The Cosmia Festival and the School of Art Design and Architecture

The Persistence of Utopia

Exhibition – Market Gallery
The Persistence of Utopia
23rd October – 9th November 2019

Curated by:
Professor Nic Clear
David Smith

Exhibitors:

At a time when society appears to be in a state of continual crisis, political and ecological, and there are deep divisions over which direction our futures should take, the concept of utopia may seem to be naïve, idealistic and irrelevant. However, in opposition to this sense of despondency the Utopian impulse persists across contemporary cultural practice, taking many forms from text, fine art, architecture, the moving image and interactive arts.

The works exhibited in ‘The Persistence of Utopia’ represent the diversity of practices across the School of Art Design and Architecture and involve a variety of media, from painting, illustration, photography, video and animation to architectural models and collages. The exhibition examines how the Utopian imagination is developed particularly in relationship to ideas of the ‘everyday’. The work explores a number of perspectives on utopian and dystopian thinking and counteracts the wider negative context with subtle humour and a critical affirmation of difference.

The Persistence of Utopia is produced in association with the Cosmia Festival, a new arts festival, based in Huddersfield, dedicated to Science Fiction, Fantasy and Speculative Fiction. The first festival takes place from 25 October to 3 November 2019.

Nic Clear 2019