

castlefield gallery

Castlefield Gallery is one of the country's leading artist run art galleries. We exhibit work by artists from all over the U.K, Manchester and the North West. We also undertake extensive work to make new opportunities for the employment of artists in Manchester. Through a programme of permanent commissions we hope to show how artists can make a positive contribution to our daily environment.

Other resources include:- an extensive education programme, 'Slidex' a visual library of the work of NW based artists and designers (run in conjunction with Liverpool Design Initiative on behalf of NWAB).

It is with great pleasure that we find ourselves working with the community and organisations in Hulme - Castlefield's neighbouring district. We hope that you will enjoy any contributions that we make to your environment.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with you in the future and hope to see you at the gallery itself.



GAIA

Gaia was conceived as a process for introducing local artists / craftspeople and their ideas into the redevelopment of Hulme through City Challenge. It was based upon the belief that Hulme has a rich wealth of artistic talent. The involvement of artists in the redevelopment process was seen as a way of retaining part of Hulme's unique character through redevelopment, enriching the environment and creating work for local people. The Gaia exhibition raised the hopes and aspirations of local artists and craftspeople and promoted their work.

After 2 years Gaia is now undertaking a survey of cultural activities in the area, assessing the market in the rest of the city, encompassing a broad range of art forms by creating a network, database and providing practical assistance to local artists and creating real outlets for their work.

HULME will see it's first completed public art commission by early autumn 1994. Public art is an important tool for regeneration helping to bring life, colour, warmth, character and individuality to the environment.

Public art is sculpture, murals, mosaics and fountains, but it is also more than this. Everything has been designed by someone; letter boxes, railings, steps, fences, seats, play grounds, plant containers and rubbish bins. There is also a long tradition of applying art to details. This can be seen in hundreds of older buildings around Manchester. Seating, lighting, signs, tiles - all are enlivened by the artist's eye.

Most importantly, good public art happens when the needs and ideas of a community meet with the vision of an artist. This process is a chance for the community, local artists and craftspeople to work together in creating their own environment.

Gaia Environmental Art Project and Castlefield Gallery have now been appointed by North British Housing Association to manage the commission of environmental art works at Royce Road in Hulme II. This project is supported by North West Arts Board.



Black Venus by Safem - Gaia Exhibition '92

'Signs of life'





THE COMMISSION

At the Hulme and Moss Side Pride Week, Castlefield Gallery and Gaia Environmental Art Project present artist Jane Poulton's designs for a series of small work to be included in Hulme II, Royce Road, Block 2.

Jane Poulton is an embroiderer, illustrator and painter based in Manchester. A graduate of Manchester Metropolitan University her work has received wide acclaim. Jane's work is now represented in collections including:- The Victoria and Albert Museum (20th Century Textiles), The Embroiderer's Guild and Stafford City Art Gallery.

Jane's delicate and sensitive art is often inspired by Medieval religion and science. Her feeling for detail reflects the art of early books and manuscripts. Nature, in the form of plants, birds and animals is a frequent theme. These images are intended to act as symbols for human characteristics, behaviour and emotion.

Jane was selected by local people from 6 artists at the last TA meeting. In her proposals for art in Hulme II, Jane has used elements of her existing work combined with themes, images and ideas drawn from conversations with tenants at the workshop during the 'Street Party', and from observations of the site itself. A range of these will be incorporated into the completed commission.

'From my conversations with future tenants at the last workshop, I felt that there was an overwhelming demand for images that expressed home, security, growth and greenery ...

... the sequence of small images that I intend to make for Block 2 are designed to reflect these ideas. Some will be recognisable, others more 'abstract' - hopefully these will seem intriguing and mysterious, a little like symbols or signs that can sometimes be seen in the walls of much older buildings...

... all these images will be made from blocks of 'artstone' a material which in itself will indicate timelessness and permanence."

