



# Pleasure Scene

11 June – 25 July 2021

# Pleasure Scene

Lucy Schofield  
Michelle Avison  
Neal Gruer  
Estelle Vincent  
Dan Howard-Birt  
Lara Davies  
Casper White  
Paul Dewis  
Graham Martin

11 June – 25 July 2021  
PV 11 June 2021

The inaugural exhibition at Trafalgar Avenue marks the culmination of an 18-month collaborative project bringing together nine artists from across the UK to respond to the iconic modernist ruin, St Peter's Seminary.

Acknowledging the longstanding fascination with St Peter's, the project draws from and builds upon the interest of artists, architects, and anarchists alike.

In February 2020, the group travelled to the west coast of Scotland to visit the seminary, to experience first-hand the skeletal remains of the vast concrete structure and document the significant monument in flux.

As we tentatively emerge from and begin to make sense of this surreal and unsettling chapter, the exhibition seeks to engage viewers with the seminary at a time when its own future remains uncertain, through the lens of a group of artists whose work embraces a range of approaches to image-making, from painting to print-making, photography and film.

Reflecting both a moment in time pre-COVID and the artists' personal and collective experiences over the course of the last year, the exhibition touches upon a number of intersecting themes, with temporality, isolation, and loss considered alongside the ephemeral, renewal, and the potentiality for other worlds.

The title *Pleasure Scene* borrows directly from the graffiti that adorns the seminary walls whilst referencing Rose Macaulay's seminal text *Pleasure of Ruins*.

Macaulay writes, "*New ruins are for a time dark and bare, vegetationless and creatureless; blackened and torn, they smell of fire and mortality. It will not be for long. Very soon trees will be thrusting through the empty window sockets, the rose-bay and fennel blossoming within the broken walls, the brambles tangling outside them. Very soon the ruin will be enjungled, engulfed, and the appropriate creatures will revel.*"

We are most grateful to the Hope Scott Trust for their generous support of this project.

## Lucy Schofield

Lucy Schofield is a Scottish artist based in Edinburgh. She has a BA from Edinburgh College of Art (2005), an MA in Fine Art from the CASS School of Art (2015) and is a current postgraduate student on the Design for Cultural Commons MA at CASS School of Art. In 2018 she founded 101 Henderson Row, a gallery and project space in Edinburgh's New Town.

## Michelle Avison

Michelle Avison is an English artist based in London. She has a BA in painting from the Slade School of Art (1988) and an MA in printmaking from Wimbledon College of Art (1994). She co-founded Slaughterhaus Print Studios in 2010 and is the head of the printmaking and bookbinding programme at Morley College.

## Neal Gruer

Neal Gruer is a Scottish-Ghanaian artist and writer based in Bucharest. He studied at Edinburgh University (2003-2007) and Université d'Aix-Marseille (2007-2008) and was a finalist on Sky Arts Master of Photography in 2015. Recent projects and publications include *Same Difference / Aceeasi Diferentă* and *Encumbered Drum*.

## Estelle Vincent

Estelle Vincent is a French artist based in London. She has a BA from Camberwell College of Arts (2005) and an MA from Goldsmiths (2010). She is a lecturer at University of the Arts London, Morley College, and Kingston College.

## Dan Howard-Birt

Dan Howard-Birt is an English artist based between Cornwall and London. He is the director of Kingsgate Workshops & Project Space and makes exhibitions under the monikers LIDOpjects and World Service. He has a BA from Goldsmiths (1997) and an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art (2002). He also teaches at Central Saint Martins, Camberwell College of Art, and Turps Art School.

## Lara Davies

Lara Davies is a Welsh artist based in Cardiff. She studied at Cardiff University (2006-2010) and is a current postgraduate student on the MA Painting Programme at the Royal College of Art. In 2016, together with Casper White, she co-founded LLE Gallery, an artist-led curatorial project with a focus on contemporary painting.

## Casper White

Casper White is a Welsh artist based in Cardiff. He has a BA from the Cardiff School of Art and Design (2003) and an MA from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (2011). In 2016, he co-founded LLE Gallery with Lara Davies and in 2017 he was the recipient of the BP Travel Award.

## Paul Dewis

Paul Dewis is an English artist based in London. He studied painting at the University of East London (1991-1993) and printmaking at the Slade School of Art (1994-1996) and currently teaches at Central Saint Martins and Morley College. In 2019 he won the Royal Society of Painter Printmakers prize.

## Graham Martin

Graham Martin is a Scottish artist based in London. He studied at Edinburgh College of Art (2001-2003) and Edinburgh University (2003-2007) and is a current postgraduate student on the MA Painting programme at the Royal College of Art. He is a trustee at Kingsgate Workshops and Project Space and co-founder of Trafalgar Avenue.

For inquiries please contact:  
info@trafalgaravenue.co.uk  
+ 44 (0) 20 7277 4727  
29 Trafalgar Avenue, London, SW15 6NP

TA