

Press Release Viewpoints Photography Festival

Manchester, UK – The Viewpoints Festival is set to take place from the 6th May 2025 till the 10th May. *Viewpoints* is a new Photography Festival in Manchester showcasing the work of students and staff from BA (Hons) and MA Photography at the School of Digital Arts.

With a series of public exhibitions and events happening across Greater Manchester, with a central hub at All Saints Campus, M15 6BH. Main information can be found on <https://viewpoints-festival.cargo.site>

Festival Highlights:

1. **Group Exhibitions** / From 7th May

We present a series of student group exhibitions that aim to challenge the traditional boundaries of photography. *Second Year Photography Students* have been tasked with exploring new materials, processes, and technologies to push the limits of the medium. Through their work, they question photography's form, context, and potential. Join us at various locations across Greater Manchester from 7th – 10th of May 2025: *Sonder* | *When you are this small...* | *Loose Ends* | *Hippocampus* \ *Tension*

[Map available here](#) and [further information on separate events](#).

2. **Portfolio Event: Reviews | Showcase** \ 9th May

Take a first look at the exciting work from our soon-to-be graduates. This event provides a sneak peek into the diverse and innovative projects of our Third Year BA Hons Photography students ahead of their Degree Show in June. Explore their *physical* and *digital* portfolios, and experience the materiality of their boxes, books, prints, and more.

Reviews will start from 10:30am (for 3rd year students).

Showcase of all the portfolios will be from 4-6pm (open to the public).

Location: Righton Building (atrium) | Manchester School of Art

3. **TAP 05 at 9th May at The Salutation** (upstairs gallery)

A display celebrating the photographic community at Manchester Metropolitan University—students, graduates, and staff—along with the fifth instalment of the student gallery, 'TAP.' Turn the Tap On is a **student-led** initiative providing a platform for students and graduates across disciplines. TAP has hosted a successful series of events and exhibitions at the Salutation in Manchester on the last Friday of each month. www.instagram.com/turn_the_tap_on/

Artist Talk (Cian Oba-Smith): 6pm

Exhibition (Private View): 7pm

Location: The Salutation, Higher Chatham Street, M15 6ED

4. **1x1 | Exhibition** | Photography Staff & MA Students

Presented throughout The Vertical Gallery (The Lowry Building) are works by SODA's academic Photography staff and MA students. 1x1 sparks conversations by highlighting one piece from each artist, exploring their work in relation to others. With works at different stages of development, the exhibition showcases a broad spectrum of staff and student research and expertise.

Location: Lowry Building (Vertical Gallery) 6-9th May 9-5pm (open to public)

5. ***I need to start a garden, Anna Marsden*** (3rd Year Student) | outdoor showcase.

Anna Marsden's current and ongoing installation project, *I need to start a garden*, is a study of stains, feminine identity and the haunted nature of houses. Her experimental and material photographic practice is rooted within the analogue and haptic as it explores bruises, marks and soulstuff. Tangible and bodily, Marsden's process weaves relics with souvenirs, echoes and the world on the side of shadows. By making herself into a texture to be felt between finger and thumb, Marsden's installation brings the privacy of home into the public sphere, playing with the relationship between the camera and the self. Are we at the mercy of photography? Where does the self end and the process begin? As the work yields to the home and the stains seep on the washing line, is the domestic a trap or are we spared?

9th May, (all day) in All Saints Park, Manchester Metropolitan University, (open to the public)

6. End of Year | 1st Year Showcase | 7th -9th May

1st year students will be showcasing the work from their recent modules exploring creative making (archives, science/art, darkroom / landscapes, AI & the city) and digital media technologies (such as photogrammetry, 3D printing and video making.)

On the **Screens of SODA Building (M15 6ED) Ground and 1st floors.** (open to the public)

7. Zine Making | Marcus Grange | 6th May, 12:30pm

In this workshop, participants will explore pareidolia and audience interaction in zine making. Marcus will introduce the concept of pareidolia, guiding participants on how to incorporate shapes and forms to engage viewers in their work. Delivered by 3rd Year Student, Marcus Grange. 10 places available.

Tuesday 6th May, (open to students) to sign up contact: Marcus Grange / Sign Ups available on BA Photography Moodle | **Lowry Building / LW 3.08**

8. How can we work with/in institutions in anti-racist ways? | A Particular Reality (APR) Talk | on 7th May

Join Audrey Albert and Sarah Howe (7th May) in an informal conversation around ways in which to work with and in institutions in anti-racist ways. They will be drawing on their own practices and work within APR to share experiences, statistics, good practice and open discussion to help unpick and think through your questions and concerns.

SODA Cinema LT, Ground floor, School of Digital Arts - 7th May (open to the public)

9. Badge Making as Activism Drop-in Workshop | 8th May

Soft activism through collage and badge making.

This workshop will explore the concept of soft activism to describe daily forms of activism which sit inside our work as artists. It allows us to recognise our roles and responsibilities as artists in the global political landscape, avoid burnout, and survive as artists who engage with activism. *This workshop will be facilitated by APR Members from Kingston University Students and artist JJ Chang.*

SODA 1.13 (sign up on Eventbrite), (open to the public)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/badge-making-as-activism-tickets-1310063648639?aff=oddtcreator>

Festival Details:

- **Location:** Across Manchester & Central Hub: SODA, All Saints Building
- **Admission:** Open to the public, if not advertised as a student only event or ticketed.
- **Contact:** For more information, please contact p.palmerini@mmu.ac.uk or sophie.lee@mmu.ac.uk



Image: Oscar Wilkinson

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