**PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION – Embargoed until Mon 21 Oct 2013**

**Radical Conservatism**

**Curated by Pil and Galia Kollectiv**

**30 November 2013 – 2 February 2014**

Castlefield Gallery is pleased to present *Radical Conservatism* curated by **Pil and Galia Kollectiv** and including works by Chris Evans (London); IRWIN group, founded in Ljubljana (Slovenia); Joseph Lewis (London); Patrick Moran editor of the metal fazine Buried (London); Pil and Galia Kollectiv (London) and Public Movement (Israel).

In 1938, Yugoslav sculptor Oscar Nemon arrived in Britain, having fled the Nazi invasion of Brussels, where he was living with Magritte. He was part of the European avant-garde that came to the UK as a refugee. Shortly thereafter, Nemon proposed a bold architectural plan to construct a temple of universal ethics in London and was in correspondence over this with central figures in Britain. After the war, he became known for his portrayal of figures like Churchil, culminating in a bust of Margaret Thatcher that is currently at the Tory HQ.

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***Radical Conservatism*** explores the space between these two moments and asks whether these two terms are really antithetical. In the British context in particular, where the European avant-garde never really took hold, a kind of reactionary modernism has always defined a culture wary of revolution. But today more than ever, with the left increasingly holding on to the past of the welfare state as an ideal, and the right quietly revolutionising our world through neoliberal reforms, the paradigms of radicalism and conservatism need to be redefined. Can conservatism be seen as a radical position in itself? If art is defined by a movement towards the new - could 'holding on to the past' stubbornly be seen as a critical position, now that neo-liberalism has forced a far more radical shift in politics than the left has managed in a long time?

For further information, to request images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Jennifer Dean, Communications and Audience Development Coordinator on jennifer@castlefieldgallery.co.uk / 07766046672 or Matthew Pendergast, Interim Programme Manager on [matthew@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:matthew@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) or call Castlefield Gallery on +44 (0) 161 832 8034**.**

**Notes to Editors**

**Pil and Galia Kollectiv** are London-based artists, writers and curators working in collaboration. Their work addresses the legacy of modernism and explores avant-garde discourses of the twentieth century and the way they operate in the context of a changing landscape of creative work and instrumentalised leisure. [kollectiv.co.uk](http://www.kollectiv.co.uk/)

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