

**Katie Tomlinson**

*The Succulent Seven: An Ode to Brexit Britain*

Oil on Canvas and Painted Earthenware Ceramic  
2018

“My works depict bizarre narratives that are a response to the everyday, intended for and about the contemporary, digital and a temporal world. They represent peculiar moments that I encounter, observe or misremember. This piece combines two disparate scenes I observed from afar. The first instant occurred inside the best place on earth, IKEA. I was in my favourite section, admiring the most voluptuous Swiss cheese plant when I noticed seven men in their late 20s arguing over which succulent to buy - they became pretty hysterical but finally agreed on a Burros tail. These hysterical men reminded me of another group of hysterical men I encountered weeks later when I was holidaying on a beach in Corfu. I don't know if it was the hot sun, the cheap lager or the fact they were discussing Brexit, but they didn't compromise as quickly as the Burros-tail-boys. Maybe we can learn something from those succulent seven.”



#### Contact Details

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#### Where in the North are you based?

Since graduating with BFA from Manchester School of Art in 2018, I have continued to live and work in Manchester.

#### What does living in the North mean to you?

It's been a great source of inspiration for my artwork. I mainly focus on northern society and how northern life is challenged by British politics. People in the north are bloody brilliant, and the art community is thriving. The North holds its own character, everywhere has stereotypes, and we are so much more than ours. But yes, everyone does love Greggs.

#### What inspires you?

Each work is inspired by a different real-life encounter: a funny man gardening in his underpants, a weird meme found 79 weeks into a stranger's Instagram feed, two guys loudly discussing the pros of Brexit on a beach in Corfu, doing the cha-cha-slide with two Geordie nans on a DFDS ferry, or that shameful feeling when you've been watching Gavin and Stacey for 4 hours and Netflix asks are you still watching?