



Fairhurst

Exhibition showcasing works produced by second year
BA Fine Art students from Norwich University of the Arts.

Saturday 6th - 13th of April 2019 at The Fairhurst Gallery



The Fairhurst Gallery is proud to be supporting the second year, BA Fine Art 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. Fairhurst Gallery Director, Dulcie Humphrey, worked alongside Craig Barber (Senior Lecturer: Fine Art, painting at NUA) to select curator, Emily Stewart and publicist Chloe Ellis. Emily has conceived, planned and organised the exhibition, whilst Chloe has carried out the design work, documentation and marketing – She will also be taking over the gallery's social media accounts on the week leading up to the exhibition opening. *ROOM* will present six artists whose work explores the human psyche; guided by juxtapositions between the real and the latent, conscious and unconscious, encapsulated in an uncanny portrayal of domesticity.

The curator of the exhibition Emily Stewart says: "The exhibiting artists will be presenting works which are situated within the realm of psychoanalytic theory. The exhibition aims to amalgamate ideas surrounding the human psyche from introspective personal reflection to deeper concerns of mentality and issues with mental health. In doing this, an importance is shifted onto the theme of the mundane and every day; using domesticity and interiors as a platform to highlight, question and challenge such ideas. The result is a juxtaposition between reality and representation, conscious and unconscious as well as the real and the surreal; contributing to an overall sense of uncanniness."

Nina Fowler, Assistant Director of the Fairhurst Gallery, says: "We are thrilled to be collaborating with NUA for the second year on this exhibition. The feedback from last year's inaugural show was incredibly positive, with each student telling us how invaluable the experience was. Whether learning how to publicise, curate or hang an exhibition in a commercial gallery space or simply learning how to best present their work for the viewing public. We aim to give these aspiring artists an opportunity to develop not only their technical skills but also offer our advice on the concepts behind their works and moving forward how they might place themselves in a contemporary art environment.

The exhibiting artists are: Hannah Boyce, Grace Farman, Louisa Milton, Ellen Pumer, Jade-Ashleigh Squires and Emily Turner.

Hannah Boyce is an artist exploring line, material, shape, texture and colour through aspects of architecture and interior design. Testing the boundaries of art and design she looks towards the Bauhaus movement for inspiration. The Bauhaus movement brought areas of Fine and Applied Art together. Hannah combines handmade interior furniture with her own printed surfaces and paintings as embellishment. The work often incorporates raw industrial materials to emphasise the theme of architecture and most importantly reflect the building blocks in both her artwork and her subject.

Exhibiting in collage, film and assemblages, Jade-Ashleigh Squires assembles uncanny imagery which reflects the human unconscious within the domestic setting. Using collected archives and found materials she documents the uncanny with an emphasis on the telephone. The assemblages aim to accentuate the sublime and the uncanny, arranged to provide the

viewer with a narrative. Jade likens this arrangement with childhood memories of organising toys “putting them in logical order and then choosing my favourites”. The variety of sources used within the collages and films juxtapose one another with intent to provoke the viewer’s unconscious as the image creates a new narrative reflected by its audience.

Grace Farman encourages the viewer to delve deep into their own psyche to learn a little more about themselves. Her work strives to bring together extreme ugliness and vibrancy to evoke something of beauty. Works thus far, have succeeded in making the viewer feel discomfort whilst they yearn to analyse them further. Developed from using purely beautiful floral imagery, to finding natural curiosities, as well as references from medical journals both modern and vintage. Using printmaking and painting techniques, Grace breaks down the dividing wall between surrealism and realism by juxtaposing elements of reality to create a world that reflects herself and all its ‘chaos’. Sources of inspiration come from everyday desires such as aesthetic appeal, seduction and impulsion; heavily influenced by the theories of Freud, the autobiographical works of Frida Kahlo, Grayson Perry, and the Kitsch movement.

Louisa Milton is a cross-media artist whose practise focuses on exploring internal ideas, feelings and experiences, calling her work self-performative. Her current projects focus on mental health, using her platform of art to bring awareness to the cause, but also use her art as self-help. Louisa uses traditional techniques such as screen printing, lino and photographic etching to contrast with the modern imagery that she uses. Louisa is interested in using domestic objects and decoration to create an installation. The use of wallpaper and upholstery allows the artist to inspire reflection on habits and behaviours while remaining appealing, using a colour palette and imagery inspired by traditional French toile, intriguing the audience and opening space for self-reflection.

Through the juxtaposition of latex, gloss and aesthetic senses Ellen Pumer explores the depth of the unconscious mind and the echoed ambience of ones personal disturbances. Representing the inanimate and animate illusion of the mind - allowing the unconscious to set stage for the conscious, seeking an emotional response within our atmospheric surroundings, the internal and external therefore becomes the contrasting influence over our identity. Using latex, gloss paint and projection, Ellen aims to contrast beauty with the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. “The skin (latex) adapts to the space of the internal and external altering the perception of ‘self’ to conform within its environment. Its texture holds the grotesque impression of the skins surface... Gloss reflects the uncontrollable manner of the thought process that leads to a chaotic mind erupting motion... A healing property is obtained through the illumination of light and the prospect of colour by a visual response and the sensory touch of the skins surface.”

Emily Turner situates her work in between architectural and artistic design, her interests lie in creating works where the participant is strongly involved, producing installations that are activated through interaction. She explores and adjusts engagements with perception and space, playfully creating environments for human inquisition through architectural interventions. For the installation *Untitled*, Emily’s aim was to produce an immersive environment that has minimalistic optical deception through the use of fragmented mirrors. The staggered layout of the structure, which has become its own set, enables the viewer to walk through the piece forcing them to partake in their own an act of reflection.

The exhibition is on at The Fairhurst Gallery from the 6th of April through to the 13th of April, 2019.

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

Private View: Friday 5th of April

Fairhurst Gallery, Websdales Court, Bedford Street, Norwich, NR2 1AR

For more information visit www.fairhurstgallery.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

About Fairhurst Gallery: Tucked away in the Norwich Lanes, once a 17th century skittle alley and formerly the Cat Trap jazz club, the Fairhurst is a unique gallery space, hosting regular exhibitions.

The Fairhurst Gallery champions contemporary fine art, bringing variety and brilliance to the city of Norwich. With a view to developing the careers of new professional artists and helping established practitioners reach new audiences, The Fairhurst repeatedly show inspirational work of the highest standards.

The Fairhurst Gallery also offers a traditional framing business as well as a bespoke restoration service, with clients including stately homes around the region, Norwich Cathedral, Norwich Castle and the Sainsbury Centre.

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