

PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION – For immediate release

Date: 1 September 2014

A Joyous Thing with Maggots at the Centre

A solo exhibition by Hardeep Pandhal

26 September – 23 November 2014

For Asia Triennial Manchester 2014 Castlefield Gallery is pleased to present artist Hardeep Pandhal's first solo exhibition, *A Joyous Thing with Maggots at the Centre*, continuing its 30 years of exhibiting early-career British artists in national or international contexts.

For Pandhal it is important to confront trauma with laughter, making work as visceral as it is satirical and often interrogating perceptions of British Asian identity with references to graffiti, psychoanalysis, modern British history, and popular culture. He draws on the conflicting experiences of others, often caught in situations of compromise, to create fictionalised characters and narratives, realised in spoof documentaries, illustrated CVs and handmade garments.

New work for this exhibition continues to explore the contradictions he encountered during his own up-bringing; drawing on personal memories to critique how processes of acculturation, or its lack, have impacted on post-colonial Britain. In the context of the ATM14 programme, with its theme of *Conflict and Compassion* and nationwide events marking the centenary of WW1, Pandhal's work is a poignant consideration of how we might deal with regrettable past events, as individuals and as a society.

A Joyous Thing with Maggots at the Centre will also explore our relationship with role models and anti-heroes. Works include a 3-metre blimp in the gallery's double height space, as a proposal for a much larger public artwork inspired by a moment in Brian De Palma's 1983 remake of the movie *Scarface*, and a knitted jumper referencing iconic images of Sikh martyrdom, made via conversations with his mother.

Born in Birmingham, Pandhal now lives and works in Glasgow, having graduated with an MFA from the Glasgow School of Art in 2013 with the support of a Leverhulme Scholarship award. He was selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries (2013) and the Catlin Art Guide (2014).

A new co-commissioned video work will also be launched simultaneously at Castlefield Gallery and online as part of a Full Circle Arts' season of original artwork and writing that explores ideas around metamorphosis. digicommissions.co.uk

For further information, to request images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Jennifer Dean, Communications and Audience Development Coordinator on jennifer@castlefieldgallery.co.uk or +44 (0)161 832 8034.

Listing information

Exhibition: A Joyous Thing with Maggots at the Centre
Preview: Friday 26 September 2014, 5-9pm
Exhibition Dates: 26 September – 23 November 2014
Venue: Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester, M15 4GB
Tel: 0161 832 8034
Web: www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk
Opening Times: Wed to Sun 1pm – 6pm
Admission: FREE. The gallery is fully accessible

Associated Events:

Sun 28 Sept 1-6pm Open Day: *A Joyous Thing with Maggots at the Centre*
Sat 18 Oct 3pm Hardeep Pandhal and John Calcutt in-conversation
Sat 8 Nov 2pm Conflict in Visual Culture Part 2 with Gary Bratchford; Leanne Green, and Prof Jim Aulich.

Notes to Editors

Castlefield Gallery (CG) has been proactively supporting emerging artists in the UK since its founding in 1984, becoming one of Northern England's most active and successful organisations/agencies for developing emerging contemporary artists and practice. Its ambitious curated exhibitions programme responds to national and international trends, promoting artists at key stages of their careers, including subsequent Turner Prize nominees/winners and exhibitors at international festivals. Central to CG's activities is an artist development programme including the CG Associates members scheme and the recently launched New Art Spaces. CG's vision is for the North to be a place where artists can develop work of international standing. Its mission is to nurture talent, explore cultural trends and deepen audience's relationship to contemporary art. *A Joyous Thing with Maggots at the Centre* has been developed within the **Art & Society strand of CG's curated programme**. These exhibitions explore artists' and art's agency within society, and often have socially engaged collaborative elements carried out with communities or other artists.

Hardeep Pandhal (UK) was awarded a Leverhulme scholarship to complete the MFA programme at The Glasgow School of Art in 2013, selected for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2013 and the 2014 Catlin Art Guide. He was commissioned to produce a public artwork exploring the relationship between repression and British colonialism at Glasgow International 2014. Group exhibitions include *The Panj Piare ASSEMBLE* at Grand Union, Birmingham (2014); *Jobboys* at Glasgow International (2014); *The Devil's Paintbrush* at Atelier Am Eck, Düsseldorf (2013); Bloomberg New Contemporaries at Spike Island, Bristol and ICA, London (2013); *Convocation: Colm Cille's Spiral* at The Mackintosh Museum, Glasgow (2013); *Public Building* at Transmission Gallery, Glasgow (2013); *Contemporary Figuration* (Father This Is What I've Learnt Thus Far) at Udstillingsstedet Q, Copenhagen (2013); The Glasgow School of Art MFA Degree Show at The Glue Factory, Glasgow (2013); *Tattoo City: The First Three Chapters* at Castlefield Gallery, Manchester (2012); *The Panj Piare VOLUME 2* at Patrick Studios, East Street Arts, Leeds (2012); *Glamourie* at Project Space Leeds, Leeds (2012).

Established in 2008, **Asia Triennial Manchester (ATM)** is the only Asian Triennial outside Asia. Launched in partnership with Castlefield Gallery, Chinese Arts Centre (now CFCCA), Cornerhouse, The International 3, Manchester Art Gallery and Manchester Metropolitan University as a new long-term programme of contemporary arts and crafts by artists from Asia, the UK and the Asian diaspora. ATM14 aims to challenge perceptions about Asia, and recent challenging global events make its theme of **Conflict and Compassion** a timely one. This Triennial includes artists who live in, work in or address issues surrounding Asia as well as this Triennial's artistic theme.

CG is currently supported by Arts Council England through Grants for the Arts and is a cultural partner of Manchester City Council (2012-15). CG is part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio 2015-18. CG is a limited company (Reg. No. 1838334) and registered charity (No. 515571) that owns its city centre venue thanks to Arts Council England's capital lottery funding in 2000.



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