

# WHALEARTS

## ●travellinggallery●

### PRESS RELEASE: *Are Teenage Dreams So Hard to Beat?* Travelling Gallery brings exhibition exploring our formative years to WHALE Arts.

15 May 2018

**WHALE Arts is delighted to announce the Travelling Gallery will visit the WHALE Arts Centre in Wester Hailes on Wednesday 23 May 2018 from 11am – 5pm with exhibition *Are Teenage Dreams So Hard to Beat?***

Celebrating its 40th year, the Travelling Gallery is a mobile art space inside a custom-built, bus, which brings high quality contemporary art exhibitions and events to schools and communities throughout Scotland.

The exhibition will explore our formative years - the contrasts of adolescence past and present, as comparatively tame and nostalgic teenage magazines are exhibited next to the never-ending clickbait of internet culture. Our teenage dreams will be suspended as the exhibition looks at our prolonged adolescence and why 'teenage' no longer just refers to the period between the ages of 12 and 20.

The exhibition will include work by contemporary artists Arpita Shah, Alice Theobald and Holly White alongside archive material from Museum of Childhood, Edinburgh.

A doorway to today's teenage dreams is seen through photographer Arpita Shah's intimate portraits of Glaswegian teenagers; where a pure and authentic depiction of identity and habitat is captured.

It's natural and nostalgic to look back over our teenage years, good or bad. The good can be the close friendships and honest self-discovery; the bad can be the awkward romances and dubious self-discovery.

These experiences are heightened in Holly White's work, as reflection and soul searching are on show for anyone who wants to read about it in the "heartbreak library", where

self-help books are snugly hung in comforting blankets. In her Rittersport News series, Holly uses the vlog format to review the different flavours and varieties of the German chocolate bar, highlighting the online platform in which nothing is too trivial to share and promote.

Alongside the artworks some archival magazines, selected by Holly from the Museum of Childhood's collection in Edinburgh, are displayed. The magazines are exhibited as a direct visual contrast to today's vlogging culture and shows the total shift in how teenagers give and take their information and choose their influences.

The final work in the exhibition is the 3D film *The Next Step* by Alice Theobald. The musical, in three acts, shows two men walking with a dog and a baby through a park and having an existential, lyrical conversation. While initially casual and light-hearted, the conversation represents a generation where the transition into adulthood is stretched and what were typically adult aspirations are no longer available.

Meghan Bidwell, Arts Engagement Manager (Adults), WHALE Arts says:

"It's a pleasure to welcome Travelling Gallery back to Wester Hailes with exhibition *Are Teenage Dreams So Hard to Beat?* This is a fantastic opportunity to engage with an accessible, high quality contemporary art exhibition; the highs and lows of teenage years are something everyone can relate to. There's something very comforting about the Travelling Gallery and a 'bus filled with art' is every bit as good as it sounds."

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## Notes to Editors

### **About WHALE Arts**

Since being set up by local people in 1992 WHALE Arts has firmly established itself as the cultural anchor organisation for Wester Hailes. As a community-led arts charity and social enterprise, WHALE Arts' mission is to be the creative heart of a vibrant, thriving community.

WHALE acts as a conduit between our community and creative opportunities through the direct delivery of projects, programmes and events and by connecting our community with city and national cultural partners. We are based in the purpose built WHALE Arts Centre – 'The WHALE' – a unique community asset that provides a range of high quality creative spaces including an Arts Workshop, Performance Space, Darkroom and Digital Media facilities for our community.

For full details on the WHALE Arts programme, see the website at [www.whalearts.co.uk](http://www.whalearts.co.uk)

### **About Travelling Gallery**

Celebrating its fortieth year in 2018, Travelling Gallery continues to bring contemporary art to communities throughout Scotland. Its dual focus is to create highly engaging exhibitions and to provide a unique platform for creative learning. Curated with Travelling Gallery's diverse audience in mind, the exhibitions display innovative artistic practices, representative of the best Scottish and International art scene. Travelling Gallery is a 'not for profit' organisation, regularly funded by Creative Scotland and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council.

To find out more please visit [www.travellinggallery.com](http://www.travellinggallery.com), follow it on Facebook or Twitter [@travgallery](https://twitter.com/travgallery) #teenagedreams

For more information on the exhibition and its schedule of stops please contact Susie Gray [Susie@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:Susie@thecornershoppr.com) 07834 073 795 or Kate Bouchier-Hayes [kate@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:kate@thecornershoppr.com) 07825 335 489

### **More information on the artists**

**Arpita Shah** is an Indian born, Edinburgh based artist. Recent solo exhibitions include *Copan Chai*, An Lanntair, Stornoway (2017); *Portrait of Home*, Hillhead Library and Trongate 103, Glasgow (2015 & 2014); *Nymphaeaceae*, Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow (2013). Recent group exhibitions include *Postcolonial Photo Studio project*, ChobiMela, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2017); *A Window on Glasgow*, Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow and Marseille Consul'Art, France (2016); *Origins*, British Council, New Delhi, India; *Goa International Photo Festival*, Goa, India (both 2015); *Night Contact*, Brighton Photo Biennial, Brighton and Commonwealth Family Album, Glasgow Green, Glasgow (both 2014). <http://www.arpitashah.com/>

**Holly White** was born in London and lives and works in Glasgow. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Orange World*, Cordova Gallery, Barcelona (2017); *I Need Your Love is This True*, Jupiter Woods, London (2016); *I'm always lazy when I miss you*, AND/OR Gallery (2015); *No One Is Going To Go There Anymore*, Evelyn Yard, London (2014). Recent group exhibition include: *Our House in the Middle of Your Street*, LIFE GALLERY, London (2015); *Dreaming of Streaming*, ANDOR, London (2014); *Young London 2013*, V22, London; *Ocean Living*, Arcadia Missa, London (both 2013). Online work and channels can be found at <http://holly-white.com/>

**Alice Theobald** lives and works in Huntingdon. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Weddings & Babies*, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London (2017); *The Next Step*, Two Queens, Leicester (2016); *Alice Theobald and Atomik Architecture*, BALTIC Ryder Commission, BALTIC, Gateshead (2015). Recent group exhibitions include: *Lucy Stein & France-LiseMcGurn present NEO-PAGAN BITCH-WITCH!*, Evelyn Yard, London (2016); *The Boys The Girls The Political*, Lisson Gallery, London; *The Fifth Artist*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge; *Dear Luxembourg (Yours Bucktooth grl)*, NosbaumReding Projects, Luxembourg (all 2015); *P/N/19 FOAM*, Mat Jenner, Project/Number, London (2014) and *Home Theatre*, BaroGaleria, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2013) [www.pilarcorrias.com/artists/alice-theobald/](http://www.pilarcorrias.com/artists/alice-theobald/)

### **Media information**

- For enquiries or interviews please contact Meghan Bidwell on [Meghan@whalearts.co.uk](mailto:Meghan@whalearts.co.uk) or call 0131 458 3267.
- Free-to-use images are attached to the press release or available by contacting Jenny Salmean on [jenny@whalearts.co.uk](mailto:jenny@whalearts.co.uk)