**PRESS RELEASE**

**Dated: 10 June 2019**

**The Spinningfields Art Commission returns for 2019 with new permanent public artwork in Hardman Square that recalls the area’s former residents**

***a place lived***

**By Maddi Nicholson**

**Public preview, 19 July 2019, 5-6.30pm**

**Public launch day, 20 July 2019, 2-5pm**

This summer Spinningfields Estates Ltd in partnership with Castlefield Gallery, will launch an engaging public art commission for Spinningfields’ Hardman Square.

*a place lived* by artist Maddi Nicholson who lives and works in Cumbria, is a series of playful cast iron enamelled sculptures that invite us to reflect on those who shaped Spinningfields in the 1800s. The sculptures bring to life the stories of people who occupied the area when it was packed with terraced housing, providing homes for workers in the industries operating close by at the time. It’s often said of Spinningfields that there was ‘nothing there’ before the now thriving financial district was built, but this is far from the truth.

Present day residents, workers and visitors to Spinningfields will be able to view and interact with the series of sculptures, each one located on the site where its corresponding house once stood. The sculptures will visually tell the stories of the past occupants of the houses they represent, including Martha Barry a ‘Washerwoman’, Maria Spencer ‘Keeper of the Mangle’, and Martha Harrison the ‘Knocker Up’.

In developing *a place lived,* Nicholson has mined census and archive materials, and worked with teams of specialists up and down the country to produce the final works.

The website for *a place lived* will invite people to delve more deeply into the rich history of Spinningfields and its historic communities, as well as share further information on Nicholson’s research and production process for making the works. An off-site exhibition of related archive material and research will be on display in Archives+ in Manchester Central Library from Friday 19 July to Saturday 17 Aug 2019.

*a place lived* by Maddi Nicholson will remain on permanent public display at Hardman Square, Spinningfields.

**Maddi Nicholson on *a place lived***

*“As a girl I made things and entered them in Carlisle’s Cumberland Show,****‘industrial section’****classes, and won on a regular basis the most points in the Junior Section. I took home the Springfield Silver Trophy for 7 years in succession from 1974 – 1980, a record not yet beaten. Looking at these childhood beginnings, I now set myself new****industrious challenges,****in classes of my own making. This is one of them.*

*I am delighted to be working on this commission with the team from Hardman Square, and Castlefield Gallery. It’s been a privilege to delve into the unseen past communities of Spinningfields and bring to life their stories. I’ve developed a great respect for these families, and women the work focuses on, as I’ve followed their lives and professions through each census. I would love to find present day descendants to share these histories with.”*

[www.aplacelived.co.uk](http://www.aplacelived.co.uk)

*a place lived* **has been co-commissioned and produced by Katie Popperwell and Castlefield Gallery for Spinningfields Estates Ltd.**

*a place lived* **has received additional support from public funding via the National Lottery through Arts Council England.**

**ENDS//**

**Listing information & events:**

**Public preview, 19 July 2019, 5-6.30pm**

Preview, including a formal unveiling, refreshments and an opportunity to hear from the artist Maddi Nicholson. The Archives+ in Manchester Central Library display will also be open to the public from this date.

**Public launch day, 20 July 2019, 2-5pm**

A public celebration to mark the launch of the sculptures will take place on Hardman Square in Spinningfields. Join the artist and the team to hear first-hand about the works, the heritage of the site, and explore the possibility of you being a descendent of the ‘Grove Street residents’. The day will be a true celebration with refreshments and cake on offer, an opportunity to own *a place lived* limited edition artwork, and guided tours of *a place lived* sculpture series, as well as display in Archives+ exhibition in Manchester Central Library.

**Walking Tour, 2pm Saturday 20 July**

Art and heritage walking tour between the Manchester Central Library and the sculpture series at Spinningfield’s Hardman Square led by Manchester’s much-loved heritage expert, Emma Fox in conjunction with Castlefield Gallery. FREE. Book at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/castlefield-gallery-17939962792)

**Public Artwork and Project Title:** *a place lived*

**Presentation dates:**

*A place lived,* sculpture series at Spinngfields Hardman Square, from Saturday 20 July 2019, and ongoing

*A place lived*, display at Archives+, from Saturday 19 July - Saturday 17 August 2019 in Manchester Central Library

**Location:**

Hardman Square, Spinningfields, Manchester, M3 3EB

Archives+, Manchester Central Library, St Peter’s Square, Manchester M2 5PD

**Tel :**0161 832 8034 (c/o Castlefield Gallery)

**Web:** [**www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk**](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk)/ [www.aplacelived.co.uk](http://www.aplacelived.co.uk)

**Opening Times:**

Hardman Square, Spinningfields: Mon – Sun, 24 hours

Archives+, Manchester Central Library: Mon - Thurs, 9am - 8pm, Fri - Sat, 9am - 5pm

**Admission and Access:**FREE and wheelchair accessible at both sites.

**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.**

**The Spinningfields Art Commission series**

***a place lived***is the third in a series of site-specific commissioned public artworks for Spinningfields, and will be a permanent project that follows a two-year temporary public art programme co-commissioned and delivered by Castlefield Gallery and Katie Popperwell for Spinningfields Estates Ltd in 2015 and 2016.

Previous Spinningfields Art Commissions have been Liz West’s *Through No. 3* (2015), a six-metre long triangular corridor of light and colour installed on Crown Square commissioned by Helen Aldridge and curated and produced by Castlefield Gallery Agency for Spinningfields Estates Ltd. The second commission, *HOST* (2016) by Hilary Jack comprised nine bronze casts of wild plants that grow in forgotten urban spaces, commissioned by Katie Popperwell and curated and produced by Castlefield Gallery Agency for Spinningfields Estates Ltd. Emerging from the fabric of buildings, foyers and pavements *HOST* was used to promote the work of the Manchester Homelessness Charter. Each bronze sculpture is being gradually gifted in return for donations to Street Support. Street Support works with over 50 homelessness organisations in Manchester, 250 homelessness organisations in Greater Manchester, and are working with the Greater Manchester Mayor’s office on ‘[A Bed Every Night](https://streetsupport.net/greater-manchester/)’. To date the project has raised over £11,000.

One of the series has entered the Manchester Art Gallery permanent collection, to be used as part of their homelessness learning programme and is currently on display in the venue’s Atrium.

**Maddi Nicholson**

**Maddi** is an artist and Co-Founder Director of Art Gene, in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. As an artist she produces challenging work for varied and diverse situations nationwide. She is interested in working primarily with people and place, her interest is in communities: of people, objects, of interest, of life.

Maddi’s images have clad Castles, London Tower blocks, Town Halls, art galleries and vehicles; from a Norwegian car and passenger ferry to a fleet of lorries and a Double Decker bus. Her inflated works range from a replica of a Barrow terraced house, in *Going home from here*, which toured to beauty spots in Cumbria, to an inflated 6m bathtub installed balancing high up on the balcony of Bishop Auckland Town Hall, entitled *Shall I Draw you a Bath My Dear*, and 1000 inflated dog bones wallpapering gallery walls in her installation *Bone Idle*.

Maddi Nicholson undertook the first Artist’s Fellowship for English Heritage in Belsay Hall, Newcastle, and her work formed part of the European Capital of Culture 2008 commissioning programme in Liverpool. Her coastal works with Art Gene include the *Roker Pods* for Sunderland City Council, *The People’s Museum* on Piel Island, for Barrow Borough Council, and a non- civic war memorial gate and sculpture for Natural England’s North Walney Island National Nature Reserve.

**Castlefield Gallery**

Castlefield Gallery, est. in 1984, is a charity dedicated to the advancement of contemporary visual art and artists. Artist facing, we develop artistic practice and careers whilst creating opportunities for the public to engage with the contemporary art of our time. Many Castlefield Gallery ‘artist alumni’ go on to achieve national and international acclaim and include Turner Prize winners and nominees.

Castlefield Gallery curates, commissions and produces work off-site, including art in the public realm and co-commissioning with collections, contemporary arts organisations, and wider public and corporate sector partners. Our national and international work facilitates exchange between artists in the North West and the rest of the world, with particular reference to Europe and Asia. Across Greater Manchester we provide New Art Spaces - project and production spaces for artists and creatives in temporarily vacant properties. Castlefield Gallery also supports over 200 artist members through Castlefield Gallery Associates.

We are one of the founding members of Culture Forum North and have formal talent partnerships with universities, including Manchester School of Art at Manchester

Metropolitan University, the University of Salford and the University of Salford Art Collection. Castlefield Gallery is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation 2018-2022, and a Manchester City Council Cultural Partner.

Castlefield Gallery Artist Patron is the celebrated Ryan Gander, OBE. **castlefieldgallery.co.uk**

**Katie Popperwell**

Katie Popperwellis a creative producer working across visual arts, film, music, literature and performance, and has directed and produced public programmes for a range of clients including HOME, Selfridges, Manchester School of Art, Cityco and Manchester International Festival. Her work as a cultural consultant includes advising on city centre developments, leading on strategic cultural partnerships, and devising projects and initiatives that engage with the culture sector, the creative industries and local communities.

**Spinningfields**

Situated in the heart of Manchester, Spinningfields is the leading regional business quarter in the UK and the centre of the Manchester corporate community, home to over 165 world class financial and commercial service organisations. Voted ‘Development of the Decade’ by Property Week in 2009, Spinningfields now boasts the finest restaurants and bars in Manchester along with a cluster of luxury retailers, serving both an affluent business and resident community and an increasing visitor population of over 5.5 million people a year.

**Co-commissioned for Spinningfields Estates Ltd by Katie Popperwell and Castlefield Gallery.**

 

**Additional support from**



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