

FAYRE SHARE FAYRE, hosted by The Whitworth, features 42 artists with a connection to Greater Manchester. The artworks include objects, film, painting, print and photography where hospitality is the shared theme.

The Whitworth is our central location for A Modest Show; the official collateral event for BAS9 in Manchester. From May until September we have a programme including over 100 artists in 27 venues with 40 new commissions. Our aim is to create lasting relationships for artists, audiences and arts professionals.

The title of this exhibition combines the word 'share' - a virtue and an economic instrument, with the word 'Fayre' - a middle english spelling of fare, a term to describe food or a market. At first glance this is a disparate collection of food related art works from fish & chips to a possessed turnip, however there are clues here about desire, sharing and our libidinal relationship with food and capital. Take the works commissioned especially for A Modest Show, two seductive paintings; Fruit 2021 and Pica 2022 by Robin Megannity. Megannity makes visceral oil paintings from digital sources, he is drawn to authenticity and misdirection. Flesh-like fruit, at first glance this work may be a meticulous facsimile of a Flemish Baroque painting by Frans Snyders, and yet the composition is an awkward crop and there are out-of-place opaque marks resting uneasily on the surface. The illusion of opulence or of painting itself. Or Pica, a fetishized ice- play? Where we, visually at least, experience the inert taste and the texture of ice on the teeth and lips, and yet the title Pica references a rare psychological condition whereby the person is 'driven' to eat non-food. These works are both artificial and real, as is capital or desire perhaps?

THE MODEST SHOW will present artists as fare, let us eat Manchester's artists. In the period running up to and beyond 2022 life imitated art, an incredulous time, a time of fake truths, lampooned leaders and a polarised media elite, no satire could justify such a time, or so it felt. What good can a survey show of British artists do to alleviate this? Much, it is hoped. The curatorial vision and roster of artists selected for the Hayward British Art Show 9 would have us ponder the most pressing issues of our age. From May to September 2022, while Manchester hosts BAS9, what can this city offer? What can the artists working here give us?

What they always have... their flesh.

Eat Manchester Artists!

- curated by Nat Pitt

the Whitworth



A
MODEST
SHOW

The title for A Modest Show is based on a satire by the novelist Johnathan Swift, who in 1729 wrote A Modest Proposal, an essay which laid out a plan for the impoverished Irish to sell their children's flesh to the rich.

Fayre Share Fayre is supported by Arts Council England, Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Special thanks to Paradise Works, Rogue Studios and Islington Mill, Maria Percival, Alex Zawadzki, Poppy Bowers, Lydia McCaig, Textbook Studio.

We are also proud to support our partners Unicorn food Co-op and our recognised charity Family-Action, Food Clubs, please follow the free QR Code link to our funding page.



FAYRE SHARE FAYRE

What is eating
at the top
of the
list, then
welfare, then
clothing, then
housing, then
banking, then
painting I guess?

19TH MAY - 4TH SEPT 2022



Building stronger families

UNICORN