

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

CONVERSATIONS
SERIES 

Presents: ‘Other Transmissions’

A touring programme resulting from artists’ residencies that explore stereotypes, and ‘art world definitions’.

Artists: Joe Beedles, James Desser, Amy Ellison, Frances Heap, Andrew Johnstone and John Powell-Jones, supported by Venture Arts’ James Pollitt.

‘Other Transmissions’ is a touring project launching at **Tate Liverpool** as a **Tate Exchange** event from 20 – 24 March 2019, coalescing around a programme of drop-in workshops and talks informed by ‘Conversations Series II’ artist residencies led by **Venture Arts’** with programme partners’ **Castlefield Gallery** and **the Whitworth**.

Following the launch in Liverpool, ‘Other Transmissions’ travels to **Artlink Hull**, where from 29 March – 21 June new works developed through ‘Conversations Series II’, will be shown alongside key works from **the Whitworth’s Musgrave Kinley Outsider Art Collection**, one of the most significant public collections of Outsider Art in the UK. Works on loan from the collection will include pieces by Henry Darger and Judith Scott.

On 28 June at **Paradise Works**, Salford, 6-9pm will be a film screening of ‘Other Transmissions’ group film and an exclusive live immersive intervention by Joe Beedles.

‘Other Transmissions’ will complete at **The University of Salford, New Adelphi Gallery**, from 1-31 Oct, where several works produced by the ‘Conversations Series II’ residency artists will feature alongside documentary material of the ‘Conversations Series II’ process, captured by the university’s BA Graphic Design students. Visual responses in the form of zines, riso-prints and film will be shown with the touring programme.

‘**Conversations Series II**’ has supported six artists living and working in the North West of England to undertake a five-month residency at Venture Arts Studios in Hulme, Manchester. The artists are a diverse group of learning disabled and non-learning disabled artists selected based on the quality of their practice, and their openness to exploration, experimentation and collaboration. This iteration of the series delves into feelings and thoughts of how artists feel about the labels placed upon them by society and the art world more broadly.

The participating artists have spent time with The Musgrave Kinley Outsider Art Collection at the Whitworth, researching collection pieces, this process stimulating conversation on how artists are labelled, and how this can sometimes define their work and themselves as ‘different’.

New work produced by the ‘Conversations Series II’ artists evidences a sense of play, something that has featured heavily throughout the residency process. Experimentation has been key and the artists have

explored new materials and techniques including latex, clay, sound and video sampling. The resulting works include audio-visual pieces, a group film consisting of low-fi surreal episodes developed by the group, making use of green screen footage as well as 3D scanned imagery. Other visual dialogues are communicated in the form of brightly coloured works and drawings embodying a strong sense of the surreal, stemming from dark humour featuring heavily in YouTube clips viewed, and opening credits from 90s game shows.

Castlefield Gallery have in particular supported the residency with artist recruitment and selection processes, as a critical friend, and provided the artists with mentoring to encourage reflection at key stages throughout the project.

‘Conversations Series’ is a multi-year programme conceived by Venture Arts, working in partnership with Castlefield Gallery and a wider network of national organisations. The programme extends across multiple years, curated as a discursive and art making journey designed to enable and empower the voices of learning disabled artists, focused on the power of their work as opposed to ideas of ‘art world status’. Through a series of dialogues, residencies and artistic collaborations, Venture Arts will seek to enable new and challenging work to be created, whilst exploring the place of learning disabled artists work within the context of the national and international contemporary visual art scene, and contexts such as the Outsider Art Movement and the Disability Arts Movement.

‘Conversations Series’ began in 2015/16 with [OutsiderXchanges](#), a partnership between Venture Arts, Castlefield Gallery and the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Kate Royle on comms@venturearts.org / 07753312636 OR Amanda Sutton on Amanda@venturearts.org / 0161 232 1223

To find out more about the Conversations Series II visit: www.conversations-series.com

Ends

Listing information:

Tate Exchange

Date: 20-24 March 2019, 10am-4pm

Venue: Tate Liverpool, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4BB

Website: <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-liverpool/tate-exchange>

Admission: FREE

Access: TATE Liverpool is wheelchair accessible. To book wheelchairs or enquire about additional parking access: email visiting.liverpool@tate.org.uk | Call +44 (0)151 702 7400 | Text Phone 18801 702 7400

Artlink Hull

Preview: 29 March, 6-8pm

Press Preview: 29 March 6-8pm

Exhibition Dates: 29 March-22 June 2019

Accompanying Event: In Conversation with Residency Artists | **27 April 2019** | 1-3pm

Venue: Artlink Hull, 87 Princes Avenue, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU5 3QP

Website: <https://www.artlinkhull.co.uk/>

Opening Times: Monday - Saturday: 10:00 - 16:00 | Sunday: Closed

Admission: FREE

Access: Artlink Hull is wheelchair accessible. For full access requirements please contact - info@artlinkhull.co.uk

University of Salford

Date: 1-31 October 2019

Venue: New Adelphi Gallery, The University of Salford, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

Website: <https://www.salford.ac.uk/newadelphi>

Opening Times: Monday – Friday 11am-5pm

Admission: FREE

Access: This building is wheelchair accessible

Paradise Works

Title: Other Transmissions Film Screening and Live Immersive Intervention

Date: Friday 28 June 2019, 6-9pm

Venue: Paradise Works, East Philip Street, Salford, Manchester, M3 7LE

Website: <https://www.paradise-works.com/>

Admission: FREE

Access: This venue is not wheelchair accessible

VENTURE ARTS is a progressive visual arts organisation based in Hulme, Manchester which strives for learning disabled people to engage with and be recognised in art and culture. The organisation work alongside artists to create and show new visual art work. They would like to see a cultural landscape where people with learning disabilities reach their potential as artists, curators, critics, audiences, participants and advocates. To this effect they deliver over 1000 visual arts projects per year working with over 200 people, and run work schemes which support people to work and volunteer in cultural and educational environments. Venture Arts showcase the work of its artists locally, nationally and internationally. Venture Arts is part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio and is a cultural partner of Manchester City Council 2018-22.

CASTLEFIELD GALLERY was established by artists in 1984, and is the first public contemporary visual art gallery to have opened in Manchester. The organisation delivers a programme of exhibitions, projects and events from its main gallery in central Manchester, whilst also commissioning, curating and producing off-site and public art, national and international artist residencies, and exchange programmes. Castlefield Gallery is an artist focused organisation, committed to supporting artistic and career development for visual artists, and operates a 200+ strong artist, curator and writer Castlefield Gallery Associates professional development programme, membership also enabling access to New Art Spaces, pop-up art and production spaces located across Greater Manchester. Castlefield Gallery's international programme facilitates international exchange to export art being produced in the North West of England and enable meaningful relationships between artists nationally and internationally to flourish over extended periods of time. Castlefield Gallery's Artist Patron is Ryan Gander, OBE. Castlefield Gallery is a registered charity, a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and Manchester City Council Cultural Partner. www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk

The Whitworth is a gallery that is historic and contemporary, academic and playful. Founded in 1889 as the first English gallery in a park. Part of the University of Manchester, the Whitworth is a gallery that is a place of research and academic collaboration, and whose education and learning teams have generated new approaches to working with non-traditional arts audiences. Since 2010 the Whitworth has housed the Musgrave Kinley Outsider Art Collection. www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

Tate Exchange Liverpool

Visitors can enjoy a free programme of talks, workshops, artist collaborations and more as part of Tate Exchange Liverpool. The programme takes place in the heart of Tate Liverpool's collection display *Constellations: Highlights from the Nation's Collection of Modern Art*, on the first-floor galleries. Be inspired by the collection and take part in this year's programme that explores the theme of 'movement'.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-liverpool/tate-exchange>

Artlink Hull

Artlink Hull supports the creation and exploration of art with, in, and about communities. In particular, we work with individuals and communities experiencing disadvantage to increase the diversity of voices in the arts. We do this through art commissions, projects, exhibitions, events, learning programmes, and forums, working with a range of communities. Since establishment in 1982, Artlink Hull has been continually involved in the development

of community participatory and socially-engaged art practices, and remains a key organisation in the Humber region within these fields. <https://www.artlinkhull.co.uk/>

Paradise Works

Established in 2017, Paradise Works is an independent, artist-led initiative providing studio and project space to a proactive community of 36 contemporary artists. Our gallery space hosts a critically engaged programme of exhibitions and film screenings, showcasing works from new and established artists working nationally & internationally. Paradise Works is host to Division of Labour, Salford, recently relocated from London by gallerist and The Manchester Contemporary curator Nathaniel Pitt. Our annual Open Studios, Artist in Residence, Graduate Awards and public activities enable artists to share their work with people who live, work, or visit the city.

Paradise Works aims to develop a sustainable model for artist-led activity in the city region. We believe that artists hold a vital role in the development of a vibrant and diverse city, and that artists are better enabled to establish sustainable careers as part of this. <https://www.paradise-works.com/>

Conversations Series II partners:

the **Whitworth**



'Other Transmissions' Touring Partners:



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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