



Ryan French (b. 1995) is an artist from Longsight, Manchester. Born to a working class family, he identifies as queer, and both characteristics seed the ongoing narrative in his practice. Working in traditional oil painting and digital art, he looks to symbolism throughout history like folklore and mythology to explore the absurdity and key events of human life; birth, death, emotion, aspiration, morality, conflict. He likens the creative process to that of alchemy. His attraction to classical forms and aesthetic beauty is putrified with the dark, quotidian spaces he grew up with in the suburbs of Manchester. Art history is referenced to subvert; utilising oil painting techniques of the masters for urban cityscapes, referencing surrealism through a queer lens and warping classical forms with AI. He received a First in Fine Art from Manchester School of Art in 2018 and in 2023 French had his first solo exhibition, 'A Material Entity Bound in Space and Destined to Oblivion.'

## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

### MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ART

2015 - 2018 | BA (Hons) Fine Art - Passed with First Class Honours  
2014-2015 | Foundation in Art & Design - Passed with Merit

### ST BEDES COLLEGE

A Level | Fine Art - A\* Theology - A English Literature - A

GCSE art and design - A\* English Literature - A\*  
Biology - A\* Chemistry - A\* Religion - A\*  
English Language - A Maths - A Physics - A  
French - C

## EMPLOYMENT

**professional artist for 5+ years.** Selling internationally and experienced in commissions for personal and public spaces.

**Art Gallery Coordinator** at Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, 2022- present

## EXHIBITIONS/ EVENTS

### Solo Exhibitions

**2023** (upcoming) Travelling, Castlefield Gallery New Art Spaces: Warrington  
**2023** A Material Entity Bound in Space and Destined to Oblivion, Saanl, Manchester  
**2021** RPF : The First [virtual] Solo Painting Exhibition, VR Gallery

### Group Exhibitions

**2023** Unapolagetic Self, Islington Mill, Manchester  
**2023** In Manchester, Saul Hay Gallery, Manchester  
**2021** Flux VI Exhibition  
**2021** The Face of the Other, SEAS, Brighton  
**2021** Pint of Science, Creative Reactions, Interdisciplinary Collaboration 2021  
**2021** WETDOVETAIL 1:3,  
**2020** Queer Contemporaries, Air Gallery, Manchester  
**2020** Take Dada Seriously, Virtual Exhibition and panellist  
**2019** Superbia, Manchester  
**2019** R.I.O.T., SEAS, Brighton  
**2019** S.E.L.F., Gibberish Brew Pub, Liverpool  
**2019** Corporis, Aatma Gallery, Manchester  
**2018** Cool T. Salon, London, Berlin, Belgrade  
**2017** SCHISM, The Wonder Inn, Manchester  
**2016** Curiosity, KRAAK Gallery, Manchester

### Publications

**2023** RPF: Travelling (Limited Edition Art Book) - Self-Published  
**2021** MASS Publication, June, 'Queer Futures'  
2021 Nowadays Publication #1  
2021 Haus A Rest #15 'The Kitsch Issue'  
2021 Reincarnation Zine  
2021 SEAS 'The Face of the Other' Zine  
2021 MASS Publication, 'Skin'  
2021 Fruit: Queer Literary Journal - Cover Image + Feature  
**2020** BLANK\_02 'Physical Digital Physical'  
**2018** Cool T Zine (Berlin)

### Public Commissions

**2023** Gallery Lounge Ceiling Mural commissioned by Coop Live Arena