

## Biographies

**ARPITA SHAH** is an Indian born, Edinburgh based artist. Recent solo exhibitions include *Copan Chai*, An Lanntair, Stornoway (2017); *Portrait of Home*, Hillhead Library and Trongate 103, Glasgow (2015 & 2014); *Nymphaeaceae*, Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow (2013). Recent group exhibitions include *Postcolonial Photo Studio project*, Chobi Mela, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2017); *A Window on Glasgow*, Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow and Marseille Consul'Art, France (2016); *Origins*, British Council, New Delhi, India; *Goa International Photo Festival*, Goa, India (both 2015); *Night Contact*, Brighton Photo Biennial, Brighton and *Commonwealth Family Album*, Glasgow Green, Glasgow (both 2014). [arpitashah.com](http://arpitashah.com)

**HOLLY WHITE** was born in London and lives and works in Glasgow. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Orange World*, Cordova Gallery, Barcelona (2017); *I Need Your Love is This True*, Jupiter Woods, London (2016); *I'm always lazy when I miss you*, AND/OR Gallery (2015); *No One Is Going To Go There Anymore*, Evelyn Yard, London (2014). Recent group exhibitions include: *Our House in the Middle of Your Street*, LIFE GALLERY, London (2015); *Dreaming of Streaming*, AND/OR, London (2014); *Young London 2013*, V22, London; *Ocean Living*, Arcadia Missa, London (both 2013). Online work and channels can be found at [holly-white.com](http://holly-white.com)

**ALICE THEOBALD** lives and works in Huntingdon. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Weddings & Babies*, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London (2017); *The Next Step*, Two Queens, Leicester (2016); *Alice Theobald and Atomik Architecture*, BALTIC Ryder Commission, BALTIC, Gateshead (2015). Recent group exhibitions include: *Lucy Stein & France-Lise McGurn present NEO-PAGAN BITCH-WITCH!*, Evelyn Yard, London (2016); *The Boys The Girls The Political*, Lisson Gallery, London; *The Fifth Artist*, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge; *Dear Luxembourg (Yours Bucktooth grl)*, Nosbaum Reding Projects, Luxembourg (all 2015); *P/N/19 FOAM*, Mat Jenner, Project/Number, London (2014) and *Home Theatre*, Baro Galeria, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2013) [pilarcorrias.com/artists/alice-theobald](http://pilarcorrias.com/artists/alice-theobald)



[www.travellinggallery.com](http://www.travellinggallery.com)

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## Travelling Gallery

Celebrating its fortieth year, Travelling Gallery continues to bring contemporary art to communities throughout Scotland. Its dual focus is to create highly engaging exhibitions and to provide a unique platform for creative learning. Curated with Travelling Gallery's diverse audience in mind, the exhibitions display innovative artistic practices, representative of the international art scene. Travelling Gallery is a 'not for profit' organisation, regularly funded by Creative Scotland and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council.

To find out more please visit [travellinggallery.com](http://travellinggallery.com) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter @travgallery

*Travelling Gallery would like to thank the Museum of Childhood, Edinburgh, for access to and loan from the wonderful collection.*

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# Are Teenage Dreams So Hard to Beat?

ARPITA SHAH

ALICE THEOBALD

HOLLY WHITE

SPRING 2018 EXHIBITION



## We were all young once, but how have the dreams and realities of our adolescence changed over the generations? *Are Teenage Dreams So Hard to Beat?*

In the age of the internet and Generation Z we will consider the contrasts of adolescence past and present as comparatively tame and nostalgic teenage magazines will be exhibited next to the never-ending clickbait of internet culture. Our teenage dreams will be suspended as the exhibition investigates our prolonged adolescence and why 'teenage' no longer just refers to the period between the ages of 12 and 20.

A doorway to today's teenage dreams is seen through photographer **Arpita Shah's** intimate portraits of Glaswegian teenagers; where a pure and authentic depiction of identity and habitat is captured. Importantly there are no illusions, no airbrushing, and no commercial consumption, all of which are now sold amongst the Instagram famous. Instead, the series of portraits, entitled *Dear Green Place*, avoids selling youth as a product and explores the true transient nature of adolescence and the various identities and vulnerabilities inherent in it.



Arpita Shah, *Dear Green Place*, 2014. Image courtesy of the artist.

It's natural and nostalgic to look back over our teenage years, good or bad. The good can be the close friendships and honest self-discovery; the bad can be the awkward romances and dubious self-discovery. These experiences are heightened in Holly White's work, where reflection and soul searching are on show for anyone who wants to read about it in the "heartbreak library", as self-help books are snugly hung in comforting blankets. The imaginative, handmade appearance of the work, including tie-dye, candles and crystals, adds a preciousness that reminds us of some of our most valuable childhood treasures while the literature can help seek adult discovery. Adapted from the larger installation, *I Need Your Love is This True*, the work is both personal and relatable.



Holly White, *I Need Your Love is This True*, 2016. Image courtesy of the artist.

**Holly White** works across a number of platforms including performance and film. In her *Rittersport News* series, Holly uses the vlog format to review the different flavours and varieties of the German chocolate bar, telling the viewer her thoughts and observations, from the nutritional information, taste, texture and packaging. The work humorously highlights the online platform in which nothing is too trivial to share and therefore advertise.

Alongside the artworks some archival magazines, selected by Holly from the **Museum of Childhood's** collection in Edinburgh, are displayed. The magazines are exhibited as a direct visual contrast to today's vlogging culture and shows the total shift in how teenagers give and take their information and choose their influences.



Alice Theobald, *The Next Step*, 2016. Image courtesy of the artist and Pilar Corrias Gallery, London

The final work in the exhibition is the 3D film *The Next Step* by **Alice Theobald**. The musical, in three acts, shows two men walking a dog and a baby through a park and having an existential, lyrical conversation. The squeaky voices, which could come from either adult or talking baby, abstractly discuss their lack of money and feeling stuck, "What is the next step?". While initially casual and light-hearted, the conversation represents a generation where the transition into adulthood is stretched and what were typically adult aspirations are no longer available. For example, recent data released by the Office for National Statistics showed the number of young adults living with their parents has reached an all-time high, with more than a quarter of people aged 20 to 34 still living at home.