

Jonathon Beaver

Perception

Aida cloth, cotton and plastic.
2019

“Break glass to release an emergency safe gay: your neighbourhood, mainstream, homosexual friend a true-blue gay who neither challenges nor disrupts, who neither shifts nor interrupts.” Your Emergency Gay adores its role: to be accessible. Break its glass. Why should we be lesser/different/muted versions of our self? True. Whether to survive day-to-day we perform and mould ourselves in our jobs, to our families, friends, lovers and the general public. Am I being me? If you feel endangered, uncomfortable or fearful- go to your nearest call point for a non-threatening gay. I was angry and frustrated when I made this piece. I had been thinking a lot about representations of LGBTQ people in society and how we can be packaged to be 'safe' for a very patriarchal and heteronormative world. Although the work is quite humorous: especially with it being installed by the fire exit door, my thoughts and feelings are still raw, unresolved and I believe it will inspire future works. “



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Where in the North of England are you based?

Liverpool

What does living in The North mean to you?

Originally from Southport I never felt a sense of belonging there and its conservative, political and narrow-mindedness attitudes. You can't be different. I have lived in Liverpool for the past 4 years and feel like an adopted Scouser through family ties with the city but with the values the city holds dear: community, loyalty, diversity and independence. The city has given me strength through hard times and continuous hope. It also gives me pride to be from and living in The North, we continue to be a powerhouse for the Arts and develop our talents, challenge ourselves but also look after each other.

What inspires you?

My (family) history: past and future. Music, Literature: specifically queer theory. The city (Liverpool) also shapes my research and ideas. Furthermore, the larger LGBTQ community inspires me everyday in that we aren't stereotypes and complex people, like everyone else.