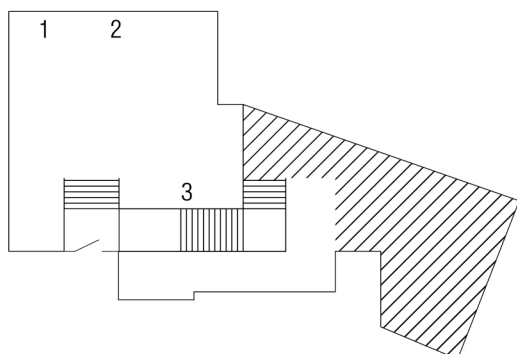


CASTLEFIELD GALLERY

Upper gallery



Upper Gallery

1. *The Discovery of Nuns' Urine* [print edition] (2023)
Risograph and digital print on context card

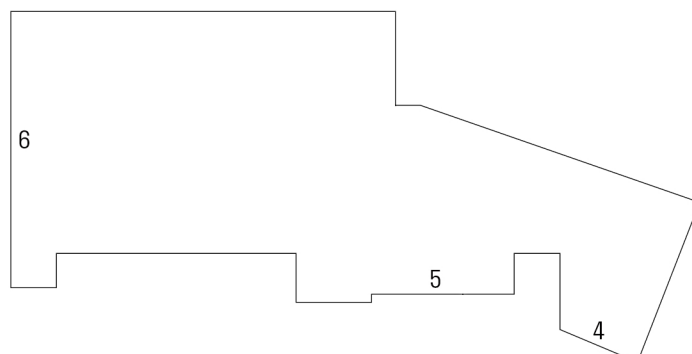
2. *Sisters of piss* (2023)
Screenprint on sweatshirts
£20 minimum donation each (cash only)
All profits go to Women's Aid

3. *The Discovery of Nuns' Urine* (2022)
Framed screenprint on Heritage White 315gsm

Plan

Tale of the Frozen Bits
12 February — 12 March 2023

Lower gallery



Lower Gallery

4. *Ghosting* (2022)
Video on monitor
4 mins

5. *Surinam Toad* (2022)
C-type matt print on aluminium
'LDUCZ0W332 Pipa pipa' Courtesy of UCL Grant
Museum of Zoology © Fred Langford Edwards

6. *Tale of the Frozen Bits* (2022)
Video projection
16 mins

TALE OF THE FROZEN BITS | PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

Jamie Sutcliffe & El Morgan in conversation - 10 March 2023, 6:30 - 8pm

Writer, Curator, and Co-Director of Strange Attractor Press Jamie Sutcliffe has been commissioned to produce a text responding to themes within the exhibition *Tale of the Frozen Bits*. He will be discussing his writing in conversation with El Morgan at Castlefield Gallery. *Limited capacity, please book online. £4 / free for anyone on a low-income and for Castlefield Gallery Associates.*

Frogs, Fertility and Climate Change - 11 March 2023, 1pm - 5:30pm

- Meet the frogs, 1pm - 4pm: Matthew O'Donnell, Assistant Curator of Herpetology at Manchester Museum will be bringing a mixture of frogs and amphibians to the gallery for visitors to interact with and learn more about the Museum's research into climate change, breeding and frog fertility. *It will be a drop in event throughout the afternoon.*

- Talk with Dr Lottie Hosie and Matthew O'Donnell, 4.30pm - 5.30pm: Matthew and Lottie will be discussing their shared research and knowledge of frogs, fertility and mating behaviours. *Limited capacity, please book online.*

Tale of the Frozen Bits: a conversation

Podcast with exhibiting Artist El Morgan, Professor of Clinical Embryology at the University of Manchester Daniel Brison and Professor of Reproductive Biomedicine at the University of Manchester John Aplin. *Listen on anchor.fm/castlefield-gallery*

Written fictions - 15 February 2023, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Workshop with Writer Hannah Knowles exploring storytelling and the more than human narratives in the exhibition. *This event is sold-out.*

Tale of the Frozen Bits is the first major UK solo exhibition of work by El Morgan. The exhibition is inspired by the rich and surprising history of fertility drugs: a witches' brew of ingredients that laid the path for our modern day medicines, including gallons of nun's urine, multiplying hamster cells, horse glands and lots of frogs.

Morgan's own experiences have informed this body of work, having recently received a bill of £350 from a fertility clinic to continue to store some of her embryos. In **Ghosting** (2022) Morgan calls up the fertility clinic to check how her 'frozen bits' are doing, and who is in charge of keeping the freezers switched on.

Tale of the Frozen Bits (2022) is a new film by Morgan incorporating floating frogs, dancing mosquito larvae and rat-tailed maggots with found online footage and her own performances to camera. The exhibition also includes an image of a Surinam toad, a species known for incubating its eggs in honeycombed chambers in the skin of the mother's back, releasing fully formed froglets after a period of 4-5 months. Frogs and toads play a central role in human fertility as early pregnancy tests and in current embryonic research as a model organism.

In the late 1950's retired nuns in an Italian convent were asked by the Vatican to donate their urine to a fertility company, which was part owned by the then Pope's nephew. From this urine, the company extracted a hormone to inject into infertile women. Gallons of urine were collected. Morgan's screen-printed work

The Discovery of Nuns' Urine (2022) features an edited excerpt from a screenplay written by an employee of the drug company about their discovery of the power of nun's urine.

These works move between the playful and the strange, the personal and the abstract, to mobilise a poetic thinking which confronts our relationship to these 'frozen bits' and the slippage between human and nonhuman worlds.

To celebrate the thousands of nameless nuns who donated their urine Morgan has produced a screen-printed sweatshirt **Sisters of Piss** (2023), with all profits to Women's Aid (www.womensaid.org.uk). The sweatshirt is available from the gallery for a minimum donation of £20 (Cash only) or online at:

www.weareprintsocial.com/campaigns/sistersofpiss-3

Tale of the Frozen Bits was selected from proposals submitted by Castlefield Gallery Associates by guest selector artist Harold Offeh, Castlefield Gallery Curator and Deputy Director Matthew Pendergast and Castlefield Gallery Associates Coordinator Laura Mansfield.

El Morgan would like to thank Nastassja Simensky, Rebecca Lee, Lottie Hosie, Jamie Sutcliffe, Daniel Brison, Professor John Aplin, Tannis Davidson, Ed Roberts, Ceri Hand, and all the people at Castlefield Gallery for their incredible support.

Castlefield Gallery funders and supporters:



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