

# MK Gallery

## News Release

### MK Calling 2017 opens this April



*MK Calling 2015* participants at the launch

This spring, MK Gallery showcases new and exciting work by over 70 emerging and established artists in *MK Calling 2017*. This exhibition will celebrate and champion the breadth of creativity in and around Milton Keynes and includes a wide range of art forms alongside a dynamic programme of events and participatory sessions.

Building on the highly popular *MK Calling* exhibitions in the summer of 2013 and 2015, this year's show will see artists utilise and transform unusual spaces within the Gallery. Provocative, humorous, sensitive and brash, the exhibition includes artists of all backgrounds; all of whom have a connection to the city, either through locality or their practice. As well as discovering the finest new talent, the Gallery is delighted to offer repeated opportunities for local artists to display work, with more than a third of the past exhibitors making a welcome return. Diverse themes and subjects will be explored through painting, drawing, sculpture, video, installation and much more. Many of the artists have chosen to respond directly to MK Gallery and its expansion plans and will present site-specific work that looks at architecture and the fabric of the building in its current form.

Over the last few months, the Gallery has been examined by architects and builders through digging, drilling and other physical interventions to test the foundations, structure and services in anticipation of its major expansion. For this exhibition, the basic access and health and safety have been temporarily restored to enable the building to be opened up for one last time before construction begins. With the exhibition designed to make the most of the makeshift quality of the

building, artists and visitors will have exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the entire ground floor, including the old workshop, loading bay, shop and other improvised areas.

The *MK Calling 2017* preview with live music, food and drinks will take place on Thursday 20 April from 6-10pm. Speeches will take place at 6.45pm. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are free but must be pre-booked online at [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org).

Speaking about the exhibition, MK Gallery's Director Anthony Spira, said: "*We're delighted to celebrate both the 50th anniversary of Milton Keynes and this exciting chapter in the Gallery's development by bringing together the diverse creative community for MK Calling 2017 and offering opportunities for all those with a connection to the city to meet, share ideas, network and participate in mentoring and workshops.*"

*MK Calling 2017* runs from 21 April to 27 May 2016. Admission is free.

## Notes to Editors

### MK Calling 2017 Participants

Abi Spendlove; Alex Evans; Alex Fullerton; Alison Goodyear; Anna Berry; Annabelle Shelton; Ashleigh Griffith; Boyd & Evans; Cally Shadbolt; Catherine Midwood; Christopher Daubney; Clive Doherty; Csaba Palotas; Debi-Sara Wilkinson; Deborah Mills; Edward Clayton; Emma Richardson; Emma Wilde; Gabrielle Radiquet; Gareth Horner; Gavin Toye; Graeme Roach; Guy Morris; Gwen and the Good Thing; Hannah Gaunt; Helen Jones; Helen Sayer; Ikran Abdille; IMPA TV; James Carney; Jessica Rost; Joe Jarvis; John Strutton; Jonny Hill; Karolina Lebek; Katie Ellen Fields; Kyle Kirkpatrick; Lauren Keeley; Lee Farmer; Leslie Deere; Liisa Clark; Luca George; Luke Harby; Malihe Zafarnejad; MAP6 Photography Collective; Marion Piper; Matt Cross; Matthew Waruszynski; Michael Flack; Morag MacInnes; Neale Marriott; Neil Higson; Nicola Saunderson; Paul Rainey; Rachel Wright; Rebecca Herbert; Richard Harrison; Saliha El Houssaini; Sarah Wright; Simon Yeomans; Sophie Atkins; Stephanie Spindler; Stephen Snoddy; Stuart Moore; Suzanna Raymond; Teakster; Thom Rees; Thomas Cuthbertson; Thomas Eke; Tom Guilmar; Tom White; William Lindley; Wright & Vandame.

### City Club

During 2017, MK Gallery is bringing together artists and arts organisations from across Milton Keynes to celebrate the city's 50th anniversary. This will take the form of specially commissioned installations and events that reflect the city's unique environment and its dynamic population across six decades. MK Gallery is undergoing a major expansion. Once work is completed, City Club will also be a permanent physical space. For now, it's a pop-up space in different parts of the city; a virtual space through its own website; and an imaginative space for the people of Milton Keynes, a spur to individual creativity. The project has received support from Arts Council England through the Ambition for Excellence programme and from MK Council and is an integral part of MK50, a year-long cultural celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the city.

### 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.



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### 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)

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