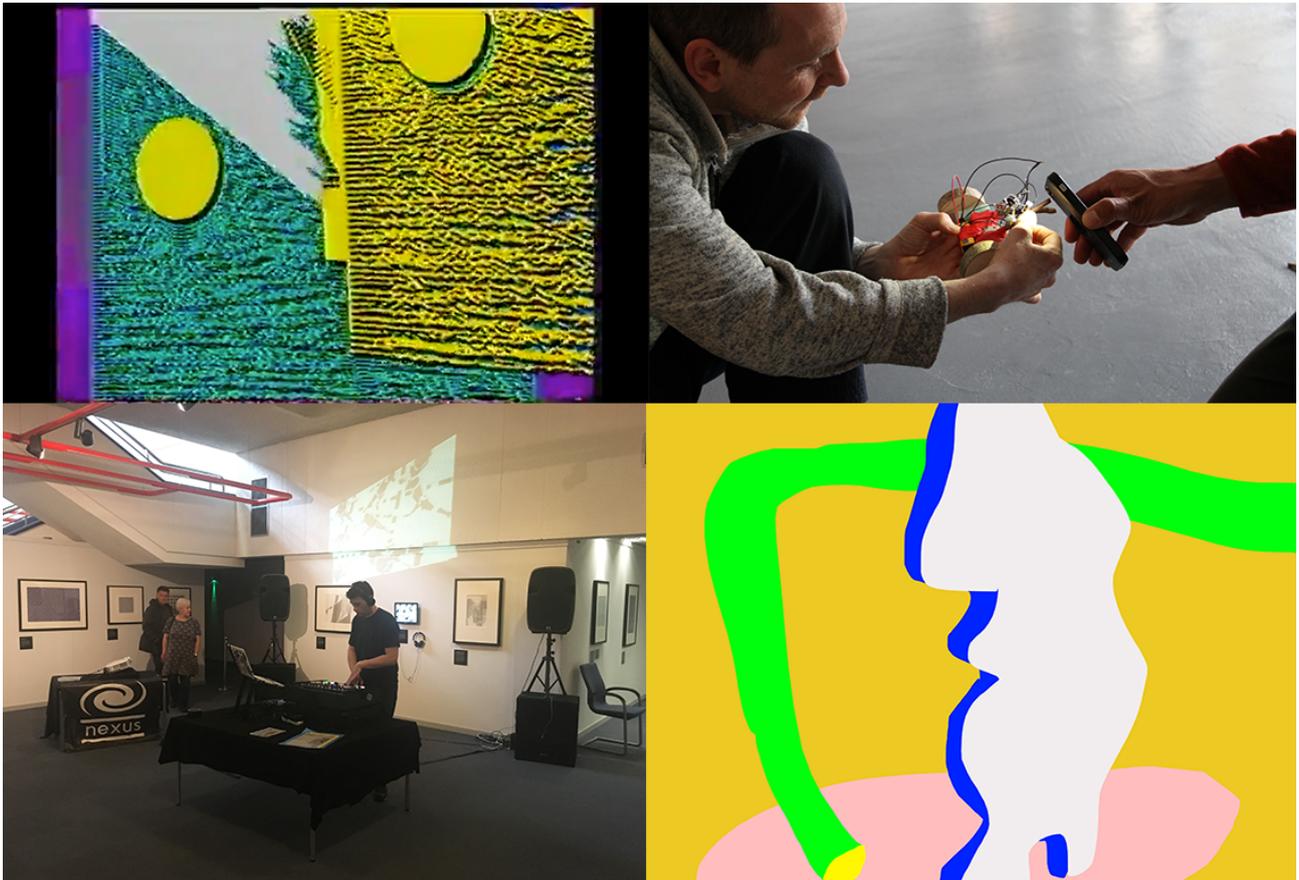


For Immediate Release



## CHESTER VISUAL ARTS REVEALS EXCITING EVENTS PROGRAMME BRINGING PROMINENT DIGITAL ARTISTS AND CURATORS TO THE CITY

Chester Visual Arts today announced a stimulating programme of artist-led workshops and events alongside its acclaimed V&A touring exhibition **Chance and Control: Art in the Age of Computers**. With the majority of events being free, or at low-cost, it represents one of the most ambitious programmes of artist-led workshops and activities in Chester in recent memory.

The charity is bringing some of the most innovative digital artists working in the North West to the Old Library, offering unique new opportunities for creatives, families, art history lovers and music fans to engage with the exhibition on a deeper level.

**Douglas Dodds**, Senior Curator in the V&A's Word and Image Department, will give a lecture on the history of digital art and design on Wednesday 21 August. A digital art specialist, Dodds curated *Chance and Control: Art in the Age of Computers* and the talk is a must for anyone fascinated by the exhibition or art history.

Artist collective the **Owl Project** invites families to join them on **Saturday 31 August** to make analogue crawling robots that respond to light. Alongside constructing the robots, participants will be tracking the movement of these artificial life forms and make a series plotted drawings that participants will be able to take away.

Artist **Emily Tilzey** will lead a digital drawing workshop on **Friday 6 September**. Tilzey will also teach digital drawing and painting techniques for those who want to learn about digital art. No previous experience necessary. A must for artists and budding creatives over 14.

On **Saturday 7 September**, artist **Sam Meech**, who has just been long listed for the Lumen Arts Prize, presents Strange Loops. Using a variety of video cameras, monitors, projections, analogue mixers and digital video software, Meech invites visitors to drop-in and explore the wonderful world of feedback systems in video art: strange loops.

After a highly popular first set in July, we welcome back Chester-based **Nexus Collective** to close the exhibition on Sunday 8 September. Drop-in and view the exhibition sound tracked by glitchy, mechanical and downtempo music.

Ian Short, Chairman of Chester Visual Arts, outlined

*"We are delighted to bring such exciting artists to Chester and support new developments in digital art being made today. These artist-led events complement the exhibition and showcase our ambition to place participation and learning at the core of what we do."*

[www.chestervisualarts.org.uk](http://www.chestervisualarts.org.uk)

**ENDS**

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## EVENTS PROGRAMME

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**Wednesday 21 August | 5 – 6pm | £3 | Booking required**

**Chance and Control: Douglas Dodds Lecture**

Booking link: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chance-and-control-douglas-dodds-lecture-tickets-67005837263](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chance-and-control-douglas-dodds-lecture-tickets-67005837263)

**Saturday 31 August | 12 – 4pm | £5 | Booking required**

**Light Seeking Stickbots Workshop**

Booking link: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/light-seeking-stickbots-workshop-tickets-68140278407](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/light-seeking-stickbots-workshop-tickets-68140278407)

**Friday 6 September | 1 – 3pm | £5 | Booking required**

**Making a Dimension: Digital Image-Making Workshop**

Booking link: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/light-seeking-stickbots-workshop-tickets-68140278407](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/light-seeking-stickbots-workshop-tickets-68140278407)

**Saturday 7 September | 1 – 3pm | Free | drop-in**

**Strange Loops**

**Sunday 8 September | 1 – 4pm | Free | drop-in**

**Closing event: Nexus collective**

All events take place at The Old Library, Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 2EF

## EDITOR'S NOTES

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### **Chester Visual Arts**

Chester Visual Arts is a registered charity (Registered charity no. 1180619) established to bring a new focus to visual arts provision to the City of Chester and the region. By bringing internationally acclaimed artists to the City of Chester and the wider region, CVA aims to establish a regular programme of quality events and exhibitions, which will lead to the City becoming a go to place nationally and internationally for the visual arts. Its ultimate aim is to create a permanent public art gallery in Chester. Two V&A touring exhibitions have previously been held in the Old Library: the *Woman's Hour Craft Prize* and *Pop Art in Print*. The exhibition *Our Colour Reflection* by Liz West was held at Chester Cathedral. These exhibitions have attracted a total of over 40,000 local, national and international visitors, making a significant cultural contribution to the region.

### **Douglas Dodds**

Douglas Dodds is a Senior Curator in the V&A's Word and Image Department, which holds the Museum's collections of prints, drawings, paintings, photographs and digital artworks. Douglas is the lead curator for *Chance and Control*, and he is also responsible for the V&A's internationally important digital art collection. Previous exhibitions include *Digital Pioneers* (2009-10) and *Barbara Nessim: An Artful Life* (2013).

### **Emily Tilzey**

Emily Tilzey is an artist based in Greater Manchester. She has exhibited across the UK in spaces including Caustic Coastal, Manchester; Salt + Powell, York; Set The Control For The Heart Of The Sun, Leeds and East Bristol Contemporary, Bristol. Tilzey's practice is influenced by the human condition, exploring and contemplating the delicacy of existence.

### **The Owl Project**

Owl Project is a collaborative group of artists consisting of Simon Blackmore, Antony Hall and Steve Symons. They work with wood and electronics to fuse sculpture and sound art, creating music making machines, interfaces and objects which intermix pre-steam and digital technologies.

Drawing on influences such as 70's synthesiser culture, DIY woodworking and current digital crafts, the resulting artwork is a quirky and intriguing critique of the allure and production of technology. Owl Project make a distinctive range of musical and sculptural instruments that question human interaction with computer interfaces and our increasing appetite for new and often disposable technologies.

### **Sam Meech**

Sam Meech is an artist based in Manchester who enjoys combining old school analogue processes with digital tools to create interactive art and moving image works. His latest project, PORTALS (<http://portfolio.smeech.co.uk/portals/>), uses feedback systems and projection mapping to create an interactive sci-fi experience. PORTALS has been touring libraries.

### **The Nexus Collective**

The Nexus collective have been supplying Chester with the highest quality techno for over two years now, developing from a nomadic ad-hoc party to a regular event welcoming the finest guests from across the UK, Europe and further afield to an inclusive, friendly, intimate, no phones allowed dancefloor. Also holding down a monthly 3 hour radio show on [techno.fm](http://techno.fm), being featured as a night to watch in the print DJ Magazine and with our resident DJs playing around the UK and abroad – we're looking forward to the coming years.

## CURRENT EXHIBITION

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### **CHANCE AND CONTROL: ART IN THE AGE OF COMPUTERS**

Address: The Old Library, Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 2EF

Until Sunday 8 September 2019

Opening times: Wednesday – Sunday, 11am-5pm. Free admission. The venue is fully accessible.

Created by the V&A – touring the nation.

Primary exhibition funder the Tyrer Charitable Trust.

Thanks to exhibition funders The Westminster Foundation, and supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

For further information, including educational queries and press images, please contact Jack  
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