



PRESS RELEASE – DRAFT

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The Annotated Reader

*A publication-as-exhibition and exhibition-as-publication conceived
by Ryan Gander and Jonathan P. Watts.*

Venue: Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester M32 9DP

New exhibition dates: 1 September - 3 October 2021



Ryan Gander and Jonathan P. Watts, *The Annotated Reader*.
Installation view, 2019, Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh. Image courtesy Chris Scott.

"Imagine you've missed your last train - what single piece of writing would you want with you for company in the small hours?"

The Annotated Reader is a publication-as-exhibition and exhibition-as-publication conceived by Ryan Gander and Jonathan P. Watts. It features almost 300 creative personalities' responses and handwritten annotations on a chosen piece of writing.

Ryan Gander and Jonathan P. Watts invited a range of people, encompassing contemporary artists, designers, writers, institutional founders, musicians and more – to imagine they've missed the last train. "*Perhaps this text transformed your thinking.*" they wrote in their introductory letter, "*It might be a mantra continually returned to. Perhaps it is a text you felt should be read by younger generations or that you wish you'd encountered as a student.*"

The impressive list of 281 contributors to the project include Marina Abramović, Rodney Graham, Saâdane Afif, Holly Hendry, Cory Arcangel, Alistair Hudson, Rachel Ata, John Kaldor, Art & Language, Ragnar Kjartansson, David Batchelour, Sarah Lucas, John Bock, Jonathan Monk, Jim Broadbent, Alek O., Pavel Buchler, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Gregory Burke, Hannah Perry, Banu Ceenetoglu, Prem Sahib, Tony Chambers, Jerry Saltz, Paul Clinton, Rosemarie Trockel, Matt Darbyshire, Richard Wentworth, Richard Deacon, Shen Xin, Tom Godfrey, Bob and Roberta Smith, Sir Antony Gormley, and Nicholas Fox Weber.

First launched during Frieze Art Fair, London 2018 at London's Cork Street Galleries (UK), *The Annotated Reader* has been shown nationally and internationally including, at locations across Great Yarmouth by originalprojects (UK); M HKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp (Belgium); Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton University, New York (North America); Quartz Studio, Milan (Italy); Printed Matter's Art Book Fair, New York (North America); and Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh (Scotland). As part of its continuing tour Castlefield Gallery is presenting *The Annotated Reader* from 22 August – 3 October 2021.

As part of the exhibition, each of the contributions are printed and exhibited. Visitors to the exhibition are able to compile their own 'ANNOTATED READER'. In addition, a vending machine distributes USBs' containing the entire ream of submissions at the cost price of £5, with the ability to either be printed or read digitally.

As a self-funded and non-profit project, the mission of Gander and Watts was to create a free and accessible educational resource and index for future generations, alongside being an archive that captures the unique perspectives from hundreds of contributors, who for Gander and Watts are, at the forefront of our contemporary society.

Coinciding with *The Annotated Reader* at Castlefield Gallery will be *The Naming of Things* curated by Bryony Dawson. *THE NAMING OF THINGS* was selected from proposals submitted by Castlefield Gallery Associates by guest selector, and Artist Patron of Castlefield Gallery; Ryan Gander OBE, and Castlefield Gallery's Curator & Deputy Director, Matthew Pendergast. The exhibition explores the truly unfixed and changeable nature of language. *THE NAMING OF THINGS* asks, if unhooked from the task of conveying 'truth' or accuracy, can the slippery unreliability of language carve out a more generous space, and one that actively invites fluid, speculative and multiple perspectives?

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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 / 07766046672

Notes to editors:

At **Castlefield Gallery** (Est. 1984), we make new art possible. We are dedicated to the advancement of contemporary visual art. We are artist facing. We work with artists and creatives in Greater Manchester and beyond, at all career stages. We support them to develop their practice and careers, and to find ways not just to make art, but to make a living. We do this through: our gallery, and its free exhibitions and events that are open to all; through tailored career and practice development support; through our 200-strong artist Associates scheme; through the provision of low-cost studio and project space; through commissions and co-commissions; and through collaboration with universities, including annual graduate programmes that provide mentoring, coaching and more. For 35 years, we have supported young and older artists, new graduates right through to established artists, connecting them to each other, and to our international network of curators, arts organisations, artists and collectors. Castlefield Gallery's international work is focused on exchange between artists in the North West of England, and the rest of the world. We have an established track record in public art commissioning and public realm animation and activation. We are a female led organisation and a registered charity. Castlefield Gallery is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and Manchester City Council Cultural Partner. Our Artist Patron is the celebrated Ryan Gander, OBE.

Jonathan P. Watts (b. 1986, Great Yarmouth, UK) is a writer, collaborator, and occasional curator based in Norwich. For a year, from 2018 to 2019, he co-ran the artist-led gallery LOWER.GREEN, Norwich. With Ben Brett, he currently runs the gallery Josey in Norwich. Jonathan's art criticism has appeared in the international art press, and he continues to write for the choreographer Adam Linder.

Ryan Gander OBE (b. 1976 Chester, UK) has established an international reputation through artworks that materialise in many different forms, ranging from sculpture, apparel and writing to architecture, painting, typefaces, publications and performance. As well as curating exhibitions, he is a committed educator, having taught at international art institutions and universities, and has written and presented television programmes on and about contemporary art and culture for the BBC.

Through associative thought processes that connect the everyday and the esoteric, the overlooked and the commonplace, Gander's work involves a questioning of language and knowledge, as well as a reinvention of both the modes of appearance and the creation of an artwork. His work can be reminiscent of a puzzle, or a network with multiple connections and the fragments of an embedded story. It is ultimately a huge set of hidden clues to be deciphered, encouraging viewers to make their own associations and invent their own narrative in order to unravel the complexities staged by the artist.

Ryan Gander is an artist living and working in Suffolk and London. He studied at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, NL and the Jan van Eyck Akademie, Maastricht, NL. The artist has been a Professor of Visual Art at the University of Huddersfield and holds an honorary Doctor of the Arts at the Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Suffolk. In 2017 he was awarded an OBE for services to contemporary arts. In 2019 he was awarded the Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University.

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

Admission is FREE

Visiting information including our covid-safe measures can be found [HERE](#)

castlefieldgallery.co.uk

info@castlefieldgallery.co.uk

Opening Times: Wed to Sun, 12noon – 5.30pm

The gallery is fully wheelchair accessible, including provision of an accessible bathroom.

**"THE
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READER?"**

Special thanks to Castlefield Gallery Commissioning Patrons Allan & Jo Melzack.

Castlefield Gallery funders and supporters:



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