

PART OF THE **EDIT** SERIES

# VENTURE ARTS: *NARRATIVES*

**NARRATIVES** is a vibrant and multifaceted exhibition by twelve artists involved in a recent six month residency, brought together by Venture Arts, The Lowry and Castlefield Gallery. Through a diverse collection of artworks spanning drawing, film, performance, sound and installation, the artists collectively explore personal histories, cultural heritage and shared connections.

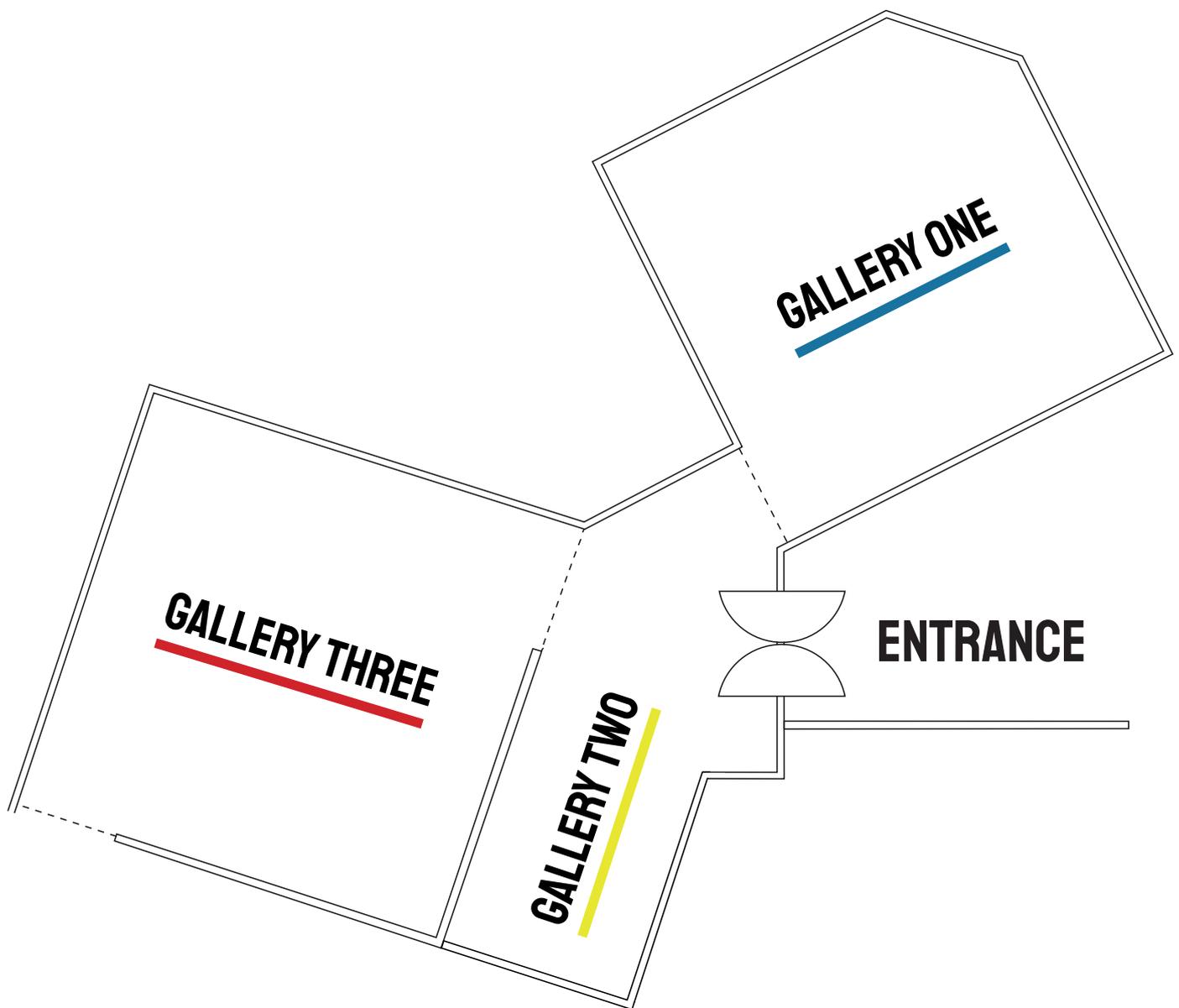
The artworks make a wide range of references, including TV specials, 1980s Moss Side, family heritage, comedy and reggae, supper clubs, and the inspiring 'patron saints' of the Narratives project: comedian Sid James, musician Sparrow Martin and performers Julee Cruise and Julie London. The exhibition is a culmination of a summer residency which took place at St Margaret's Social Club in Whalley Range. The character of the club itself - the function room, changing rooms and surrounding football pitches - deeply influenced the work of the group and has inspired the appearance of the first gallery.

Narratives is the third cycle of Venture Arts' pioneering Conversations Series, a programme of artistic projects and residencies established in 2016, aimed at creating new work in a shared exchange of art and ideas. This programme brings together a range of learning disabled and non learning disabled artists, for reciprocal learning, and to develop collaborative and creative exchanges. Through this, we aim to open up conversations and new dialogues about the role of the artist in contemporary society.

**OMID ASADI**  
**PARHAM GHALAMDAR**  
**MILLIE LOVEDAY**  
**HORACE LINDEZEY**  
**LAURA NATHAN**  
**ALICE MERIDA RICHARDS**

**JENNIE FRANKLIN**  
**JACKIE HAYNES**  
**SARAH LEE**  
**DEBORAH MAKINDE**  
**DOMINIC PILLAI**  
**LESLIE THOMPSON**

# GALLERY MAP



## GALLERY ONE

Jackie Haynes  
Millie Loveday  
Deborah Makinde  
Horace Lindezey  
Dominic Pillai  
Alice Merida Richards

## GALLERY TWO

Deborah Makinde  
Jennie Franklin  
Laura Nathan  
Sarah Lee  
Millie Loveday

## GALLERY THREE

Parham Ghalamdar  
Leslie Thompson  
Omid Asadi  
Jennie Franklin  
Millie Loveday  
Sarah Boulter

# JACKIE HAYNES

Jackie Haynes has a huge collection (over 800 pieces) of fancy dress costumes made when she ran House of Haynes, a costume hire business in Manchester between 1998 and 2012. Throughout the residency, there has been costume interaction within the group, particularly via Deborah Makinde directing and acting the artists in improvised films. Jackie began documenting the costumes in the evocative spaces of the social club (changing rooms, playing fields and function room) as performative films and photographs. She aims to continue to make the collection available to optimise its shared use, as a new, low carbon way of earning a living as an artist. As a creative manifestation of the Manchester scene between 1998 and 2012, of pop culture history and the story of the city, these clothes have the capacity to open up exciting stories of identity in the present, by using what already exists for new purposes.

In 'The Dying Fly', two rotating layers of drone footage and selected screen shots using grass as a green screen create a disorientating effect from the Narratives team, out on the football pitch in House of Haynes costumes. The 'Dying Fly' refers to a dance craze made popular on children's television programme Tiswas (c.1978). Drone footage by Tim Blackwell.

# DEBORAH MAKINDE

Deborah Makinde's Ghanaian and Nigerian heritage have been the source of her work on this residency, particularly fuelled by the death of her mother from Covid in 2020. Deborah has close familial links with the two countries and has created new national emblems, flags and banners using her own family imagery and personal pop culture.

Deborah's collaborative skills have been the driving force of the group's interaction, enlisting other artists to role play in her green screen films, to act as characters both from films and her own family. The Little Mermaid and the Beaver Bar in Ghana where she has worked have been central to Narratives.

# HORACE LINDEZEY

Horace Lindezey focused his residency by concentrating on memories of music that he loves and grew up with in 70s & 80s Moss Side, creating lists of songs and singers. Horace wished to transform non Reggae pop-songs which he loves, into new reggae classics. Horace was the main inspiration behind the Narrative group's "Julie" theme due to his devotion to many women called Julie. The group's initial "Julie Party" took place at the social club where the residency took place.

Horace and Alice Merida Richards created posters and invitations taking aesthetic inspiration from posters and flyers from 80s Moss Side parties and festivals kept in the archive at Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre.

# ALICE MERIDA RICHARDS

Alice Merida Richards is a musician based in Manchester. In collaboration with Horace, the duo rerecorded a reggae version of Julee Cruise's 'Falling' (Twin Peaks Theme).

Alice Merida is also collaborating with Narratives creative producer Sarah Boulter to prepare a fully programmed Narratives TV channel complete with adverts, interviews, artist films and documentary.

# DOMINIC PILLAI

Manchester based film maker Dominic Pillai collaborated with Horace and Alice Merida on a music video for Falling, inspired by the overwhelming style and character of the social club in which the project is being run as well as comedy, reggae and supper club influences of Horace's idols such as Sid James, Sparrow Martin and Julie London.

# LESLIE THOMPSON

Leslie Thompson uses paint, ink or ceramics to illustrate his life, his past, his family, entire film sequences and his most cherished moments, all from memory. Leslie has been working to join his two worlds of influence and working at extremes of small and large scale, combining his mother at the Arndale Market with TV characters and superheroes.

# OMID ASADI

Omid Asadi is an Iranian artist based in Manchester. His practice is multi-disciplinary and based on contrast, rooted in his practice exploring immigration. Omid has collaborated with Leslie Thompson and Jennie Franklin working on Perspex originally installed at Venture Arts between studio tables during lockdown as a preventative Covid measure. The screens can be arranged differently to change timeline, narrative and meaning.

# JENNIE FRANKLIN

Jennie Franklin illustrates and paints, using familiar TV cartoon characters and repeated phrases. Jennie often reinterprets other artists' work filtering it through her own identity and expression, creating fast paced collaborative paintings entangling the other artists' work into her own. Jennie has collaborated with all the Narratives artists during the residency, often with a call and response form of interpretation.

# PARHAM GHALAMDAR

Parham Ghalamdar is a painter operating under the shadow of digital and internet culture, relying on and expanding on histories and traditions of Western and Persian paintings. He has worked with several of the Narratives artists on performative interaction with his large mural style oil paintings, hanging these on moveable structures resembling stage backgrounds for a travelling show, transplanting people into new surroundings, different lives.

Parham draws inspiration from the past and future, nostalgia and sci-fi, and recently the Persian Baghdad Battery ceramics have provided a particularly important influence. Parham has used Artificial Intelligence engines to generate new pottery images inspired by the Baghdad Batteries, which he then uses as sources for his painting and sculpture.

# MILLIE LOVEDAY

Millie Loveday's work has grown from an ancestral discovery from 17th century Jamaica to beginning to build an underwater fantasy world inspired by this history and Afrofuturist influences. Millie's ancestral research has revealed a conflicted Jamaican heritage leading her to unearth stories through family objects, statues, relics and ornaments found in her family member's homes by using them to initiate conversation. She works with painting and has newly focused on video work using Cedric, a black baby doll from her mother's childhood setting off around the world in search of his own identity.

# SARAH BOULTER

Sarah Boulter is a curator and creative producer based at Venture Arts. She works with the hyper local, national and international artist-led sector, focussing on collaborative work, inclusivity and artist development. Sarah's own artistic practice is also focused on international and collaborative working. Sarah has prepared The Julie Channel, a TV station devoted to all things Narratives, a raw, making-of style documentary of experiments, art and connections made during the residency period.

# LAURA NATHAN

Laura Nathan and Sarah Lee recently discovered a shared family history of the Holocaust. Both had grandparents who were makers and experienced persecution due to their beliefs. They have been working closely with Manchester Jewish Museum and have been thinking about how we understand the past, how we try to reconcile the traumas of those who came before us and how making can contribute to such reconciliation.

Laura's work is a textiles and sound based installation with family letters, documents and oral history testimonies. She has incorporated her late grandmother's tapestry frame and threads within her work.

# SARAH LEE

Sarah is working on hand embroidered text and image pieces influenced by the Manchester Jewish Museum's stained glass windows and the repetition of structures within the synagogue. Sarah's work also reinterprets her grandfather's experience and woodcarvings which he made as a way to process what he had been through.