

# MAKE//SHIFT

Hidden Altrincham



Alan Baker | Sam Baker | Elena Brake | EllaMaisie Brame | Emma Corral  
Matt Greenwood | Joe Hancock | Kelly Sweeney | Joss Williams

**Exhibition dates:** Thursday 14th- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September

*MAKE//SHIFT* is the second of a roaming exhibition exploring the relationship between everyday objects and contemporary art, blurring the line between utility and aesthetic. Through the process of alteration and reassembly, the everyday object is transformed from something banal and elevated to the status of art.

The exhibition features 9 early-career artists from across the UK who share similarities in their creative process and modus operandi. Artists include; Matt Greenwood, Photographer for the Tate Galleries, Alan Baker, winner of the GreatArt Award at the Nottingham Castle Open 2014 and shortlisted at the GM Arts Prize 2016 and Elena Brake, first prize winner of the Corporation award at Plymouth College of Art in 2016.

In a throw-away society these artists salvage the unwanted and discarded, reconstructing them into carefully arranged works of art that surpass their previous function. Taking unpretentious materials such as **rubber, string and paper**, they combine, transform and reassemble these domestic objects in unique ways to create temporary constructs: many of which are precarious in nature.

Many of the works in the show reflects upon this by creating sculptural works that exists on the edge of the precipice. Artist such as **Alan Baker** who creates sculptural assemblages from domestic objects, delicately arrange in a manner to attract the viewer with the lure of luxury, whilst in reality these temporary structures are intended to trap and snare those that come into contact with it. These transient sculptures are captured through the medium of pencil and suspended in a permanent state which corresponds to the work of **Joss Williams** who also uses found objects to create sculptures but captures these momentary states through the medium of photography. Both of these works play with the idea of narratives; of place and time, presence and absence and fragile states of being.

**Joe Hancock** is exploring the process of creating art and is a comment on studio culture. His work in this exhibition is a conversation with a sculpture not yet made, playing on the idea of the everyday narratives and artistic trains of thought that we all share. Similar to his work, **Kelly Sweeney** has created miniature creatures called 'Misfits' from the debris collected and found in her studio. These curious creations have taken a life of their own and have escaped the confines of the studio to invade the exhibition space.

The exhibition also investigates the notion of the 'everyday', from mundane objects to the routines we do subconsciously. **Matt Greenwood's** photography series explores the often overlooked objects within our everyday environments, bringing these items to our attention once more and questioning their function as both an art piece and a domestic tool. **Elena Brake** approaches this topic from a similar view, taking elements of repetition from everyday life and exaggerating them through participation, performance and installation. Both artists aim to displace the audiences familiarity with these everyday objects in a way to provoke response and question perception.

The works within this show elevate the ordinary and reconstruct banal objects into items of luxury and intrigue. From the play on consumer culture in the work of **Emma Corrall** to the transformation of everyday objects in the work of **EllaMaisie Brame**, these artists toy with the concept of function and display. **Emma Corrall's** work aims to destabilise the relationship between tangible objects and human perception, creating images full of juxtapositions between conflicting objects, colours and function. In contrast, **EllaMaisie Brame** removes objects from their original contexts, reconstructing these inanimate items and allowing them to take on more human-like traits. Her work questions the functionality of the things around us and by removing this function, the work takes on a more curious nature; changing from everyday into the extraordinary.

All of these works explore the notion of changing, transforming and questioning the commonplace object by elevating it, changing it's function or re-contextualising it's purpose in the everyday environment. This is clearly presented within the work of **Sam Baker** whose work experiments, dissects and reinvents the real world to create forms that push, question and play with the potential of a material. By reinvigorating objects with a new status, it is possible to test what a materials function is and perhaps more excitingly, transform the way in which it exists in the constructed world.

## **About**

**AIR Gallery** is part of **A4 Studios CIC** led by a co-operative team of early career professionals within the field of art and curation. We operate as a community interest company with the view to celebrate and support emerging talent within the North-West of England and broaden participation in the arts on an national scale.

### **For more information please contact.**

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**More images available on request.**

The logo for AIR Gallery, featuring the word 'AIR' in a large, bold, sans-serif font above the word 'Gallery' in a smaller, regular, sans-serif font.

## **About the Artists**

**Alan Baker** is an emerging artist from Telford (Shropshire) in the West Midlands with a BA Hons Degree in Contemporary Art from the University of Huddersfield and more recently a Master degree in Fine Art from Manchester Metropolitan University.

**Sam Baker** is currently studying a MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art. Previously he graduated from Kingston University in 2014 with a first class degree in Fine Art.

**Elena Brake** graduated with a BA (Hons) Fine Art, Plymouth College of Art in 2016. She has been part of numerous group shows across the U.K and was the first prize winner of the Corporation Award at the Plymouth College of Art, received the Redrow Joshua Reynolds RSA Fellowship Award in 2016 and the Axminster Arts Award in 2011.

**Ellamaisie Brame** is an artist based in Leeds and recent graduate from the Leeds College of art. She has exhibited as part of numerous art festivals and exhibitions across the UK.

**Emma Corral** lives and works in London. She holds an MA Fine Art with distinction from Central Saint Martins (2014) and a BA Hons Painting from Camberwell College of Art (2009). She has recently exhibited as part of the International Artists Residency Program at The National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Korea from April- June 2017.

**Matt Greenwood** is currently studying BA Hons Photography at Falmouth University, Cornwall, where he is due to graduate in July 2017. His work has been exhibited throughout various galleries across the UK, including London and Falmouth. Matt has also assisted various artists across the UK, including interning as a Studio Assistant for Nadav Kander and has recently gained a job as a Photographer for Tate Galleries.

**Joe Hancock** is a graduate from Glasgow School of Art from Sculpture and Environmental Art. He has exhibited across the UK and has had two residencies at &Model in Leeds and as part of MDP and Castlefields News Art Spaces in Manchester.

**Kelly Sweeney** is a graduate from the Chelsea school of Art and has had a solo exhibition at the BSMT Gallery in 2016. She was shortlisted for the Bloomsberg New Contemporaries and was a finalist for the Hix Award in which she won second prize.

**Joss Williams** is a recent graduate from BA (Hons) Photography at Brighton University. Prior to this he completed a two year national diploma in photography at City of Bath College. He has taken part in a number of group shows in Bath, Brighton and London.