

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends and loyal audience,

It is with a heady mixture of sadness, pride and anticipation that I write this letter. To address the sadness first, I must let you all know that we will be closing Griffin Gallery to the public on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. After hearing this, I'm sure you understand the feeling of pride; the last six years have been extraordinary and exceeded all expectations. Then, on to the anticipation: most of the Griffin team will soon be joining our new friends at Elephant Magazine to support them as they grow into a global creative community.

As you may have already heard on the artworld grapevine, Colart International Holdings (our parent company, and owners of art materials brands Winsor & Newton, Lefranc Bourgeois and Liquitex) acquired a majority shareholding in Elephant in spring last year. They did so in order to invest in expanding the reach of the magazine, developing a global community of artists, creatives and the culturally interested. As such, the Griffin Gallery curatorial team will be joining Elephant to develop a very exciting new project: the opening of a large, new, interdisciplinary project space on the site of a disused petrol station at White City to be called Elephant West. Alongside this very exciting new adventure, due to open in the autumn, the Griffin Residency programme will also nestle under the Elephant umbrella, becoming Elephant Residencies. We will continue to run an annual prize for emerging artists, this year to be named the Elephant x Griffin Art Prize.

I am enormously proud of what the team have achieved in the Griffin Gallery space over the past six years. We started with a beautiful white-walled, concrete-floored space on the ground floor of Colart HQ, a very small team and heaps of passion. Since then, we have shown the work of over 300 artists, from those just graduating to some well-established names. Our residency programme has supported the practice of 50 artists so far, offering them unique opportunities to collaborate with our in-house scientists and develop their understanding of materials and material chemistry. Throughout all of this, we have encouraged and enabled a conversation about materiality within contemporary art practice, standing firm that it is as relevant today as it ever has been.

Personally, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to my extraordinarily dedicated team, to the Colart senior management for their continuing belief in the power and importance of contemporary art, and of course to you all for your enthusiastic support for the programme and the artists.

We would very much like you to join us on the next stage of our journey with Elephant. In order to stay abreast of all future developments we ask you to sign up to the Elephant mailing list here: [bit.ly/elephant-west](http://bit.ly/elephant-west). Due to data protection laws, we cannot transfer your details to Elephant for you, so please make sure you do sign up. There will be lots of exciting news coming your way very soon!

Date for your diary: Griffin Gallery Closing Party, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 6 – 9pm

We look forward to seeing you soon.

All best wishes,

Becca Pelly-Fry

Director & Head Curator