



Press Release

Free Range Emerging Art Award Winner

Published 4 July 2013

BA (Hons) Fine Art student Alex Dodgson has been crowned as one of the first winners of the new Emerging Art Award at leading student art show, [Free Range](#). He has also scooped critical acclaim by other leading galleries by being asked to exhibit his work.

Free Range is an annual showcase of British-based art and design graduates, bringing together a vast network of young graduates for a series of free exhibitions at The Old Truman Brewery on East London's Brick Lane. Over a hundred courses and more than 3000 students exhibit their work across five disciplines: fashion & textiles; design; photography & media; contemporary & fine art; interior design & architecture.

Online graduate art retailer [DegreeArt](#), contemporary art news website [FAD](#) and leading art supplies retailer [Cass Art](#) have this year established the Emerging Art Award in conjunction with Free Range.

The recipients of the award were selected from the graduate work exhibited at Free Range by a panel of industry experts: Tamsin O'Hanlon (founder and creative director of Free Range), Mark Westall (founder and creative director of FAD), Elinor Olisa (Co-Founder of DegreeArt), James Bidwell, (CEO of Cass Art), Ryan Stanier (Director of The Other Art Fair).

The judges commented: *'The Emerging Talent Award is designed to support 10 young artists in the year following their graduation. The overall standard of work has been really high, and it was a very tough final decision, all the winners should be very proud.'*

Alex's work is represented through photography and film and depicts the human body becoming the canvas, which is vigorously applied with paint of different colours and textures. Throughout his degree Alex's work reflects a comprehensive contemplation of portraiture, painting and photography which has given way to producing a canon of work outside the typical means of production.

Alex has had an overwhelmingly positive response to his work from a range of different audiences. Prior to Free Range his work featured in the New York Times and he recreated the paint throwing piece at [Leeds College of Art's End of Year Show](#) which was broadcast live on BBC Look North. He has also been contacted by Saatchi Gallery to submit an application for the New Sensations Exhibition, by Kindle Public Arts to submit a proposal to exhibit at an arts festival, and as part of his prize is entered into the [Signature Art Prize](#).

Alex said: *'I'm so excited to see my work being appreciated by an audience and by a panel of industry experts too. I hope the audience finds my work visually involving and suggestive of a*

wider understanding of the world around us. I have been experimenting with a pretty unique way of approaching the art-making process and I think that has made me stand out.'

'Winning has been the perfect way to end the student chapter in my life and has given me the confidence to know that I can achieve anything if I approach it with enthusiasm. My prize includes an amazing mentoring package and I look forward to ceasing these opportunities to develop my artistic career.'

'I want to thank all the technical and academic staff at Leeds College of Art, their knowledge and skills could not be matched by any other institution. Their input has been instrumental in my development as a young creative, and helped me refine my attitudes and understanding of the art industry and my own practice so I ultimately become a better artist'

[Find out more about BA \(Hons\) Fine Art.](#)



Editor's Notes

Leeds College of Art

Founded in 1842, Leeds College of Art is an innovative institution that has changed the way art qualifications are taught and structured in Britain today.

We combine academic and vocational excellence in all our undergraduate programmes. Our focus is to put student's talents to practical use, so their creativity is channelled towards a successful career or postgraduate study.

Our students and staff create a unique community of vibrant, ambitious and deeply creative artists and designers. We are based in Leeds, an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching and learning in addition to being a leading hub for creative and digital industries.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk