

PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

Launch Pad: *Stick or Twist*

3-12 February 2017

Preview: 6-8pm, Thursday 2 February 2017

Artists: Phoebe Baines, Joel Chan, Aaron Clixby, Daisy Forster, Richard Hughes, Kieran Leach, Richie Moment, Rebecca Moss, and Jeremy Willett.

For its first Launch Pad of 2017 Castlefield Gallery is pleased to present *Stick or Twist*, curated by CG Associate member and Manchester-based artist Kieran Leach. *Stick or Twist* was selected from members' submissions by guest selector Patricia Fleming, Director of Patricia Fleming Projects (Glasgow), and Castlefield Gallery's Curator, Matthew Pendergast. Launch Pads are short exhibitions or performances that punctuate the gallery's main curated programme and provide artists, writers and independent curators with the opportunity to use the gallery as a test bed.

Stick or Twist, the title of the show, is derived from the process of making the exhibition, whereby after making his selection of art works, Leach gave the individual artists the option to 'stick or twist' – either exhibit a work chosen by Leach, or swap and include something different. He relinquished all input as curator, avoiding dialogue, and leaving himself without a say, disrupting his 'vision' - for better or worse.

Appropriated and manipulated objects accompany bronze casts, alter egos, Jesmonite, and a girl dressed as a frog - *Stick or Twist* includes nine artists from across the UK who each demonstrate a plethora of approaches to contemporary visual art. In places, elements of online, social media and the 'art world' cultures are satirised, abstracted or condensed; reflecting the aesthetic impact and pervasive reach of digital and screen-based technology.

The original selection of works will be installed as intended momentarily in the closed gallery and documented with a 3D camera, before swapping Leach's selection as the curator, for that of the artists. During the exhibition 360° videos viewable with VR headsets will be installed in situ, presenting the curators original vision alongside the final exhibition. Time will tell if this produces some kind of compromise between artist and curator, a means for chance encounters, or a comic rendition of the exhibition making process.

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 call +44 (0)161 832 8034 / 07766046672.

- ENDS -

Listing information

Exhibition Title: **Launch Pad: *Stick or Twist***
Public Preview: Thursday 2 February, 6-8pm
Press Preview: Thursday 2 February, 5-6pm
Exhibition Dates: 3-12 February 2017

Venue: Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester, M15 4GB
(behind Deansgate train station)
Tel: 0161 832 8034
Web: www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk
Opening Times: Wed to Sun 1pm – 6pm
Admission: FREE. The gallery is fully wheelchair accessible

More on the artists

Phoebe Baines (b.1991, London) lives and works in London. Baines graduated with a BA in Fine Art (Sculpture) from Wimbledon College of Art in 2014 and the Royal College of Art, MA Sculpture in 2016. Solo exhibitions and projects include: *PCBB@GRRG*, GRRG, London (2015); and *Like No Place on Earth*, Teton ArtLab, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA (2016). Group exhibitions include: *Treat Yo Self*, Bloc Projects, Sheffield (2015); *Double Helix*, Safe House 2, London (2016) and *Brouhaha*, King Street, Cambridge (2013). phoebebaines.com

Joel Chan (b.1994, Doncaster) lives in London and is currently completing his MA in Fine Art (Sculpture) at the Royal College of Art, London. Chan holds a BA in Fine Art from the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts, University of Lancaster (2015). Group Exhibitions include: *Joel Chan and Matt Hilvers' Passport to Paris*, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (2016); *Dialogues on the Threshold*, The Crypt Gallery, London (2016); *RE/CREATION*, View Two Gallery, Liverpool (2016); *Come All Ye Chameleons [Of The Cosmos... It Is Time]*, Penthouse Projects Peckham, London (2016). joelchan.co.uk

Aaron Clixby (b.1995, Nottingham) lives and works in Nottingham. He holds a BA in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University (2016). Exhibitions include *Scraping the Bottom of the Bargain Bucket* (2015); and *Magick Ltd* (2016) Surface Gallery, Nottingham. noraybxilc.uk

Daisy Forster (b.1991, Birmingham) lives and works in Leeds and is a co-director of SEIZE projects. Forster holds a BA in Fine Art from The University of Leeds (2015). Group exhibitions include: *Skin Deep by SEIZE*, Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun, Leeds (2016); *Early Warning*, &Model, Leeds (2016); *Yeah no I know*, Muesli, The Royal Standard, Liverpool (2016); *The Curtain Parts*, UNNAWAY, Huddersfield (2015); *Twice As Nice #1*, ENJOY art space, Leeds (2015). daisyforster.co.uk

Richard Hughes (b.1987, Warrington) lives and works in Greater Manchester. Hughes holds a BA in Fine Art Sculpture from the Manchester School of Art (2009). Group exhibitions include: *Global Village - Stitching White Cube* touring to Honig-factory, the Netherlands / Youth Hostel, Germany / Kulturhuset Brønden, Denmark (2016); *Spectrum*, PS Mirabel, Manchester, (2016); *Ambition by Instigate Arts*, HOME, Manchester (2016); *Darkness Can Not Drive Out Darkness, Only Light Can Do That*, Lights of Soho, London (2016); *MarlerKunst 2016*, Germany (2016); *A Slow Passion*, Federation House: Castlefield Gallery, New Art Spaces, Manchester (2015); *XerXes Sculpture Prize*, Serpentine Gallery, London (2015); *Noise Festival 2014, Curators Choice: Tim Marlow*, announced at House of Commons, London (2014); *The Best New Creatives*, Better Bankside and Southbank, London (2014); *Noise at The Tetley*, The Tetley, Leeds (2014) richardhughesart.com

Kieran Leach (b.1994, Manchester) lives and works in Manchester. Leach holds a BA in Fine Art from the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts, University of Lancaster (2015). Exhibitions include *Companions*, The Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool (2016); and *Synchrony*, Storey Gallery, Lancaster (2015).

He was shown by Castlefield Gallery at The Manchester Contemporary, Manchester (2016). Upcoming exhibitions include *Concrete Picnic*, Camp and Furnace, Liverpool (Jan 2017) kieranleach.co.uk

Richie Moment (b. 1984, Folkestone) lives and works in London. Moment holds a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from The University of the West of England (2013) and is currently completing his MA at the Royal Academy, London. Group exhibitions include: *Premiums*, Royal Academy, London (2016); *Live Fast Die Fun*, The Looking Glass, Bristol (2014); *Technopolis*, The Ambulance Station, Edinburgh (2014); *Pigs and Pearls*, Kunstlerhaus, Dortmund (2013); *The Guardians Return*, The Tank Station, Enschede (2012); *The Guardians of the shy Emerald*, The Motorcycle Showrooms, Bristol (2012). He was awarded the Peter Rippon Travel Award, Royal Academy Schools, New York (2016).

Rebecca Moss (b.1991) lives in London and is currently completing her MA (Sculpture) at the Royal College of Art, she holds a BA (Painting) from Camberwell College of Art (2013). Group exhibitions include: *The Forum Big Screen* spring screening, Southend-on-Sea (2016); *Test Space*, Spike Island, Bristol (2015); *The Tomorrow People*, Elevator Gallery, London (2014); *Leverhulme Art Scholars Summer Show*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge (2013); *Woon Art Prize finalists*, Gallery North, Newcastle (2013). Moss was selected for the *23 Days at Sea* container ship residency, Access Gallery, Vancouver (2016). Moss was recently shortlisted for the *Future Generation Art Prize*, PinchukArtCentre, Kiev, which will be presented as an official collateral event at the Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Venice Biennale (2017). rebeccamos.org

Jeremy Willett (b.1977, London) lives and works in London. Willett holds a BA in Fine Art from Reading University (2001) and an MA in Sculpture from The Royal College of Art (2006). Solo exhibitions include: *Dead Channel*, Vitrine Gallery, London (2012); and *In-Thru the Repeat*, Studio 1.1, London (2010). Group exhibitions include: *Grand Magasin Deux: a project with Nat Breitenstein*, French Riviera, London, (2015); *Lily & Mim*, SMART Projects, Aberdeen (2014); *Apocalypstick*, curated by Jeremy Willett and Siân Hislop, The Nunnery, London (2011); *No Soul for Sale*, Tate Modern, London (2010); *Bloomberg New Contemporaries*, Liverpool / London, (2006). jeremywillett.com

Castlefield Gallery (CG) Founded in 1984, CG is a small registered charity. It is 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 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.

Launch Pads are short exhibitions or performances that punctuate Castlefield Gallery's main curated programme providing artists, writers and independent curators with the opportunity to use the gallery as a test bed for the production, display and consumption of contemporary art. Launch Pads feature emerging talent selected from CG Associate members' proposals. For more information about CG Associates visit castlefieldgallery.co.uk/associates

Castlefield Gallery is part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio and is a cultural partner of Manchester City Council 2015-18. CG's Launch Pad programme previews are supported by Soup Kitchen, Manchester.