

The First Cut

Manchester City Galleries
5 Oct 2012 – 27 Jan 2013

This group of internationally important artists all take paper, that most familiar and daily of materials and transform it into something extraordinary and other-worldly. We hope this will offer another unique art encounter for our visitors.

- Dr Maria Balshaw, Director, Manchester City Galleries

Claire Brewster, Rob Ryan, Justine Smith and Susan Stockwell are among thirty international contemporary artists to be selected for the Manchester City Galleries' major group exhibition 'The First Cut.' The exhibition, which will take place over two venues (Manchester Gallery and the Gallery of Costume at Platt Hall), explores how established and emerging artists are transforming the humble scrap of paper through cutting, folding and sculpting, into powerful creations that could be destroyed with a single tear. They will exhibit alongside a diverse set of international artists including Mia Perlman, Andreas Kocks and Kara Walker.

Claire Brewster will install 'An Apocalypse of Butterflies' in the Pre-Raphaelite galleries: a lively intervention of contemporary art and natural imagery in a traditional space.

Rob Ryan is producing his largest ever single sheet paper cut as one of seven special commissions for the exhibition.

Susan Stockwell's period dresses, constructed out of antique maps, are beautifully crafted comments on the history of empire and aspiration.

Justine Smith's work uses bank notes to create images of guns and grenades in a provocative allusion to the lucrative arms trade and gun culture in modern society.

New limited edition prints by Justine Smith and Rob Ryan will be produced especially for the exhibition and these, as well as work by Claire Brewster and a selection of other artists will be available to buy at Manchester Art Gallery. Additional works by Claire Brewster, Rob Ryan, Justine Smith and Susan Stockwell are available to buy in London and online through TAG Fine Arts.

Information: For more information about the exhibition visit: www.manchestergalleries.org
For images please contact: Jenny Davies (0161 235 8864) or Rachel Fitzgerald (0161 235 8861),
Communications Managers at Manchester Art Gallery: gallerypress@manchester.gov.uk

Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL
Daily, 10am – 5pm
Thursdays 10am – 9pm

Gallery of Costume, Platt Hall
Rusholme, Manchester M14 5LL
Monday to Friday 1pm – 5pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm

Free entry

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