

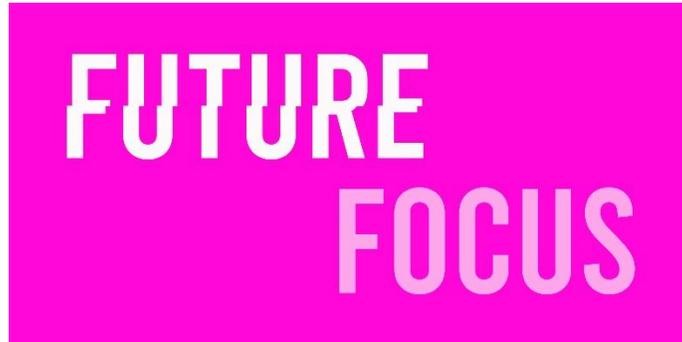


Media Release – 23rd December 2021



FUTURE FOCUS Exhibition in QUAD, Derby 29th January – 27th February 2022

Part of FORMAT International Photography Festival



A new exhibition in QUAD, called **FUTURE FOCUS**, part of FORMAT International Photography Festival and QUAD's artist support and mentoring schemes, will showcase the work of 25 emerging artists selected from an international open call in January. The **FUTURE FOCUS Open Call** was aimed at graduates from UK based BA Degree courses who graduated in 2020 and 2021 – during the Covid-19 pandemic – but were unable to exhibit their final work or who were limited in opportunities to show their work. Submissions to the Open Call featured a range of artistic disciplines, including photography, painting, illustration, graphic design, animation, performance, installation, sculpture, and moving image.

Seven of the FUTURE FOCUS artists will have their work in QUAD Gallery while work by the other 18 shortlisted artists will be displayed in a slideshow on an interactive screen situated at the Gallery entrance.

The seven artists exhibiting in QUAD Gallery cover a range of media and themes. **Armaghan Fatemi's** installation *Invisible Hands* - far from the glamorised portrayals of professional weavers circulated by the media - immerses viewers in an environment that highlights the reality for many women: poor working conditions and financial instability. **Ash//Ella's** hyperfiction, *Mechanical Dissatisfaction*, set in June 2020, is a collaboration between the artists and the viewer as you manoeuvre through the cyclical system of a digital life during a global pandemic. **Benjamin Hall's** work *Analepses* uses the medium of videogaming to explore ancestry, provincial local archives, community memory and regional oral histories. **Sarah-Jane Field's** *why is there an astronaut in a field of flowers/* is an invitation to peer into the deconstructed relationship between an artist and her AI friend, and to bear witness to their fears, hopes, opinions, disappointments and occasional flirtations. **Takudzwa Chandiwana** uses various media to create 'print-paintings' in her work *Place Moments* that reflect the constant deconstruction and reconstruction of material and form

in her practice. It is within these processes that meaning can be discovered, as the artist explores gender and cultural identity.

You Hah Kim's *Home-Master* series portrays the K-pop fandom culture through a metaphoric female body, focusing on the contradictory relationship between recognition desire and anonymity as well as voyeurism and exhibitionism.

Yuhong Wang exists simultaneously within her work *Luxurious experience in the art school* and its underlying narrative, both a search for, and a reaction to, displacement, comfort, and care. What it is to construct and make sense of positions in shifting cultural and technological matrixes.



Armaghan Fatemi *Invisible Hands*

The seven selected artists will also be eligible for QUAD Award, FORMAT Award, John E Wright print Award and the Audience Award sponsored by Unite the Union, to be presented during the exhibition period.



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The remaining 18 artists from the shortlist of 25 will have their work featured in a looping slideshow on QUAD's Resource Area Big Screen at the entrance to the main Gallery.

The artists are: **Alana Lindsay, Alexander Komenda, Anna Sturgeon, Annabelle Richmond-Wright, Ben Dawson, Callum O'Keefe, Daragh Drake, Eden Sandy, Eleanor Sykes, Jasmine Pope, Khadija Cecile Niang, Megan Watson, Miriam Levi, Radek Wyjadlowski, Risa Ueno, Rosie Dale, Sophie Holden and Tina Salvidge.**

The **FUTURE FOCUS programme** aims to offer emerging creatives an opportunity to exhibit their work in QUAD's Gallery space, alongside a range of exhibition bursaries, awards, portfolio reviews and mentoring support. QUAD and FORMAT have a long-standing history of supporting early career artists through mentoring sessions, training opportunities, work experience, internships, portfolio reviews and exhibitions. The FUTURE FOCUS programme, initiated in 2001, is a continuing focus of support.

The FUTURE FOCUS Open Call jury comprised a range of artists, writers and curators, including: Abbas Zahedi; Gabrielle de la Puente and Zarina Muhammad of The White Pube; Lucy Sollitt; Maitreyi Maheshwari; Jamila Prowse and Saziso Phiri, and QUAD/FORMAT curatorial team: Louise Fedotov-Clements; Niamh Treacy; Jodi Kwok and Peter Bonnell. The FUTURE FOCUS Open Call was organised by QUAD in partnership with FORMAT and Pictor. QUAD and FORMAT are generously supported by Arts Council England, Derby City Council and University of Derby.

FUTURE FOCUS takes places at QUAD from 29th January to 27th February 2022, with a launch event taking place on 28th January at 6:30pm. For more information on the 25 shortlisted and exhibiting artists, www.derbyquad.co.uk

Peter Bonnell, QUAD Senior Curator, said *"The shortlisted artists work offers a glimpse into the superb quality of work that continues to be produced in art schools across the UK. QUAD and FORMAT would like to thank everyone who submitted to the FUTURE FOCUS Open Call and congratulate everyone who made it to the Long and Shortlist stages. Our jury had an incredibly hard decision to make considering the high quality of emerging talent who applied."*

FORMAT is the UK's leading international contemporary festival of photography and related media. It organises a year-round programme of international commissions, open calls, residencies, conferences and collaborations in the UK and Internationally and welcomes over 200,000 visitors from all over the world to its biennale. FORMAT is organised by QUAD in partnership with the University of Derby, with support from Arts Council England. www.formatfestival.com



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Notes to Editors

More images available

FORMAT International Photography Festival was established by QUAD in 2004 and is the UK's leading festival of photography and related media. FORMAT organises a year-round programme of international commissions, open calls, residencies, conferences and collaborations in the UK and Internationally. Previous festival editions have welcomed over 100,000 visitors from all over the world. FORMAT is the place to engage with an incredible range of new work alongside some of the best archives and established practitioners in the world. With comprehensive professional practice programmes and a yearly International Photography Portfolio Review, FORMAT is focused on developing opportunities for audiences to see, debate, develop, contribute and participate in the best of what photography is and can be. The biennale edition incorporates Derby's most beautiful buildings and key landmarks including: QUAD, University of Derby, Derby Museum & Art Gallery, Deda, Derwent Valley World Heritage Sites, Market Place and satellite venues in nearby cities. FORMAT is organised by QUAD and DMARC (Digital and Material Artistic Research Centre of the University of Derby) www.formatfestival.com

QUAD is Derby's centre for art and film, a mixed arts venue based on the Market Place. QUAD is the city's cultural hub with a three-screen cinema, an art gallery showing the best in contemporary visual arts, digital workshop spaces plus an award-winning Café bar. QUAD has been at the heart of Derby's cultural scene since it opened in September in 2008 and is internationally recognised for providing quality and excellence in the Arts. QUAD delivers an exciting, innovative and diverse programme which is popular with visitors of all ages, with a reputation in Photography, digital innovation & family friendly events. The venue organises Derby Film Festival, FORMAT International Photography Festival and Summer Nights Outdoor Film Festival. QUAD is a partnership between Derby City Council and Arts Council England. QUAD is open daily from 10am, for more information please visit: www.derbyquad.co.uk . <http://twitter.com/derbyquad> **For further information please contact QUAD's Marketing & Audience Development Manager, Kathy Frain on 01332 285422 / kathyf@derbyquad.co.uk**