

Press release
January 2024



Background image: Gary Wragg, *Skid*, 1984. Photographed by Paul Tucker, image courtesy of the artist.

40 Years of the Future: Painting

24 March - 23 June 2024

Artists: Sarah Feinmann, Tricia Gillman, John Hoyland, Jamie Kirk, Robin Megannity, Azraa Motala, Katie Tomlinson and Gary Wragg

Forty years ago, on 20 March 1984, Castlefield Gallery opened its doors. On that day, the gallery was proud to open with a remarkable exhibition **John Hoyland: Recent Paintings**. This March 2024, we are delighted to launch our 40 year anniversary programme with **40 Years of the Future: Painting**.

This show will welcome to the gallery large abstract paintings that were either shown or are representative of works exhibited in that first year of programming. The returning artists are Sarah Feinmann, Tricia Gillman, John Hoyland, and Gary Wragg*. Each will present their past work alongside more recent paintings and will be joined by four artists based in the North West who we feel are ones to watch: Jamie Kirk, Robin Megannity, Azraa Motala and Katie Tomlinson.

Over the last 40 years the continued relevance of painting and the superiority of figurative or abstract works over one another have been heavily debated. This exhibition will bring together powerful examples of both, displaying a number of different approaches to painting. **40 Years of the Future: Painting** will present works which focus on the relationship

between the canvas and the body, made with freehand marks exploring movement, energy and space. Other pieces in the show draw from and incorporate elements of nature photography, diaristic fragments, computer manipulated imagery and shapes made with laser cut vinyl. Some of the works on display will reference the histories and traditions of painting, reframing singular ideas around representation, identity and symbolism.

Don't miss **40 Years of the Future: Painting** at Castlefield Gallery, where you will encounter somber and intense works alongside the exuberant and bombastic. Whether you are a painting enthusiast or simply curious about what painting can do, this exhibition will deliver a rich dialogue around the past, present and future of the medium, individual expression, the power of imagery and the politics of representation.

*Works returning to the gallery include: *Carambola* (1982) by Tricia Gillman, *Harvest 6.3.81* (1981) by John Hoyland and *Skid* (1984) by Gary Wragg.

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

40 Years of the Future: Painting public programme

Throughout the exhibition, the gallery will host an exciting and dynamic series of public events.

As Castlefield Gallery marks 40 years, Manchester Art Gallery celebrates 200 years. Reflecting on the galleries' origins, both initiated by artists, and timed to coincide with **40 Years of the Future: Painting**, we will deliver a joint public programme with Manchester Art Gallery, exploring the arts ecology of the city, unpacking the critical role and value of artists to a city like Manchester 'then and now'. This will be as Castlefield Gallery and Manchester School of Art's (Manchester Metropolitan University) AHRC NWCDTP Collaborative Doctoral researcher will complete their process of exploring the Castlefield Gallery archive, considering its history in the context of the wider city and city region's cultural ecology, and via which many deep connections between Castlefield Gallery and Manchester Art Gallery have been brought into focus.

More on Castlefield Gallery

We are a contemporary art gallery and artist development organisation. Established in 1984, we've led the way in artist development for almost 40 years. We provide creative and career development, exhibition opportunities and commissions for artists and independents. We work from our galleries in Manchester, off-site, online and in the public realm. We create long-lasting impacts in our city region, North West and beyond. Our national and international activities focus on artist exchange. Castlefield Gallery's public and participation programmes provoke new ways of thinking, bringing together artists, creatives, communities and audiences to explore the art and issues of our time. We believe when artists and communities come together they can help shape a better world.

We support more than 300 Castlefield Gallery Associates and a host of creatives through person-centred development programmes. Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces provide affordable making and project space in the North West of England, including on the high street. We are a home for artists and creatives. We are advocates for what we believe in. We believe in the power of new art. We make new art happen.

Ryan Gander OBE RA is Castlefield Gallery's Artist Patron.

We are a registered charity, supported by Arts Council England and Manchester City Council.

Discover Castlefield Gallery's programme release for its 40 year anniversary [HERE](#)

Exhibition Title: 40 Years of the Future: Painting

Exhibition dates: 24 March - 23 June 2024

Preview: Wednesday 20 March 2024, 6-8pm

Slow Saturday Preview: Saturday 23 March 2024, 12noon – 5.30pm

Images available [HERE](#)

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

Tel: 0161 832 8034

Web: castlefieldgallery.co.uk

Email: info@castlefieldgallery.co.uk

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

40 Years of the Future: Painting is supported by:



With special thanks to Castlefield Gallery Commissioning Patrons Prof. Chris Klingenberg and Bridget and Richard Schilizzi.

Castlefield Gallery Funders and supporters:



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