

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 25 February 2010
For immediate release



Even The Animals Nadim Chaudry

New Art Exchange is proud to launch *Even The Animals*, the debut exhibition by Nadim Chaudry on Friday 23 April 2010.

Defining himself as a textile artist, Kashif Nadim Chaudry's current practice is concerned with a search for the idea of the 'Sacred' and all its entrapments. Playing with the traditions and ceremonies of his own Pakistani Muslim background, as well as investigating a further marginalised identity as a British born gay man, Nadim's search for the sacred raises questions around adornment, sexuality and the performances of religious and cultural ritual.

'Even the Animals' is a spectacle, a performance frozen in time. Referencing the solemnity of the congregation at mass or bejewelled wedding guests admiring their bride, Nadim's fantastical sculptural beasts enact a surreal vision of a broken church.

Coming from a family heritage where textiles and tailoring have played a fundamental role, craftsmanship and the sensuality of cloth are defining features of Nadim's working practice. A degree in textiles has very much focused his creativity around the importance of materiality and as he asserts:

'The heart of my practice lies with the working, shaping and moulding of physical 'stuff'.

What makes a space or ritual sacred? What shapes, forms and colours are appropriate for such a task? Nadim is fascinated by these concerns, especially, if positioned on the outside looking in, in the vein of the sacrilegious. Exploring notions of the mysterious and monumental, arguably aspects of the sacred, also inform his work, and provide a visual dialectic with the secular.

Skinder Hundal, Chief Executive of New Art Exchange said:

"We are always looking to support members of the local community, create opportunities for aspiring artists, and work in sync with our partner arts organisations. The Nottingham Castle Annual Open is a

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project that allows us to do all of this, and importantly increases access and opportunity for many to the arts. Through the Nottingham Annual Open's - New Art Exchange Prize, we are delighted to have found a great new talent in Nadim, and look forward to supporting him in this his first exhibition, and his journey beyond."

Even the Animals will be on show at New Art Exchange from Saturday 24 April to Saturday 22 May 2010, admission is free.

- Ends -

For further Press information, images or enquiries please contact: Raam Tarat, *Marketing and Communication Manager* on E: raam@nae.org.uk T: 0115 924 8630 M: 077910 45090

Notes to Editors:

- Nadim Chaudry's *Even The Animals* will be on show between **Saturday 24 April - 22 May 2010**
- The Preview takes place on Friday 23 April 2010
- Nadim was the winner of the *Nottingham Castle Annual Open - New Art Exchange Prize* in 2008
- Educational workshops: *Fantastical Creatures with Kashif Nadim Chaudry* on Saturday 15 May, 12 - 3pm
- Venue: **New Art Exchange**, 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE
- Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday: Closed
- Admission to the exhibition is FREE
- For more information visit the NAE website: www.nae.org.uk

New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins\ Brown** boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighbourhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.

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- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*
- New Art Exchange has won a number of awards, including: **The RIBA National Award 2009, RIBA East Midlands Award 2009, The Lord Mayor's Awards for Urban Design - New Build and Overall Award, and the National Civic Trust Award 2009**