

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

Issued: 16 August 2018

SUBI 수비

Castlefield Gallery

SUBI 수비

14 Sept – 4 Nov 2018

Previewing: 6-9pm, 13 Sept
2018

Manchester Art Gallery

Korean Ceramics Display

14 Sept – ongoing

Manchester Craft & Design Centre

Eunmi Kim: A Journey Home

13 Sept – 17 Nov 2018

Previewing: 6-8pm, 13 Sept
2018

Castlefield Gallery, Manchester Art Gallery, and Manchester Craft and Design Centre present **SUBI 수비**, a programme in three parts located across the city of Manchester. The programme features artists, designers and makers from Korea and the UK working with or inspired by clay, its uses and materiality.

SUBI 수비 is presented to be timed with Asia Triennial Manchester, 5-21 October 2018.

The Korean word **SUBI 수비** has a particular meaning in the context of ceramics, relating to the refining of clay; whether purifying the raw material or the processes needed to rehydrate and filter dried clay so that it can be reused.

The **SUBI 수비** programme has been informed by a series of international artist exchange residencies* that have connected the artistic communities of Manchester and the North West of England with those of Busan and Gwangju in South Korea. As a result, cross-cultural influences are apparent in many of the exhibited works. The participating artists involved in the **SUBI 수비** programme, who have travelled between the UK and Korea, are **Sam Buckley (UK)**, **Joe Hartley (UK)**, **Eunji Briller Kim (Korea)**, **Hyun Min Shin (Korea)**, **Gae-Hwa Lim (Korea)**, and **Gyung-Kyun Shin (Korea)**.

Castlefield Gallery

SUBI 수비

Curated by Castlefield Gallery (UK) & Barim (Korea)

Artists: Sam Buckley (UK), Insook Choi (Korea / UK), Joe Hartley (UK), Eunji Briller Kim (Korea), Eunmi Kim (Korea / UK), John Powell-Jones (UK), Hyun Min Shin (Korea), Gae-Hwa Lim (Korea), Gyung-Kyun Shin (Korea)

At Castlefield Gallery, **SUBI 수비** brings together a diverse group of experimental artists, product designers and master makers. All are highly skilled as a result of either formal training, self-teaching, or passing down from one generation to another. They place great value on the transfer of skills, knowledge and ideology through objects and making, and see this form of exchange from one generation to another, and from one culture to another, as integral to creating and communicating the world in which we live. The exhibition will feature traditional ceramics alongside works which explore the materiality of clay with ceramic costumes, film, and sound. Visitors to the gallery will also be invited to add their own handmade clay objects to the exhibition.

Insook Choi is a composer, specialising in interactive media arts and live performances with real-time software and sound synthesis. *Five Elements of Living Treasure* (2018) is her first concert work which applies her research into semantic computing. Inspired by the work of Korean ceramics master maker Gyung-Kyun Shin, the piece combines images of Shin and his work with sounds created and sampled by Choi, imagining how the six stages of making his ceramics identified by Shin - throwing, extruding, concaving, shape detailing, edge detailing and cutting - might relate to sound. A touchscreen interface will enable visitors to Castlefield Gallery to explore a version of *Five Elements of Living Treasure* (2018) as an interactive audio-visual archive.

In his work, designer **Joe Hartley** (also known for his work with OH OK and PLANT NOMA) aims to reduce and simplify his making processes, letting the qualities of his tools and materials lead the way to inform the look, feel and utility of the finished product. At Castlefield Gallery, visitors will have the opportunity to use intuitive tools created by Hartley to design and make their own handmade works in clay. These works will be added to a growing installation in the gallery's double-height space, left there to dry for the duration of the exhibition and then recycled back into reusable clay after the exhibition closes. Hartley is keen to emphasise that clay can be worked with and left to dry, then 'rehydrated' and reused again and again. It is only after the irreversible and energy intensive process of firing to the temperature required to 'vitrify' that it becomes ceramic and no longer reusable.

The exhibition will also feature products that exemplify the ongoing collaboration between Hartley and chef **Sam Buckley**, including jars of food produce which will ferment during the period of the exhibition, and bespoke ceramics made for the unique dishes served at Buckley's restaurant Where the Light Gets In (Stockport). At his restaurant, Buckley takes inspiration from around the globe in order to inform his menu of local and seasonal produce, which involves an extensive repertoire of preservation and fermentation techniques. Like Hartley, Buckley employs a minimalist approach to the appearance of his dishes, emphasising the natural beauty of his produce.

The work of **Eunji Briller Kim** combines traditional pottery skills with techniques and tools from other disciplines, including 3D printing, sound and digital technology. Kim first met Hartley and Buckley during their residency in Gwangju (Korea) in 2017. Following this, Kim and Hartley co-designed and delivered a series of public workshops at PLANT NOMA, Manchester during her residency in 2018. Members of the public were encouraged to pay close attention to the materiality of clay, for example using their mobile phones and other technology to listen to the sounds it makes whilst rehydrating, and testing its electrical conductivity at different stages of the drying process. During her residency Kim also looked into the history of UK ceramics, visiting the Manchester Art Gallery collection and Middleport Pottery (Stoke-on-Trent). Kim's experiences in the UK have informed plans for the production of a new large-scale clay sculpture for the exhibition at Castlefield Gallery, which will echo her smaller fired works produced in Korea, examples of which will also feature in the exhibition.

John Powell-Jones' work deals with the way society, technology and capitalism can make it easy for us to distance ourselves from the suffering and pain of other beings, in particular the treatment of animals by the meat industry. A self-taught ceramicist, he combines his background in illustration and print making to create installations which mix lo-fi VHS recordings with sound, textiles and ceramic costumes.

Ceramicist **Hyun Min Shin** is the son of **Gae-Hwa Lim** and **Gyung-Kyun Shin**, Korean master makers of food and ceramics, who spent time in Manchester and Cumbria in 2017 visiting Buckley's restaurant and Hartley's workshop. In 2017, Hartley and Buckley also visited their family home and workshop in Busan (Korea), where they continued to exchange ideas and techniques for preparing food and making ceramics. This summer Hyun Min Shin joined Buckley, Hartley and Kim in Manchester to take part in the artist residency exchange programme. The Shin family will be represented by three gifts given to Hartley by the family: a pot made by Gyung-Kyun Shin; one by his son; and a small textile work by Gae-Hwa Lim. Hyun Min Shin's work incorporates different mixes and finishes in his ceramics which produce an array of diverse textures. For **SUBI 수비**, he will exhibit a collection of ceramics that incorporate influences from his time in the UK with the knowledge and skills passed down to him across generations in Korea, in particular by his father.

Eunmi Kim: *A Journey Home* at Manchester Craft and Design Centre (MCDC) will be Eunmi Kim's first solo exhibition in the UK. With her work, Kim considers why people continue to admire the art of imperfection, asymmetry and emptiness which have long been important aspects of traditional Korean art. An example of Kim's work will also be placed amongst works by the other participants at Castlefield Gallery, highlighting the shared concerns as well as the different approaches to clay as a material found in **SUBI 수비**.

Visitors to **Manchester Art Gallery** will be able to view its 500-year-old Korean Dragon Vase, the importance of which was discovered thanks to a visit to Manchester by Shin Gyung-Kyun in 2017. The vase is now understood to be a rare example due to its particular decoration and origins. Manchester Art Gallery will also be exhibiting its small but fascinating collection of Korean ceramics amongst the European ceramics in the Granada Study Room, including recent acquisitions by Jin Eui Kim, Jungwon Park and Jung Hong Park. The joint displays highlight the influence of Korean ceramics, both ancient and modern, on international studio pottery.

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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Events:

Curator tour

2pm, Saturday 15 September

In-conversation with writer Sara Jaspan and artist John Powell-Jones

3pm, Saturday 15 September

Castlefield Gallery's curator, Matthew Pendergast will lead an introductory tour to the exhibition followed by an in-conversation with writer Sara Jaspan and exhibiting artist John Powell-Jones www.johnpowell-jones.co.uk

This will mark the launch of John Powell-Jones' new publication *Tomb Machines* which features an essay by Sara Jaspan. A limited edition of *Tomb Machines* will be available for sale from the gallery.

Sara Jaspan is a writer and editor based in Manchester, contributing to titles including Art Monthly, Aesthetica, AN News, Artsy, This Is Tomorrow and The Double Negative. She is also Creative Tourist Exhibitions Editor, Corridor8 Regional Editor and manages PAPER Gallery's online magazine. She studied Art History and Visual Studies (MA) at the University of Manchester in 2011 and has previously worked for arts organisations including Liverpool Biennial and Manchester Art Gallery. www.sarajaspan.wordpress.com

Listing information:

Programme Title: SUBI 수비

Exhibition Title: SUBI 수비

Public Preview: 6-9pm, Thursday 13 September

Press Preview: 5-6pm, Thursday 13 September,

Exhibition Dates: 14 September 4 November 2018

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

Tel: 0161 832 8034

Web: castlefieldgallery.co.uk

Opening Times: Wed to Sun 12noon – 5.30pm

Admission: FREE. The gallery is fully wheelchair accessible

* **SUBI 수비** builds upon and is informed by a series of international artist exchange residencies between the UK and Korea. These include *Treasure*, a previous collaboration between Castlefield Gallery and Grizedale Arts which saw a group of Korea's top makers visit the North West of England to exchange with their counterparts and create opportunities for public participation in their work in both Manchester and Cumbria. The artists included in *Treasure* were Sam Buckley, Seon-Hui Choe, Joe Hartley, Gae-Hwa Lim, Tom Philipson and Gyung-Kyun Shin.

In November 2017 Joe Hartley and Sam Buckley traveled to Korea to undertake residencies in Busan hosted by the Shin family and Gwangju by Barim and artist Eunji Briller Kim.

The final exchange in Manchester *Play & Process*, completed in July 2018 and invited Gwangju based Director and Curator Min Hyung Kang of Barim and Eunji Briller Kim, to spend time in Manchester exchanging with Joe Hartley and Sam Buckley at PLANT NOMA. During the Manchester exchange the group shared ideas and skills between themselves, and via three week programme of public workshops, with the people of Manchester. Hyun Min Shin also joined the Manchester group following a period in residence with Grizedale Arts at Wysing Arts, Cambridge as part of *Making Everyday*.

The international exchange programme forms part of the UK / Korea 2017-18 season, jointly organised by the British Council and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea. The UK-Korea residency exchange is funded by Arts Council Korea (ARKO) and Arts Council of England.

Asia Triennial Manchester is Europe's only Triennial dedicated to contemporary visual art on the theme of Asia. ATM18 will open on the night of the 5 October, with an evening of performances at HOME, and will run for two weeks, offering a diverse programme of free performances and special events by contemporary visual artists at ATM partner venues across Great Manchester.

With special thanks to Castlefield Gallery Commissioning Patrons Allan and Jo Melzack.

Additional thanks to Min Hyung Kang, Director and Curator, Barim, PLANT NOMA and the University of Salford.

Thanks also to Creative Tourist, G.F Smith and Fred Aldous for their continued support of our main gallery exhibition programme.

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