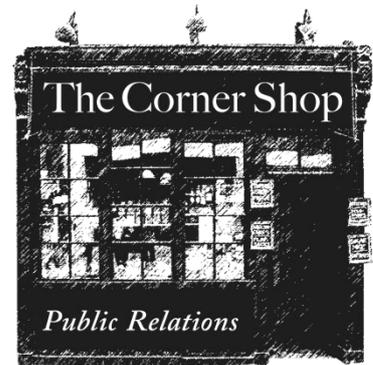


Wednesday 21 February 2018

Sheffield-based artist Pete McKee creates new exhibition to celebrate Britain's working class.



***This Class Works* shows the pride and resourcefulness of Britain's working class, its work ethic and its sense of community, and sets out to share that spirit with today's aspirational younger generation.**

14-29 July 2018, 92 Burton Road, Sheffield. www.thisclassworks.com



5.15 by Pete McKee

Sheffield based artist, Pete McKee, has today revealed the details of a new exhibition for 2018, two years since his last show.

This Class Works is an exploration and celebration of the working class. Different to anything he has done before, the exhibition is a collaboration between Pete and

fellow artists, film makers and photographers who share an affinity for the UK's working class.

The exhibition runs from **14-29 July 2018** at 92 Burton Road, a huge warehouse space in Pete's hometown of Sheffield.

Pete said: *"It's been two years since my last show '6 weeks to Eternity' at Magna which was an incredible experience for me and all who were involved and attended.*

*"In these two years, I have been through a lot personally. This will be my **first body of work since my transplant** so it will be interesting to see if it has had a defining effect on my thought process, this show will definitely be more pointed than my past exhibitions, though I'll still be having my tongue planted firmly in my cheek in places. I'm very passionate about my roots and a hate seeing what is happening to my class in this current political climate.*

"I am delighted to be working with a range of other very talented, creative people in order to present this new exhibition which aims to re-address the unbalance that currently exists in media and society. Unbalance that seems to deride and tar the working class as lazy, selfish, needy, ignorant, intolerant, worthless and the cause of all societies problems.

"It's important for me to show the spirit of the working class; the pride, hope, fight, passion and resourcefulness that has been their foundation. I grew up on a council estate the youngest of four. My dad was a steel worker and my mum a factory line worker and everyone around us was as poor as we were, practically everything in our house was bought on the never never, half my clothes didn't fit and the other half had been previously worn by someone else.

"I look back on those times with fondness of how we seemed to survive on tenacity and an unfailing hope that better was around the corner. I want the exhibition to highlight the nobleness and dignity of the working class, then and now and for those who visit this exhibition to leave exhilarated and enlightened to its beauty."

The exhibition which immediately suggests nostalgia but puts a modern perspective on its **themes**, connects a younger generation to a conversation about the values and value of the working class, explores many areas of working class life: the journey to and from work; the clothes at work and home; the effects of industrial accidents on family life; how poverty shapes children's perceptions of the world; social interaction and solidarity in the community; love and family; and how to cope with having nothing when you work all the time all feature. It also celebrates the working class's resourcefulness and explores prejudice from other classes as well as exploring what the working class is in today's society when the younger generation is perhaps more aspirational.

Pete started work as a cartoonist before taking up painting As a kid he would copy the Andy Capp cartoons from the back of the Daily Mirror after his dad had finished with the paper, enjoying that the cartoon style can communicate a lot with just a few simple lines. Over the years other influences like the colours Hergé used, the strong black line work of Patrick Caulfield and the loneliness of Edward Hopper have helped shaped Pete's work.

Pete has been commissioned by **Oasis, Paul Smith, the Arctic Monkeys, Disney, Warp Films** and **Richard Hawley** among others. He is an ambassador for the Teenage Cancer Trust and a patron of Sheffield's Children's Hospital. Last year he raised £46,686 for Teenage Cancer Trust with the sales of his limited edition screen prints inspired by The Who, Paul Weller, Pet Shop Boys and Ed Sheeran, to commemorate the charity's 100th show at the Royal Albert Hall.

This Class Works runs for 16 days only and visitors will need to buy a ticket and book a time slot to visit the exhibition. Tickets, costing £5 each including an exhibition programme, go on sale on Friday 23 February at 10am. Under 12s are free and there is limited availability for school trips.

Tickets, which are for a two hour time slot, can be purchased online at www.thisclassworks.com

For any general enquiries regarding the exhibition please contact pete@petemckee.com or call 0114 263 1000.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The exhibition will be open between 4pm - 9pm Monday - Friday and 10am - 8pm Saturday and Sunday.
- The venue can be found at 92 Burton Road, Sheffield, S3 8BX. Street parking is available although limited at busy times so bus or tram transport is advised.
- Other artists in the exhibition to be announced soon.

For further media information, images or interviews please contact Susie Gray – 07834 073 795 susie@thecornershoppr.com or Will Moss 0131 202 6220 william@thecornershoppr.com

More of Pete's images available for media use [here](#) – these are a mix of previous work and collaborations with Teenage Cancer Trust (of which he is an ambassador) and Noel Gallacher.

Pete McKee

www.petemckee.com

Pete McKee was born in 1966. It was the year England won the World Cup, but also the year that his beloved Sheffield Wednesday lost the FA Cup. Perhaps it is this bittersweet beginning that has given rise to some of Pete's most poignant work, images that can make you laugh out loud or break your heart. His dad Frank was a former steelworker who retired after an industrial accident and his mum Marjorie worked part time at a bakery.

Growing up on a Sheffield council estate throughout the 1960's and 70's has become the inspiration for much of Pete's work. His relationships, his childhood, his passion for music and his wonderful self-deprecating humour come together to create evocative images that have earned him a worldwide following. His home city of Sheffield also provides a constant source of inspiration, with exhibitions such as "The

Joy of Sheff' and '22 Views of Sheffield' celebrating all that is great and good about the city.

Pete's love of music is clear in his work and he is a proud member of ukelele band The Everley Pregnant Brothers, alongside occasional DJ slots. Pete is a proud patron of The Sheffield Children's hospital's arts charity Artfelt as well as an ambassador for the Teenage Cancer Trust and Record Store Day.

Collaborations and Friends

Pete's iconic style has led to a growing international fanbase, taking in the great and the good. Noel Gallagher, himself a fan of Pete's work, chose Pete to design tour posters for Oasis. Pete has since collaborated with other artists and brands including Rega, XFM, Richard Hawley, Disney, ACME Studios, Warp Films and The Arctic Monkeys.

In 2010 Pete was invited to design a limited edition pair of Clarks Desert Boots, using the original style template and giving it a McKee makeover. The boots were a sell-out worldwide success with stockists in Japan, London and New York.

Then in 2011 Pete was approached by internationally renowned designer Paul Smith, to create a selection of images to commemorate 20 years since opening his first store in Japan. Pete created the exhibition 'Teenage Kicks' which was shown at his flagship Tokyo store. To commemorate this collaboration selected images were reproduced on Paul Smith clothing and bags specifically for the Japanese market. Since then Pete has designed several t-shirts for Paul and continues to work with him to this day.

That same year Pete opened his own dedicated gallery 'A Month Of Sundays' in Sheffield the gallery is the place to see Pete's work as well as exhibitions from other artists he likes.

2012 saw Pete being invited to take part in a special project from Warp Films, celebrating its 10th birthday. Pete was asked to re-create 10 posters from 10 of their iconic films, including Dead Man's Shoes, Submarine and This is England.

Since then Pete has continued to exhibit his work across the UK and beyond and he recently held his biggest exhibition to date '6 Weeks to Eternity' a celebration of the 6 weeks holiday. This was displayed for two days only at The magna Science Museum and visited by over 8000 people.

Last year McKee London opened its doors for the first time at the Old Truman Brewery on Brick Lane. This was Pete's first pop-up shop in London and featured classic McKee works alongside some very special limited editions and collaborations.