



# JERWOOD PAINTING FELLOWSHIPS

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Jerwood Painting Fellowships come to East Gallery<sup>NUA</sup>

East Gallery<sup>NUA</sup> is delighted to announce that it is hosting the Jerwood Painting Fellowships from 17 February to 18 March 2017.

This group exhibition presents fresh and exciting new works by the three painters chosen as the 2016 Jerwood Painting Fellows: Francesca Blomfield, Archie Franks and Dale Lewis.

**Francesca Blomfield's** latest series of works take limousine interiors, Tagliatelle, and human hair as the basis for experimenting with colour systems and painterly textures. **Archie Franks** manipulates familiar motifs, from both the art historical past and contemporary life, to produce dreamlike paintings that give form to intangible and allusive sensations. Drawing largely upon personal memories and associations, **Dale Lewis's** large-scale works are both humorous and unsettling. Focusing on banal and under-represented aspects of life, the vigour and energy with which the works are made complement the rawness of the urban environments he depicts.

Since 2010, the Jerwood Painting Fellowships have offered early career, UK-based painters the opportunity to work with a notable mentor for one year. Selected from over 400 applicants, they have been undertaking a yearlong mentorship with three eminent UK painters: Phoebe Unwin, Jane Harris and Dan Coomb. Each Fellow received a bursary to support the development of their practice during this time.

This is the third edition of the Jerwood Painting Fellowships, launched by Jerwood Charitable Foundation in 2010 to provide critical support for exceptional painters embarking on their professional careers. The new body of work by the 2016 Fellows was on display at Jerwood Space, London earlier in the year and has since been touring to venues across the UK. East Gallery<sup>NUA</sup> is its final destination on this tour.

Dr Caroline Fisher, Curator of East Gallery<sup>NUA</sup>, said: "We are so thrilled to be hosting the Jerwood Painting Fellowship. This exhibition is particularly exciting because we are not only presenting the work of three remarkable early career artists, but the outcome of a relationship and the shared passions and experiences of the Fellows and their mentors."

The exhibition is open Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 5pm. Admission to all exhibitions is free.

**-Ends-**

#### **Press enquiries**

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High res images to accompany this press story are available.

#### **Notes to Editors**

Norwich University of the Arts is a dynamic, modern and creative community providing arts, design and media education from a unique campus at the heart of the city's cultural quarter. Whilst the institution's history can be traced back to 1845, it is contemporary and forward thinking with industry standard facilities. The University's mission is to be the best specialist University for Arts, Design, Architecture and Media study in Europe, producing graduates of the highest quality.  
[www.nua.ac.uk](http://www.nua.ac.uk)

#### **About the Jerwood Painting Fellowship artists**

##### **Francesca Blomfield**

Over the past year Francesca has been incorporating text into her paintings, adding a narrative dimension, which she has also begun to supplement with accompanying text publications. Her mentor **Phoebe Unwin** discusses the past year: "During the Fellowship, Francesca and I have visited each other's studios, seen shows together and met with Archie and Dale too. On every occasion there has been a lot of talking about painting: from technique and types of paint to overall concepts. I have seen Francesca experiment and take creative risks, as well as build on and refine her painting approach in very interesting ways. She has used chalky colour, pattern and dramatic changes in scale to explore her subjects of relics and notions of 'authentic' communication. Having got to know the work of all three Fellows, I anticipate an exhibition which is ambitious, diverse and spirited."

##### **Archie Franks**

Archie's works often exude a haunting, gothic feel, regardless of how elevated or commonplace the subject matter. He sees painting as an investigative process, and as a means of interrogating imagery to yield further complexity. His mentor **Jane Harris** shares her thoughts on the mentoring process: "It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Archie this year. He has had a very productive and focused time exploring ways to expand his repertoire of imagery and experimenting in a variety of ways with paint handling, format and scale. In developing both his paintings and watercolours Archie has been creating compelling works of disquieting wit and atmosphere."

### **Dale Lewis**

“Over the past months Dale has released years of experience onto the canvas. The subjects he paints range from the tragic, the dramatic, the funny, the unnerving, to the stupid. The results are felt-out, funny, and real,” explains his mentor **Dan Coombs**. “The compositions distribute an energy through the figures and across the painting, yet there is another level of relationships between figures and their surroundings which is acutely observed and rings very true. It's this combination of force and subtlety that gives the paintings a convincing reality.”

The Fellows follow in the footsteps of impressive alumni. The previous two editions have united painters Anthony Faroux, Clare Mitten, Cara Nahaul, Susan Sluglett, Sophia Starling and Corinna Till with mentors Paul Bonaventura, Stephen Farthing RA, Marcus Harvey, Chantal Joffe, Mali Morris RA and Fabian Peake.

### **Jerwood Charitable Foundation**

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts.

For more information visit [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)



Pictured above: *Noon approaches fast on PayDay – The Night is Falling into Day* by Francesca Blomfield