

Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, presents their first national collaboration with Pipeline, London

Disc Unknown: A solo exhibition by artist Joe O'Rourke

Pipeline

5 June – 25 July 2026

Castlefield Gallery

2 – 30 August 2026

United by a shared commitment to amplifying the work and voices of emerging artists, the Castlefield Gallery and Pipeline partnership is a rare platform that connects regional practice to national visibility. The collaboration provides an exclusive opportunity for Castlefield Gallery Associates - an artist-development membership scheme - to not only show work in both Manchester and London, but to also coincide with London Gallery Weekend.

Disc Unknown will bring together O'Rourke's DVD-case paintings with larger mixed-media works, wall-based and freestanding paintings which will draw viewers through a landscape of repeated motifs, images, text and materials.

O'Rourke's paintings are often inspired by happenstance, such as an overheard conversation, something seen from a bus window or a found object. Living in Manchester has shaped his experience of urban environments, leading him to use materials and motifs that echo urbanisation, labour, and thresholds between public and private space. Repurposing found objects in his work is a response to a world already full of surplus materials. These materials also hold tensions between the handmade and mass-produced, the intimate and the public.

In O'Rourke's paintings text operates as both image and language. Text appears as painted words, signage or fragments drawn from advertising and mass media. Text will be a recurring and connective element across both exhibitions at Pipeline and Castlefield Gallery.

Joe O'Rourke shares:

"This is an exciting opportunity to restage my work across two distinct settings, testing how painting can circulate between scales, spaces, and audiences, shifting between intimacy and immersion, image and environment."

Tatiana Cheneviere, Founder of Pipeline, shares:

"Joe thinks about painting as an environment rather than a single image. This collaboration with Castlefield Gallery creates a compelling framework for that idea to unfold across two distinct spaces and audiences. For Pipeline, the project reflects an important commitment to working beyond London and building meaningful exchanges between artists, institutions and audiences across the UK."

Matthew Pendergast, Head of Programme, Castlefield Gallery, shares:

"I'm really excited to see how Joe's expanded painting practice will work across the two exhibition venues. At Castlefield Gallery we will get to grapple with the building's unique architecture and large street facing windows which will give us some interesting opportunities to think about how we restage interactions between Joe's works, passersby and visitors to the gallery."

ENDS//

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

Joe O'Rourke

Joe O'Rourke (b.1995) is a Manchester-based artist and teacher. O'Rourke is interested in the emotional responsiveness of painting and its expanded possibilities. He's drawn to painting because it offers both an internal psychological space and an external encounter – pulling the viewer inward while also referring them back to the world. Working across multiple scales and media, found materials and text often function as points of entry and departure into both the making and viewing of the work. He's interested in the ideas that materials carry; how they can root the work in a time and place and hold tensions between the handmade and mass-produced, the intimate and the public. Living in Manchester has shaped his sensitivity to the felt experience of urban environments, using materials and motifs that reference urbanisation, labour, and thresholds between internal and external, private and public space. In the studio, his ideas emerge from intuition through slow looking—allowing objects, images, text and materials to collect meaning.

O'Rourke graduated in 2017 from Edinburgh College of Art, and in 2018, he was a prize-winner in the John Moores Painting Prize. In 2019, he began the national collaborative painting project '*Painters Posting Paintings*'. He has taught at Edinburgh College of Art, Manchester School of Art, and the University of Greater Manchester.

<https://josephorourke.co.uk/>

More on Pipeline

Tatiana Cheneviere is the founder of London gallery, Pipeline (est. 2022). Pipeline's core concern is to support meaningful engagement with artists and their work. The gallery usually operates as a divided space of the main exhibition area, and a room which features one work by the artist whose exhibition is forthcoming. Selected by the artist, this introductory work reveals particulars of their current practice or potentials for the future, providing essential context with each exhibition. Pipeline's programme is focused on cross-regional collaboration, working with artists and institutions beyond the UK capital.

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 over 40 years. We provide creative and career development, exhibition opportunities and commissions for artists and independent creatives. 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, Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and Manchester City Council Cultural Partner.

castlefieldgallery.co.uk

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. The gallery hosts monthly in person and online events that are programmed in response to the needs, requests and interests of artists and creatives.

In addition to timely opportunities like this, Castlefield Gallery Associates exhibitions are staged annually in Manchester, with proposals selected by renowned guest curators, commissioners, and artist curators, in recent years these including Ryan Gander RA OBE, Cindy Sissokho, Kate Bryan, Stella Sideli, Mariama Attah, Harold Offeh, Sam Thorne, and Kate Gray.

Exhibition Title: Disc Unknown

Images available here: [images for press](#)

Pipeline Exhibition LONDON

Dates: 5 June – 25 July 2026

Pipeline Preview: Thursday 4 June, 6-8pm

Venue: Pipeline, 31 Windmill St, London W1T 2JN

Tel: +44 7724 145648

Web: <https://www.pipelinecontemporary.com>

Email: info@pipelinecontemporary.com

Opening Times: Wed - Sat / 11am – 6pm

Castlefield Gallery Exhibition MANCHESTER

Dates: 2 – 30 August 2026

Preview: Thursday 30 July 2026 from 6 - 8pm

Slow Saturday Preview: Saturday 1 August 2026, 12noon – 5.30pm

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

Disc Unknown is presented by:



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Castlefield Gallery Funders and supporters:



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Brian Mercer
BRIAN MERCER TRUST

A stylized line drawing of a landscape with hills and a river.
THE HAWORTH TRUST

With thanks to Castlefield Gallery Guardians & Patrons.