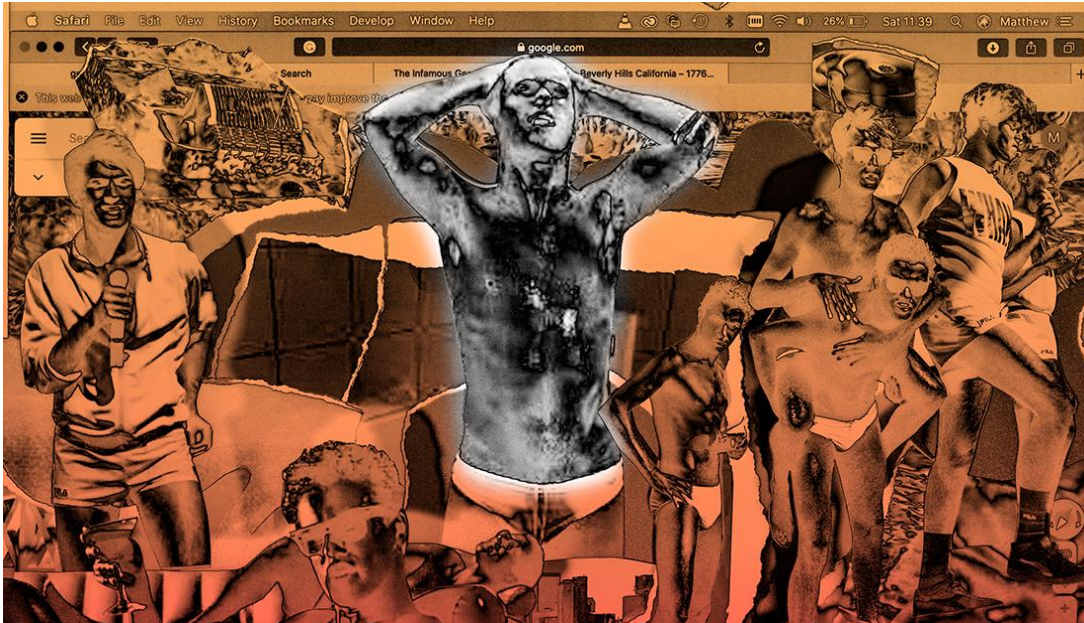


CASTLEFIELD GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE: Issued 30 July 2022



Matthew Bamber and Ivy Kalungi

Sunday 25 September - Sunday 16 October 2022

Castlefield Gallery is pleased to present new work by Matthew Bamber and Ivy Kalungi, two artists who explore how images, objects and bodies hold memories of both personal and social histories. The exhibition will include large scale sculptural works interacting with the gallery's unique architecture alongside video work and digital collage.

In order to make her sculptures Kalungi employs an assortment of techniques and materials that vary from combining plaster, rope, cement, wood, and metal with more ephemeral materials. Her works often include potent cultural iconographies such as raffia. For Kalungi these material combinations reflect the personal and psychological triggers held within cultural identity. The duality of Kalungi's Ugandan and Irish heritage informs how she experiences the diasporic condition. She sees the relationship between migration and identity construction as a constant oscillation between cultures, religions and traditions.

A new video work being developed for the exhibition will feature everyday scenes filmed in beauty salons in Kalungi's hometown of Belfast. These salons are one of the most secure, safe spaces for black women to beautify themselves and form a community to discuss politics, culture and the role of black women in society. Through this work Kalungi wants to communicate this experience and the themes discussed which are rarely shared outside of this safe space. Kalungi's series of works *Mother, Daughter, Sister* and *Kisenso* (2021) have a pyramid structure which is symbolic of a family hierarchy. Kalungi is interested in the body as archive and how we carry histories and languages in our flesh. Making use of the gallery's double height space and large public facing windows this series of three-legged metal pieces will reach out into the space and present themselves to passers-by. These works express the fragmentation of narratives but also suggest there are ways we might be able to explore past and present through shared memories.

Bamber explores our image-saturated world and his own consumption of imagery. His practice incorporates collage, photography, video, drawing and installation. He constructs assemblages, using photography, personal and public archives and found images taken from the internet, which are re-photographed and digitally manipulated. Compositionally, his works are influenced by both the baroque style and still-life painting. Traces of physical manipulation and digital labour are left exposed revealing the mechanics of these multi-layered images. His work focuses on sexuality, particularly, queer domesticities but also images of violence, drawn from points of intersection between LGBTQIA+ histories and his own memories and personal experiences.

A major new work, *The Unswept Floor* (2022), is a large-scale floor piece which pays homage to *The Asarotos Oikos Mosaic* which now resides at the Vatican in Rome. Thinking about the theme of excessiveness and greed, this piece exists as a memento mori, a reminder of humanity's precarious historical position, at an environmental and cultural tipping point. Bamber will also be showcasing a selection of new collage works.

Seen together the works of these two artists speak both of trauma but also about the possibility for care, patience and understanding one another.

As part of Castlefield Gallery and Manchester School of Art's long-standing partnership activity, Kalungi and Bamber's work was selected from an open call to MA/MFA Fine Art and MA/MFA Painting Graduates from Manchester School of Art, at Manchester Metropolitan University, who

graduated in the last 10 years (2011 onwards). They were selected by guest selector and artist, Hardeep Pandhal, Castlefield Gallery Curator & Deputy Director, Matthew Pendergast, and Programme Leader of MA/MFA Fine Art at Manchester School of Art, Ian Rawlinson.

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For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Leslie Remonato incoming Communications and Audience Development Coordinator at Castlefield Gallery, on leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk or 0161 832 8034

Notes to editors

More on Castlefield Gallery:

What do we do? All sorts. We are a gallery, of course, with public exhibitions, events and commissions by the artists we support. We are a public art commissioner, and a curator. A publisher and a thinker. We start where art school ends. We are a career support. We help artists make art and make a living. We are a space where communities come together. Where the art we champion opens up difficult but rewarding conversations about our difficult but rewarding world. We are a passionate advocate for the things we believe in (and we believe in the value of art). We are a seeker and a solver: we find support for artists and communities when none seems available. We are a home, and an art studio. And always – always - we make new art happen.

Exhibition Title: Matthew Bamber and Ivy Kalungi

Public Preview: Thursday 22 September, 6pm-8pm

Saturday Slow-Preview: Saturday 24 September, 12noon – 5:30pm (pre-booking required)

Exhibition Dates: Sunday 25 September - Sunday 16 October 2022

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

Tel: 0161 832 8034

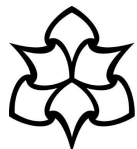
Web: castlefieldgallery.co.uk

info@castlefieldgallery.co.uk

Opening Times: Wed to Sun 12noon – 5:30pm

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

Exhibition supporters



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**MANCHESTER
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Castlefield Gallery Funders and supporters



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