



07—10
MAY 2019

ART, DESIGN & MEDIA FESTIVAL



MANCHESTER
SCHOOL OF ART

X

ART, DESIGN & MEDIA FESTIVAL

X is an intensive project that brings together students from Manchester School of Art (Manchester Metropolitan University). They work across disciplinary boundaries to explore collaboration and work in association with regional, national and international partners.

The project culminates in the X Festival, that creates a space for students to meet and respond to unfamiliar surroundings and form new relationships. It also connects art school participants to the history of collaboration, that goes back to the ethos and principles of Arts & Crafts and to interdisciplinary experiments from Bauhaus to Blackmountain and beyond. Above all the project is intended to create a moment for artists, designers and regional partners to share common ground beyond specialism, to gain new perspectives and consider diverse ways of working together that are relevant for our collective futures.

Staff across Manchester School of Art have created a dynamic learning environment, often using the city as a trigger for new work to emerge. Students have been given opportunities to take part in workshops and events and have had wide-ranging experiences visiting studios, archives, museums and galleries. To kick-start the project, we also created a Speakers Programme that involved leading arts professionals across art + design, including the Director of The Whitworth & Manchester Art Gallery, Alistair Hudson; Director of Islington Mill, Maurice Carlin, International Artists – Toby Paterson, Simon Liu and Michael England and others working across disciplinary fields: Gerrie Van Noord and Sarah Perks, Manchester International Festival Guest Curator and artistic Director: Irimi Papadimitriou, Future Everything.

1

THE EXQUISITE CORPSE

**NEO Building, Charlotte Street,
Manchester, M1 4ET**

**Tues 7th May, 6pm – 8pm,
Wed 8th – Fri 10th May, 9am – 5pm**

A large cohort of Animation, Photography, and Filmmaking students have worked to the theme of 'The Exquisite Corpse' to embrace chance, absurdity, experimentation and play. The work has been produced by 26 groups comprised of students from each discipline. Each group's work aims to 'tag team' with the next, so that a unique collaborative looped installation, or 'Exquisite Corpse' has been generated as a bespoke fit for the NEO exhibition space.

2

TIME

**The Deaf Institute, 135 Grosvenor
Street, Manchester, M1 7HE**

Tues 7th May, 6pm – 10pm

Working together, students from Graphic Design and Illustration with Animation responded to the theme of Time. Students were asked to recognise short experimental collaborative projects at the start of the unit responding initially to time within the city from before, working on longer more specific projects that developing print and moving image work.

The history of the city, its regeneration, and its significance were explored as well as the opportunity to examine the scientific exploration of time, the slow movement and theories regarding White and Black time. The event at The Deaf Institute uses projections to bring a variety of working methods together.

3

SUBSTANCE

**Fairfield Social Club, Archway 6,
Temperance Street, Manchester,
M12 6HR**

Wed 8th May, 5pm – 9pm

20 groups of students are each responding to the title of a Joy Division or New Order song. Drawing from themes in the lyrics, the words and meaning of the title, the environment of post-industrial Manchester and Salford, the punk DIY aesthetic or in any ways they feel is relevant to their practices.

4

KILO

**The Old Bank, Hanover St,
Manchester, M60 0AB**

Thurs 9th May, 6pm – 9pm

This is a collective show that is focused around sustainability and the relationship between fashion and mass production. A collaboration between first year Photography and Fashion Art Direction students.

5

LITTLE INVENTORS IMAGINARIUM

**Arch 7, Tempeance Street,
Manchester, M12 6HR**

**Wed 8th May, 5pm – 9pm
Thur 9th May, 10am – 5pm**

Little Inventors Imaginarium is a project developed with the Little Inventors team whose aim is to inspire and support children around the world to use their wonderful imaginations to think up ingenious, fantastical, funny or perfectly practical inventions with no limits!

Working with first year students from Fashion and Interior Design, our Imaginarium project turns these innovative ideas into real objects and inspiration for new fashion and interior applications.

www.littleinventors.org

6

ART GALLERY GIFT SHOP

**Hatch, Oxford Road, Manchester,
M1 7AD**

**Tues 7th May, 5.30pm – 8pm
Wed 8th May, 10am – 5pm
Thurs 9th May, 10am – 4pm**

Students working across Textiles in Practice have been working together on research into art gallery gift shops. Using Manchester Art galleries & museums, archives, gallery collections and exhibitions, past and present or the building and surrounding areas, parkland and historic locations as the basis for their work, they have created samples that relate to their textile specialisms. This has culminated in the production of conclusive objects relevant for the Art Gallery.

The work will be displayed in a pop up 'gallery shop' at Hatch, Oxford Road.

7

WHITWORTH THREADS

**Manchester Craft and Design
Centre, 17 Oak Street,
Manchester M4 5JD.**

**Wed 8th May, 10am – 5.30pm
Thurs 9th May, 10am – 5.30pm /
6.30pm – 8pm**

Developed in collaboration with staff from the Whitworth art gallery, this project invited students to work in collaborative and cross-disciplinary teams, to design and make new products and limited edition craft pieces for their gallery shop.

Students researched, investigated and responded to this landmark venue as not only a physical gallery, archive and building set within an urban parkland, but as a place for people, inspired by the Whitworth's ambition to become a hub of the community, and utilise art and creativity as a catalyst for social engagement and well-being.

8

ART, POLITICS, PROTEST

**Grosvenor Gallery, Grosvenor
Building, Cavendish St,
Manchester, M15 6BR**

**Tues 7th May, 5pm – 8pm
Wed 8th May, 12pm – 6pm
Thurs 9th May, 12pm – 6pm**

On the 16th August 1819, a crowd of approximately 60-80,000 people gathered on St Peter's Field, Manchester to demonstrate, asking for parliamentary reform. The crowd were subjected to open fire, resulting in what is now known as the Peterloo Massacre. 18 people were killed and it is estimated that hundreds were injured. 2019 marks the 200-year anniversary of the massacre.

This exhibition takes the massacre as a starting point for thinking about the relationship between history, politics and creative practice. Students worked with the People's History Museum Manchester, visiting the archives and looking at the materials in its collection. These visits formed the research and inspiration for students to develop a call for artists to submit works for an exhibition based around the theme of art, politics and protest.

9

USEFUL CULTURE

**Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley
St, Manchester, M2 3JL**

Tues 7th May, 10am – 5pm

In association with Manchester Art Gallery

A day of activities at the gallery. This project is based around the history of the art gallery, the relationship with the early days of the art school and what the value and function of the art gallery is and could be.

This project gave students the opportunity to research the foundations of the art school and respond to the history and objects held in a number of archives. Working from this material students have produced creative works from a range of disciplines for a pop-up exhibition.

Participants can explore the social and historical context and respond with an outcome of contemporary relevance. With the key aim to consider how the Gallery is useful in modern Manchester.

10

INTANGIBLE CULTURES

**The Centre for Chinese
Contemporary Art, 13 Thomas St,
Manchester, M4 1EU**

Wed 8th May, 5pm – 7.30pm

In association with the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art & Donghau University, Shanghai, partly funded by the Chinese Ministry of Culture.

The project is based on a creative and technical exchange between the two Schools and consists of research, design development, textile, fabric manipulation and illustration. This is a collaborative project that fuses art, fashion and textiles. It involves students and staff from Donghau University, Shanghai exploring intangible cultures and heritage.

The project culminates in a presentation at the education space, Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art and discussion around creative exchange and interdisciplinary working.

11

REBEL TARTAN

**The Centre for Chinese Contemporary
Art, 13 Thomas St, Manchester M4 1EU**

Wed 8th May, 5pm – 7pm

In association with Liberation Kilt Co, Bute, Ethical Fashion Source and Lisaa Art School, Paris.

This project explores the process of Tartan production and ethical fashion, the key aim is to address the context of sustainability.

Bringing together students who have an interest in weaving, textiles and design ethics. Students have come together to create a collection of textile swatches (knit, weave, stitch or print) that push the boundaries of Tartan traditions and explores creative conventions.

This project has given students the opportunity to present their work to the 'Ethical Forum', with the winning entry being offered the opportunity of placement in Bute textile company.

12

1/X

**Islington Mill, 1 James St, Salford
M3 5HW**

Tues 7th May, 5pm – 10pm

DIY open studio event bringing together work from Manchester School of Art and Islington Mill Art Academy.

We invite you to experience collaboration from different perspectives: organic and structured; clashes and conversations; one and the collective. Includes drawing, painting, plaster, digital, projection, performance, and participatory activities on the launch night.

13

DEVELOPING VISUAL NARRATIVES

**Leaf, 113 – 115 Portland St,
Manchester M1 6DW**

Thurs 9th May, 6pm – 11pm

When pitching an idea for an illustrated book or animation whether as an auteur or in collaboration with a writer, it is customary to provide a complete dummy or storyboard which outlines the content from beginning to end and the relationship between the words and the images, with highly developed visual samples to indicate the finished work.

Initially working with curators at Manchester Museum, students carried out independent research from which to develop their responses to the archives and narratives through drawing, animation and moving image.

14

THE NATURAL WORLD: UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS

81 King St, Manchester M2 4AH

Thurs 9th May, 5pm – 9pm

The project, linked to Manchester International Festival, explores themes of utopia and dystopia in the work of grime artist Skepta's commission DYSTOPIA987 for the 2019 MIF Festival.

15

THEORY IN/ AS PRACTICE

**Fred Aldous, Lower Basement, 37
Lever Street, Manchester, M1 1LW**

**Wed 8th May, 9am – 5.30pm
Thurs 9th May, 9am – 5.30pm**

This aim of this project is to encourage ownership of theory, to challenge the idea that theory is something separate from practice as makers, and to develop a sense of how work is always embedded and engaged in dialogues with ideas at large. It is organised around a student-centered reading group that have met regularly throughout unit X. It is intended for both the confirmed theory addict and the theory-curious, and will be a supportive and collaborative environment in which to explore ideas.

16

LANGUAGE, MATERIAL, MEANING/ ZINE AND EXHIBITION

**Terrace NO, 43 Thomas St,
Manchester M4 1NA**

Wed 8th May, 5.30pm – 8pm

The project focuses on the playful relationship between language, material and meaning. Students have been exploring the different ways in which language has been used within conceptual and contemporary art, including language as instruction, concrete poetry and interventional text installations. Resources have included a visit to the zine and artist book collection at Special Collections, workshops into writing and instruction and screenprinting sessions at Hot Bed Press in Salford. The students have been working in groups to produce a collection of zine's, each zine is different from the next but explores language, art and contemporary life. These zines are experimental in their format and encompass sound and performance aspects which will be investigated further at the launch of the zines.

17

DRAGON'S DEN

**Soup Kitchen 31 – 33 Spear St,
Manchester M1 1DF**

**Thurs 9th May, 6pm – late
Thurs 9th May – Sun 9th June
12pm – 1am**

Students have worked on selected concepts and ideas to present to an industry panel of experts. Working in cross-disciplinary groups, participants created proposals according to their strengths and specific interests, with the aim of learning from each other's knowledge of their own disciplines. Through the process they were also able to learn how to pitch; which is a skill of value to students from all backgrounds as well as for future employability.

Following the pitch to an industry panel of experts, they were asked to develop their ideas in response to the feedback and create work for an exhibition at the Soup Kitchen.

18

HAPTIC

**The Lowry Hotel, 50 Dearmans
PI, Salford M3 5LH**

Sat 4th May, 7pm – 10pm

In association with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and The Lowry Arts Centre, Salford Quays.

Students have been researching the visual ability of partially sighted people, running workshops and devising projects that explore haptic experience. This has resulted in a range of disciplinary responses that have emerged from an understanding of the different needs, abilities and interests of those who engaged in the project.

19

FUTURE INTELLIGENCE

Benzie Building, Manchester School of Art, Cavendish Street, Manchester, M15 6BR

Thurs 9th May, 1pm – 6pm

This is a project about forecasting future design. It asks you to explore how changes in the world around us will affect what consumers will be responding to over the coming years.

Participants explore design research methods to develop a trend resource that provides inspirational information to other designers or people working in the creative industries.

20

MIF FESTIVAL HUB

Arch 7, Standard Practice Workshop, Temperance Street, Manchester M12 6HR

**Wed 8th May, 5pm – 9pm
Thurs 9th May, 10am – 5pm**

Creating concepts and furniture designs for two interior spaces – one corporate and one public. The students have been invited to explore the user experience of social and communal areas, to create concepts akin to theatre spaces.

Bringing together expertise from different disciplines to think about the interactivity of the public space and the theatre of food.

A strand within this will be to design and re-skinning/ re-covering element of the existing plywood seats for the two rooftop spaces.

WHAT IS YOUR STANCE?

Tate Exchange, Tate Liverpool

**Mon 6th – Sun 12th May,
10am – 5.30pm**

Workshops Tues 7th – Sat 11th at 2pm

What is Your Stance? is an open social space with workshops and drop-in activities. The project engages with artworks on display at Tate Liverpool and asks: How can art inspire change in our everyday lives? And how can art help understand who we are?

Drop in to the space and play, 'Find Your Stance', a game designed to spark conversations and personal reflection. What is important to you? What would you like to change? Share your ideas and become part of this evolving social map.

X FESTIVAL HUB

Benzie Building, Manchester School of Art, Cavendish Street, Manchester, M15 6BR

**Launch Event Tues 7th, 2pm – 4pm
Tues 7th – Fri 10th May, 10am – 5pm**

The X Festival Hub is a central information point based in Manchester School of Art's heart, the Benzie Building.

Visit us here to find out more information about the range of events being held as part of the festival. We will be holding daily walking tours that will begin at the hub so feel free to come down and join a group.



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We would like to thank all staff, students and collaborators for being a part of this year's celebration of multi-disciplinary art and design during Manchester School of Art's Festival X 2019.

To find out more, visit
www.art.mmu.ac.uk/unitx/festival2019

