

Oxford
Road
Corridor

KEISHA THOMPSON ON A NEW ERA FOR
CONTACT IN ITS 50TH YEAR

TRAILBLAZERS! WOMEN OF GREATER
MANCHESTER

CIRCLE SQUARE A LOOK INSIDE
MANCHESTER'S NEWEST NEIGHBOURHOOD

Autumn Edition



ISSUE 1 OCT 2022

There are no lines telling you where it starts and where it ends. So let's draw them in. Two trails of coloured chalk across the tarmac. Here: from park to shops. Here: from library to hotel.

Let's make them both the beginning. This is, after all, a place where things start: life; adulthood; careers; love affairs; ideas; my own entrance into the world amongst them – on a snowy Thursday morning, April 1978.

Let's make them both the end. Things come and go, after all: dingy clubs and office blocks, bridges and grand plans – all that dust.

Two beginnings. Two ends. And everything in between lined up one after the other. Except this place doesn't like to stay still. Corridor. Correre. A run, rush, hurry part of town.

write me a line, hold your breath, walk the length of it, as far as you can go without falling off

The busiest bus route in Europe, they say. Thousands shuttling from stop to stop, forever changing their collection of strangers. Amongst them, bikes weave their own, solitary patterns along the road. And the cars. And the taxis. And the people who walk. You never step in the same corridor twice.

Corridor. Forget lines of chairs under fluorescent lights, noticeboards crammed with warnings about salt and cigarettes and unprotected sex. Forget swilling crowds of school kids. Forget carpeted non-spaces lined with closed doors. Forget the place where the shoes get left.

The thing about lines is that you can break them.

Under the bridges, everything is amplified. The slap echo of a manhole, not quite flush with the tarmac. The stink of traffic fumes. The lack of somewhere to sleep. The colour grey.

Out of line.

Cross the line.

Down the line.

End of the line.

Bottom line.

Free books. Pizza. Burrito. Noodles. Theatre ticket. Plug adaptor. Memories. Cheap veg. A place to go. Guitar string. Lamb Karahi. Family swim. Concerto. Americano.

Chameleon. Knowledge. Music. Prayer. Pre-loved jumper. Haircut. Bank loan. Fertility treatment. Contemporary art. Trees.

A line into and out of the city. A place of beginnings and middles and ends. A string of and then, and then, and then. Except nothing will stay in place. In August it sleeps; come September it's frenetic. In the early hours, the night time stragglers do-si-do with street cleaners, delivery vans, early shift workers.

There are no lines telling you where it starts and where it ends. So let's draw them in. Two trails of coloured chalk across the tarmac. Here: from hotel to library. Here: from shops to park. A beginning and an end. An end and a beginning. All this life and dust in between.

Dr Sarah Butler
Senior Lecturer Creative Writing
Manchester Metropolitan University
Instagram: sarahbutlerwriter
Twitter: SarahButler100

This piece was originally commissioned by Manchester Urban Institute (University of Manchester) and published in 2015 as part of *Stories From The Road*.

Welcome

Oxford Road Corridor stretches south from St. Peter's Square as far as Whitworth Park, extending either side to Upper Brook Street and into Hulme. Within this square mile, two of the UK's largest universities and a university NHS foundation trust work beside the city's digital, technology and life science businesses to deliver innovation for Manchester and beyond.

Around Oxford Road you can find many of Manchester's iconic venues and cultural spaces alongside the institutions that cultivate the next generation of artists and creatives.

There is a thriving nightlife with exciting new neighbourhoods which bring an abundance of cafés, restaurants and bars. Nestled between the beautiful architecture and landmarks are historic parks and contemporary green spaces.

Here is a taste of what's happening here this autumn...

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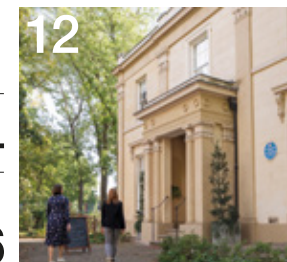


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A look inside Manchester's newest neighbourhood

CIRCLE SQUARE

Circle Square offers a mix of commercial office buildings by Bruntwood SciTech, accommodation from Vita Living and an abundance of bars and restaurants, all centred around a stunning new green space – Symphony Park.

Due to the pandemic, Circle Square didn't quite get the all-singing, all-dancing launch you would expect from such a landmark development in Manchester. Despite this, the city's newest neighbourhood quickly sold out its office space and plans to expand are already in the works. This is great news for Oxford Road and timely as the retail and food and drink offer here is ramping up with Circle Square looking like the next big thing for foodies in Manchester.



Hello Oriental



Canvas



Bird of Prey

Canvas is one of the star attractions of Circle Square and arguably the best of the various self-contained entertainment spaces opening up across the city. A fully featured day and night venue within a venue, Canvas offers several floors of entertainment across over eight thousand square feet. And as the name suggests, you'll find a strong emphasis on arts and creativity.

Hailing from London, Manchester, and the rest of the world, the movers and shakers behind the new Canvas venture have an impressive CV between them, including the Hammersmith Apollo, Shepherd's Bush Empire, Brixton Academy, G-A-Y Manchester and the Ritz Manchester, so expect top-notch entertainment tailored to the vibrant feel of Oxford Road.

First, there's Canvas Kitchen, a restaurant crafted by the same team behind the popular luxury South American restaurant Peru Perdu on Canal Street. This is a high-class affair, where you'll find globally inspired small sharing plates, ranging from tapas to oriental fusion delights. It's perfect for relaxed but classy social eating and a great place to showcase the city's forward-thinking food scene.

Then there's a spacious underground gig area, set to host the latest up-and-coming bands and club nights in the high-capacity basement space. More of an old-fashioned drinker? Take the sophisticated option and kick back in the elegant drinking lounge with some equally elegant cocktails.

Finally, there's a Member's Club for talks and discussion events. The Club is designed to attract regulars and create a community, and a busy calendar of fascinating events is already lined up, so be sure to check in on the Canvas website and social feeds for the latest info.

Manchester's latest one-stop food emporium **Hello Oriental** is an exciting new fusion destination, formed like a superhero collective from a diverse community of Asian street food specialists, bringing many businesses together in one unit so visitors will always have something new to try each time.

Over the three floors, you'll find a world of delights. There's a traditional Vietnamese restaurant serving proper sit-down meals over several courses, with many a noodle broth and savoury crepe to tempt those new to this wonderful national cuisine, which centres around complex multilayered soups with carefully blended spices and seasoning. If you're new to Vietnamese food, we suggest you dive straight in.

There's a Chinese bakery specialising in wonderful buns and pastries. A cafe serves those looking for a coffee and a sit-down, or, why not get into the wonderful world of bubble tea?

A fully featured supermarket downstairs has all the high-quality ingredients for those looking to make food at home, from spice packets and sauces to authentic noodles and hard-to-find Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese and Korean specialities.

There's also a capacious food hall with rotating mini vendors. Expect roast beef, pork, and chicken, fancy buns, pho and fries. Spice is the word, with many flavours you just won't find elsewhere.

There's also a massive range of wonderful desserts which are not only sweet, but cute. You can get ice cream in the shape of a teddy bear, and all manner of Asian confectionery delights, such as watermelon flavour Kit Kat and candy floss and milkshakes. On top of all that there are also several bars trading in both beers and spirits sourced from all over the world, establishing Hello Oriental as a must-visit venue, day or night.

Bird of Prey is a gourmet fried chicken joint aimed at chicken connoisseurs who want something with more edge and precision than the franchises everyone knows. Bird of Prey is for those who appreciate a properly fried bird.

The restaurant is the brainchild of Manchester's famous Bukhari food dynasty. Asad, Sadaf, Saify and Saj, who collectively have totted up many, many years in the street food industry, have perfected their own very special buttermilk fried chicken recipe. It's prepared the long way round for extra flavour and seasoned with a secret spice blend fused into the two layers of finely mixed batter. This is only 'fast food' in the sense of being quick to serve – your chicken will have been marinating overnight for maximum flavour, and every plate is a work of art.

On the menu, you'll find the obligatory strips, wings, and drumsticks plus themed burgers and a range of fries and dips – but look out for the signature Insanity Wings, which are extra, extra hot. And we mean 'have a glass of milk on the side' hot. Also look out for the desserts and sides, which are no afterthought, and include American-style waffles and syrup, halloumi fries, and mac 'n' cheese. The drinks menu offers a full range of loaded sweet treat milkshakes and refreshing sodas – which you're going to need after tackling the Insanity Wings.

Bird of Prey is open all day and night, serving shoppers, people on lunch breaks and people sampling the bars, pubs and clubs of the Oxford Road and Circle Square district. If you're busy or want to cater for your team, check out Bird of Prey's delivery options – no order is too large for these fearless chicken wizards.

Restaurant Reviews by
Ian Jones / @IanDJonesnet



Maggie O'Farrell



Edward Enninful



Rob Delaney

Manchester Literature Festival

Imagination, curiosity and great storytelling are part of the DNA of Manchester Literature Festival. Over the last five years, we have presented special events with some of the world's finest writers including Isabel Allende, Margaret Atwood, Kazuo Ishiguro, Jhumpa Lahiri, Arundhati Roy, Zadie Smith and Colson Whitehead. We're excited to be returning to a full programme of live events from 7-23 October and welcoming more unique storytellers to the city.

Award-winning American authors A.M. Homes and George Saunders join us to talk about their brilliant new books *The Unfolding* and *Liberation Day*; South African writer Damon Galgut discusses the personal and political change at the heart of his Booker Prize winning novel *The Promise*; Kamila Shamsie explores the pleasures and perils of friendship, power and citizenship in *Best of Friends*; Mexican writer Juan Pablo Villalobos and Brazilian writer Paulo Scott discuss the history of borders and the stories that flow across them.

Master storyteller Maggie O'Farrell transports us from Elizabethan England to Renaissance Italy; Jon McGregor

takes us on a treacherous trip to Antarctica; Natalie Haynes leads us to ancient Greece via a feminist retelling of Medusa; Ian Rankin and Jackie Kay follow Rebus around the streets and crime dens of Edinburgh; Mariana Enriquez makes a rare visit from Argentina to discuss her haunting new novel *Our Share of Night*; and Susanna Clarke and Max Porter come together to discuss the deeply immersive world of *Piranesi*.

Radio 5 presenter Nihal Arthanayake suggests how we can have more meaningful conversations; Rob Delaney talks about love, loss, grief and comedy; David Olusoga discusses his excellent work documenting Black British history; and we present special events with Ruth Jones, Sheila Hancock, Cosey Fanni Tutti, Edward Enninful and Bernardine Evaristo! We also have a feast of wonderful poetry events across the Oxford Road Corridor from Carl Phillips, Roger Robinson, Inua Ellams & Yomi Sode to our After Sylvia and More Fiya showcase events.

We hope you can join us...

Cathy Bolton & Sarah-Jane Roberts, MLF Co-Directors

See the full programme at manchestersliteraturefestival.co.uk/events

October 2022

An Evening with Ruth Jones
Friday 7, 7.30pm
HOME (Theatre)

A.M. Homes in Conversation
Saturday 8, 3pm
Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama

An Evening with Kamila Shamsie
Saturday 8, 7.30pm
Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama

Jan Carson & Louise Kennedy
Sunday 9, 2pm
Central Library

An Afternoon with Sheila Hancock
Sunday 9, 3pm
RNCM Theatre

Kit de Waal
Sunday 9, 4pm
Central Library

Paterson Joseph in Conversation
Sunday 9, 7pm
Central Library

Damon Galgut
Monday 10, 7pm
Central Library

Monica Ali
Tuesday 11, 7pm
Central Library

Inua Ellams & Yomi Sode
Tuesday 11, 7pm
Contact

An Evening with Ian Rankin
Hosted by Jackie Kay
Wednesday 12, 7.30pm
RNCM Theatre

2022 Anthony Burgess Lecture: Robert Crawford
Wednesday 12, 6.30pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Carl Phillips
Thursday 13, 7pm
John Rylands Library

Nihal Arthanayake: Let's Talk
Thursday 13, 7pm
Central Library

Little Reads Family Day
With Sarah Roberts
Saturday 15, 10.30am-12.30pm
Central Library

Little Reads Family Day
With Sarah Roberts
Saturday 15, 2.30-3.30pm
Hazel Grove Library

David Olusoga in Conversation
Saturday 15, 7pm
Martin Harris Centre for Music & Drama

Cabaret for Freedom: Anthony Joseph, Olive Senior & Young Identity
Saturday 15, 7.30pm
St John's Church, Old Trafford

Juan Pablo Villalobos & Paulo Scott
Sunday 16, 2pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Okechukwu Nzelu & Yara Rodrigues Fowler
Sunday 16, 4pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Ardal O'Hanlon in Conversation
Sunday 16, 6pm
HOME (Cinema)

Roger Robinson & Johny Pitts
Home Is Not A Place
Monday 17, 7pm
Manchester Poetry Library

Nick Hornby: Dickens & Prince
Monday 17, 7pm
Central Library

Jon McGregor
Tuesday 18, 7pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

After Sylvia
With Moniza Alvi, Romalyn Ante, Rebecca Goss, Ian Humphreys & Carola Luther
Tuesday 18, 7pm
Central Library

Manchester Multilingual City Poets
Wednesday 19, 7pm
International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Rob Delaney: A Heart that Works
Wednesday 19, 7.30pm
RNCM (Theatre)

Cosey Fanni Tutti & Jon Savage
Thursday 20, 7pm
John Rylands Library

Mariana Enriquez & Max Porter in Conversation
Thursday 20, 7pm
Central Library

creative:connection
Friday 21, 1-1.45pm
Central Library

Susanna Clarke & Max Porter in Conversation
Friday 21, 7pm
Central Library

Aaron Blecha
Aliens, Zombies & Monsters Hunt and Workshops
Saturday 22 – Friday 28 October
From 10am
Z-arts

More Fiya
With Jackie Kay, Malika Booker, Kayo Chingonyi, Jason Allen-Paisant, Rommi Smith & Keisha Thompson
Saturday 22, 7pm
Contact

Baby Bear
Sunday 23, 10.30am, 12pm & 2pm
Z-arts

Z-access Family Fun Day
Sunday 23, 11am-2pm
Z-arts

Natalie Haynes
Sunday 23, 2pm
Central Library

George Saunders in Conversation
Sunday 23, 4pm
Central Library

Edward Enninful & Bernardine Evaristo in Conversation
Sunday 23, 7pm
RNCM Theatre

November 2022

Maggie O'Farrell in Conversation
Thursday 24, 7.30pm
HOME

Keisha Thompson

ON A NEW ERA FOR CONTACT IN ITS 50TH YEAR

There are many things that I love about being a part of the Contact family. One of them is its location. A stone's throw from RNCM and Whitworth Gallery, heritage centres like Manchester Museum and the Pankhurst centre; the science park and the hospitals, and I've not even started on all the great bars, restaurants, leisure centres... it is pretty overwhelming, to be honest.

Helo © Dom Varden



© Audrey Albert



© Adrian Lambert

Prior to joining Contact as an employee, I was a student at Xaverian College, then the University of Manchester then Manchester Metropolitan University then back to the University of Manchester, so it's fair to say that Oxford Road has been a pretty big part of my life for a long time. I've spent a good chunk of my time dragging my friends to various venues and events along this wonderful traverse and it is exciting to see that over the years things have become more orchestrated and connected. I love that we are now calling this space - the Oxford Road Corridor.

For anyone who isn't aware of Contact's history, it was once a part of the University of Manchester set up in 1972. (We are proudly celebrating 50 years of existence from this summer for a whole 50 weeks but I'll speak a bit more about that later.) Today, although we operate as a more independent entity, we still have a strong relationship with both of the Manchester universities. Many students and academics come through our doors on a regular basis as audience members, participants and partners.

Our recent capital project involved the creation of a new space – Space 0 – funded by the Wellcome

Trust, which is allowing us to build on the years of work we have done with researchers and academics. We are super excited about the possibilities of this space and it speaks to what is happening along the Corridor. There is innovation in the air. With places like the Bright Building, Future Everything and SODA, the prospect of new cross-sector partnerships is truly palpable. In my new role as Artistic Director at Contact, one of my responsibilities is seeking out opportunities that will serve my organisation, the sector and this city. I am particularly keen to see how we can work together to support Manchester's aspiration to become carbon-neutral by 2038.

As a cultural centre, we are in a position to program exciting environmental works like Pigfoot – *Hot in Here*. A carbon-neutral dance party celebrating action for climate justice. Developed from interviews between young people in the UK and climate activists around the world, *Hot in Here* explores the UK's place in the global climate crisis and shares the action young people are taking around the world to prevent it. The show is powered by the first energy-harvesting dancefloor in live theatre, converting the energy

of the performers' bodies into electricity. Made by Pigfoot, a multi-award-winning theatre company telling stories about the climate crisis, with the least carbon impact possible.

Our upcoming autumn season is a huge invitation for people to come in and find something that serves them. There is something for everyone. We've got comedy, theatre, music, live art, exhibitions and spoken word. There's silly stuff, political stuff, I'm-not-really-sure-what-this-is stuff. And to top it off, we have GRUB and House of Habesha running our bar and kitchen this season.

I'm proud to say that despite coming in during the summer, I've managed to slot myself into the program too. With not one but two projects: *Halo* and *14%*. In collaboration with Contact Young Company and assistant director, Al Conteh, I will be devising *Halo*, a show inspired by the Halo Code; a campaign fighting for the protection and celebration of Black hair and hairstyles. It is going to be a raucous and musical embodiment of

people's hair journeys and experiences. The show will be presented on 24-26th October.

My other project for

this season is *14%: Offside*. In association with the National Football Museum, I am developing a full production that will be presented next year alongside the Women's World Cup 2023. As a part of the script development, I am hosting a series of talks with key speakers from the industry to discuss topics such as women's football, racism in football, and LGBTQ+ representation alongside screenings of the FIFA world cup matches in Space 1. Many people, myself included, are keen supporters of football but struggle to find spaces where we can feel comfortable watching the match. We will be showing matches throughout the day in Space 0 and Space 1 from 21st-26th November. Bring your nan, your neighbour, your nibblings and your pet newt.

Once you're in through the door, you'll be able to find out more about all the juicy activities we've got planned to celebrate 50 years of Contact. Our doors are open to all. I am all about social mixing and community cohesion.

Keisha Thompson
Artistic Director/CEO
Contact

**‘Our doors are open to all.
I am all about social mixing
and community cohesion.’**

TRAILBLAZERS! WOMEN OF GREATER MANCHESTER

by Professor Jerome de Groot
English, American Studies and Creative Writing
School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
University of Manchester

Following a long campaign, the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst, unveiled in 2018, reminded Mancunians of the important women in the city's history who have been unfairly (and wrongly) overlooked.

Pankhurst is probably the most famous of these seemingly lost figures, ignored by contemporary history and barely commemorated in the city. (If you're interested in her and her family, the Pankhurst Centre has lots for you!)

Whilst Pankhurst's name is very familiar to those who live in the city, there were others in the running to be commemorated just outside the Central Library.

Our ongoing project, *'Trailblazers!'* celebrates these important and courageous women. They include Elizabeth Gaskell, the novelist and social reformer, whose house sits just behind the MRI on Oxford Road; Margaret Ashton, suffragist and first female councillor in Manchester; Ellen Wilkinson (known as 'Red Ellen'), the first female Minister for Education; or Elizabeth Raffald, businesswoman and probable inventor of the Eccles cake...

Follow on Instagram: TrailblazingWomenGM
Find out more about the Womanchester Statue at:
womanchesterstatue.org

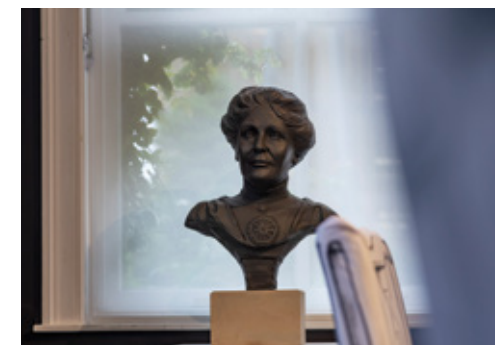
These women have rich, strange, challenging and impressive stories; they shaped the city, and were shaped by it.

I want to focus on one to give you a sense of the stories that are lost if we do not commemorate and remember them.

Louise Da-Cocodia moved to the UK from Jamaica in 1955 to become a nurse as part of the new NHS. She became very successful as a nurse, but experienced racism throughout her career.

She was motivated to antiracist work both formally and informally. She was part of the early Race Relations Board committees and sat on various key panels and boards. She helped the victims of the Moss Side riots to hospital. Her community work and her antiracist commitment was an inspiration across the city. The Louise Da-Cocodia Education Trust continues to support African and Caribbean communities.

Whilst hardly forgotten, Louise Da-Cocodia is less remembered than she should be, and her antiracist, community-focused message still resonates loudly today.



Pankhurst Centre

Emmeline Pankhurst is remembered as one of the many women who fought hard to help women gain the right to vote. Her 40-year campaign achieved success in 1928, the year of her death, when British women finally gained full equality when it came to voting in political elections.

Pankhurst was born in Manchester and she and her family lived at number 62 Nelson Street from 1898 until 1907. The first meeting of the movement

that became known as the suffragettes took place in the parlour of this house, now transformed into a museum where visitors can learn the story of women's fight for the right to vote.

The Pankhurst Centre is the only place where members of the public can visit a former home of the Pankhurst family, and is the only museum in the world dedicated to the suffragette movement.

Discover the home lives of Emmeline Pankhurst and her family and how Emmeline's experience of radical politics here led her to begin her fight for equality. Follow the timeline of women's activism in the city - from Edwardian parlour to contemporary Manchester - and discover the modern legacy of this historically significant building.

The Pankhurst Centre continues to be a hub for the fight for women's equality today. It acts as the headquarters of Manchester Women's Aid, providing confidential services to victims of domestic abuse, as well as supporting women's activism in Manchester and the local community.

The heritage centre is open to the public on Thursdays and Sundays from 11am until 4pm.

60-62 Nelson Street, M13 9WP



Elizabeth Gaskell's House

Elizabeth Gaskell lived at 84 Plymouth Grove from 1850 to 1865. Gaskell is now considered one of the UK's most important Victorian writers. She penned the very first biography of Charlotte Brontë, along with novels including *Cranford*, *North and South*, and *Wives and Daughters*.

Elizabeth Gaskell's House is a rare and beautiful example of the elegant Regency-style villas once popular here. Built between 1835 and 1841 on the

outer edge of the growing city, it is now a Grade II listed property and offers visitors a unique insight into the city that the Gaskells knew and loved.

Step inside and be transported back to the 1800s as you explore the Study, Morning Room, Drawing Room, Dining Room and Elizabeth's bedroom – all of which have been restored to how they would have looked in the 1860s. Extensive research and Elizabeth's own letters have enabled the team at the Gaskell house to present the rooms as they really were, complete with curtains and bedspreads printed from an 1850s design and carpets specially woven using Victorian patterns preserved by a mill in Halifax.

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and take a moment to enjoy Plymouth Grove's beautiful gardens – one of Elizabeth's favourite things about the property. The light and spacious basement has been converted into a charming tea room, allowing visitors to enjoy tea and cake in what used to be Elizabeth Gaskell's kitchen. Offering a wide range of refreshments, all served with traditional vintage china, the tea room is the perfect ending to a tour of Elizabeth Gaskell's House.

84 Plymouth Grove, M13 9LW

Autumn 2022

It's a busy autumn and we've only picked out a handful of the best things to do.

The Bridgewater Hall is home to The Halle and BBC Philharmonic orchestras and we don't have enough space to fit in all their excellent concerts, nor can we list each of the stellar weekly line-ups of independent and arthouse cinema at HOME or the free lunchtime concerts at RNCM. We encourage you to discover more of the cultural offer online, to follow us on socials and visit oxfordroadcorridor.com for the latest things to do around the Corridor this season.

Stage

| KIN |
|---|
| HOME 27 Sep – 1 Oct Prepare to be moved to the core by physical theatre company, Gecko. Hypnotising beauty, compelling global soundtrack, and unbarred emotion. |
| ROMA HAVERS: LOB |
| Contact 5–8 Oct <i>LOB</i> is a tennis, poetry bonanza about moving through sporting spaces as a queer body, written and performed by Roma Havers. |
| BLAK WHYTE GRAY |
| HOME 20–22 Oct This triple bill pairs the concentrated physicality of select hip-hop dance styles with the rhythmical groove of music and moves evoking Africa. |
| THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD |
| HOME 22 Oct – 5 Nov A new work by Javaad Alipoor exploring violence, digital culture and the post-colonial world. |
| CONTACT YOUNG COMPANY: HALO |
| Contact 24–26 Oct Inspired by the <i>Halo Code</i> campaign fighting for the protection and celebration of Black hair, <i>Halo</i> explores young people's experiences regarding their hair. See page 19. |
| DISNEY'S THE LION KING |
| Palace Theatre From 27 Oct Disney's award-winning musical <i>The Lion King</i> explodes with glorious colours, stunning effects and enchanting music. |

| THE CHERRY ORCHARD |
|--|
| HOME 2–19 Nov Vinay Patel reimagines Chekhov for 2022 and beyond, in a world premiere production directed by James Macdonald. |
| THE TRAUMA SHOW |
| Contact 15–16 Nov Exploring the impacts of adverse childhoods, making a show and dance out of it, mourning our little selves, 'therapise' culture and how TikTok can heal us all. |
| THERE'S A RANG-TAN IN MY BEDROOM & OTHER STORIES |
| HOME 9–23 Dec A magical mix of puppetry and music as we discover more about our animal friends and what we can do to help. |
| RNCM OPERA: DIE FLEDERMAUS |
| RNCM 10–17 Dec <i>Strauss' Die Fledermaus (The Bat)</i> is a rip-roaring comedy filled with deceit, betrayal, and champagne. Lots of champagne. |
| ROBIN HOOD: THE 80S PANTO |
| Contact 10–31 Dec A fresh twist on the traditional, combining <i>The Adventures of Robin Hood</i> and the <i>Babes in the Wood</i> with an upbeat, sing-along, 80s panto playlist. |
| BOURGEOIS & MAURICE: PLEASURE SEEKERS |
| HOME 16–17 Dec Gloriously unhinged yet bizarrely life-affirming, this brand new show is a high-energy homage to hedonism in all its filthy, fabulous glory. |

Exhibitions

| VENESSA SCOTT |
|---|
| HOME 1 Oct – 20 Nov As part of the Black History Month, this exhibition explores impact and legacy through bold paintings and vivid colour moments inspired by people and nature. |
| ALTHEA MCNISH: COLOUR IS MINE |
| The Whitworth From 21 Oct A major retrospective of influential textile designer Althea McNish, the first designer of Caribbean descent to achieve international recognition. |
| BRIGITTE JURACK: FIELDNOTES |
| HOME From 29 Oct Artist and climate activist Brigitte Jurack's largest solo show to date, bringing together works produced in the UK, Spain and India. |
| NINA CHUA & DANIEL SILVER |
| Castlefield Gallery From 30 Oct A lively and exuberant exhibition of the work of Nina Chua and Daniel Silver, part of an ongoing series of two person shows at the gallery. |
| MANCHESTER ART FAIR |
| Manchester Central 4–6 Nov A curated mix of acclaimed galleries and independent artists, blurring the boundaries between traditional and contemporary, unpretentious and uniquely Northern art-buying experience. |

Music

| NEIGHBOURHOOD FESTIVAL |
|----------------------------|
| Ritz/YES/Academy 1 Oct |
| BLACK ANGEL 25 |
| Contact 8 Oct |
| SAMPA THE GREAT |
| Gorilla 12 Oct |
| SINEAD O'BRIEN |
| Deaf Institute 12 Oct |
| MANCHESTER FOLK FESTIVAL |
| HOME/Ritz/IBF 14–15 Oct |
| GILLA BAND |
| The Ritz 20 Oct |
| WESTERMAN |
| YES 25 Oct |
| BAND OF HORSES |
| The Academy 26 Oct |
| JULIA JACKLIN |
| The Ritz 6 Nov |
| POPPY AJUDHA |
| YES 6 Nov |
| ZEAL & ANDOR |
| The Academy 9 Nov |
| MAX COOPER |
| Gorilla 11 Nov |
| SOHN |
| The Ritz 15 Nov |

| WET LEG |
|---|
| The Ritz 19 Nov |
| EZRA FURMAN |
| The Ritz 21 Nov |
| WIDOWSPEAK |
| YES 22 Nov |
| GEORGE LEWIS IN RESIDENCE: WORLD PREMIÈRE |
| RNCM 25 Nov |
| WORKING MEN'S CLUB |
| The Academy 26 Nov |
| PHEOBE GREEN |
| YES 26 Nov |
| MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE: PLACES WE KNOW |
| RNCM 2 Dec |
| DUCKWRTH |
| Gorilla 3 Dec |
| GOLD PANDA |
| YES 3 Dec |
| IDLE HOURS |
| YES 3 Dec |
| MANCHESTER CAMERATA + RNCM: BEETHOVEN, ELGAR & SMICKERSGILL |
| RNCM 9 Dec |
| PUSHA T |
| The Ritz 14 Dec |

Oxford Road Corridor



'Tom, 2022'
Oil on Wood
50cm x 40cm

Rachel Clancy
BA (Hons) Fine Art, Manchester School of Art
[@rachelclancyart](#)

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