

Manifest Arts at The Manchester Contemporary – Press Release
7/09/2016

This September, creative organisation, Manifest Arts, will be exhibiting at The Manchester Contemporary. The only art fair outside of London to bring together the largest selection of exhibitors of critically engaged contemporary art from across the UK.

This will be Manifest Arts' first participation in The Manchester Contemporary and a chance to showcase the organisation's recent projects and biannual festival. Manifest Arts has also chosen to show the work of two artists producing critically engaging artwork in the North West today.

Helen Wheeler is a Manchester-based Fine Artist with a MA with Distinction for Fine Art from The Manchester School of Art 2014 and a string of awards including the **2013 NADFAS North West Bursary Award for Fine Art** and the **Leonard James Little Award**. She has a strongly developed practice of drawing and sculpture, which also encompasses elements of photography and painting. Themes of apocalypse, the sublime, health and entropy run through her work.

On being selected to exhibit with Manifest Arts at The Manchester Contemporary she said: *"I am so pleased to be exhibiting with Manifest Arts at the Manchester Contemporary Exhibition; this is a really amazing and valuable opportunity. Thank you to everyone at Manifest for including me in this year's selection."*

Also exhibiting is Manchester-based Fine Art Photographer, **Lucy Ridges**. With an MA in Photography from The Manchester School of Art in 2011, Ridges has exhibited extensively across the UK and internationally. She creates work via the medium of photography and mixed media with inspiration taken from the surrealist movement. Her interests lie in the physical processes of photography, and of creating experimental work fuelled by the fascination of manipulating a medium designed for the representation of reality. She recently completed the **Nes Artist Residency, Skagastrond in Iceland**.

Manifest Arts is an artist-led organisation promoting contemporary artists in the North West of England. It runs a biannual festival in July and produces a podcast series highlighting local artists and arts organisations. It aims to bring awareness of the vibrant arts community to a broader audience.

Commenting on why Manifest Arts has decided to exhibit, co-director, Elisa Artesero said: *"Exhibiting at The Manchester Contemporary, alongside similar organisations and galleries from across the UK gives us the platform to inform the public about what we do as an organisation and to showcase the work of two artists we feel are producing exciting visual artwork in the region."*

The Manchester Contemporary runs from 22nd -25th September 2016 at Old Granada Studios.

Notes to Editors:

About Manifest Arts:

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About Manifest Arts Festival:

Manifest Arts Festival is a biannual visual arts festival, showcasing the talent of North West based artists in a series of exhibitions and events across Manchester and Salford.

2015 was the pilot year of the festival, which ran during the second weekend of the busy Manchester International Festival period in order to give visitors a flavour of the creative activity going on across the two cities all year round.

Exhibitions and events in the Manifest programme were held at some of Manchester's most prestigious institutions, such as **Manchester Craft and Design Centre**, **John Ryland's Library**, and the newly opened **HOME**. Artist studios across both cities were coordinated for the first time to have **open studios** during the festival weekend to give a closer look at the scope of art being created across the city.

Manifest Arts Festival will be held again in July 2017.

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Website: www.manifestartsfestival.co.uk

Podcast Soundcloud page: <https://soundcloud.com/user-21551342>

iTunes and Stitcher Platforms: Manifest Arts Podcasts

Twitter: @ManifestArts

Facebook: manifestartsfestival

Helen Wheeler website: <http://cargocollective.com/helenwheeler>

Lucy Ridges website: <http://lucyridges.com/personal/>

About The Manchester Contemporary

22nd – 25th September 2016 taking place alongside Buy Art Fair, The Manchester Contemporary is an unrivalled incubator of artistic talent. Using bold curatorial judgement it offers works for sale from the most exciting, critically engaged contemporary artists and galleries, many of whom then embark on the international art fair network

Website: www.themanchestercontemporary.co.uk

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