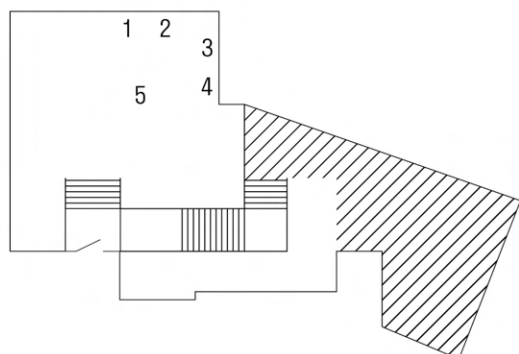


CASTLEFIELD GALLERY

Upper gallery



Upper Gallery

George Gibson & Grace Collins

i hope all is well and life is calmer for you now

Custom boxes for archive material, glass, paper, copper

1. *interesting* (2023)
2. *flinch of fear* (2023)
3. *ripples spin outwards* (2023)
4. *Thank you for this clutter* (2023)
5. *speak above the electric lights* (2023)

Lower Gallery

Anna FC Smith

6. *A Body Politic by The Name of The Guild of St. Luke* (2023)

Ceramics, wood, fabric and mixed media

Alistair Woods

7. *I Ought to Have Been a Barra Boy Years Ago* (2023)

Oil paint, leather dye, laser cut engraving, airbrush ink, carbon transfer, chalk line, and pastel on board featuring contributed marks

8. *Falling in Love Again* (2023)

Handling bust on loan from Touchstones, Rochdale, homemade football flag, scarf and pin badge

9. *To Take Back Home to Nan* (2023)

Oil paint, leather dye, laser cut engraving, airbrush ink, carbon transfer, chalk line, and pastel on board

10. *The Squeeze* (2023)

Oil paint, leather dye, laser cut engraving, airbrush ink, carbon transfer, chalk line, and pastel on board

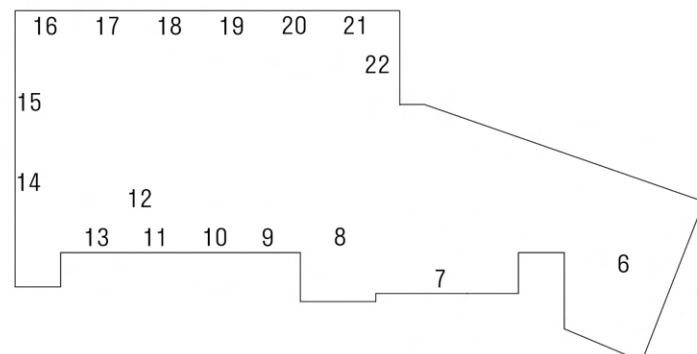
Plan

Archives at Play 2

26 March — 4 June 2023

Easter closing: 7 — 10 April 2023

Lower gallery



11. *Asleep in the Deep* (2023)

Oil paint, leather dye, laser cut engraving, airbrush ink, carbon transfer, chalk line, and pastel on board

12. *Touch of Glass* (2023)

Clay and acrylic paint

13. *New Faces, Old Hands* (2023)

Oil paint, leather dye, laser cut engraving, airbrush ink, carbon transfer, chalk line, and pastel on board

14. *Talk of the Town* (2023)

Oil paint, airbrush ink, chalk line and pastel on linen

15. *The Chef That Died of Shame* (2023)

Oil paint, leather dye, laser cut engraving, airbrush ink, carbon transfer, chalk line, and pastel on board featuring contributed marks

Gherdai Hassell

16. *Onion Spawn Study no.15* (2023)

Mixed media, collage, ink, watercolour

17. *Onion Spawn Study no.13* (2023)

Mixed media, collage, ink, watercolour

18. *Onion Spawn Study no.12* (2023)

Mixed media, collage, ink, watercolour

19. *Onion Spawn Study no. 8* (2023)

Mixed media, collage, ink, watercolour

20. *Onion Spawn Study no.14* (2023)

Mixed media, collage, ink, watercolour

21. *Onion Spawn Study no.6* (2023)

Mixed media, collage, ink, watercolour

22. *Sire of the Sea* (2023)

Repurposed metal, wire, fabric, cotton

Artists: George Gibson & Grace Collins, Gherdai Hassell, Anna FC Smith, Alistair Woods

For this exhibition **George Gibson & Grace Collins** and **Anna FC Smith** have responded directly to Castlefield Gallery's archive, reimagining how we understand the history of the gallery. The exhibition also features new paintings, works on paper and sculpture by **Alistair Woods** and **Gherdai Hassell** which explore cultural and historical narratives more generally. All five artists investigate how the past shapes our identities, and encourage us to look differently at the present.

Archives at Play is a research project involving exhibitions, events and workshops curated by Thomas Dukes, a PhD researcher based between Castlefield Gallery and Manchester School of Art. The project is part of the gallery's process of reflection as we approach our 40 year anniversary in 2024. Archives at Play is made through collaboration with the gallery's staff, volunteers, placements, visitors, partners and supporters as well as a network of artists, curators, writers, and students including the communities of Back on Track and Venture Arts.

i hope all is well and life seems a little calmer for you now (2023) by **George Gibson & Grace Collins** interrogates how we store and use archive material. It responds to themes identified in the Castlefield Gallery archive by the curator of this exhibition, Thomas Dukes. These themes are: people connecting to art, financial sustainability, decision making, timely & relevant, and artist-led. George and Grace have collaborated to create a space invoking the 40 year past, present and future of the gallery through a process of 'fictioning'; re-imagining and romanticising relics from the archive.

A Body Politic by The Name of The Guild of St Luke (2023) by **Anna FC Smith**, delves into the archive of Castlefield Gallery, and reimagines its story through a lens of guild imagery and folklore. Rituals and guilds provide ways for communities to carry a living history and establish communal values. In this installation, a tale of Castlefield Gallery is told outside of archive shelves, with pageantry and symbols. Artists, founders, and visitors from the gallery's history are woven through this work with

symbolism and myth - ask at the front desk to hear more about the people, objects and events which appear in the work.

Alistair Woods paintings mix together marks and compositions from urban environments, with imagery from still life paintings. They challenge accepted notions of cultural value, using traditional materials like oil paints alongside leather dye, chalk, and marker pens. Alistair says that "This isn't with the interest of devaluing what has come before, but to elevate the validity of the unofficial." Referencing politics and underground subcultures, with a nod to British sitcoms and personal sentiments, they address ideas of taste and class - boundaries of high and low culture - which have been used historically to excuse and maintain socio-economic inequality.

Onion Spawn Studies (2023) by **Gherdai Hassell** are watercolour and collage works that combine found imagery from fashion magazines with original paintings by Gherdai, against watercolours of onions. They form part of Gherdai's ongoing artistic research into diasporic identity, cultural roots and postcolonial futures. As a Bermudian artist, Gherdai references the text, *Mind the Onion Seed: Black "Roots" Bermuda* (Nellie Musson, 1979), which tells a history of Bermuda's (a UK Colony) relationship to the onion as a plantation crop, and the stories of the enslaved women who minded the crop. As Gherdai says, "The work is ultimately about migration, a gradual process of being and becoming the future."

Archives at Play is supported by



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

MANCHESTER
SCHOOL OF ART

NORTH WEST CONSORTIUM DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

Castlefield Gallery Funders and supporters



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL