

MANTERA
PARTY WITH PURPOSE

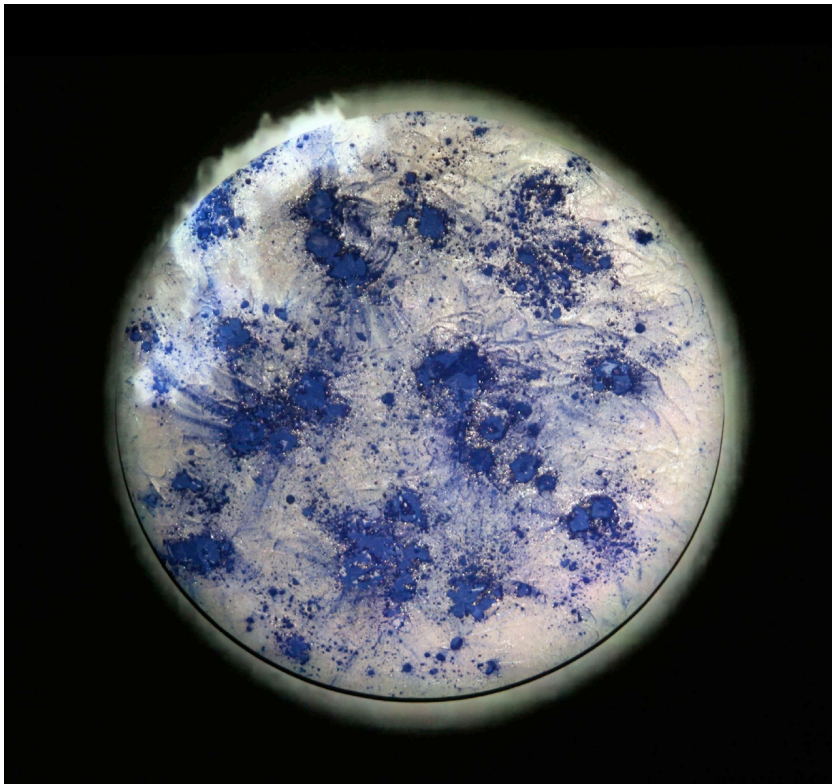
DeMi – GIANLUCA DEMICHELE

Born in Italy 1980, based in Hackney, London.

The Meditation Moons.

The circle is the feminine, the mother, the womb, a place of stillness and meditation. An exploration of transcendent potential. It is not depicting the Moon as our natural satellite, but a cycle of healing, the mind synchronised with body, an alignment that diminishes the ego. The rhythm of time dissolves into an orbit of only the present, a state of being dematerialised, a place of repose from the madness of the physical world.

DeMi is an artist, musician and songwriter performing in the UK.



GALA BELL –

Born in Croatia 1989, based in Silvertown, London

Engaging with ideas of value, taste, hierarchy and absurd labour, the work is the aftermath of a reaction to substance and situation.

Materials and actions become metonymic, swapping roles between building methods or kitchen techniques, in performances that are more life than art. In the form of deep-fried canvases or cast tower blocks of sugar, the works echo the euphoria of our synthetic environment that shapes the comedy and calamity of reality.

Bell has exhibited across London and Berlin, completing a residency at Berlin Art Institute in 2015 and recently her MA at the Royal College of Art. She is also curator of Mantra's first show at Stour Space.



SOPHIE POLYVIOU –

Born in UK 1986, based in London

Film chemicals reveal a life of their own depending on the conditions they were kept and shot in, adding another layer of information which can be read from the images. Polyviou's documentary-based work uses an analogue and time honoured process, film.

The ambiance of vernacular photography captures and communicates some of that instinctive connection between people, the moment in which you are both present.

Polyviou is also a creator/curator of the Fake Tan Salon, a series of summer-themed exhibitions designed to cure us of the winter blues. She has exhibited at the Bishopsgate Institute, featured work in the Guardian, published in the Independent, Hackney Gazette and Time Out.



CHRISTOPHER STEAD –

Born in UK 1974, based in Silvertown, London

Subversive, playful and Foucauldian in its theory, the work evades the dichotomies and polarities regimented by the hegemonic order. By utilizing stigmatized materials and colours often loaded with gender associations, ornament and fetish, he disrupts hierarchies and questions the aesthetic of pop and commodity.

Stead previously lived as a graffiti artist, painting on rail systems around Europe for over 20 years. In 2016 he graduated with a First Class BA(hons) in Fine Art at the City and Guilds of London Art School, London, where he received the Painter - Stainers Scholarship Prize and Brian Till Art History Thesis Award. He has exhibited across the UK and internationally in The Netherlands, Finland, Spain and Germany.



CAGLA ULUSOY –

Born in Turkey 1989, based in Bermondsey, London

Living within three distinct cultures, Ulusoy has experienced the history and traditions of both east and west. Her work is inspired by the clash of cultures that she embodies. Moving between digital artwork through her background as a graphic designer into the raw materiality of painting, her visual language takes fragments of information from the patterns of digital versus real matter that we experience in the periphery of our vision. Colliding onto the surface in a network of narratives, Ulusoy constructs a non –identifiable space of repeated patterns, evolving through a process of compositional change, brush marks and heavy layers of paint, until they ripen and accumulate lived experience.

Ulusoy completed her education with a Master's Degree in Visual Arts from Art School Creapole ESDI in Paris. The same year in 2013, she moved to New York where she started attending classes at the Art Student's League of New York, also completing her MA Painting in London at the Royal College of Art in 2018.



ROSA ALLISON –

Born in New Zealand 1993, based in Camberwell, London

Like dance, the work is a stage of improvisation and play, acting as an exploration of surface. The skins react to each other when they touch. At the edges there is a friction between contrasting colour and texture so that each part oscillates in space. The mediums of ceramics and wood carving also allow an intimacy between the hand and surface. The way that each part holds its own weight is often precarious. This precariousness is an expression of vulnerability of the human body. I would like to create a feeling of empathy for an inanimate object, or an anthropomorphic understanding of objects.

Allison has showcased in diverse venues across New Zealand and the UK, winning multiple awards such as the Susan Ethel Jones Fine Arts Scholarship, Lonsdale Edgar Prize in Painting and University of Canterbury Earthquake Scholarship.



NATALIA JANULA –

Born in Poland, based in Peckham, London

Liquefying, dissecting, obscuring and falling in love became a process to combine, imitate or simulate unsuited objects. Janula is Curious about the relationship between the inherent behaviours of materials, seductive surfaces, physiognomy and the obsessive fascination with man-made and natural. The dichotomy between the organic, synthetic and technological eventually express itself in rather conflicting, unsettling and humorous, dystopian relationships. Titles often enhance this very uncanny nature of the assemblages intertwined with slightly anxious choreography which is addressing realness, functionality, flesh and the coexistence of 'stuff'.

Janula graduated from the Slade School of Art in 2015. She has a background in fine art and photography, she is also currently an archivist at the Wellcome Collection, London.



SOPHIE MOLYNEUX –

Based in Brighton

Creator of BLUB, Molyneux's far-out installations use turn on a titillating experience of touch. The sensations of the squishy embrace and enchant the one who sits, rolls and sleeps in a kaleidoscope of colour.

She has worked closely with Brainchild festival, creating spaces where people can come together through play.

