

## January 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021!

With such a rocky start to this year we felt that it was important to reflect on 2020; to recognise just how much we achieved and learned, in order to face the growing challenges of 2021.

Partnership is at the heart of all the work of the Art Collection team, and we started 2020 collaborating with Castlefield Gallery and Venture Arts on [Thumbs Up](#), an exhibition featuring fantastic new commissions for the Collection by Michael Beard, Fran Disley, Harry Meadley and Leslie Thompson. In March at Islington Mill we celebrated the launch of Salford's new Strategy for Creativity, Culture and Place – [Suprema Lex](#) – putting 'people at the centre' of the strategy. The University is one of the anchor partners of Salford Culture and Place partnership, and we were delighted that our Chancellor, Jackie Kay helped us mark the occasion. On the same day we said a fond farewell to Jennifer Iddon our Marketing and Projects Officer who left for pastures new!

A week later we were in lockdown #1. We quickly adapted to working from home and through digital technology we have remained in close contact with our partners. We thank our friends and colleagues from across the University and Greater Manchester, in particular Hot Bed Press, Islington Mill, Paradise Works, Castlefield Gallery and SSCP – for their generosity of spirit, moral support, mutual sense of care and good humour in dark times. At the Art Collection we were able to quickly repurpose funds and offer a series of commissions to artists: [5 micro commissions](#) to artists from, or with links to, Salford and [6 digital co-commissions](#) for the Collection with our industry partners Open Eye Gallery, Castlefield Gallery, AND Festival and Hot Bed Press. We are delighted that these works will act as a legacy of 2020 and reflect the many ways individuals experienced and coped with the pandemic.

We were also able to share more of our recent digital commissions online – including [Song for Armageddon](#) by Nick Crowe and Ian Rawlinson and [Everything I Have is Yours](#) by Open Music Archive. In addition, we were delighted to share new poetry by Chancellor Jackie Kay, released weekly from April to July; as well as tuning in to her weekly curated stream *Makar to Makar*. You can catch up with both series online at [our website](#) and at [Makar2makar.com](#).

We are proud of our Graduate Scholarship Programme, and would especially like to thank our partners at Castlefield Gallery for quickly adapting to the situation and delivering the remaining programme on line for the outgoing scholars. In August we [welcomed our new cohort](#), with the support of Islington Mill, Paradise Works, Hot Bed Press and Redeye. We have been impressed by the determination and adaptability of our new scholars and hope they will find the programme rewarding despite much of it being designed and delivered online, by Castlefield Gallery.

We also managed to continue our international work including: showing a [new micro-commission by Pat Flynn](#) at the Shanghai Photography Weekend in September; delivering the [Peer to Peer:UK/HK online platform](#) in November; presenting a paper in December at the [Museum 2050 annual symposium](#) at the He Art Museum in Guangdong in partnership (with Open Eye Gallery); and contributing to [Future Lab Art and Design Education Fair](#) as part of a presentation for the School of Arts Media and Creative Technology in Shanghai, also in December.

Despite starting 2021 in lockdown #3 we have much to look forward to. Over the last 12 months we learned that more time, and a slower pace, can enable more meaningful and in depth cultural experiences. We also don't need to destroy the planet to collaborate internationally. As a society we realised the importance of culture, in its many forms, in particular in relation to wellbeing, and locally we were able to demonstrate the value of and give our support to the artist communities in Salford.

In 2021 we will deliver the first Salford Culture and Place Partnership project, funded by Arts Council England. The *Rediscover Salford* project includes an exhibition at Salford Museum and Art Gallery with new commissions by Salford based artists **Jack Brown, Hilary Jack, Lizzie King and Cheddar Gorgeous**. It will also feature an innovative new augmented reality public realm commission in Peel Park by **Laura Daly** called *The Storm Cone* – which will also tour to RHS Bridgewater Gardens in May - more details to be announced soon.

Also look out for announcements about our Photographer in Residence in **Energy House**, in collaboration with Open Eye Gallery; a new AI commission with **Anna Ridler**; further *Peer to Peer: UK/HK* programming; and a rehang and study day celebrating our collection of work by **Albert Adams**.

Happy new year!  
Lindsay and Steph

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## News

# University Curator Lindsay Taylor at Sony World Photography Awards



Image: © Wu Yue, *Untitled from Wuhan Series, 2020*. Commissioned by the University of Salford Art Collection.

Ahead of joining the judging panel for the Sony World Photography Awards, University Curator Lindsay Taylor takes part in an online Q&A with the organisation. Visit the [World Photo website](#) to read the interview – which includes discussion on our approach to collecting as well as thoughts on the future of photography in contemporary art contexts.

# graduate transitions report

representatives from 16 cultural and higher education institutions, Culture Forum North have published the Graduate Transitions Report - including contributions from University Curator Lindsay Taylor.

Available to read online, the report shares provocations and priorities around how best to support creative graduates during and beyond the Covid 19 pandemic.

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## What's online:



***Homage to the Rain* (2019)**  
**by Antony Barkworth-Knight**  
**Watch online from Fri 15th Jan to 12th March**

A year on from the film's premiere at Lightwaves Festival, Salford Quays in December 2019, we are delighted to share *Homage to the Rain* online to watch from home.

The film, co-commissioned for the Collection with Quays Culture, celebrates experiences of rainfall around the globe - through crowdsourced footage from every continent, co-ordinated by digital strategist Rebecca Rae-Evans. An original score by Rob Turner, Sam Healey and Conor Miller accompanies the work.

Visit our website from Friday to watch online.

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## Opportunities:

**Call for Artist Advisors (paid role) - Independent Artist Initiative 2021 (IAI21)**

**Deadline: Friday 15th Jan**

Artists based in Greater Manchester are invited to apply for a new 'artist advisor' role for the Independent Artist Initiative 2021. The initiative, supported by a range of galleries, museums, and venues, will create opportunities for artists to develop and share their work, including a 'pot of resources' (including funding, curatorial/production support, gallery/rehearsal spaces, and more) which can be applied to.

The Artist Advisors will join the selection panel and help shape the programme, receiving a fee of £1000 for approximately 5 days work. (Please note, artist advisors will not be eligible to apply to the 'pot of resources').

Full information & application details here.

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# News from our Graduate Scholars & alumni:



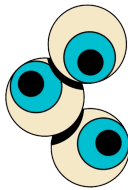
## Castlefield Gallery: Obstructions

View online until 7th March 2021

[view here](#)

*Obstructions*, the latest exhibition at Castlefield Gallery, is now available to visit online. 15 artists from the North West were invited to re-make an existing piece of their work with one condition: they had to accept a bespoke 'Obstruction' given to them by another artist in the exhibition.

The artists are selected from the University of Salford Graduate Scholars programme, Castlefield Gallery Mentees from the Manchester School of Art, and the gallery's bOlder programme. Salford scholars include Heather Bell, Tara Collette, and Alena Ruth Donely.



## Made It 2020

Curatorial duo Short Supply have launched their annual showcase of UK arts graduates online. [Made It 2020](#) includes painting, sculpture, video, photography, illustration and digital works. BA Fine Art graduate, and current Graduate Scholar Babs Smith, is amongst those selected, showing new work 'On the Verge of Tears'.

Short supply was co-founded by graduate scholar Mollie Balshaw (BA Visual Arts, 2019) with Rebekah Beasley.

[View the exhibition online here.](#)



## Elliot Flanagan – *Monument*

Graduate scholar 2017/18 Elliot Flanagan was awarded the Spot On Digital Commission in 2020. Initially inspired by photographs from the Spot On archive, his new film *Monument* is 'driven by a sense of community and an importance to commemorate shared memories, intimacy, and closeness of communal experiences...'

The film is [available to watch online](#), alongside an [interview with the artist](#) at the Spot On website.

## Art Fair Cheshire – Emerging artist opportunities

Graduate scholar 2015/16 Amy Stevenson has joined the

# ART FAIR CHESHIRE

curatorial committee for Art Fair Cheshire, a biannual event which donates commission from sales to the East Cheshire Hospice. The 2021 edition introduces a new exhibition space for emerging artists, alongside a £50 micro-bursary opportunity. Recent graduates are invited to apply online – deadline 1st February 2021.

Visit the [Art Fair Cheshire](#) for full details.

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## We recommend:



### **Richard Shields - New Limited Edition print available, inspired by our Collection**

*Disparity* is a new pencil drawing by Salford-based artist Richard Shields, produced as one of our micro-commissions earlier in Summer. The drawing, part of his 'Technical Drawing' series, shows the artist-as-technician installing a series of Salford inspired works from the University Art Collection.

Richard has released the work as a signed limited edition print (£80) and a printed t-shirt (£30).

Read more about the project [here](#), and visit [Richard's website](#) / [Instagram](#) to find out more about the series or purchase a print.

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### **Peer to Peer UK/HK Festival recordings now online**

The *Peer to Peer UK/HK Festival* ran from 11-14 November, with four days of panel discussions with artists, curators and galleries from the UK and Hong Kong. All recordings are now available to watch back on Youtube, with topics covering: art and activism, the future of archives, climate change, and exhibiting online.

<https://peertopeerexchange.org/programme>

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### **Online Screening:**

#### ***Capturing a Summer* by Danielle Swindells**

[View online](#)

A short film created by the residents of East Salford and filmmaker Danielle Swindells, in partnership with Paradise Works studios, during Summer 2020. The moving work documents local people's experiences of the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Commissioned by Manchester International Festival.

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### **Fundraiser:**

#### **Venture Arts – Warm Hearts Winter Challenge**

[Find out more](#)

Venture Arts is a leading arts charity based in Manchester, supporting artists with learning disabilities. Their new fundraiser project will help them to continue delivering programming for their creative community. Runs until 14th February.

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## Contact the team

The team are currently working from home. We're keen to continue hearing from artists and partners to keep exploring how we can best keep supporting the sector.

### Arts Council England - grants advice

Following our studio visits and advice sessions in 2020, we are pleased to offer further support for contemporary artists in Salford who are applying (or thinking of applying) for Arts Council England Project Grants. We are a small team but have a range of experience between us, and can offer objective (unofficial) advice.

You can reach us at:

Email: [artcollection@salford.ac.uk](mailto:artcollection@salford.ac.uk)

Twitter: [@UoSArts](https://twitter.com/UoSArts)

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### Ongoing COVID support & guidance

Both [AN](#) and [Arts Council England](#) have the most up-to-date and comprehensive advice for artists & arts organisers during COVID-19.

For local residents, the [Spirit of Salford](#) helpline/webpage offers a whole range of advice from housing/debt issues to sourcing food and emergency supplies.

## ***Creating / Collecting / Collaborating***

[artcollection.salford.ac.uk](http://artcollection.salford.ac.uk)

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