

Media Information
For Immediate Release

Where We Live

15 Jan – 5 Jun 2022



Sheffield Museums 2022 exhibition programme gets underway in January with a compelling exploration of overlooked and under-regarded aspects of the landscape we inhabit today. Presenting five locations across England, including the city's Park Hill housing estate, *Where We Live* interrogates our social landscape at a time of profound political and social change. The exhibition brings together paintings by Sheffield's own Mandy Payne, alongside work by Trevor Burgess, Jonathan Hooper, Narbi Price and Judith Tucker.

Each series of paintings offers the viewer multiple perspectives on the notion of home and our sense of place. Tensions in the images between legacies of the past, the reality of the present and often conflicting visions of the future are layered with poetic texts foregrounding the voices of the residents.

The five locations expose tensions and fault lines inherent the English landscape:

- Park Hill, a large-scale Grade II-listed housing estate in Sheffield. Originally the site of back-to-back housing, Park Hill's 'streets in the sky' were built in the late 1950s to great acclaim. After

falling into disrepair in the 1990s, the flats are currently undergoing major redevelopment and renovation as part of a multi-stage project which began in 2009.

- The all-but-erased history of a post-industrial mining village in Northumberland.
- Bringing a modernist colour perspective to depictions of residential architecture in Leeds.
- Contested coastal chalet plotlands in North Lincolnshire, whose history goes back to the early 20th century, many of whose residents come from Yorkshire mining communities eviscerated after the 1984 Miners' Strike.
- Recovering everyday urban experience of the street and the notion of home from the commodification of the London property market.

Each artist raises acute questions of how England's landscape and architecture is layered over potent legacies of the past, and reveals conflicted visions of the present and the future. In the wake of a pandemic that confined us to our homes, it questions what the idea of home looks and feels like in the midst of multiple displacements and disorientating political, social and environmental change.

In doing so, the exhibition foregrounds the voices of the communities who inhabit the depicted locations, speaking through texts, poetry, podcasts, digital and live discourse about *Where We Live*. The exhibition aims to demonstrate how the practice of making paintings in series over an extended period allows the artist to examine the multiple facets and topographies of a place.

- Trevor Burgess has made residential housing in London the subject of over 60 paintings that obliquely critique contemporary obsessions with housing as a property market commodity.
- Jonathan Hooper has, for over ten years, intensely and exclusively focused his painting on observation of the urban and suburban environment of Leeds.
- Mandy Payne has devoted nine years to paintings focused on Park Hill, Grade II* listed Sheffield council estate, one of Britain's largest examples of Brutalist architecture.
- Narbi Price's series of paintings of Ashington, Northumberland are the product of many hours spent walking the streets of what was once the world's largest mining village, in the footsteps of the Ashington Group of Pitmen Painters, recording a changed post-industrial landscape that they would barely recognise.
- Judith Tucker's ongoing series of paintings *Night Fitties*, are devoted to the chalets on the Humberston Fitties in Lincolnshire as a locus for exploring how notions of place, identity and Englishness are constructed

Where We Live has been initiated by Trevor Burgess, whose collaborative projects as an artist-curator explore the contemporary practice of painting in a social context.

Trevor Burgess said:

“There is a proposal animating the exhibition, that the processes of repeated observation, visual investigation and interpretation which are inherent in the making of paintings can be deployed to make visible aspects of our social environment which do not receive attention. Put simply, paintings can bring us to look at familiar things and lead us to see what we hadn’t seen before.”

Mandy Payne said:

“Although there are five different artists from five different locations, there are many cohesive layers, themes and connections between the works, each giving insights into the places and voices of the communities depicted. On a personal note, I am absolutely delighted that my Park Hill paintings might be seen by the people who lived and now live there.”

Alison Morton, Head of Exhibitions at Sheffield Museums, said:

“Some changes to the landscape are profound and seem to happen in blink of an eye, others creep in and the world around us shifts without us really even noticing. The works in this exhibition ask us to stop and look at how those changes occur and what they mean for the society and communities we live in.”

Where We Live opens at the Millennium Gallery on Saturday 15 January and continues until Sunday 5 June 2022 – entry to the exhibition is free.

In partnership with Contemporary British Painting



-ends-

Images (L-R):

Mandy Payne, *Every Day Is Like Sunday*, 2021. © the artist
Judith Tucker, *Night Fitties - Do not walk on the grass verge*, 2019 © the artist
Trevor Burgess, *A Place To Live 63*, 2018 © the artist

For more information and hi-res images please contact:

Amy Farry
Communications Officer
Sheffield Museums Trust
amy.farry@sheffieldmuseums.org.uk
07595 611540

Notes to Editors:

- Millennium Gallery, Arundel Gate, Sheffield, S1 2PP. Tel. 0114 278 2600
- Millennium Gallery is open Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 11am–5pm. Open Mondays, 10am–5pm during Sheffield school holidays
- Free entry
- sheffieldmuseums.org.uk
- Facebook: @SheffieldMuseums
- Twitter: @SheffMuseums
- Instagram: @SheffMuseums

▪ Sheffield Museums

Sheffield Museums Trust is the independent charity that operates six of the city's leading museums and heritage sites: Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Graves Gallery, Kelham Island Museum, Millennium Gallery, Shepherd Wheel and Weston Park Museum. Established in 2021, the charity cares for the city's collections of art, archaeology, social and industrial history, and natural science, alongside the Guild of St George's John Ruskin collection and provides a home for the Ken Hawley Collection Trust's Hawley Tool Collection. We work with our communities to tell the remarkable story of Sheffield and its people, and celebrate its reputation for excellence in craft, making and innovation. Together with local, regional and national partners, we showcase home-grown creative talent and bring outstanding cultural experiences to the city.