

# MK Gallery

## News Release

### Platform Graduate Award 2017 opens this week



Elizabeth Cahill, installation view, 2017. Image courtesy the artist.

Opening this week in MK Gallery's Project Space, *Platform 2017* comprises four solo exhibitions of exceptional work by promising graduates from three local universities. This year's graduates, Simon Harutyunyan, Christopher Daubney, Dominyka Brauskaite and Elizabeth Cahill, have been selected from the University of Northampton, University of Bedfordshire and University of Hertfordshire. One exhibitor will be nominated by MK Gallery for the *Platform Graduate Award*, for a chance of winning £2,500 and a mentoring scheme.

Devised in 2012, the *Platform Graduate Award* is an initiative to support emerging artistic talent to further their practice following graduation. Led by the CVAN South East (Contemporary Visual Arts Network South East), it is a partnership between five galleries: Aspex in Portsmouth, De La Warr

Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea, MK Gallery in Milton Keynes, Modern Art Oxford and Turner Contemporary in Margate.

Every year, each of the partner organisations selects graduates from their local university degree shows to participate in the *Platform* exhibitions and award programme, with a view to highlighting the outstanding talent of emerging visual artists. Each organisation subsequently nominates one of their exhibitors to be considered for the associated regional *Platform Graduate Award* prize, with the winning artist announced in December 2017.

The exhibition dates are:

Simon Harutyunyan, BA Photography and Video Art, University of Bedfordshire, 31 August - 4 September.

Christopher Daubney, BA Fine Art, University of Northampton, 7 - 11 September.

Dominyka Barauskaite, BA Fine Art, University of Hertfordshire, 14 - 18 September.

Elizabeth Cahill, BA Fine Art, University of Hertfordshire, 21 - 25 September.

Public previews for each exhibition will take place on the Thursday at 6pm and will include wine and refreshments. All are welcome.

To find out more visit [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org).



## Notes to Editors

### Platform Graduate Award

The Platform Graduate Award is an initiative to support emerging graduate artistic talent to further their practice following graduation. Established in 2012, the award includes a £2,500 bursary and mentoring from artist Jonathan Parsons and is awarded to an outstanding graduate from one of sixteen participating regional higher education partners. The initiative is led by CVAN South East (Contemporary Visual Arts Network South East) and is a partnership between five galleries: Aspex in Portsmouth, De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea, MK Gallery in Milton Keynes, Modern Art Oxford and Turner Contemporary in Margate. Following an exhibition and events programme across the five participating galleries, an artist from each gallery will be nominated for the award, with the winning artist announced in December 2017. Join the conversation - #Platform2017.

For more information: <http://www.cvan.org.uk/south-east>

### CVAN South East

CVAN South East (Contemporary Visual Arts Network South East) is a regional network of visual arts organisations that work collaboratively and with the wider South East visual arts sector to collectively deliver a strong visual arts offer for artists and audiences alike, developing partnerships, research projects, artists' commissions and professional development. A major element of its programme is the Platform Graduate Award that it has managed since 2012. The network is supported by Arts Council England.

<http://www.cvan.org.uk/south-east> – T: @cvansoutheast – I: @cvan\_se – FB: CVANSouthEast

### MK Gallery

Established in October 1999, MK Gallery presents free, changing exhibitions of world class art. MK Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA. [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org)

### MK Gallery Supporters

MK Gallery receives core funding from Milton Keynes Council and Arts Council England.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



## **Press Information**

For interviews, information or images please contact Aimee Holmes, Communications and Marketing Manager, MK Gallery. Tel: 01908 558302 / E: [aholmes@mkgallery.org](mailto:aholmes@mkgallery.org)

Ends / Date of issue 30 August 2017