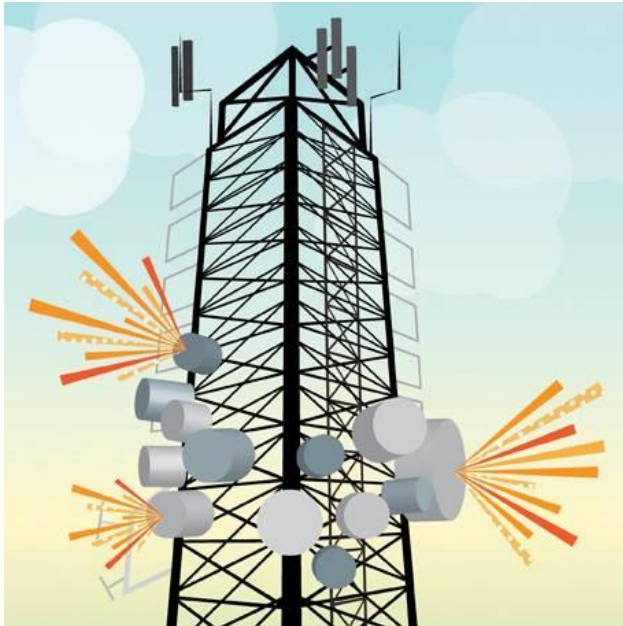


MK Gallery

News Release



Summer Exhibition

MK Calling

28 June – 8 September 2013

Admission free

Preview & Summer Party

Thursday 27 June / 6pm - 10pm

7pm Welcome speeches followed by
hog roast and live music

This summer MK Gallery presents *MK Calling* (28 June – 8 September 2013), an exhibition and season of events featuring the most exciting 100 artists, musicians and performers from Milton Keynes. It includes painting, drawing and sculpture, video, dance, music, spoken word and much, much more, from both emerging to established artists. Other events include a tattoo evening, a 26 piece guitar orchestra and numerous mentoring and professional development opportunities for local artists and audiences.

The *MK Calling* preview and MK Gallery's Summer Party with free hog roast and live jazz will take place on Thursday 27th June from 6-10pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be speeches by Anthony Spira (MK Gallery's Director), Hedley Swain (Area Director, Arts Council South East) and Peter Geary (MK Council Cabinet Member for the Arts) at 7pm. To reserve a free ticket for the preview or to find out more about the exhibition and events visit www.mkgallery.org.

Earlier this year an Open Call for Submissions resulted in 300 proposals being received from artists and creatives connected to Milton Keynes. The range and quality of work was so extraordinary that the selection process was extremely difficult. MK Gallery invited external experts to assist in this process: David Rayson, artist and Head of Painting at the Royal College of Art, London; Professor Gill Perry, Head of External Collaborations at The Open University; and Emma-Jayne Taylor, Director of Artworks MK, Milton Keynes.

Speaking about the exhibition, MK Gallery's Director Anthony Spira, said: "*We were thrilled by the response to the call out and delighted by the diversity of proposed work and events. As well as the exhibitions, performances, screenings etc this is one of many Gallery projects that provide opportunities for artists and audiences in Milton Keynes to meet, network, share ideas, and participate in workshops, training and mentoring.*"

Simon Wright, MK Gallery's Events Manager added: "We're working with an amazingly talented group of artists and performers to deliver the MK Calling Season of Events in July and August. Highlights include an evening about body art/tattooing, a UK music première featuring a 26 piece electric guitar orchestra and a cycling exhibition tour linking MK Gallery and Artworks MK, ending up in a pub! Hopefully there will be something to entertain, challenge and inspire everyone."

In addition to the exhibitions and events at MK Gallery, Artworks MK will host a presentation of nine artists from 6 July to 8 September 2013. The preview will take place on Saturday 6 July from 12–3pm, with a free social eating event organised by *MK Calling* artists Tendayi Vine and Tracey Suen. All welcome. More information can be found at www.artworks-mk.co.uk. Artworks MK's regular opening hours are Monday – Saturday 10am -4pm.

MK Calling is the first of a two-part programme by MK Gallery about art in Milton Keynes. Part two, titled *Treasures in MK*, features works from 50 private and public collections in and around the city and will take place from January to April 2014. In addition to presenting fascinating exhibitions in their own right, the intention is that the 'producers' in *MK Calling* meet the 'consumers' from *MK Treasures* to build and develop a strong cultural and creative eco-system within the city in the lead up to the Gallery's ambitious £10m expansion, scheduled to open in 2017 to celebrate the city's 50th anniversary.

MK Calling Participants

Exhibiting at MK Gallery

Action Beat; Nathan Barlex; Black Dogs; Boyd & Evans; Jack Brindley; Ben Cavers; Mat Cross; Caroline Devine; Robin Dixon; Saliha Elhoussaini; Alex Evans; Lee Farmer; Lance Fennell; Kyle Gibbings; Peter Gorse; Aaron Head; Jonny Hill; Mandy Hudson; KEELERTORNERO; Lauren Keeley; Michelle Kopczyk; Victoria Lamburn; Jack Leibowitz; William Lindley; Tom Nash; John Oates; Karen Parker; Yannick Perichon; Marion Piper; PLAZA; Shereen Rahwangi; Suzanna Raymond; Thom Rees; Jade Sarson; Caroline Shadbolt; Annabelle Shelton; Edward Simpson; Helene Sorensen; Gavin Toye; Elizabeth Walker; Thérésa Wedderburn; Emma Wilde; Jayne Williams; Luke Williams.

Exhibiting at Artworks MK

Melanie Bush; Do A Good Turn Daily; Caitlin Erskine-Smith; Katie Fields; Hannah Gaunt; Grand Union Artists; Kirsteen Holuj; Ruth Salter; Tendayi Vine & Tracey Suen; Debi-Sara Wilkinson.

Video Programme

(27 June – 31 July):

Roisin Callaghan; Carl Sebastian Lindberg; Giulia Ricci; Emily Shepherd; John Strutton; Emmett Walsh; Tom White

(1- 30 August):

GhostApproach; Helen Judge; Alex Pascual; Matt Waruszynski.

Season of Events

Alleyway Theatre Company; Sally Annett; Jen B; Bine the Peg; BRAVE NEW WORLDS; JamesBrightman; Eleni Cay; Chris & Sioda; Jon Clark; Elena Cologni; Richard DeDomenici; Urja Desai-Thakore; Electric Bikini Basement; Deborah Fielding; Karizmatic Roots; Emma & Joe Kent; Hannah Meara; Moly; Tamzen Moulding; Helen Parlor; Poet Tree Alliance; Emily Porter; Scribal Gathering; Peter J. Taylor; The Bard of Stony Stratford Richard Frost; The King Biscuit Boys; The Box Ticked; The Sucettes; Sebastienne Williams & Bolt-Hole Theatre; Steve Winch.

Notes to Editors

Milton Keynes Community Foundation Arts Bursary Award

All artists who applied for inclusion in the *MK Calling* exhibition living within the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority Boundary have automatically been entered into the Milton Keynes Community Foundation's Arts Bursary Award 2013. The winner of the Award will be announced at MK Gallery on 27 September 2013. The winner will receive a grant of £8,000.



Made in MK

MK Calling is part of *Made in MK*, an initiative of the AHA-mk, the Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes, to promote arts and heritage events across Milton Keynes during July and August 2013.



MK Gallery Supporters

MK Gallery receives core funding from Milton Keynes Council and Arts Council England South East.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



MK Gallery

MK Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA. Open Tuesday -Friday 12–8pm, Saturday 11am–8pm, Sunday 11am–5pm. Admission free. www.mkgallery.org

Press Office

For interviews, information or images please contact Katharine Sorensen, MK Gallery
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Ends. Date of issue: 12 June 2013