

Press Release

Date: 28 August 2018

Island Life

Paradise Works

7 to 16 September 2018

Preview: Thursday 6 September 2018, 6-9pm

Artists: Lubna Ali, Claudia Alonso, Tara Collette, Elliott Flanagan, Jamal Jameel, Fuchsia Summerfield.

Island Life brings together six artists whose work can be said to be culturally, socially or politically engaged. It comes as no surprise in a transitional world where ideas of borders and truths are constantly being challenged, that these artists choose to explore worldviews through their lived experiences and those of others around them.

In this exhibition, the artists reflect and connect the complexities of modern living in this island nation in north western Europe with its neighbours and beyond. The personal endeavours of the artists resonate with wider social concerns, with questions of co-existence, equality, and most of all, a sense of shared humanity.

Ali's fine art prints use Islamic geometry and minimalism to explore her identity as a British Muslim. As a Madrid born artist, Alonso engages with Brexit using newspaper headlines and images from the 2016 British referendum.

Collette's banners and works on paper highlight the free labour 'opportunities' that artists and designers are often offered, instead of payment for their work. Flanagan's video work continues his study of contemporary masculinity using archival and original footage.

Jameel's large scale photographic prints reveal the individual humans behind the refugees and asylum seekers labels, often sharing their authorship by giving the subjects control of the shutter remote. Summerfield's sound works incorporates original field recordings to create (dis)connections and altered states of consciousness that deals with addiction.

This exhibition is supported by the University of Salford through its Graduate Scholarship Programme. The artists in the 2017/18 programme were selected by open application and are graduates of the university's Visual Arts, Creative Music Technology, Photography and Graphic Design BA courses.

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Kwong Lee, Contemporary Art Producer, on kwonglee38@gmail.com or 07815 553749

Lubna Ali

Ali's practice draws on her Islamic heritage and explores her sense of self as a British Muslim. She uses her knowledge of traditional Islamic geometry and combines it with her interest of minimalist art to create works on paper. Her work represents spirituality and sacredness through the repetition of patterns as this brings forward the concept of unity and devoutness in Islamic culture. She aims to refresh the current narrative of British Muslim identity by openly discussing the issues affecting the Muslim community. Ali's practice is primarily print based.

She has exhibited in a number of galleries and has work in private collections. In 2018, she undertook a 6-month residency at The Whitworth Art Gallery where she co-curated and exhibited in the Whitworth Young Contemporaries group exhibition, *After Twilight*. She is also founder and member of the print collective *Rhubarb & Custard*.

lubnaali.com

Claudia Alonso

Alonso's work uses various media such as film, photographs, digital collage, screen printing and etching to reveal an intimate view of the streets and alleyways in her Manchester neighbourhood.

The spaces in the streets that refuse and recycling bins occupy are a key focus in her work. In particular, the dysfunctional system of urban waste management that has resulted in wastelands rather than playgrounds or gardens is foregrounded, often using humorous imageries.

In 2018, her work about fly tipping was part of *A Rubbish Night in the Museum* at Manchester Museum.

claudialonso.co.uk

Tara Collette

Collette is an artist and designer based at Islington Mill in Salford.

Tara's practice rigorously explores the use of language to give shared voice to people and extends our awareness of where many things could be improved. She works primarily with banners and text and recent works include six public realm banners for Design Manchester, The Lowry and her infamous 'XXXX THE GRADE' banner that *The Skinny* compared to "traditional folk art used by marching trade unions" but used instead by Tara to rally her peers.

Tara's graphic design background and interest in textiles fuel her practice. She has recently worked with Manchester International Festival's (Creative 50), Ampersand Projects (Birmingham) and *Fabric of Protest* (People's History Museum). Her work

has been covered by BBC Live and Computer Arts. She also undertakes commissions to produce limited edition modern embroidery.

taracollette.co.uk

Elliott Flanagan

Social and cultural debates are at the forefront of Flanagan's practice. The domestic and themes of class and identity reoccur throughout with particular focus on the representation of the working classes in the North of England. Flanagan's most recent work considers disconnection from one's own consciousness, and reflects on the effects of modernity, consumerism and the cyber age on our psyche. His ideas are realised via a range of media including installation, illustration, print, photography, text, sound and video.

Flanagan is also co-founder (with Sarah Boulter) of Nightshift International, an artist-led, socially engaged, contemporary collaborative. Working with performance and video installation, the duo explore aspiration, budget decadence and modern living. They examine the contemporary presence of the ultra-feminine and fractured masculinity by way of TV, fandom, glossy magazines, sportswear, 90's Europhilia and other latter 20th century iconography.

Nightshift International recently was featured in LEGROOM presents FÉMININFÉMININ, at Sounds From The Other City, 2018, and co-curated Love is a 3 Way Game at Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces, Great Northern Tower.

elliottflanaganstudio.com

Jamal Jameel

Working closely with the refugee and asylum seeker community in Manchester, Jameel has created a powerful series of assisted self-portraits that explore the relationship between camera, photographer and model. By asking his models to take the photographs using a wireless shutter - remote or self-timer, he is encouraging us to consider how we see the subject and how the subject sees themselves.

In 2016, Jameel's work was commissioned by ArtReach's Journey's Festival International and shown on public buildings around Greater Manchester.

[instagram.com/jny3b8r](https://www.instagram.com/jny3b8r)

Fuchsia Summerfield

Since graduating with a degree in creative music technology Summerfield has been applying her expertise in film, radio, recording and composition. Her current practice is largely composition based and uses techniques of audio manipulation.

Compositionally, she has always had an interest in integrating non-musical sounds within her work. For Summerfield the initial sound capture is a separate process. She has become drawn to a sound for its own sake - in its raw form. Her previous work has been inspired by themes surrounding addiction/recovery, mental health and politics. She continues to research and create work to do with addiction and is interested in technology advances in the modern world, capturing the sound of today.

Summerfield has worked with Manchester International Festival, Macabre Productions, HOME (Manchester) and Intern Magazine.

soundcloud.com/fuchsiasummerfield

Graduate Scholarship Programme

The programme was created by University of Salford Art Collection and School of Arts & Media. The programme is run by the Art Collection with Castlefield Gallery, in partnership with their professional partners: Hot Bed Press, Islington Mill, Paradise Works, Mirabel Studios and Redeye, The Photography Network.

artcollection.salford.ac.uk/graduate-scholarship-programme

Listing information:

Exhibition Title: Island Life

Public Preview: Thursday 6 September 2018, 6-9pm

Exhibition Dates: 7 to 16 September 2018

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

Tel: 07815 553749

Web: facebook.com/islandlife.exhibition

Project email: islandlife.contact@gmail.com

Opening Times: Sat/Sun 12 to 5pm, and other times by appointment

Admission: FREE. Unfortunately, the gallery is not accessible

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UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD