



# Fairhurst

Gallery & Framers



*Arouse*  
/ə'raʊz/

1. evoke or awaken (a feeling, emotion, or response).
2. excite or provoke (someone) to anger or strong emotions.
3. excite (someone) sexually.
4. awaken (someone) from sleep.

The Fairhurst Gallery is proud to be supporting the second year, Fine Art BA students at Norwich University of the Arts (NUA). In February this year all the students were given the opportunity to apply for one of three positions; curator, publicist or exhibiting artist. Interim Gallery Director, Nina Fowler, worked alongside Craig Barber (Senior Lecturer: Fine Art, painting at NUA) to select curator, Sophie Banks and publicists Tessa Fox and Oliver Saunders. Sophie has conceived, planned and organised the exhibition, whilst Tessa and Oliver have carried out the design work, documentation and marketing - they will be taking over the galleries social media accounts on 8/9th May.

*Arouse* will present 8 artists whose work stimulates the senses through different visual representations.

The curator of this exhibition Sophie Banks says: "There is an ambiguity to the collection of artworks selected for this display. Each artist, though conceptual notions are different, aims to provoke the viewer, whether it's curiosity, shock, sexual excitement, anger or keeping them in the dark - what you see the first time might not be what you see the second."

Nina Fowler says: "As students artists, exhibiting work, even in it's experimental stages, is a vital part of the learning process. So too, is the experience of mounting an exhibition and all that is involved, from conception to opening the doors to the viewing public. It is our hope at The Fairhurst that by giving the students the gallery space for a week along with support and advice in the lead up to the show we can help to generate positive feedback and critical conversation about their work."

The artists included are: Clementine Brown, Rosie Green, Chloe Hawes, Charlotte Hayden, John Mallett, Emilia Symis, Saskia Van Woerkom and Iysha Walker.

Charlotte Hayden is a painter who explores the tension between the conscious and the unconscious mind. She explores the dream world which is experienced during sleep and how it is detached from physical reality. The controlled style of painting juxtaposes with the organic forms that appear in her compositions, highlighting the tensions between the conscious and unconscious.

The strength of shape and colour is the focus of Chloe Hawes' practice, testing how far objects or places can be abstracted through paint. Hawes highlights shapes using bright colours, controlling what the viewer sees within the objects she selects.

Clementine Brown considers the relationship between the conscious and the unconscious mind, this is stimulated by the artist's own vivid dreams. Her paintings are bold, humorous and inviting. Brown's work comments on the fear and scepticism of what lies in one's own subconscious. Brown comments, "It's a pleasure to create work in Norwich as there is so much acceptance and positive mind-sets, even towards work that could be considered a bit risqué. The Fairhurst Gallery is no exception. As a fresh and inviting space, it's a total delight to have work exhibited at the same venue as local artists who have provided me with so much inspiration for my practice."

Rosie Green is drawn to unconventional materials. Materials that are innocent and playful and then transforming them into something vulgar and exposed. Green creates incredibly provoking work, by putting everyday materials in a different context, becoming uncomfortable and unfamiliar.

John Mallet is a sculptor who works in bronze casting. The sculptures tend towards capturing the inherent movements within nature. From the sensuous movement of the body to the sometimes-gentle caress of the elements. His forms are fluid and full of gesture, in contrast to the medium he uses which elevates these sculptures, giving them a status of power.

With her realistic painting style, Emilia Symis shows her fascination with the relationship between the beautiful and the grotesque. In her recent works she has been experimenting with fruit and flowers that have been degraded with chemicals such as soap and paint.

Saskia Van Woerkam looks at the subject of nature, working with a variety of materials such as acrylic, oils, collage, chalk and pastels. She creates atmospheric landscapes which portray sense of rawness and vulnerability. Her vicious, bold brush strokes are highly confident for such a young painter. Passionate, captivating and emotional, these compositions are angry and provoke the audience.

Mixed media artist Iysha Walker focuses on the manipulation of the body. Captivated by the uncanny, she takes something familiar to the viewer and abstracts it until it is completely unfamiliar. Her forms are often in the medium of soft sculpture. Walker's organic forms are ambiguous, they seem erotic, yet also gruesome.

She notes, "The opportunity to be involved with a student curated exhibition in the Fairhurst Gallery is extremely exciting; having my work moved out of the studio and into the eye of a new audience will be completely refreshing. Feedback, reactions and different interpretations will help to open new ideas and keep the creative mind flowing with possibilities."

The exhibition is on at The Fairhurst Gallery from May 11<sup>th</sup> through to May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The gallery, on Bedford Street, is open Tuesday to Saturday, 9.30am to 5.30pm with additional viewings available by appointment.

For more information visit [www.fairhurstgallery.co.uk](http://www.fairhurstgallery.co.uk)

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## Sales Enquiries

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