

Andrew McDonald, Fence/Hammock, 2017

Andrew McDonald

28 April 2017 — 11 June 2017

I lose myself in the process of drawing, an escape from the world, but the result, an art-work, is the opposite – a confrontation with the world. **Andrew McDonald (2016)**

This spring Castlefield Gallery will present a significant solo show of works in animation by artist Andrew McDonald. A selection of existing pieces will be presented alongside two new works in the medium that has been an integral part of his practice for two decades.

McDonald capitalises on the intensity of a medium that requires drawing images over and over again. His animations often feature lone characters caught in austere, colourless and darkly comic loops. In a new two-channel video installation *Fence/Hammock* (2017), McDonald introduces two separate figures that are both busy striving for escape. One figure struggles with the entrapments of his hammock, whom then fatigued from his multiple attempts to find freedom, remains caught in an inescapable stupor; perhaps content to simply dream of freedom, to dream of another place. Another figure climbs over a fence and runs off, only to reappear on the screen. The figure is relentless in repeating these actions, despite making little progress at all. Where is freedom to be found here, on the other side of the fence or in resolving to make peace with the futility and absurdity of the situation?

Castlefield Gallery will also premiere McDonald's *Restlessness* (2017). A simple yet mesmerising work, *Restlessness* tracks the flow of liquid as it pools, splashes, and drips, its flow never-ending, and is never contained. This debut of new work will sit alongside existing works of McDonald's, those such as *Everyone wants revenge no2* (2009), *Bucket* (2013) and *Comfort falls* (2015). Castlefield Gallery will be full with McDonald's animation, the exhibition will flood and immerse the gallery in both darkness and light.

McDonald's making process is intense, extended periods of drawing and production demanding months of the artist's time, yet often resulting in viewing experiences that are only minutes, even seconds long. The self-induced isolation required to make McDonald's work mirrors the lone looped figures in his animations, speaking to the notion of the artist as 'tortured soul'. Through his work McDonald sheds light on the inner workings of his mind, sharing this momentarily with the viewer, only to once more retreat back to the studio.

Andrew McDonald is Manchester based, teaches at the University of Central Lancashire. He has exhibited nationally and internationally, including with MIMA, Site Gallery, Chapter, The Grundy Gallery, and was featured in British Art Show 6.

In-conversation: Andrew McDonald and Dr Michael Birchall

11 June 2017 / 2-4pm

To coincide with his solo exhibition at Castlefield Gallery join Andrew McDonald in conversation with Dr Michael Birchall, Senior Lecturer in Exhibition Studies, Liverpool John Moores University and Curator of Public Practice, Tate Liverpool.

Andrew McDonald talks about his show at the Castlefield Gallery in Manchester.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnpLRUnKpPE>



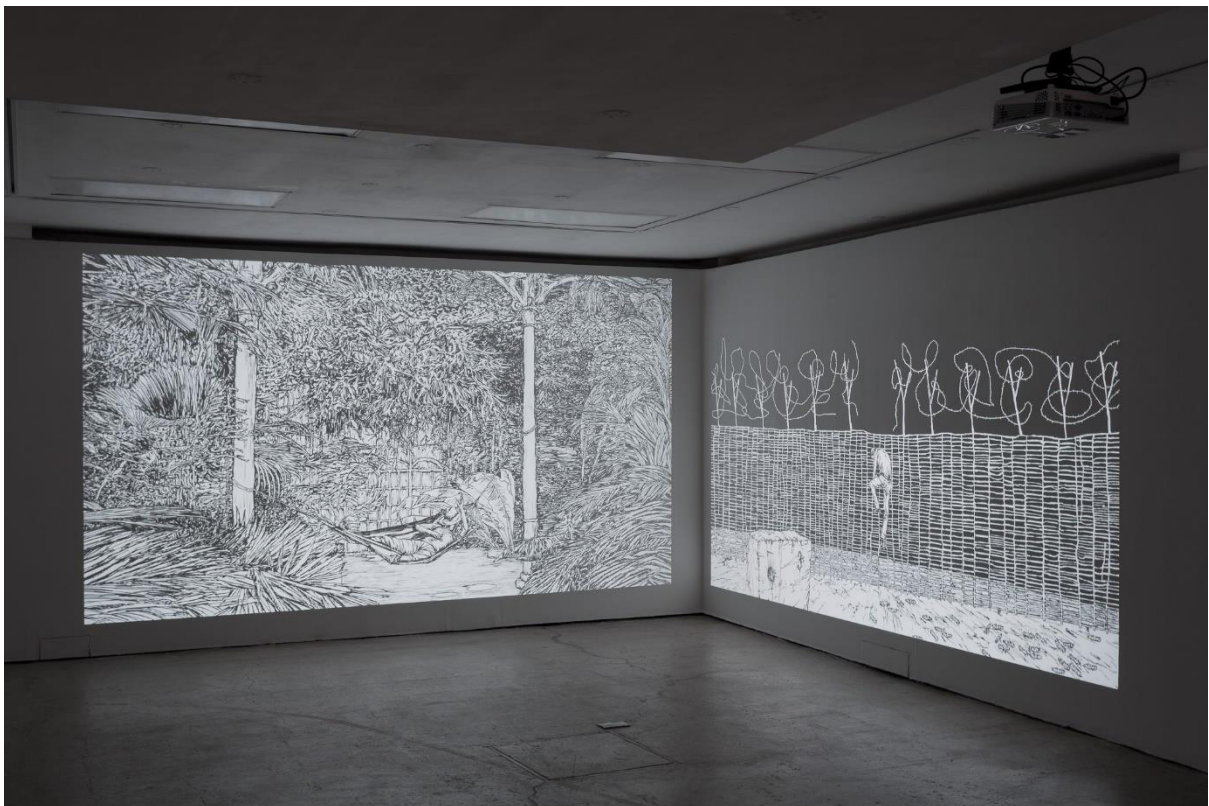
'Everyone wants revenge no 2' 2010/17, Animation, (1m 7sec)



Comfort Falls, 2015, Animation, (1min 43sec)



Bucket, 2013, Animation, (4min, 20sec)



Fence/Hammock, 2017, Animation, Duel projection. (2min 20sec) looped



Restlessness, 2017, Animation, (2min) looped



'Restlessness' 2017, Ink Jet print, 50cm ,30cm , edition 1/20