

JMC Hayes is an artist whose multifarious body of work is dominated by one figure.

JMC Hayes revolves around the Fat Man, orbiting a mass so considerable it grounds the work with its strong gravitational pull.

JMC Hayes plays out an awkward contemporary relationship with Fatness and embraces him as an ambiguous and ambivalent carnival figure. Particular features are picked out, often imagined as vulgar, bawdy, and ugly clown like figures. The Fat Man plays out scenes that encourage a 'revolutionary power' of laughter. It becomes a hybrid portrait of humanity unified in the creation of community celebration. This display becomes an amalgamation of enthusiasms and measured satire directed at festive human behaviour and all its excesses, indiscretions and impoliteness.

JMC Hayes wants you to understand the Fat Man, his complexities. His is multitudinous manifestations. The Fat Man is presented in a number of environments and all sorts of man.

Paintings, installation and Performance combine to establish a landscape of celebration. JMC Hayes works towards a positive idealised festive body born of human cooperation. And the aim is not to offer critique or to celebrate but to examine the *ambivalence* of carnival laughter and transgression as in Mikhail Bakhtin's text, *Rabelais and His World*. Seeking to identify these idealised Bakhtinian activities in alternative surroundings, distanced from yet connected to the medieval Christian world of Rabelais.

You see JMC Hayes will always create art about the Fat Man, although not exclusively. An alternative set of types creep in from the peripheries, a boy bishop, a wild woman, a trans person, a trans pet. Employed to access transgressive modes of behaviour and populate the piece. Welcomed to the party for their ability to upset, to command, invert, oppose, and to inspire. Parades, parties, hedonisms, rituals and the human behaviours associated with these states become the setting, the characters and the nourishment attendant at this carnival of production.

JMC Hayes is an artist exploring more than just the amusing largeness of an arse or the uncomfortable presence of an overweight person in the London art world. There exists, here, a few borderlines becoming blurred, between excess and acceptability, morality and immorality, caring and not caring, guilt and abandonment. It is a personal and contemporary grappling.

JMC Hayes graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2012, she has exhibited internationally and performed and exhibited with Bosse and Baum, London, Ceri Hand Gallery and Limoncello.

In 2017 JMC Hayes will publish *Seven Ablutions*, an illustrated book.