



**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

## **Pete McKee exhibition celebrating the working class comes to a close after a sell-out run**



**IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD [HERE](#)**

- Pete McKee's latest exhibition *This Class Works* comes to a triumphant close after sell-out run in Sheffield
- 10,300 visitors came to the exhibition celebrating the working class over 16 days
- Prints of the McKee work featured are available from Thursday 2 August at [www.petemckee.com](http://www.petemckee.com)

Sheffield artist Pete McKee's exhibition ***This Class Works*** has ended after a **16-day sell out run**, with **10,300 visitors** to the event at an old spring factory on Burton Road in Sheffield.

The exhibition brought together Pete's own work, along with other artists he invited to show 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. It was also his **first exhibition since a life-saving liver transplant last year**.

The additional artists included **Anthony Bennett, JB Barrington, Jo Peel, Jon McClure, Martyn Ware, Maxine Peake, Natasha Bright, Sarah Jane Palmer and Tish Murtha**, whose work was shown alongside Pete's.

In addition to these artists Pete invited several designers and illustrators to complete a special brief for the exhibition called '**The Department of Wealth and Privilege**'. Those included in this special project were: **Cafeteria, Dust, Field, Nick Bax, Jon Cannon, Kid Acne, Patrick Murphy, Nick Deakin and Peter & Paul**, who were tasked with creating a print that subverted the elite's anti-working-class view point.

There was a heartwarming reception to the exhibition from visitors, with an outpouring of appreciation of the work on social media, often from visitors that had never been to an art exhibition before.

**@nelsonjd76, said on Twitter:** *@PeteMcKee I salute you sir. You, your team and collaborators have put on a brilliant life affirming exhibition. I even cried in a gallery for the first time. Emotional #McKee #Sheffield #ThisClassWorks #MustSee*

**@TommyOwl87, also on Twitter, said:** *Just a big hand to @PeteMcKee for his newest exhibition. Never been to an art gallery before, but it was funny, poignant and brought childhood memories flooding back. Loved it pal. #thisclassworks*

In the run up to the exhibition, Pete also **partnered with the S2 Food Poverty Network**, a network of food banks in Sheffield. **He set up a pop-up donation centre** and gave away soup cans with a limited-edition Pete McKee design as a thank you for food donations to the network.

**Prints of all Pete's pieces from the exhibition will be available to purchase** from his website, [www.petemckee.com](http://www.petemckee.com) from **Thursday 2 August**.

Pete McKee said of the exhibition:

*"To say I've been totally blown away by the response to 'This Class Works' is an understatement. I could never have dreamed the show would have been so well received and attended. I'm so proud that for some this was their first time at an art exhibition. It's been a very emotional journey creating this and I've definitely worn my heart on my sleeve for the work I've created and those that saw the work really responded and connected with it.*

*I'm so grateful to all the artists, poets, writers, photographers and creatives that contributed to the show and made it an exhibition with depth and heart and was accessible to all"*

/ENDS

Images available to download [here](#)

Video of the exhibition [here](#)

**Media enquiries:**

**Susie Gray / [susie@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:susie@thecornershoppr.com) / 07834073795 / 0131 202 6220**

**Will Moss / [william@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:william@thecornershoppr.com) / 0131 202 6220**

**Pete McKee**

[www.petemckee.com](http://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.