

**PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release**

**Issued: ----**

**Castlefield Gallery announces bOlder, a talent development programme for contemporary visual artists aged 50+**

*Are you a contemporary visual artist over 50 years of age living in Greater Manchester?*

*Do you have a track record of recent professional activity as a visual artist?*

*Do you want an injection of critical and professional support to move your practice on to the next level?*

**Castlefield Gallery announces bOlder, a talent development programme for contemporary visual artists aged 50+, commissioned by GMCA as part of Great Place GM. Great Place GM is an action research programme led by Greater Manchester Combined Authority and funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England with the aim of achieving recognition for the essential role of culture in the lives of Greater Manchester residents.**

This programme is aimed at artists aged 50+ living in Greater Manchester. It is for artists working at any career stage with a practice that demonstrates an engagement with contemporary visual arts. Up to one artist from each Greater Manchester borough/city, will be selected to take part in a programme of individual and collective development. Each artist will receive a £600 bursary towards their costs, 1-to-1 sessions with Castlefield Gallery Director Helen Wewiora and Castlefield Gallery Curator Matthew Pendergast, coaching sessions with a qualified artist coach, professional development workshops and research trips to visit art organisations, artists and scenes in other cities.

Castlefield Gallery are looking for contemporary visual artists working across mediums in the visual arts including, but not limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, installation, artists film and film & video, sound, live art, public art, socially engaged practices, design, craft, aged 50+ with a demonstrable professional practice, and who will benefit from an intense period of professional and artistic development support. The artist must be able to commit to the programme for six months (on a part time basis).

**Application deadline: 12 noon, Tuesday 19 November 2019**

**To find out more about the programme and to download an application form visit** [**castlefieldgallery.co.uk**](https://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/)

**For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: Connie Witham, Communications and Audience Development Coordinator at Castlefield Gallery, on connie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk or 0161 832 8034.**

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**About Castlefield Gallery**

Established in 1984, Castlefield Gallery is dedicated to the advancement of contemporary visual art and artists. The gallery runs a year-round gallery programme and curates, commissions and produces work off-site, and in the public realm. Castlefield Gallery also runs pop-up project and production spaces and supports over 200-artist, curator and writer members. During its 35 years of working with artists the gallery has developed an integrated approach to artist development, providing professional experience alongside skills, knowledge and networking opportunities.

  