

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

Issued: 5 April 2018

Oh, it is easy to be clever if one does not know all these questions

18 May – 01 July 2018 (Castlefield Gallery, Manchester)

Public preview: 6pm-8pm, Thursday 17 May 2018 (press preview: 5pm-6pm)

20 June – 10 September 2018 (Dox Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague)

Guest curators: Pavel Büchler and Mariana Serranová

Czech artists: David Fesl, Martin Kohout, Lucie Michnová, Vojtěch Novák / Andrew Hauner, Pavel Příkaský / Miroslava Večeřová

UK artists: Nina Chua, Nicola Ellis, Maeve Rendle, Evangelia Spiliopoulou

Castlefield Gallery is pleased to announce its collaboration with guest curators Pavel Büchler (Manchester, UK) and Mariana Serranová (Prague, CZ). Büchler and Serranová are working with Castlefield Gallery and DOX Centre for Contemporary Art (Prague, CZ), to deliver an exhibition in two parallel parts, bringing together a number of early career artists from the two cities. The aim is to initiate a dialogue among practices that are developing within an emerging generation in two distinct cultural environments and artistic traditions.

Between May and September 2018 artists from both countries will host one another in their respective countries. During this time Nicola Ellis (Manchester, UK) will travel to Prague to develop a new large-scale sculptural installation for the exhibition space at DOX, and Pavel Příkaský with Miroslava Večeřová (Prague, CZ) will also develop new site-specific work for the exhibition at Castlefield Gallery.

Borrowing its title from a passage in Robert Musil's novella *The Confusions of Young Törless* (1906) the exhibition focuses on work that seeks to link instinct and imagination with perception and understanding, rather than indulging in critical analysis or the invention of metaphors.

While none of the artists are specifically concerned with questions of cultural identity or background, nor do they typify discernible local strategies, fashions or trends, they nevertheless reflect indirectly a sense of their time and place. Their works show strong, individual positions and attentive engagement with the contemporary world, demonstrating a commitment to art as both an agent and integral part of lived experience.

The works in the exhibition are formally diverse, ranging from the classical genres of drawing, painting and sculpture, to performance and video. They are connected by one characteristic - a trace of time invested in the process of their making or perhaps the passage of time that

has left its marks on the surface of things. The works avoid any sense of narrative or historical reference and the connections among them offer no guide to interpretation. They are records of singular observations and discoveries, working and thinking, presented as tentative open-ended propositions rather than definitive statements.

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Jennifer Dean, Communications and Audience Development Coordinator at Castlefield Gallery, on jennifer@castlefieldgallery.co.uk / 0161 832 8034 or 07766046672.

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Listing information

Exhibition Title: Oh, it is easy to be clever if one does not know all these questions

Public Preview: 6pm-8pm, Thursday 17 May 2018

Press Preview: 5pm-6pm, Thursday 17 May 2018

Exhibition Dates: 18 May – 01 July 2018

Venue: Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester, M15 4GB

Tel: 0161 832 8034

Web: castlefieldgallery.co.uk

Opening Times: Wed to Sun 1pm – 6pm

Admission: FREE. The gallery is fully wheelchair accessible

Guest-curators:

Pavel Büchler (b. Prague, 1952) has lived and worked as an artist in the UK since the 1980s. Büchler is renowned as an influential teacher and figure on the international art scene, and was Professor of fine art at Manchester School of Art until 2016.

Mariana Serranová lives in Prague and is an independent curator, art critic and editor. She has worked with Jelení Gallery, Centre for Contemporary Arts Prague, Futura Gallery, 4 +4 Days in Motion Festival and tranzit.cz. She writes for several Czech newspapers and art magazines (A2, Umelec International, Photographer, FlashArt CZ, Revue Labyrint, etc) and has published articles in several catalogues. She was the curator of the Czech Section of the Prague Biennale 5 (2011), along with Vjera Borozan.

Castlefield Gallery is a contemporary art gallery and agency, established in 1984, focused on showing new and commissioned work from its city centre venue in Manchester, as well as off-site and in the public realm. The organisation supports artists' career development, in particular through partnership working and services. **New Art Spaces** is a Castlefield Gallery run scheme that repurposes empty spaces for use by artists across Greater Manchester, accessed by its 200 strong plus **Castlefield Gallery Associates**. Castlefield Gallery artist patron is the celebrated Ryan Gander.

The gallery is a Manchester City Council Cultural Partner, Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and currently a recipient of Arts Council England Catalyst Evolve Funding. Catalyst Evolve is an initiative from Arts Council England supporting arts and cultural

organisations to grow private giving and build resilience. This means that, between 2016 and August 2019, Arts Council England will match every pound we secure from new Trust & Foundation sources, corporate sponsorship and donations, as well as individual donations made to Castlefield Gallery, on a 1:1 basis.

Help Castlefield Gallery 'double our money'; we will invest funds raised into our charitable activities to support artists' careers and talent development across the Greater Manchester City Region, North West and beyond. castlefieldgallery.co.uk

DOX Centre for Contemporary Art is a multi-functional space created thanks to a private initiative through the reconstruction of a former factory in Prague's Holešovice district.

The name DOX is derived from the Greek word *doxa*, which among other things means a way of perceiving things, an opinion, a conviction. DOX's programme differs from other similar exhibition institutions (the combination of a "kunsthalle" with a multifunctional cultural centre) primarily through art projects incorporating critical reflection on current social topics and issues overlapping with other "non-artistic" areas and disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, history, sociology, political science, etc. Through exhibitions of contemporary international and Czech art, DOX explores contemporary topics and further develops discussion through various accompanying programme formats and events for the general public ranging from conferences and panel discussions to film screenings, interactive workshops, and public happenings. An important component consists of educational programmes for primary and high school students, which primarily emphasise the development of critical thinking. DOX also offers programmes for children.

Exhibition partners:



Funders and Supporters:



With special thanks to Castlefield Gallery Patron, Chris Klingenberg.