



Assembly Salford: Thursday 24 May 2018

Paradise Works, East Philip Street, Salford, M3 7LE

The first a-n Assembly event for 2018 will take place at Paradise Works, Salford, an artist-run studio and project space established in 2017.

Working in collaboration with artist and Paradise Works' co-director Lucy Harvey, Assembly Salford will explore how artists can maintain their presence in a rapidly developing city region.

Manchester city centre has seen the relocation or loss of no fewer than eight artists' studios since the start of 2017, and this has resulted in a growing artist-led presence in neighbouring city Salford and the surrounding areas. Relocation has resulted in new models of practice,

collaboration and dialogue for artist-led activity, replacing the support structures which previously enabled artists to work in Manchester city centre.

Part symposium, part workshop, Assembly Salford will explore the different approaches, decisions and compromises which artists might need to take to petition their place in the city. The programme also includes an Artwork Exchanges dinner and, rounding off the day in style, a totally tropical party to celebrate Paradise Works first birthday.

This is a FREE full day event. Booking is required. Lunch, dinner and refreshments are provided as part of the day.

a-n.co.uk/assembly/salford

Session 1: Models of practice

11am - 1pm | 1st Floor Gallery Space

Models of practice will explore different approaches to securing artist-led activity in a rapidly changing cityscape. A series of short fire presentations will set out ways in which artists can proactively respond to this context, identify new avenues of support, and develop long-term relationships to maintain their presence in urban areas. Speakers include: Bill Campbell, founder of **Islington Mill**, Salford; Niki Russell, Programme Coordinator at **Primary**, Nottingham; Stephen Escritt, Strategic Development Director at **S1 Artspace**, Sheffield; Charlotte Gregory, Director of **The NewBridge Project**, Newcastle upon Tyne; and Jack Fortescue, Head of Projects and Communications at **Acme**, London.

Lunch

1 - 2pm | 2nd Floor Project Space

Time for a break and some delicious homemade soup and bread on us.

Vegan and gluten free options will be available.

Session 2: The regeneration game

2 - 4pm | 1st Floor Screening Space

Artist and architect **Helen Stratford** invites you to 'push the envelope', be 'proactive' and 'bring to the table' the place for artists in the development of a city for this hands-on networking consultation workshop. Ticking off terms such as 'reimaging', 'spiral of decline', 'flagship developments' and 'formal frontage', **Regen Bingo** is a fun game for players of all ages based around the language of regeneration. **Developing Development** considers the place of artists and their 'economic viability' in the city by redefining the language used in city development for artistic use and **Productivity Portfolio Posters** will ask artists to collaborate on visioning their ideas, propositions or manifestos for a city which embraces artist-led activity.

Session 3: What do we want? (and when do we want it?)

4 - 5pm | 1st Floor Gallery Space

This round-table discussion brings together a range of different perspectives on the creative ecology of the city, with an artist, gallery director, and representatives of a funding body, educational institution and local council all sharing their views. The session will conclude with a Q&A session on what steps could be taken to address the current crisis in studio provision. Speakers include: **Hilary Jack**, artist and co-director of **Paradise Works**; Helen Wewiora, Director of **Castlefield Gallery**; Ian Tabbron, Senior Relationship Manager for **Arts Council England**; Tim Brennan Head of Department of Art, **Manchester School of Art**; Daniel Welsh, Development Manager for **Salford City Council**. Chaired by **Kerry Harker**, whose PhD research (School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, University of Leeds) considers artist-led and curatorial initiatives and cultural values in the contemporary art sector in Britain from the 1990s to the present.

Session 4: Artworld Exchanges dinner

5 - 7pm | 2nd Floor Project Space

Join **Will Marshall** for Artworld Exchanges, a dynamic networking game inviting you to take the role of an artist, gallery or funder to create, negotiate and sell your way to the top of the artworld. A cold buffet will be served to celebrate the winners, or commiserate the losers. An artists' studio bar will be open and accepting donations.

Vegan and gluten free options will be available for the buffet.

Paradise party!

7 -9pm | 2nd Floor Project Space

Assembly Salford combines with Paradise Works' for a totally tropical celebration of the group's first birthday. In the year since its inception on the Salford/Manchester border, Paradise Works has established a community of 30 artists alongside a gallery and residency programme aimed at developing opportunities for local, national and international artists. Join us for an evening of cocktails, nibbles, music and the ceremonial, although hopefully not portentous, demolition of a giant Paradise Works birthday cake. Try your luck on the Art Tombola and help drink the donations bar dry!

This is an open invitation event so no prior booking required.

For more info visit: a-n.co.uk/assembly/salford