

CASTLEFIELD GALLERY

Press release
December 2023



Rowland Hill, *Fluchtpunkt* at SOUP (2023). Image courtesy of Will Gillibrand.

Logical Song

A solo exhibition of new work by Rowland Hill

4 February - 3 March 2024

Castlefield Gallery presents **Logical Song**, Rowland Hill's first major solo exhibition. Exploring the aesthetics of 1990s Eurodance music, club culture and local fairgrounds, Hill will transform the gallery into an immersive installation which sits between an attraction and an exhibition. Visitors will be invited to enter spaces that move them from the private and domestic to the theatrical and communal, embarking them upon a destabilising journey through a fantasised past to a darker, speculative future.

A new multi-screen audio-visual work *Holy Prototype* will present a constellation of fairground signs which have visited the artist's hometown every year since the early 2000s. These totemic images will be set against the echoing voices of fairground operators and Elgar's *Memorial Chimes* (1923), composed in memory of the First World War.

Logical Song will also house an adaptation of Hill's *Fluchtpunkt*, an audio landscape of extreme weather sounds — a recurring metaphor for conflict and resolution in 90s dance music — which, today, take on a stark significance. Underpinned by an ominously thudding beat, the exhibition prompts visitors to question the dreamworld of Eurodance and its disquieting rhetoric of utopia and emergency.

This exhibition was selected from proposals submitted by Castlefield Gallery Associates by guest selector curator, writer and researcher Stella Sideli, Castlefield Gallery Curator and Deputy Director Matthew Pendergast and Castlefield Gallery Associates Coordinator James Mathews-Hiskett.

“Rowland’s work stood out for its multi-layered approach to elements of (sub)cultural context that feel important right here and now. I have no doubt that situating this research, work and related programme in the gallery will naturally bring community to discuss what feels urgent, while manifesting new ways of being together and taking space.” Stella Sideli

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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

More about the artist

Rowland Hill (b.1989) creates experiences that play with the artifice, tension and vulnerability inherent to live performance and its stagecraft, sometimes with an unsettling or ambivalent outcome.

She frequently works collaboratively and across a range of media, especially film and video, live performance, installation, sound, collage and experimental event formats. Much of her work deals with absence and presence, and relies upon audiences to engage in processes of speculation and imaginative projection, often within an interdisciplinary environment that draws on her background studying and working in theatre, film and music contexts.

In recent years Rowland Hill's work has been commissioned by Turner Contemporary (Margate), The Royal Standard (Liverpool), Holden Gallery (Manchester) and Ambit publication. She has performed and presented her work at spaces including Raven Row (London), ICA (London), The Koppel Project (London), Splendor (Amsterdam), Videographé (Montreal), and Flux Factory (New York). In 2018 she received the Clare Winsten Memorial Award from the Slade School of Art in London where she completed her MA, and in subsequent years has been awarded a Jerwood Bursary and a Manchester Culture Award.

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 is Castlefield Gallery's Artist Patron. We are a registered charity, supported by Arts Council England and Manchester City Council.

More on Castlefield Gallery Associates

Castlefield Gallery Associates is a membership scheme for artists, writers and independent creatives working in the field of contemporary visual arts, living and working in Manchester, the city region, North West of England and beyond. It provides artists and creatives with information, resources, practice, skills and career development opportunities. Castlefield Gallery Associates acts as a hub, bringing together creative practitioners and facilitating a space for critical dialogue and exchange.

Exhibition Title: Logical Song

Exhibition dates: 4 February - 3 March 2024

Preview: Thursday 1 February 2024, 6-8pm

Slow Saturday Preview: Saturday 3 February 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

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