

## **ALTERNATOR STUDIO PRESENTS: TRANSLATING THE STREET**

Chris Dobrowolski + Kwong Lee + Casey Orr

On Saturday 13 April 2019, three international artists present new work inspired by micro-residencies in Birkenhead and Alternator Studio:

12.00 - 14.00 Birkenhead Central Library

14.15 - 16.15 The Hive Wirral Youth Zone

11.00 - 16.30 Kitstop Model Shop

16.30 - 18.00 Alternator Studio

Alternator Studio sits on the junction with Oxton Road and from this base, artists and studio founders Brigitte Jurack and Alan Dunn have discovered a range of independent businesses that serve a culturally diverse community. But how to unlock this treasure-trove of stories, cultures and customs?

### **Kwong Lee and Birkenhead Central Library**

Regulars of Oxton Road know that it is a magnet for international culinary palate. Small independent restaurants, greengrocer and shops cater for Central European, South and Southeast Asian specialities and conversations are held in a flurry of different languages as shop counters mutate into informal community centres. Attracted by these flavours and sounds, artist Kwong Lee moved between shops and the Library, meeting people through shared personal cooking stories. Kwong will permanently donate cookbooks in numerous languages to the Library and will prepare a vegan Chinese tofu dish whilst Merseyside based Polish homecook Grzegorz prepares Żurek.

### **Casey Orr and the Hive Wirral Youth Zone**

Casey Orr, winner of the 2019 FORMAT19 Photography Prize, has created a makeshift photo studio at the Hive, producing stunning portraits of young people living in Birkenhead. The images reveal how confident, individual and proud young people at the Hive are - beautiful and right at the pulse of our time. Casey and the young people then re-photographed these portraits around Wirral locations including the Priory and Birkenhead Park, some of the young people's favourite spots within walking distance of Oxton Road.

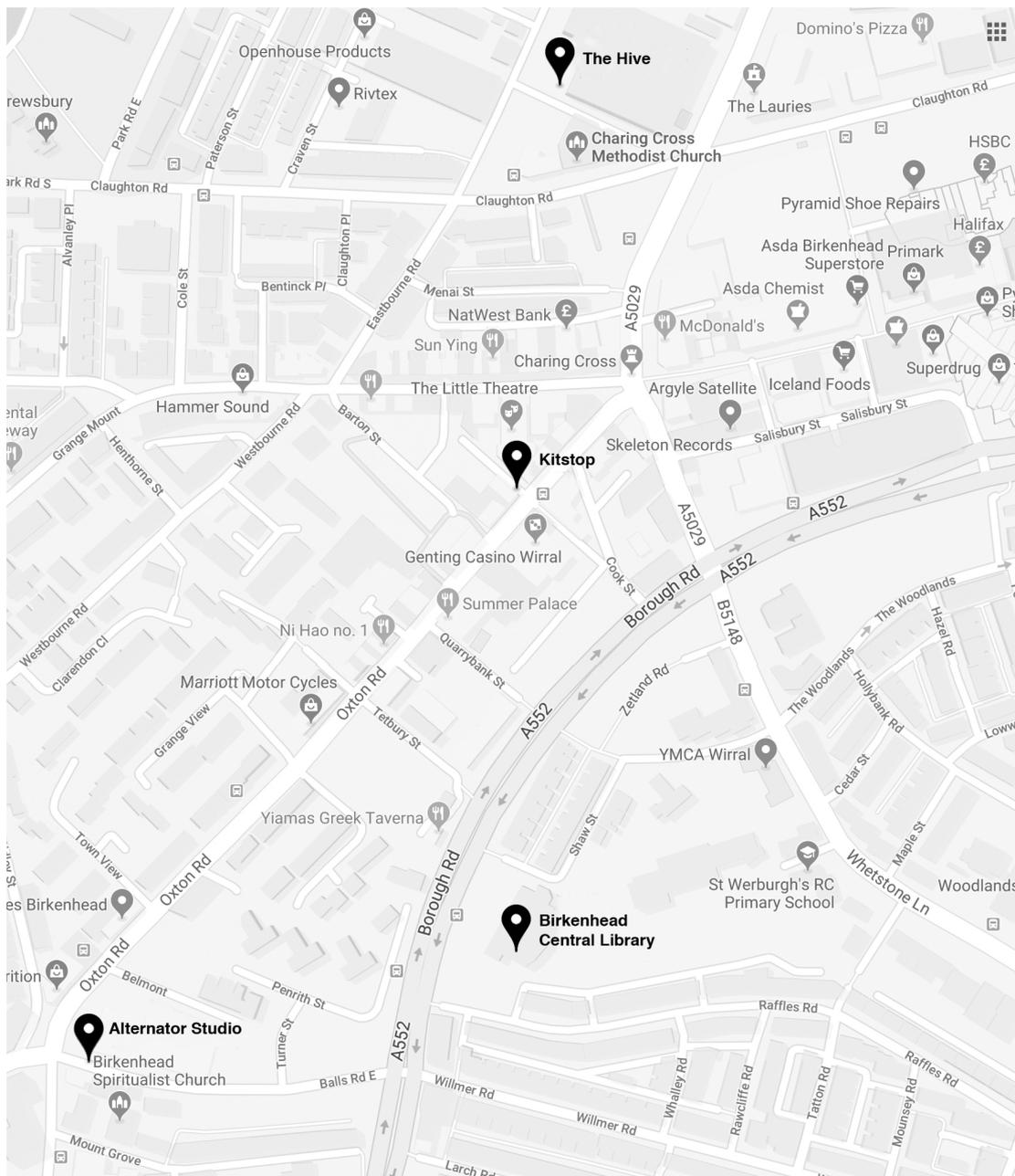
### **Chris Dobrowolski and Kitstop**

During a previous artist's residency in Antarctica, Chris took several toys and models with him and put these fragile representations into unusual and vulnerable scenarios. This approach was the basis for working with the Kitstop Model Shop. During his first visit to Wirral he visited the Lady Lever Art Gallery and saw the William Holman Hunt painting 'The Scapegoat' (1854-6); the origin of the phrase is biblical and comes from the tradition of driving a goat into the wilderness carrying the sins of the community with it. 'Scapegoat' is also a phrase that resonates greatly with our current socio-political climate and Chris revelled in the incongruous nature of bringing this pious subject matter into the context of a model shop.

## Live music from Edge of Seventeen at Alternator Studio

Four young and gifted singers from The Hive's senior vocal group, Edge of Seventeen, will perform at Alternator Studio.

The first round of *Translating the Street* micro-residencies in 2016 invited artists Haleh Jamali, Harold Offeh and Jeff Young to Alternator to spend time with Frank Cavanagh Shoe Repairs, All Nations 4 Hair and K&K Fruit & Vegetables and their artworks as portraits of Birkenhead have been exhibited internationally. *Translating the Street* is supported by the Arts Council England. See [www.brittejurack.de/translate.html](http://www.brittejurack.de/translate.html)



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