

Review of Katerina Eleftheriadou, Riikka Enne, and Maite Pinto's exhibition at Castlefield Gallery by Libby who is studying A-level English, History and Drama at Sale Grammar School.

This exhibition displayed the works of three female graduates of Manchester School of Art, in a collaboration between the School of Art and Castlefield Gallery. However, one artists work in particular caught my eye, "Kindness of Strangers" by Maite Pinto. The series of prints is based on the escape of the Basque children from Spain to England during the Spanish Civil War, the camps that they were placed in when they arrived in England and their experiences as a whole.

This work was particularly interesting to me due to the similarities between what was depicted in her prints and what is happening with the refugee crisis of today, as images of the camps replicate those seen in the news at present. This is further shown with her exhibit of "Goizeka Izarra (Morning Star)" which consists of water, resealable bags and water-activated personal rescue lights that only that for 8 hours on a one-time use. This helped link the works further to modern day, as the lights are what are used today in life vests and depict the long and difficult sea journey which the children had to endure. I also found the combination of the list of names of all of the children who fled Spain with their birth dates, date of returning (if they did) and where they then moved to, along with a projection of the children's faces in the work "Facing the numbers" simple but highly effective. It really brought to life that this happened to real children and makes it seem a lot more personal, drawing a closer connection to the other works in the collection.