



Press Release

## Leeds Arts University launches Arts Fest 2022

### Arts Fest 2022

16 June - 14 July 2022

Arts Fest 2022 has been organised by Leeds Arts University and partners to celebrate the work of postgraduate students. The event is held from 16 June - 14 July at venues across Leeds city centre.

Organised in collaboration with festival partners including The Merrion Centre, Kirkgate Market, St John's Centre, Victoria Gate and Victoria Quarter, and with a selection of work on display at OK Comics, the event offers students the opportunity to show their work in the public domain and learn about the challenges of exhibiting works outside of conventional environments. Arts Fest 2022 offers the public a unique cultural experience, as they encounter contemporary creative work in some of the city's iconic shopping areas.

The event showcases work by students across the University's postgraduate courses and includes the winners of the Anthony Earnshaw Prize, an annual bursary awarded to postgraduate students supported by artist Patrick Hughes.

Dr Sarah Taylor, Head of Postgraduate Studies said: *"Arts Fest 2022 is a fantastic opportunity for our talented postgraduate students to showcase their creativity and collaborative abilities and exhibit their work to a wide-ranging audience. We would like to thank our partners for supporting this innovative festival and hope that visitors across the city enjoy the breadth of work on show."*

MA Curation Practices student Felicity Hoy said: *"Many artists don't get the opportunity to show work in such prominent locations. Arts Fest gives the University's postgraduate students a chance to engage with the public in a unique way by exhibiting in some of Leeds city centre's most popular shopping areas. As a curation student this has also been a brilliant opportunity for me to work on a festival while still finishing my MA"*

James Broughton, Head of Marketing at Town Centre Securities PLC, owners of the Merrion Centre said: *"We are thrilled to be able to be part of the debut Leeds Arts Fest and support LAU students in showcasing their work. Due to our prime location close to the universities and the new student accommodations surrounding the Merrion Centre we have a large student customer base and are confident our visitors will enjoy seeing the art on show as part of this exhibition."*

A representative from St. Johns said: *"We are thrilled to be collaborating with Leeds Arts University to bring the first Arts Fest to Leeds. We are looking forward to seeing the students works across the city and welcoming our customers to do the same"*

Arts Fest 2022 takes place at venues across Leeds from 16 June - 14 July, and will open with a launch event on Thursday 16 June from 4 - 5:30pm in the event space at Kirkgate Market. All are welcome. More information can be found here: [www.leeds-art.ac.uk/arts-fest-2022](http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/arts-fest-2022)

**-ENDS-**

### **Notes to editors**

For images, interviews and further information:

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Press are invited to attend the launch of Arts Fest 2022 on Thursday 16 June from 4 - 5:30pm in the event space at Kirkgate Market. For more information please contact Sophie Miller Wallace or Klara Piechocki-Brown.

Listings information:

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16 June - 14 July 2022

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*Image: Arts Fest 2022 Map, designed by Becky Long-Smith, MA Creative Practice*

### **About Leeds Arts University**

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status, making it the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

Leeds Arts University has been recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2019 and 2016, runner up in 2020), and was announced winner for Student Support in 2020. In 2021 Leeds Arts University appointed acclaimed musician Skin to the role of Chancellor.

### **About our partners**

#### **Leeds Kirkgate Market**

Leeds Kirkgate Market is an iconic part of Leeds, a real show stopper for the city with its stunning architecture, local independent businesses and vibrant street food. It is loved by locals and visitors and has been at the heart of the Leeds retail scene since 1857. The market is home to some of the most characterful traders in the city, with businesses spanning generations and representing a wide range of nationalities. It is a shopper's paradise from fresh food, drink and fashion to jewellery, flowers, hardware and haberdashery. Open six days a week the market plays host to regular events and speciality markets.

#### **Victoria Leeds**

Victoria Leeds is one of the largest, most vibrant shopping destinations in Yorkshire. Situated in the heart of Leeds, it comprises of two separate malls - Victoria Quarter and Victoria Gate. It is home to more than 80 top fashion boutiques and high-end high street favourites, including John Lewis, Harvey Nichols, Anthropologie and &OtherStories, as well as iconic, premium brands such as Mulberry, Vivienne Westwood and Louis Vuitton. The centre also houses popular

bars, cafes and restaurants including The Ivy, East59th, Issho, Harvey Nichols Fourth Floor Brasserie and Love Brownies, as well as the 24-hour Victoria Gate Casino.

### **St John's Centre**

With a great mix of retailers over two levels including fashion, gifts and food, plus its own secure car park, St Johns Centre makes shopping in Leeds easy.

### **Merrion Centre**

The Merrion Centre is located in the heart of Leeds Arena Quarter directly opposite the first direct Arena. Through the day, there's a whole host of supermarkets, health & beauty outlets, grab and go eateries and some great, unique independent operators (including the Chilli Shop - Leeds *only* shop dedicated to Chilli's and the brilliant Jumbo Records!) In addition, it's on an evening that the Merrion Centre really comes to life with a choice of top restaurants serving authentic cuisine from around the world, bars, clubs and even a 26 lane Tenpin bowling alley.