

RE-IMAGINE THE CITY

Jess Price

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Re-Imagine the city

Artcore invited emerging artists to apply to Re-imagine the City, a two month residency focusing on learning from the city and use of public space. The project aimed to explore the issues that shape the city.

The artists were called to work with local communities to map, reimagine and influence the places where we live and work. Moreover the residency aimed to examine the way in which we transform our surroundings to reflect the displacement of our dreams.

Through the artwork produced by artists we have investigated the meaning of contemporary 'utopia', as an element which can provoke the social imagination by resonating with the themes of hope and desire.

This residency has critically played with ideas and practices of city planning, regeneration, gentrification and 'place-making' and investigated two central themes:

Imagination – how artists in collaboration with local communities can re-imagine the city?

Action – how artists can generate projects that interrupt, activate and re-imagine the neighbourhood, using play, art and design processes in public space?

This catalogue collects two months research and production outcomes, which have been developed into Re-Imagine the city exhibition with artworks by two artists in residence Katharina Fitz and Jess Price. Engaging with ideas and possibilities which explore issues that shape the city, the exhibition aims to show layers of interpretation and reinterpretation of what it means to reimagine and influence the places where we live and work.

While examining the way in which we transform our surroundings to reflect the displacement of our dreams, the show seeks to open the political potential of contemporary 'utopia', as an element which can provoke the social imagination by resonating with the themes of hope and desire.

For Re-Imagine the City residency, Katharina Fitz has worked on a project surrounding pub culture and the issue of disappearing public houses in the UK. The works exhibited, concerned with the disappearance of the British Pub, as it functions as a social forum where different generations meet and socialise. For Katharina Fitz by losing Pubs within the cities, we lose focal points for our communities and places of unique tradition and character.

Her works in the exhibition want to create an awareness about the problems and changes that affect our coexistence within urban space in order to initiate a discussion about the future of our cities and the cohesion of society within it.

The works, such as the beer keg, appear as monuments to the utopias of modernity and to the narratives which are gradually erased from our memory. The materials she chooses are containers of information while also function as archives in and of themselves. Key concepts in Fitz's work are disappearance and repetition, including history's tendency to repeat itself, reflecting in this particular project with the disappearance of PUBS.

For Re-Imagine the City residency, Jess Price, a recent Derby University graduate, has worked on pieces committed to revealing oppressive social and political structures in the city. Price's work comments on one of today's most pressing issues: homelessness in Derby. Seeking to illuminate the role of artists in a time of crisis, the works in this exhibition explore the urgency of free speech and deconstruct dogmatic ideology while also questioning our rampant consumer society and its effect in disadvantaged areas of the city.

From the number of bricks that create the barrier, to the amount of threads hanging throughout the piece, every detail has significance. These details paint the picture of homelessness in Derby, telling us how many homeless people there are, to how many positive outcomes there are from our current support efforts.

Contribution by Olivia Punnett

There is a proverb from the Tao Te Ching, “The Heavy is the root of the light” this is explored in material form in Jess Price’s work, the materiality is both representative of subject matter in her work, as well as being an agent within it. Ubiquitous brick is re-examined; the tension of thread holds ideas together, representing statistics of loss. Housing and homelessness, matter and bodies, Price’s work explores these in sculpture and performance within her Installations.

Katharina Fitz has explored pub culture within Derby drawing on common materials of trade, from which she makes moulds and then casts. However her work pushes these forms further, playing with moulds of moulds, and casts of the moulds themselves. Objects show the marks of their creation, and a Borgesian evidence of their conception. Connecting seams in porcelain represent our own connections, and what our pubs can really hold. Elemental fragments and parts, what’s left is a delicate reflection on how fragile our traditional culture and support networks have become.

Olivia Punnett is an artist curator & lecturer. She holds an MA with Distinction in Fine Art. Punnett’s practice is diverse, encompassing a range of media including print-making, installation, film, and projection. In 2013 she was the recipient of the AHRC award for her Masters, and in 2015 was awarded the SIA commission from Sheffield Institute of Arts. Olivia is a member of The Editions publishing group, and her work is held in the British Library, The Tetley, Leeds, The Ruskin Archive and the Tate Library and Archive, Tate Britain.

Livvy tackles some quite emotionally affecting subjects with a subtlety that is quite moving. There is an evocative atmosphere to the best work that is almost poetic in its visual lyricism. Most particularly Livvy has managed to avoid expressive clichés and arrive at images that are intriguingly suggestive and at times enigmatic.’

Robert Clark, arts writer for the Guardian

CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL by Jess Price

I strongly believe a project designed to re-imagine the city should look to seek out issues connected to urban living and how we can give voice to these through artwork. For me, an issue that surrounds our city is homelessness, which is a problem most people tend to ignore. This is something I have focused on before in my sculptural practice and I would value the opportunity of taking Artcore's project as a means of developing this further now.

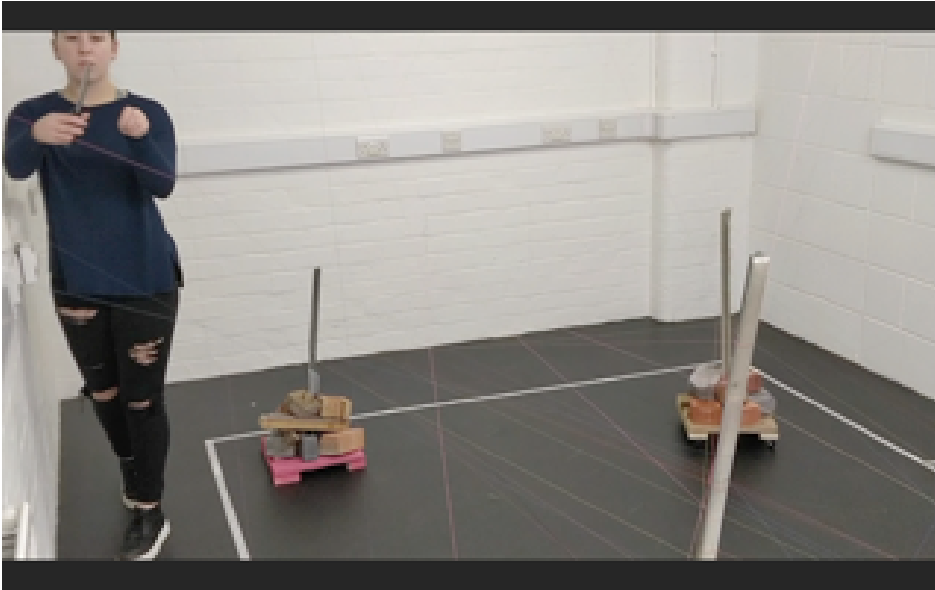
Initially, I documented how the subject of homelessness might be viewed through different sets of eyes, as some people choose to take in their surroundings whilst others have no interest. I have documented this through the use of snapshot photography, which is a way to capture a moment in someone's life as it flies by, capturing a blurred frame, freezing that moment to share it. Using snapshot photography, I managed to research further into the lives of homeless people and find out about changes in polices or situations that might have put them in the position they find themselves.

For this project I wanted to display this imagery and information in a form the public might not be used to, which might make them want to learn more about such matter. Using sculpture, I wanted to show figures that I discovered about homelessness that shocked me, in hope of raising awareness, showing how serious of a matter homelessness is.

These sculptures have been made working with basic building materials, such as bricks, as a means of drawing the viewer's attention to these fundamental elements that underpin our existence.

I aimed to highlight how we take these resources for granted, even 'non-essential.' This, I believe, is how we have grown to see different members of our society; we have chosen to overlook anyone who appears to be non-essential regardless of the potential they may have.

Conversation with Jess Price



Jess Price, Untitled, 2018 (Ph. Jess Price)

Where are you based?

I am currently based in Derby, I am just finishing my degree at the uni here at the moment.

How would you like to use this residency to develop your current research and how do you think the time spent at Artcore can benefit your process of doing?

I am reaching out to different Derby based charities to gain a better understanding of the issues that are starting to take over our city. The time and space needed to explore this information has been given to me by Artcore Where I can explore this information to best understand how I can portray it through the use of art effectively.

In the proposal, you mentioned your interest in developing a project about homelessness UK.

Why are you interested in it and how you aim to connect it with your current practice?

I am interested in it as it is such a big problem in our city, the amount of homeless people in derby is rising and its time more people started paying attention to it. My current practise focuses on materials and how we can use them to subtly portray my own views, using my understanding of materials is how I plan to show the information I am gathering.

How and when have you decided to combine photography and sculpture?

I like to use photography as a starting point. I will walk around documenting what I see, then take these photographs and use them as inspiration for my sculptures, abstracting what I see in the photographs, opening it up to different interpretation.

Where does a practice like yours find a platform for engagement with communities?

As I said before I focus on my understanding of materials in my sculptures but I am also interested in how other people see materials, my perception of an object might be completely different to someone else's, so I want to find the balance between the two and create a piece for the community.



Jess Price, Untitled, 2017 (Ph. Jess Price)

What is the most interesting or inspiring thing you have seen or been to recently, and why?

I went to a talk where the artists involved in the “document” project played their videos then spoke to us about their experiences, this opened my mind even more to art outside of uni and pushed me to get my work noticed.

What keeps you curious?

Discovering new cities, within every new city are new people and importantly new galleries, I think it’s important to travel and see new things.

Which other artists’ work do you admire, and why?

My first sculptural influence was Richard Long so he will always be one of the most influential artists I ever looked at, another artist that I admire is Ai Weiwei, he’s such an influential person as both an artist and an activist.

What do you think is the role of artists in the current society?

I think it’s important to stand for what you believe in and I think it’s especially important for artists to do so. I personally think it’s our job as artists to share our experiences as well as other peoples. I think it’s our job to connect people to their surroundings.

What are your thoughts on being an artist in Derby?

Derby is a city that needs more art, it’s amazing to see how much art and opportunities for art there are in Derby but I still want to help to bring even more to our city. I am hoping we can get more studios to Derby as that would be a brilliant next step.

How do you see Artcore, as an art institution, to support you at this stage of your career?

Artcore has given me the opportunity to continue my art straight out of uni, especially offering me the chance to showcase work on their website and creating opportunities like this, for me to be able to talk about myself and my work to a wider audience than just my peers.

CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL by Jess Price



Jess Price, CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL, 2018 (Ph. Chiara Dellerba)



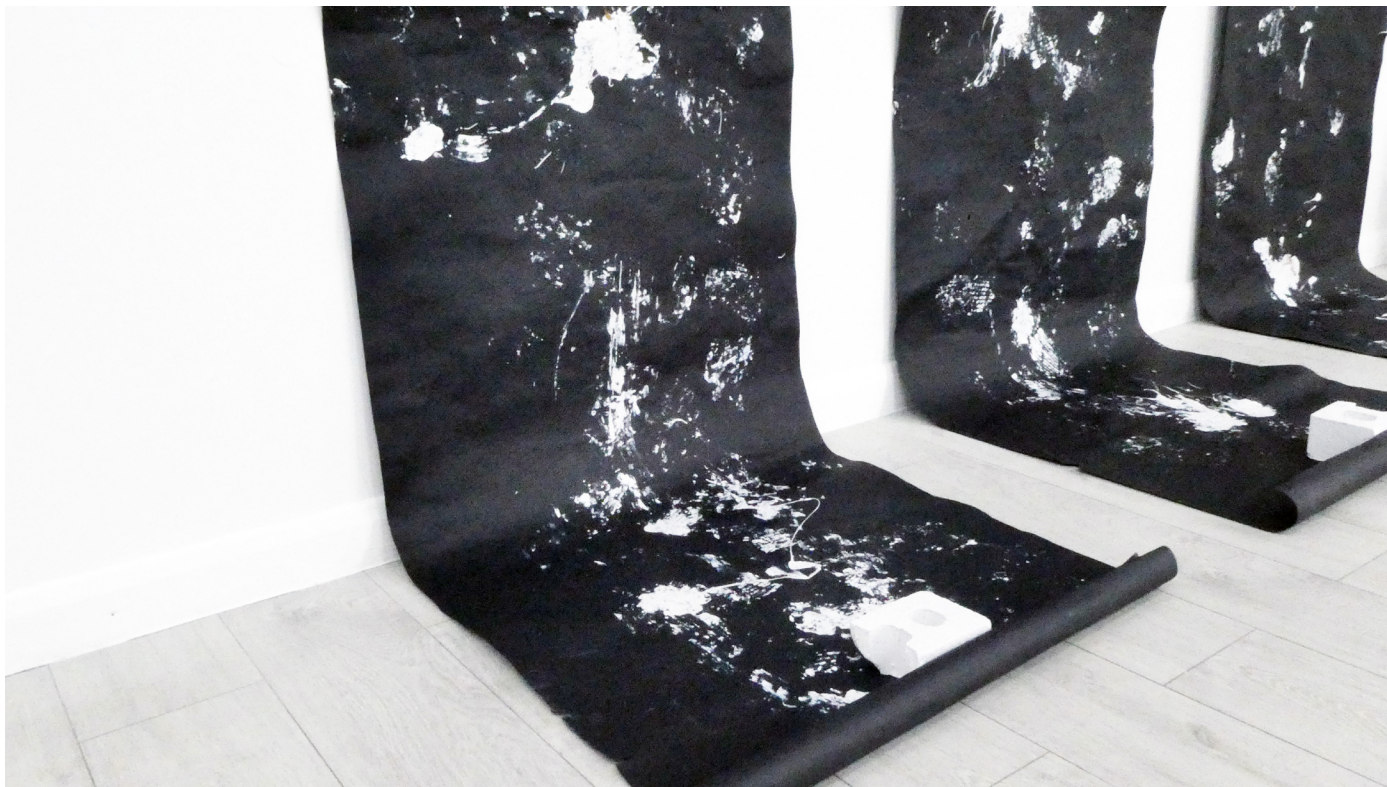
Jess Price, CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL, 2018 (Ph. Chiara Dellerba)



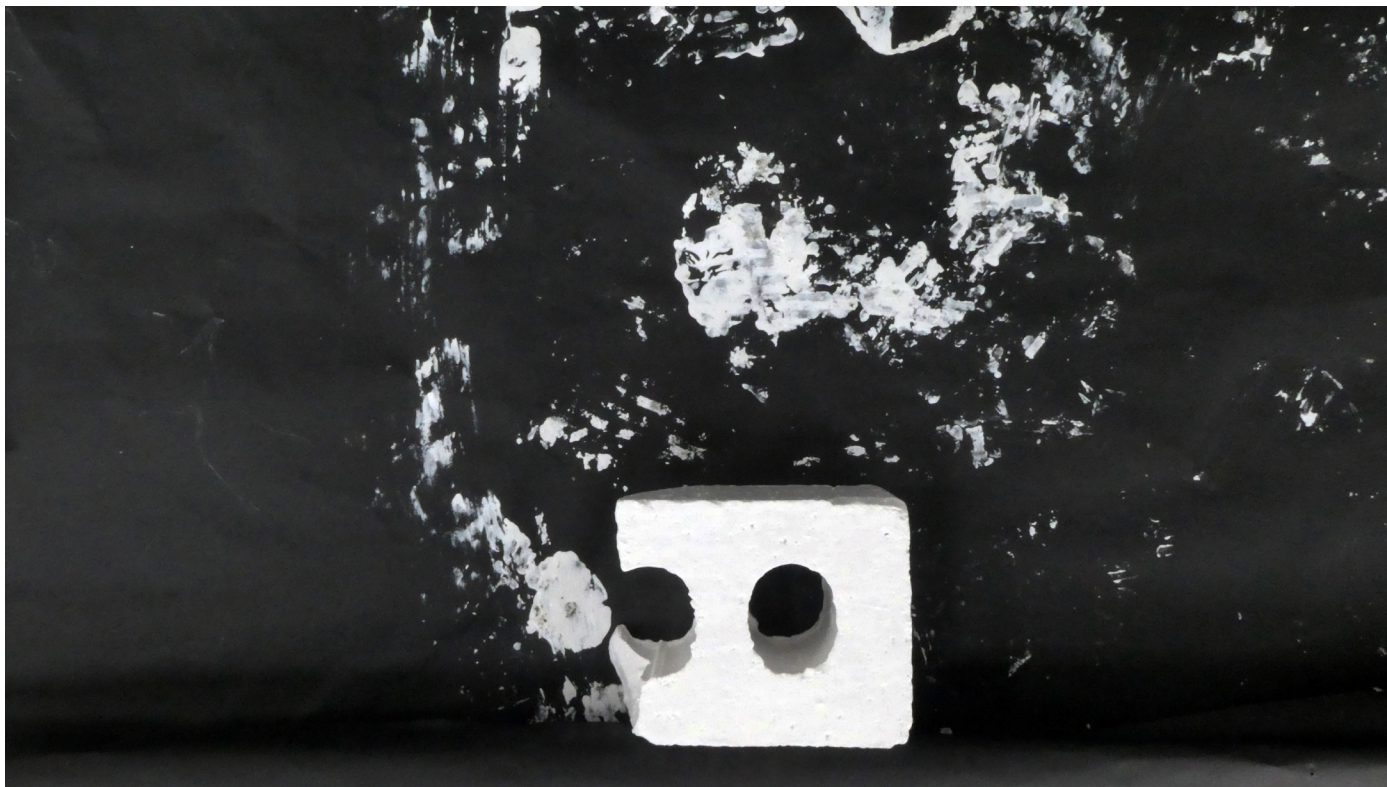
Jess Price, CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL (Installation detail), 2018 (Ph. Chiara Dellerba)



Jess Price, CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL, 2018 (Ph. Chiara Dellerba)



Jess Price, CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL (Installation detail), 2018 (Ph. Chiara Dellerba)



Jess Price, CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL (detail), 2018 (Ph. Chiara Dellerba)



Jess Price, CCCXIX-IV-XCV-XL, 2018 (Ph. Chiara Dellerba)

Artist biography

Jess Price is a Derby based artist recent Derby University graduate, whose practice gravitates towards addressing political themes more and more. She is especially interested in how politics is portrayed in art. When looking at political artists she has found their views have been shown either aggressively obvious or subtly hidden within a piece. She is finding the balance between telling the audience her ideas and keeping the piece itself open to interpretation.

One way she likes to guide her audience towards her concepts is in her use of materials. She chooses to create sculptures that combine materials that everyone can recognize as a necessity.

In her work, she aims to highlight unspoken current affairs and bring them to the attention of the general public in a format they would find more engaging than their usual news sources.

Working around these unspoken issues, she also likes to reflect on the ideas of cause and effect and how we are controlled in what we do, see and know.

Education

BA(hons) Fine Art, University of Derby. 2015-2018
Futures Award: "Get into teaching", University of Derby. 2018
Level 3 Extended Diploma Fine Art, Hereford College of Arts. 2013-2015

Group exhibitions

2018 "U+1F5A8" (upcoming event) University of Derby, Derby
2017 "Smoke and Mirrors" Riverlights, Derby.
2015 "Time" St Werburgh's Church, Derby.

Residencies

2018 Hereford College of Arts, week long visiting artist experience.
2017 Ilam National park, week long residency.