

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Venture Arts presents...

A showcase of new art work from artists working at supported studios across the UK

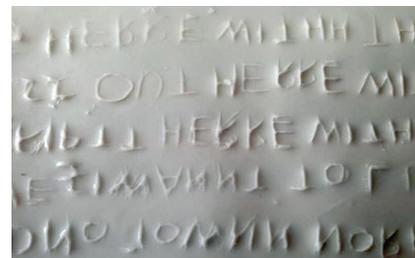
Following on from a successful exhibition last year, Venture Arts returns to The Manchester Contemporary from Friday 27 October until Sunday 29 October at Manchester Central.

This year the space – run in partnership with Castlefield Gallery - has been curated collaboratively between two young and emerging curators, James Desser (Venture Arts) and Tom Emery (Castlefield Gallery Associate) and features significant new art work from digital photography and illustration to ceramics and sculpture from found objects.

Submissions came from a wealth of artists working at studios run by ActionSpace in London and Project Ability in Glasgow, as well as artists working from the Venture Arts studios in Manchester.

The exhibit includes *Man Climbing Ladder*, a large-scale sculptural piece built with 'buried treasure' salvaged from ordinary places by artist Andrew Omoding. It will also be the first showing of *DEARR CHHRRISSTINNE* by Barry Anthony Finan (a returning artist from last years' show) which is a series of porcelain prints taking Finan's passion for writing to explore writing as a way of mark making. Prolific artist and RSA fellow Cameron Morgan has several art works in the show, including screenprint *The Three Stooges* and iconic ceramic pieces *Mobile* and *Ring Tone*.

Artists exhibited are: Cameron Morgan; Barry Anthony Finan; Luca Agathogli; Jennie Franklin; Ahmed Mohammed; David James; Andrew Omoding and Robert Dixon.



James Desser, co-curator said: "This is a new experience for me, as it is my first time curating an exhibition. It was a challenge to make decisions about which art works to display, as in terms of quality they were all fantastic. So Tom and I went with our intuition on the

pieces we felt were truly striking and would work best to show the diversity of art work that is produced by artists labelled 'learning disabled'."

Amanda Sutton, Director at Venture Arts said: "It is extremely important that diverse artists are represented at high profile contemporary arts events like The Manchester Contemporary. It's great to be back after such a great show last year, the feedback was fantastic and we sold work too! This year we wanted to take the opportunity to showcase art work by learning disabled artists from across the UK to show the breadth and diversity of talent within our field. I am delighted that the show is being co-curated by one of our artists too; it's that collaboration between people that is so important to us'."

**For more information please contact Emma Bosworth or Katherine Long at
emma@venturearts.org / katherine@venturearts.org or call 0161 232 1223**

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Notes to Editors:-

Venture Arts is a progressive visual arts studio based in Hulme, Manchester. It works alongside learning disabled artists to create and show exciting new visual art work using a range of art mediums including Illustration, Photography, Moving image, Animation, Textile art, Ceramics and Art as Environment. The organisation's vision is to see learning disabled people play a valued and valuable role within arts and culture as artists, critics, audiences, advocates and workers. To this effect it produces art programmes that work with over 300 people per year, and run work schemes which help learning disabled people to work and volunteer in cultural and educational environments. Venture Arts showcase the work of its artists locally, nationally and internationally.

www.venturearts.org

The Manchester Contemporary is an unrivalled incubator of artistic talent. Using bold curatorial judgement, it offers works for sale from the most exciting, critically engaged, contemporary artists and galleries, many of whom then embark on the international art fair network.

www.themanchestercontemporary.co.uk

ActionSpace supports the development of artists with learning disabilities and creates innovative projects for people with learning disabilities to engage with the visual arts. ActionSpace was launched in the 1960s and established as an independent charity in 1984. It aims to make a professional career in the arts a realistic option for artists with learning disabilities. It has worked to establish a place for artists within the Contemporary Arts and to this effect has works from three dedicated art studios across London and has worked with high profile organisations such as the Royal Academy of Arts, Camden Arts Centre, the Museum of Everything and the National Portrait Gallery.

www.actionspace.org

Project Ability is a visual arts organisation providing a professional, welcoming and safe environment for people of all ages with disabilities and mental ill health to engage with their art practice. Through their attendance they gain access to a strong peer network and benefit from the chance to participate in exhibition and professional development opportunities. Located in Trongate 103 in Glasgow's vibrant Merchant City, we are open 6 days a week, 50 weeks a year and work with over 2500 adults, children and young people. Project Ability is a Scottish Charity SC005226.

www.project-ability.co.uk