

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT COMMISSIONS FOUR NORTH WEST ARTISTS TO CREATE NEW DIGITAL ARTWORKS



FACT reveals the four artists who have been selected for this year's *FACT Together* artist residency. Each awarded artist will receive a £1,500 production budget, a grant of £2,500 and three months of mentorship to produce a new digital artwork.

Now in its third year, the annual artist residency has supported 20 emerging artists to develop their practice resulting in the production of 18 new digital artworks. *FACT Together* was set up in 2020 as a direct response to the impacts of the pandemic on artists and the cultural sector. Since then, the annual commissioning scheme and artist residency continues to support creatives across a wide representation of Northern cities and towns, including Liverpool, Bolton, Manchester, Salford, Leeds, South Shields, Newcastle Upon Tyne and Gateshead.

Nurturing the next generation of visionaries, voices and changemakers is key to FACT's mission as the UK's leading centre for contemporary art, film and the creative use of technology. Since its first iteration, the residency has helped to enhance artist's digital practice with mentorship and over £30,000 in grants. After taking part in *FACT Together*, many of the artist residents have made significant progressions within their own careers and continue to work with the digital mediums explored during their residencies. 2020 artist residents nil00, Jessica El Mal and Gregory Herbert have gone on to present works at



various national galleries; 2021 artist resident Hope Strickland's film *I'll be back!* was selected for BFI's Open City Documentary Festival; and 2020 alumni Uma Breakdown is currently touring their solo exhibition *Earth A.D.* around the UK.

For 2022, FACT have partnered with SODA (School of Digital Arts) at Manchester Metropolitan University to build on the support that the residency offers. SODA houses a digital innovation lab, green screens, edit suites, screening space, a media gallery and studios for sound, music and production. SODA will work alongside FACT to provide expertise and state-of-the-art spaces for artist residents to create and play. Each of the 2022 awarded artists will create a digital artwork that will be shared online, at FACT and at SODA's Modal gallery in 2023.

Nicole Prior (Manchester)

Nicole Prior is a visual artist exploring themes of surveillance and digital influence in the places we live and the electronic devices we use. Her experiments study the effects of surveillance and data collection on human behaviour. The audience and their behavioural responses are integral to the work. Her interactive installations explore how cognitive behaviour patterns can be engaged and interacted with within digital environments.

Dongni Liang (Liverpool)

Dongni Liang's work investigates the relationship between nature, technology, and humans through 3D, film and virtual/augmented reality. Known online as post.liang, her work merges computer-generated content with the surrounding world, creating a dialogue between the two. Her work draws on her experiences of growing up in a rapidly modernising China and the ecological and social impacts of this. Incorporating video, 3D scanning and animation, her work transports the viewer to an unworldly environment.

Charlotte Southall (Liverpool)

Charlotte Southall works across textiles, video, sculpture, gimmicks, and memes. Her practice exists in the spaces that human bodies inhabit between the IRL (physical life) and URL (digital life), using the sense of touch to ground us in both realms. Employing mediums, colour palettes and subject matter that challenges the harsh perfection of the white cube, she questions the hierarchies that govern the art world and seeks to reunite art with life.

Ellie Towers (Liverpool)

Situating itself within various semi-fictional landscapes, Ellie Tower's practice considers interaction or experiences within an environment by unpacking and re-imagining content within it. This is often done through reflections, memories, storytelling and anecdote - producing



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something which digests & merges visual and contextual elements into their own independent form. Using a mixture of handmade-drawings, paintings, miniature clay-sculptures, and 3D renderings that are collaged together - Ellie produces an outcome that exists between a physical and digital output which transcends and transforms the location.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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ABOUT FACT

FACT is the UK's leading centre for art, film and the creative use of technology. Located in the heart of Liverpool city centre, FACT creates transformative experiences that spark the imagination and enrich lives. Home to three art galleries, four cinema screens and a Studio/Lab for artists, the centre provides platforms and opportunities for people to create, learn, experience and make sense of the world today. In 2023, FACT celebrates 20 years of groundbreaking moments and unforgettable memories shaped by over 500 artists and more than 5 million visitors. [fact.co.uk](https://www.fact.co.uk)

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