo Fitzmaurice, Ryan Gander, S Mark Gubb, Joey Holder, Hilary Jack, Samson Kambalu, Mark Leckey, Melanie Manchot, Daria Martin, Jocelyn McGregor, Harry Meadley, Lindsey Mendick, Eleanor Morgan, Hayley Newman, Maddi Nicholson, Harold Offeh, Open Music Archive, Hardeep Pandhal, Plastique Fantastique, Olivia Plender, John Powell-Jones, Abigail Reynolds, Magnus Quaife, Ro Robertson, Larissa Sansour, Peter Saville, Emily Speed, Charlie Godet Thomas, Leslie Thompson and many many more.

What Castlefield Gallery is most understood for is developing the practice and careers of contemporary visual artists in the region, and in so doing bringing together the more established, and those working nationally and internationally, with practitioners operating in Manchester and the North West. So strong was the belief in Castlefield Gallery's approach, after exhibiting with the gallery the wonderful Sir Anthony Caro joined the gallery to be its Artist Patron until 2013. Ryan Gander OBE too, taking up this position in 2014 to the present and remaining a staunch supporter today. Gander states:

*“Castlefield Gallery is the centre to the periphery, which in my thinking is the best position to work from and where I want to be. Castlefield Gallery oozes with explorers and pioneers, and understands that the currency of a scene is its ability to import and export culture, not sit stagnant in its own melting pot.”*

Many of the artists the gallery has worked with have become strong supporters over the years, including generously contributing to past fundraising auctions to ensure Castlefield Gallery can continue to nurture artists of the future, and hosted by champions of its work like Manchester's late Anthony Wilson.

Being able to celebrate 40 years of Castlefield Gallery is something very special, and quite distinct, especially given over the last decade how many artist-led initiatives and studios have been displaced from city and town centres across the UK.

We are delighted today to be able to share Castlefield Gallery's first programme release for its 40-year anniversary, launching 20 March 2024, 40 years to the day from when the gallery first opened its doors to the public in 1984.

**Helen Wewiora, Castlefield Gallery Director & Artistic Director**

## **FIRST EXHIBITIONS ANNOUNCED**

### **40 Years of the Future: Painting**

**Exhibition:** Sun 24 March - Sun 23 June 2024

**Preview:** 20 March 2024

**Slow Saturday preview:** 23 March 2024

**40 Years of the Future: Painting** welcomes back Sarah Feinmann, Tricia Gillman, John Hoyland, and Gary Wragg. Each exhibited as part of Castlefield Gallery's 1984 inaugural programme. Large abstract paintings shown at the time, including *Harvest 6.3.81* (1981) the centre-piece for Hoyland's solo exhibition 'Recent Paintings', will return to Castlefield Gallery in March 2024. These works will be shown alongside later paintings by the same artists and the work of four 'up-and-coming' painters in the North West - Jamie Kirk, Robin Megannity, Azraa Motala and Katie Tomlinson. An unashamed celebration of painting, the exhibition will house powerful examples of abstract and figurative work. Some works are sombre and intense whilst others exuberant and bombastic.

Whether you are a painting enthusiast or simply curious about what painting can do, **40 Years of the Future: Painting** will deliver a rich dialogue around the past, present and future of the medium, individual expression, the power of imagery and the politics of representation.

### **40 Years of the Future: Where Should We Be Now?**

***Jeffrey Knopf, Theo Simpson, Hope Strickland***

**Exhibition:** Sun 7 July - Sun 6 October 2024

**Preview:** Thurs 4 July 2024

**Slow Saturday Preview:** 6 July 2024

Artists Jeffrey Knopf, Theo Simpson and Hope Strickland - a sculptor, a photographer and artist-filmmaker, are deeply committed to their disciplines, whilst pushing their boundaries. All actively work around the edges of each of their respective mediums. In both the content of their works and materials used they explore our deep and complex relationships with the past, present and future. They challenge dominant cultural narratives and the idea that history is singular. Their works are subtle and poetic but also expansive, mixing the personal and the political.

The exhibition will present existing pieces alongside commissioned works developed in partnership with the University of Salford Art Collection, some of which will enter the university's collection for the benefit of future generations. This builds on Castlefield Gallery's decade of co-commissioning and artist development collaborations with the University of Salford Art Collection. **40 Years of the Future: Where Should We Be Now?** will bring together sculptural works 3D-printed from manipulated scans of ancient artefacts, photographic works and materials that relate to the history of the British economy and

landscape, alongside film that skillfully and elegantly weaves together archival footage and historic documentation.

As Castlefield Gallery marks 40 years, the exhibition will inform how we might imagine our future, and doing so with the recognition that history isn't the same for everyone; that amongst the artists we work with and the people that visit us, the past is felt and experienced differently.

### **40 Years of the Future: Jo McGonigal x Frank Bowling**

**Exhibition:** Sun 20 October 2024 - Sun 2 February 2025

**Preview:** Thurs 17 October 2024

**Slow Saturday Preview:** 19 October 2024

This exhibition will bring together two painters whose works have drawn inspiration from sculpture. Jo McGonigal makes what she refers to as spatial paintings. They leave the constraints of the canvas support behind to interact directly with the architecture in which her works are placed. For McGonigal encountering painting should activate the body as much as it does the eye. Frank Bowling has been exploring the possibilities of paint for over six decades. Renowned for his engagement with abstraction, his technically pioneering works mix new materials and methodologies to create bold, large-scale paintings. They demonstrate his grasp of structure and geometry, and some works feature heavily built-up layered surfaces of paint and various materials, forming artworks that could be characterised as sculptural paintings.

In his book *Frank Bowling: Sculpture* (2022) curator Sam Cornish delves into the sculptural aspects of Bowling's art. He shares a story of how the artist once received an invitation from Castlefield Gallery to exhibit his paintings alongside the work of a contemporary sculptor: in reply, Bowling said that he would create the sculptures himself. This led to a solo exhibition of Bowling's paintings, works on paper and sculpture at the gallery in 1988. To celebrate its 40 year anniversary, Castlefield Gallery is delighted to present works from the original exhibition, alongside earlier and more recent paintings by Bowling and new works by McGonigal. Bringing their work together is a unique opportunity to challenge our understanding of the relationship between painting and sculpture, as they explore the concepts of physical space and pictorial depth, surface and substance, seeing how one practice can enrich and influence the other.

### **40 Years of the Future: Castlefield Gallery Associates**

**Exhibition:** Sun 16 February - Sun 30 March 2025

**Preview:** Thurs 13 February 2025

**Slow Saturday Preview:** Sat 15 February 2025

The gallery will close the 40 year exhibition programme with an extraordinary Castlefield Gallery Associates exhibition. Castlefield Gallery Associates is an artist development programme designed to provide skills, practice and career development support for artists in Greater Manchester, the region and beyond. The programme acts as a hub, facilitating critical exchange and engagement between artists and creatives. The exhibition will be an opportunity for Castlefield Gallery Associates to submit proposals for an exhibition that if selected will form part of the gallery's 40 year programme. Associates will be able to apply to

exhibit as a solo artist, a member of a group/collective, or to curate an exhibition project. We will be looking for timely and ambitious proposals which enable those involved to significantly develop their practice and profile. More will follow on this later in 2024, including a new package of funded Associates' awards and the exhibition's guest selector.

## **ARTIST DEVELOPMENT AND CREATIVE COMMUNITIES**

Castlefield Gallery marks 40 years as Manchester Art Gallery celebrates 200 years. Reflecting on the galleries' origins, both initiated by artists, and timed to coincide with **40 Years of the Future: Painting**, we will deliver a joint public programme exploring the arts ecology of the city, unpacking the critical role and value of artists to a city like Manchester 'then and now'. This will be as Castlefield Gallery and Manchester School of Art's (Manchester Metropolitan University) AHRC NWCDTP Collaborative Doctoral researcher will complete their process of exploring the Castlefield Gallery archive, considering its history in the context of the wider city and city region's cultural ecology, and via which many deep connections between Castlefield Gallery and Manchester Art Gallery have been brought into focus. We are pleased to also be working with Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth in the year, and with Portraits of Recovery, looking ahead to their Recoversit Month in 2024 and 2025.

*Salford Scholars*, an annual 12 month graduate scholarship programme, will continue with the University of Salford Art Collection, Hot Bed Press, Islington Mill and Paradise Works. 2024 will mark a decade of collaborative action with partners in Salford on support for new artists as they transition out of education. ENERGY HOUSE 2.0 residencies with artists Mishka Henner and Emily Speed, delivered in conjunction with the University of Salford and Open Eye Gallery will progress, including towards presentations of new work in 2024 and 2025. Castlefield Gallery will also be supporting **Hybrid Futures** at Salford Museum and Art Gallery – the culmination of a 2-year collaborative pilot between the gallery, Grundy Art Gallery (Blackpool), Touchstones (Rochdale), University of Salford Art Collection and Shezad Dawood Studio (London), with artist development and environmental sustainability at its heart.

Building on the long-established Castlefield Gallery collaboration with Waterside and Creative Industries Trafford, 2024 will be the launch year for our new invigorated partnership programme, one that will see creative opportunities for artists rolled out across Trafford. Meanwhile, Culture Warrington's vision to develop the Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival has been made possible for 2024 thanks to a substantial investment from Arts Council England's Place Partnership Fund. Through this place-based initiative, Castlefield Gallery is delighted it will be working with Culture Warrington to strengthen their artist development programmes, ensuring that local creatives have an even more diverse range of opportunities available to them. HOME's Manchester Open returns in 2024, for which the gallery is proud to partner on the Manchester Open Awards. Meanwhile year round activities will continue with partners Venture Arts, and in preparation towards our joint exhibition in 2025.

Castlefield Gallery Associates will continue to provide resources, opportunities and community for over 300 artists, with Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces (temporarily vacant

properties repurposed for artist use across the North West) building on its activity in Chester, including work on the inaugural 2023 Chester Contemporary, as well as in Warrington and Greater Manchester.

Whatever the next 40 years holds, Castlefield Gallery will continue with an unwavering commitment to nurturing artistic practice across all career stages. We will continue with our commitment to new art, and forging connections between contemporary practice in the North West with that made nationally and internationally.

ENDS.

**For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Leslie Remonato at Castlefield Gallery on [leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) or 0161 832 8034**

### **More on Castlefield Gallery**

We are a contemporary art gallery and artist development organisation. Established in 1984, we've led the way in artist development for almost 40 years. We provide creative and career development, exhibition opportunities and commissions for artists and independents. We work from our galleries in Manchester, off-site, online and in the public realm. We create long-lasting impacts in our city region, North West and beyond. Our national and international activities focus on artist exchange. Castlefield Gallery's public and participation programmes provoke new ways of thinking, bringing together artists, creatives, communities and audiences to explore the art and issues of our time. We believe when artists and communities come together they can help shape a better world.

We support more than 300 Castlefield Gallery Associates and a host of creatives through person-centred development programmes. Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces provide affordable making and project space in the North West of England, including on the high street. We are a home for artists and creatives. We are advocates for what we believe in. We believe in the power of new art. We make new art happen.

Ryan Gander OBE is Castlefield Gallery's Artist Patron. We are a registered charity, supported by Arts Council England and Manchester City Council.

### **Notes to Editors:**

**Venue:** Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester M15 4GB

**Tel:** 0161 832 8034

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

**Email:** [info@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:info@castlefieldgallery.co.uk)

**Opening Times:** Wed to Sun 12noon – 5:30pm

### **Social Media**

Facebook /castlefieldgallery

Instagram @castlefieldgall

X (Twitter) @CastlefieldGall

#40YEARSOF THEFUTURE

Castlefield Gallery principal funders



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