



Improving Pride of Place through investment in Arts and Culture

Case Study- Chester Contemporary

“I loved the quality and range of the work and the ambition of the programme...”

CC Visitor Survey respondent

Cheshire West and Chester’s Shared Prosperity Investment Plan aimed to support projects which would improve people’s pride in the places where they live by supporting arts, culture and creative activities.



Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Arts Team secured £200,000 of Shared Prosperity Funding to deliver Chester Contemporary from 21st Sept to 1st Dec 2023; this was a new visual arts event led by Cheshire West and Chester Council, supported by local cultural organisations and curated by Chester-born artist Ryan Gander OBE RA during autumn 2023.

The **Arts Team** secured over £400,000 of funding to realise the first Chester Contemporary event, including funding from Arts Council England, Henry Moore Foundation and match funding from Historic England.

The full programme included workshops, activities, artist talks and artist-led walks that took place during the 10-week event. Artworks by international artists were exhibited alongside artworks co-created with our local communities, including socially engaged projects in Blacon, Lache, Chester Market and with local schools

The programme included:

- 42 artworks were commissioned and displayed in the city
- 5 emerging artists were commissioned to create new work
- 331 Key Stage 2 pupils from 10 local primary schools were engaged in co-creation

Resulting in:

- 67 new employment opportunities
- 896 days of employment for artists and creatives
- 68 sessions of informal training and skills development for artists and public

Example of impact: 14 Visitor Experience Assistants were employed, as many were recent graduates the experience has been invaluable to them: **“I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained an enormous amount of knowledge behind the workings of a contemporary art exhibition. It’s been better than anything I’ve read in a textbook!”** CC Visitor Experience Assistant



How to Work Better by Peter Fischli & David Weiss, 1991. Photo credit Sam Ryley



No Tracksuits No Trainers, Hannah Perry in Old Market Depot



Disarm by Fiona Banner at Former Top Shop

