

## Response to Media Speculations - 7 March 2022

Following the recent speculations about the Whitworth and The University of Manchester, we hope the following confirmations are helpful:

Alistair Hudson is the Director of the Whitworth, The University of Manchester's art gallery.

The University has not suppressed artistic and academic freedoms. Nor has it bowed to external pressures as has been suggested.

Indeed, the University went to great lengths to ensure that the exhibition in question proceeded uncensored and remained opened for the full period that had been planned.

Museums and galleries have traditionally been a space of experimentation and challenge and we believe that the Whitworth is a place where we can debate, discuss, and disagree well.

As a University and gallery, there are various rights and duties which apply across our work, including the protection of academic freedom, freedom of speech and expression and duties under equality laws (including the public sector equality duty).

We work tirelessly to ensure that these rights, and our duties, are considered fully and carefully.

All staff at the gallery and the University are committed to ensuring that the Whitworth's work and reputation goes from strength to strength.

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