



THE ARTISTS

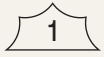


With Christmas now a distant memory, we wanted to refresh the Art Hall space to better represent the new year, and all of the energy that brings.

The renewed space hosts a 'New Art Showcase' from January to March, using contemporary artworks from up-and-coming local artists to revitalise the space, and display some of the boundless creativity to be found right on our doorstep. Curated by Mikesian Studio, the idea was to exhibit a range of artists who onlookers might not have encountered before, and bring them directly into a public space where art wasn't traditionally the focal point. In this booklet we briefly profile each artist, with links to their websites, shops, and social pages – so that you can keep in touch with the ones you're really into, and maybe get a piece to take home with you.

Brand new art, from local artists,
accessible to all.





AHMED MOHAMMED



Ahmed Mohammed has a compulsion to draw which involves a cyclical gestural drawing process. Since attending Venture Arts support studio he has discovered his artistic identity and developed a creative practice which spans textile art, printmaking, ceramics, drawing, and multimedia.

Working in a purely abstract way, in his large scale works he uses oil sticks to intuitively create expressive expanses of colour and form. In his printmaking pieces he creates bright blocks of colours that he gives titles such as Chicken Drumstick, Chicken Burger or Ice Cream and Spoon. All of his work incorporates bold and assertive mark-making in a spectrum of colours.



[venturearts.org/artists/
ahmed-mohammed-b-1992](https://venturearts.org/artists/ahmed-mohammed-b-1992)



@venturearts_







Alena Ruth is a freelance textile artist based in Manchester, specialising in rug tufting.

Originally from Blackpool, Alena's love for fibre came from being raised by her nan, who would sew clothes, knit snake-shaped draught excluders & cross-stitch tapestries with her young self.

Alena began making rugs with pneumatic tufting equipment in 2016 whilst studying at the University of Salford. The medium of rugs stood out to her as an island for play & immersion; using a cold, mechanical, gun-shaped tool to make strong, fluffy & tactile artwork. Sentimentality & soft feelings play into her chosen imagery; from long-lost loves, current mental health struggles & lingering emotions from past traumas.

 alenuthtufting.com

 [@alenuthtufting](https://www.instagram.com/alenuthtufting)






Fleur Yearsley graduated from an MFA in painting at the Slade School of Fine Art as a recipient of the Gwen John Scholarship in 2017. Her work 'To The Moon and Back' (2019), was part of the John Moore Painting Prize 2020 at the Walker Art Gallery.

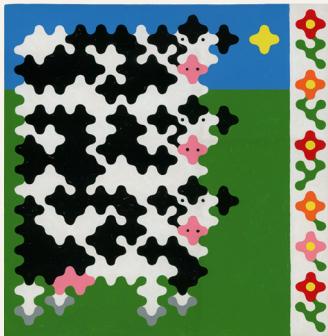
Yearsley is this year's selected artist for the Visual Arts Programme at The Edge Theatre & Arts Centre, which coincides with a solo show curated by Jez Dolan. Last year Yearsley took part in the Laura Owens Residency in Arles, France supported by the LUMA Foundation.

The artist has exhibited her work internationally including 'When The Lights Go Up' at Sapling Gallery, London, 'ONE MORE TUNE' representing Paradise Works at The Manchester Contemporary and the group show 'Desires' GNYG Gallery, Berlin.

 fleuryearsley.com

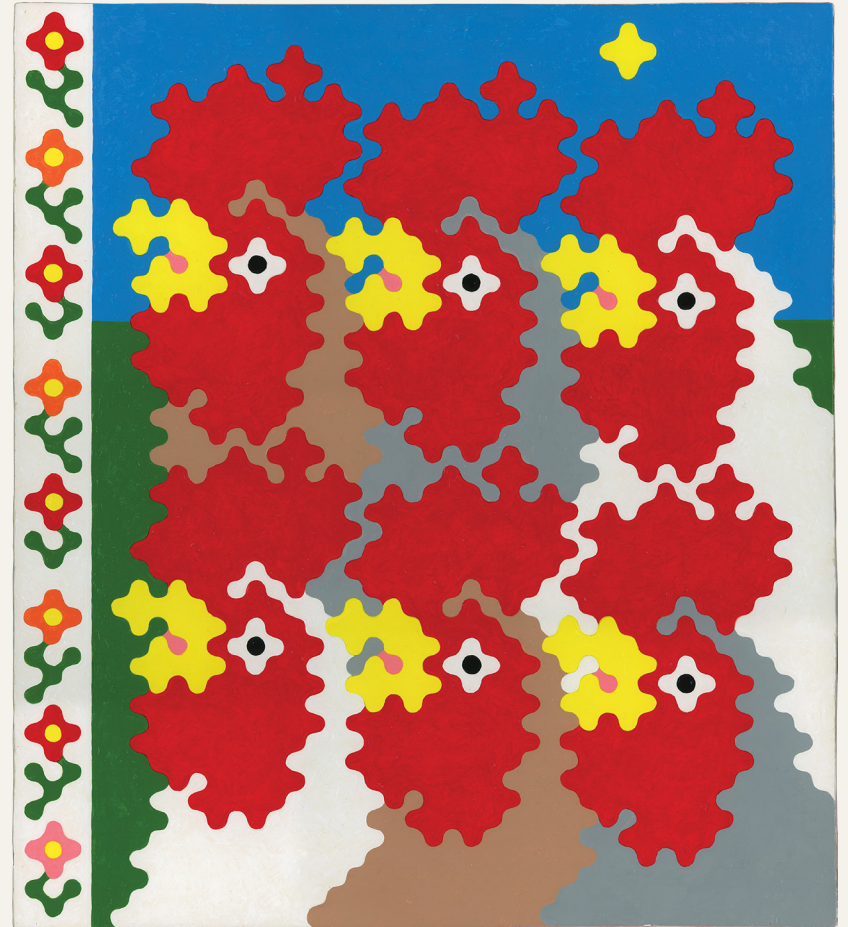
 [@fleuryearsley](https://www.instagram.com/fleuryearsley)





Joe O'Donnell is an Artist and Illustrator from Milton Keynes who has been based in Manchester for almost ten years. His work usually focuses on animals and nature depicted in his signature wobbly style that has been compared to stitching patterns and pixel art.

He works primarily with acrylic paint and wood as a way to give a slightly human touch to an otherwise rigid approach to illustration. While specialising in pet portraits, Joe has also worked on a range of other projects applying his style to editorial illustrations, book illustrations, animations, advertising campaigns, wooden sculptures and clothing.



 donnieodonnell.bigcartel.com

 [@donnie_odonnell](https://www.instagram.com/donnie_odonnell)




John Cake uses traditional and digital techniques to make multi-layered, 'wild-style-mind-map' paintings and sculptures.

Their work revels in the brutal absurdity of life in the North West, plundering the symbols and language of arbitrary power structures, playing with the leftovers, errors and redundancies. All whilst trying to deal with the many contradictions of being raised in an autistic/religious/working-class household.

Born in Birkenhead, their first cultural exposure was as a teenager in the graffiti and hip hop scene in 80s Manchester. They have exhibited world-wide, and was once one half of The Little Artists.



 john-cake.com/shop

 [@johncakeart](https://www.instagram.com/johncakeart)



Artist and designer Mariel Osborn wants to brighten up your day with her work. Her glitter tassel canopies and backdrops are made from hundred and thousands of hand tied strands with colours picked and blended to evoke different moods and feelings. The green and pink overhead streamers currently in the Art Hall are energetic and spring like.

Mariel produces a variety of pieces for commercial clients, private commissions and short term hire services. These include props for photoshoots, window dressing and sparkle backdrops and decorations for weddings and festivals.

Mariel also makes homewares too, using gummy colours and glossy finishes on curvy shelves, mirrors, coasters and artworks.

 marielosborn.co.uk

 [@marielosborn](https://www.instagram.com/marielosborn)






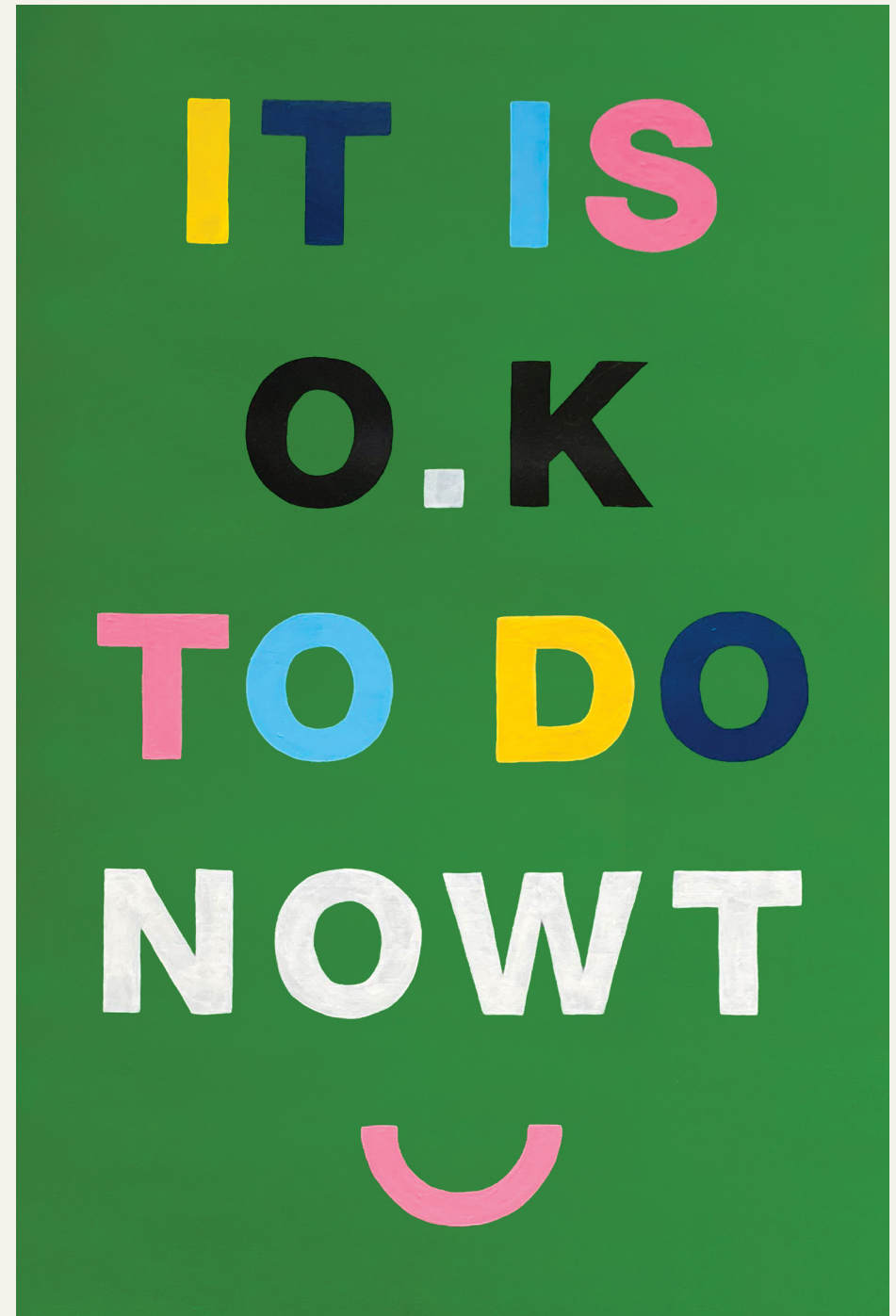
Mikesian Studio are a Design and Art duo from Manchester, made up of Mike and Sian.

Their work is a mix of powerful words, bold colour and graphic forms, with a focus on bringing bright, inclusive artwork to communal & public spaces. They have worked at all kinds of scales; from designing commemorative postage stamps, to building miniature houses for rodents, to city wide charity ad campaigns and international festival artwork. This variety of work is their favourite part of their practice – always utilising different formats, with the consistent aim of making things that change the every day experience.

Half rice, half chips, two birds, one stone. One dog, two tails, half Mike, half Sian.

 mikesianstudio.bigcartel.com

 [@mikesian.studio](https://www.instagram.com/mikesian.studio)






Tara Collette is an artist based in Manchester who works predominantly with textiles and glass.

Collette has specialised in banner making for the past six years; Early on, she addressed the exploitative relationship between post-education artists and potential employers through her work.

Today, she continues to create handmade banners; some featuring bold, provocative commentary on social issues, others which are free from tact and purely for personal amusement. Humour and absurdness is laced throughout her work, adding playfulness and irreverence wherever possible.

 taracollette.co.uk

 [@taracollette](https://www.instagram.com/taracollette)

GOOD
DAYS
DAYS
BAD



AHMED MOHAMMED
ALENA RUTH
FLEUR YEARSLEY
JOE O'DONNELL
JOHN CAKE
MARIEL OSBORN
MIKESIAN STUDIO
TARA COLLETTE



MEDIA CITY

**SEVEN
BROTHERS**
BREWING CO.

MIKESIAN

**BOX
ON
THE
DOCKS**