

**Karol Kochanowski:**

**patience.HEADSPACE.resilience**

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> July – Sun 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Granada Foundation Galleries 1 & 2**

Karol Kochanowski received the Granada Foundation Gallery Exhibition Award at the inaugural Manchester Open Awards in 2020 for his work *Class*.

Kochanowski's paintings depict uncanny spaces, some of which are populated with strange forms.

In places, we find **organic shapes**, animal parts or plant life; other elements are architectural, geometric or purely **abstract**. His influences come from many sources including the work of 20<sup>th</sup> century **Avant-garde artists** and our **everyday environments**. As an artist he is interested in how we might draw imagery back from our subconscious and to what extent we can visualise or represent our unconscious thoughts. Perhaps as a result of this, the forms and spaces in his work are imbued with a sense of a deeper dimension; of something lurking beneath the surface.

Whilst making his work, Kochanowski avoids having a fixed idea of the final image in mind. He patiently explores the potential in each work as they develop. Working intuitively with a process that encourages a **childlike freedom** of thought. A process which enables Kochanowski to play, improvise and provoke impulsive decisions. Allowing himself to be guided by indeterminate feeling so that the paintings evolve as spontaneously as possible, generated by **autonomic responses**.

Ultimately, allowing imagery to surface from his subconscious and find its way on to the canvas

Kochanowski feels his works are complete once he has achieved a suitable balance between the known and the unknown. Creating a **tension** between the **familiar and the unfamiliar**, the clear and the opaque. It is in this way that Kochanowski resists limiting or diminishing the scope of the work and what ideas may inhabit them.

The titling of his works comes at the end and is another opportunity for Kochanowski to disrupt a literal translation of the work. These works are testament to his belief that the viewer should be able to arrive at their own conclusions, but

perhaps the best works are those which remain in some way unresolved.

Karol Kochanowski is a **Polish artist and painter** based in Manchester. He graduated in 2013, from Fine Art (BA) at Manchester Metropolitan University and has exhibited internationally, including London, New York, Berlin, Raleigh (North Carolina).

[Click here to view Karol Kochanowski's website](#)

This body of work was created in 2020 and 2021, after Karol Kochanowski received the Manchester Open Award in February 2020. All the paintings in the exhibition are oil on canvas and the artwork titles are listed below.

## **Granada Foundation Gallery 1:**

- Life in Sourdough
- Things Boys Want To Know
- 9 Beings
- Dolphin Adele
- Four Of Them

## **Granada Foundation Gallery 2:**

- Alia A.
- Delirium Box
- The Ultimate Nirvana Of An Earthworm
- The Librarian
- The Advent Of Ure
- Perfectly Normal Phenomenon
- *"...I am disabled by fears, concerning which course to take..."*

## **Manchester Open Exhibition**

Karol is the 2020 Manchester Open Granada Foundation **Award Winner**, one of five Manchester Open Artist Awardees. The Awardees all received a programme of professional and creative development from Castlefield Gallery, commissioned by HOME. Castlefield Gallery has provided Karol with support to develop his practice and his work for the exhibition, including a series of one-to-one sessions with Castlefield Gallery curator Matthew Pendergast and artist coach Jo Clements, and one-off sessions with artists Andrew Bracey and Iain Andrews.

Submissions for the Manchester Open Exhibition 2022 are now open. You have until 6pm on Fri

17<sup>th</sup> September to submit your artwork. Please head to the HOME website for more details.

## **Works Available for Sale**

All works in the exhibition are for sale, please contact [visualart@homemcr.org](mailto:visualart@homemcr.org) for more information

## **Exhibition partner**



[Click here to access the Castlefield Gallery](#)

[Website](#)