

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release

VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

Angels Vs Demons

by Graham Hudson

Mustard Tree, 110 Oldham Rd, Ancoats, Manchester M4 6AG

Thursday 8 – Thursday 22 November 2012

FREE

Mon – Fri 9am - 7pm; Sat 10am - 4pm

www.mustardtree.org.uk

“Graham happens to be one of the most talented draftsmen I’ve ever met.”

Adrian Bentley, Just Good Ideas



Residents and visitors to Manchester city centre this November are invited to experience the first in-depth exhibition by one of the region’s most inspiring visual artists, **Graham Hudson**.

Entitled *Angels Vs Demons*, the exhibition features 12 brand new works by 52-year-old Hudson as well as acclaimed paintings spanning his entire career. The exhibition opens at Mustard Tree on **Thursday 8 November 2012** with a free reception and refreshments for the general public beginning at 6pm. Join us!

Hudson’s brand new body of work explores the theme of ‘angels’, a longstanding fascination of the artist. The paintings are strongly inspired by beautiful photographs of nebulae and galaxies taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, which often feature explosions of light and colour suggestive of celestial beings.

The notion of ‘demons’ is present in the exhibition through works created during less settled periods of Hudson’s life, which have been overshadowed by crime, personal loss and homelessness.

Angels Vs Demons marks an important moment in Hudson’s career as a visual artist. Visitors to the exhibition will understand clearly the gratitude and joy he feels in the present day at having come to terms with the more challenging moments of his life. The home of Manchester-based charity Mustard Tree forms the perfect backdrop for the exhibition, with Hudson describing the charity as ‘my salvation’.

PRESS RELEASE

Graham Hudson says *“With Angels Vs Demons I have had the opportunity to create a body of work exploring one idea in great depth, which is a first for me. The theme of ‘angels’ interests me so deeply that the creation of the works has felt almost automatic, as if the pieces have been waiting for me to bring them to life for a long time.”*

Notes to Editors:

- Journalists and other media professionals are warmly invited to the opening on 8 November, with the organisation of private views also possible on request and subject to availability.
- **Angels Vs Demons** has been organised with the generous support of Artzu Managing Director and Founder Nick Betney. www.artzu.co.uk.
- **About Graham Hudson**
Born in Ardwick, Manchester in 1960, Graham Hudson is a visual artist currently based at Manchester charity Mustard Tree, where he also occupies the role of Creative Projects Manager.

Hudson’s professional commissions include creating work for The Bank of New York, John Lewis, Manchester United Football Club and for the Archbishop of York John Sentamu. During his four years at Mustard Tree Hudson has contributed to a wide range of community art projects, which include travelling to Mexico to work with children from deprived communities as part of a project organised by the charity in 2010. Hudson has also worked with Manchester Royal Infirmary with patients of Alzheimer’s and dementia, as well as on a growing number of art projects in schools in the Greater Manchester area.

Hudson facilitates a busy daily schedule of art classes at Mustard Tree as part of the charity’s Freedom Project, a 20-week course which provides valuable skills to assist people into employment or help to cope with daily living. Hudson himself took part in this course in 2009, before he was invited to become Resident Artist at Mustard Tree and subsequently became Creative Projects Manager in August 2012.

Alongside his classes for the Freedom Project, as Creative Projects Manager Hudson is responsible for driving the development of a number of creative initiatives for Mustard Tree, including the rental of private art studios, the appointment of Artists in Residence and in 2013 a new music recording studio, all based at the charity’s home in M4 Manchester.

With his fascinating life journey so far, Hudson has been interviewed extensively by the Manchester and UK press, including for broadcast features by Sky Arts and in October 2012 for the Listening Project, a partnership between BBC local radio, BBC Radio 4 and the British Library.

- **About Mustard Tree**
Mustard Tree was established as a charity in 1994 by Dave and Shona Smith who started simply by taking food and drink onto the streets and spending time listening to those sleeping rough.

PRESS RELEASE

The charity is now based in a 21,000 ft² warehouse in Ancoats, Manchester and has over 10,000 registered clients from across the Greater Manchester area. The majority of the charity's clients are referred from statutory agencies such as Manchester City Council teams, the Probation Service, the NHS and housing associations.

Mustard Tree remains committed to providing life support for the homeless, marginalised and vulnerable across Greater Manchester, serving these communities through the provision of food, clothing, furniture, training and creative projects. In 2012 Mustard Tree was presented with a Sieff Award by national organisation Business in the Community, recognising the charity's collaboration with business for the benefit of society.

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