

Timber sole plate
219 x 35mm (min/max)

Support in
concrete slab with
steel reinforcement

Support
to be
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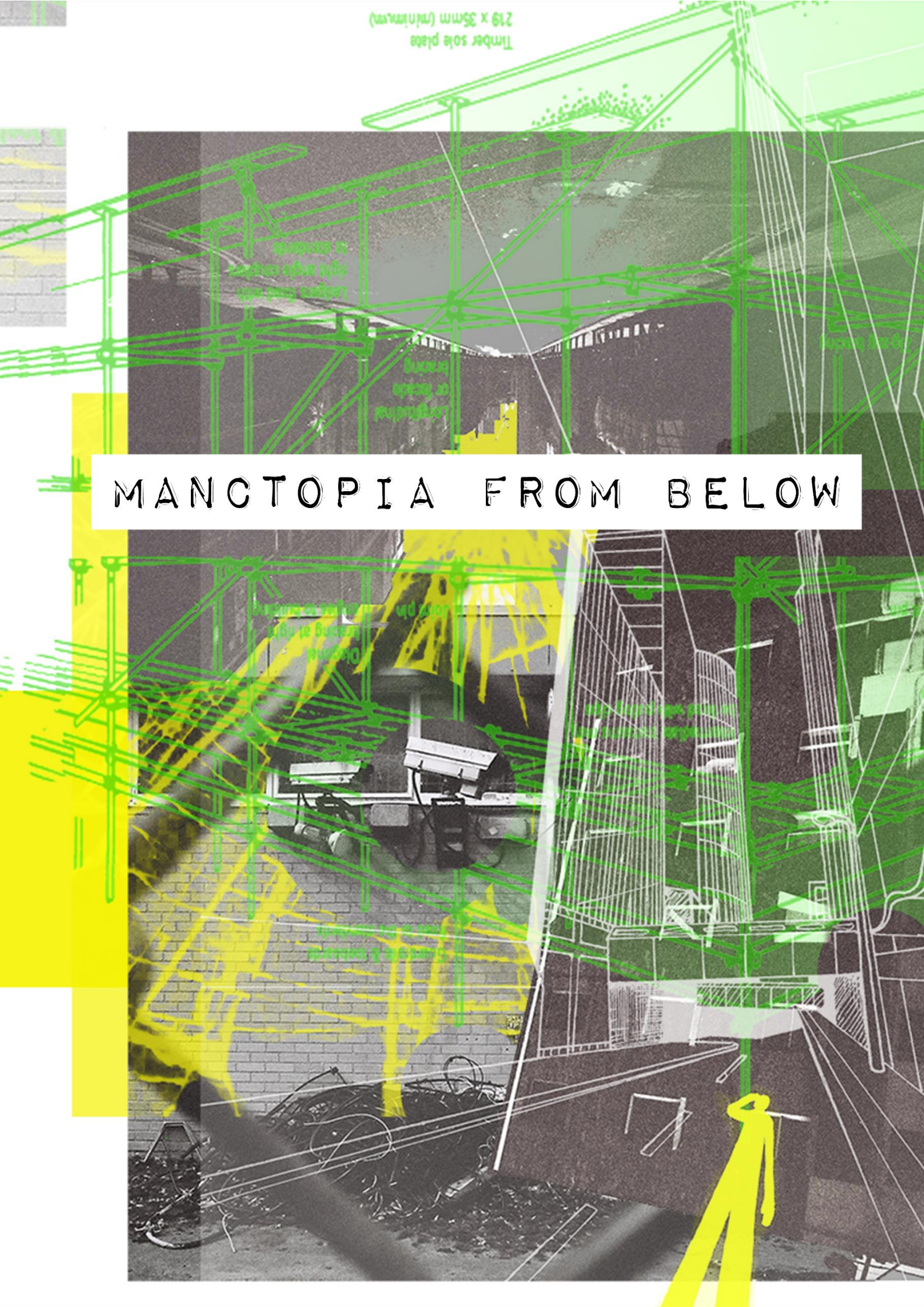
Steel beam

MANCTOPIA FROM BELOW

Support to be
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to allow
access

Support to be
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Support to be
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STARE INTO THE AIR

SPRING DAYLIGHT BRINGS RESPITE FROM OUR 21ST CENTURY VERSION OF RUSKIN'S 'DEVIL'S DARKNESS' OF 20TH CENTURY POLLUTION IN MANCHESTER. RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TAKE A BREATHER FROM THE DARK SHADOWS OF THE INCREASINGLY CROWDED MANCHESTER SKYLINE THANKS TO THE LONGER DAYLIGHT HOURS, ALTHOUGH THE AIR STILL TASTES OF POLLUTION. THAT'S ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT OUR CURRENT CITY HABITAT, MOVING AMONGST IT AND LIVING WITH IT. ANOTHER IS TO MARVEL AT THE VISION AND AMBITION FOR A WORLD-BEATING MANCHESTER. BUT THE WORLD IS BEATEN ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?

TOWERS OF EMBODIED CARBON FORMING MANCHESTER'S HORIZON AT ODDS WITH MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S OWN CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION. POLLUTION TRAPPED IN AND LIGHT BLOCKED OUT. POLLUTING VEHICLES STILL DRIVE THROUGH THE CITY CENTRE. WHERE IS THE POLITICAL WILL FROM MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVES TO CREATE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE?

WILL NEWLY ELECTED LOCAL COUNCILLORS BE HEARD? MANCHESTER'S CLEAN AIR ZONE PLAN IS SEEMINGLY HIGH UP FRUIT, CURRENTLY OUT OF REACH. MANCHESTER'S HOMELESS AND HIDDEN HOMELESS CRISIS EXACERBATED BY WHAT SEEMS LIKE PLANNERS' PROJECTS OF GROWTH FOR GROWTH'S SAKE. CAN THE APPARENT PLANNING CULTURE OF SEEKING TO SWERVE SECTION 106 AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENTS BE TURNED AROUND TO BECOME A BADGE OF HONOUR FOR PLANNERS TO COMPETE FOR? PEOPLE BEFORE PRIVATE PROFIT, PRIORITISING FAIRNESS FOR ALL ON THE GROUND GETS MY VOTE. STARE INTO AIR AND HAVE AIR TO STARE INTO, PREFERABLY CLEAN AIR. LONG VIEWS FROM THE PICCADILLY END OF MOSELEY STREET, A CLEAR CROSS-SECTION ONCE UNINTERRUPTED BY NEW CITY OBJECTS. MANCTOPIA FROM BELOW. - JACKIE HAYNES

JAMES

Timber sole plate
219 x 35mm (external)

I WENT ON SOME WALKS TO EXPLORE AREAS OF MANCHESTER WHERE THINGS ARE BEING BUILT. RATHER THAN FOCUS ON THE CONSTRUCTION TAKING PLACE, I LOOKED AROUND THE STREETS NEARBY AND ALMOST ALWAYS THERE WAS A PATCH OF WASTE GROUND CLOSE. WASTE GROUND INTERESTS ME BECAUSE OF THE IMPLICATION IT'S WAITING TO BE IMPROVED, BETTERED, 'DEVELOPED'. MORSELS OF LAND WHICH THE CITY IS SAVING FOR LATER. USUALLY IT'S BEEN WAITING FOR A LONG TIME, AND NATURE HAS STARTED RECLAIMING IT, MAKING IT USEFUL WITHOUT OUR HELP. I EXPERIMENTED WITH SOME OTHER VISUAL POETRY IDEAS BEFORE MAKING THIS ONE, WHICH TAKES THE SHAPES OF DIFFERENT PATCHES OF WASTE GROUND I FOUND, AND SHRINKS AND SHRINKS THEM AROUND A PIECE OF FREE WRITING, CUTTING OFF WORDS, CHANGING WHAT IS LEFT READABLE.

where I live there are fences in the middle of paths there are unexplained polygons patches of grass or gravel or cracked concrete which have been shaped and I know that other people have drawn their shapes they have been devised by years of cuts and encroaching boundaries by laws and by deals and sales and thefts and thefts it matters incredibly in these places that where the ground continues it also ends and begins again the boundary doesn't stop the wind or the rain and it cannot stop seeds and spores and creatures empty ground is never empty at its most vacant it sings and beckons an invitation to be taken to be occupied to be made into a home and a hole in the city can easily become a home the world is filled with small notes which know how to grow and when you are able to grow no ground can be waste ground and knowing the land is labelled owned prone to be cleared and put to use is no disincentive to a seed the life of brief wild things is already as frantic as rushed as the rest of the city and it isn't waste ground surely if it is as busy as this if it can be as many things and as constantly changing as this maybe waste ground is only ground marked for the city to consume next only full of flowers and grass and wild life as a kind of consolation prize a last supper before the world that exists in these between spaces shrinks away and down and out and the seeds the birds the crawling animals fly to another patch if they can find one of waste ground and these pieces of ground can and do last a long time but they are always crumbs to be waste ground is to be ground which is hiding its time being unproductive but only for now and always only for now the fence or the wall or imaginary line at its edge is a promise that the future will come and the obliterating outside will close in it will it will a wild flower can be a wild flower because it found its space and seeded itself and grew itself life can be untamed because it lives by fleeing from us and we can be sure that as patches grow in the same place we are growing in the

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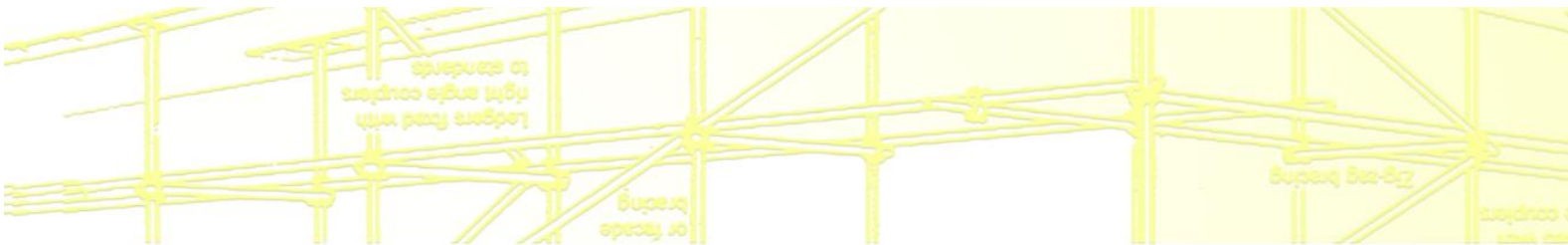
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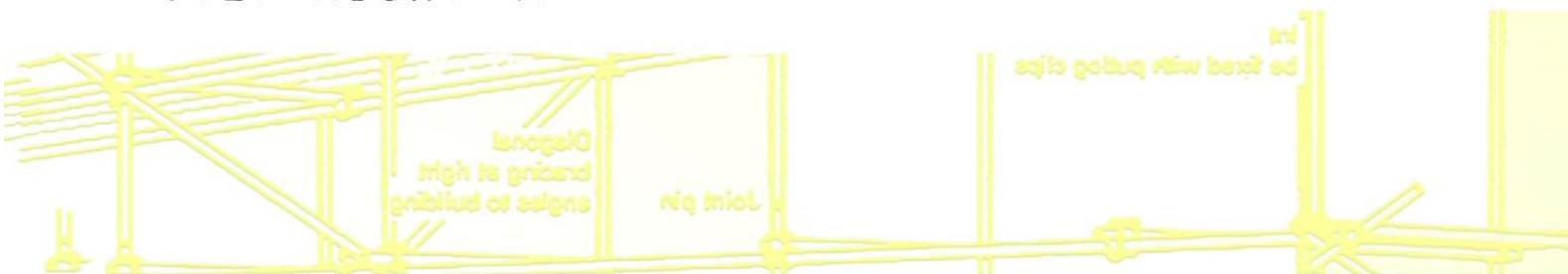
Manchester Manchester



ORIGINAL MODERN MANCHESTER (TM),

A NOVELTY CITY BUILT ON REINVENTION, PRECARIETY, CONSUMPTION AND DISPLAY, ITS BRAND STRATEGY A RELENTLESS MASH-UP OF HIGH-WIRE RAZZLE DAZZLE AND IMPOSSIBLE CONJURING TRICKS, A CIRCUS BIG-TOP APPROACH GARNERING COUNTLESS ADMIRERS FOR ITS BRAVADO AND BOLDNESS. MAKE A BIG NOISE, WEAR A BIG HAT, JUGGLE A FEW BEE SHAPED BALLS.

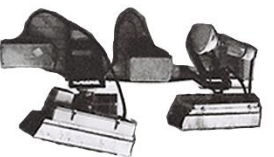
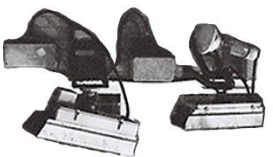
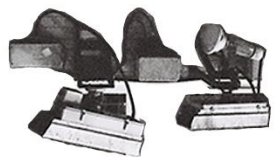
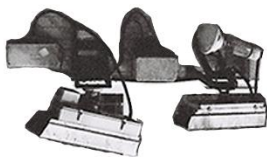
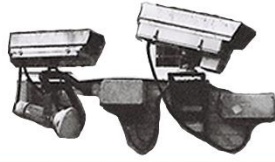
THIS TOWN PUNCHED ABOVE ITS WEIGHT AND USUALLY, ARGUABLY PULLED IT OFF...BUT AT A TERRIBLE PRICE: THE BARRAGE OF RINGMASTER HYPERBOLE BIGGING UP THE CIRCUS ACTS MERELY HEIGHTENING A DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE EXTRAVAGANCE OF DISTRACTION VS THE PRECARIOUS LIVED EXPERIENCE OF MANY - A DYSFUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITS LEADERS & INHABITANTS HELD HOSTAGE IN THIS VORTEX OF FORCED FUN AND GRANDIOSITY. 'HURRY, HURRY, HURRY, STEP RIGHT UP FOR THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH, MARVEL AT THE ACROBATICS, THRILL AT THE TRAPEZE, LAUGH AT THE CLOWNS' ANTICS, WORSHIP AT THE ALTAR OF COMMODITY FETISHISM. . . .STEP RIGHT UP. . . .'





WELCOME TO MEGACITY ONE, MANCLAND POWERHOUSE
CUM EMERALD CITY, A CARNIVAL SIDESHOW OF 'GREAT
AND TERRIBLE ILLUSIONS', BUILT ON AN ENDLESS
MERRY-GO-ROUND OF ENTERTAINMENTS, EVENTS &
ACTIVITIES, SHIFTING IN ITS AMBITIONS, ITS SONG
SHEET, WITH THE TIMES: FROM CASINO CITY, A LAS
VEGAS OF THE NORTH WITH ITS PLANS FOR A GIANT
GAMBLING COMPLEX; THEN 24 HOUR PARTY CITY,
ENTERTAINMENT AND TOURIST HOTSPOT, THE
BARCELONA OF THE NORTH; TO OUR NOW DOMINANT
VARIANT, MANCTOPIA, CITY OF OPPORTUNITY,
PROPERTY INVESTMENT AND UNREGULATED LAND
GRABBING. EACH ERA REQUIRING A FANFARE OF
DISTRACTION, MARKETING AND POMPOSITY, A
NEVER-ENDING SPECTACLE, A MAGIC SHOW ALWAYS
RIGHT UP IN YER FACE BUT ALL TOO OFTEN
COMPLETELY OUT OF REACH FOR ITS CITIZENRY.







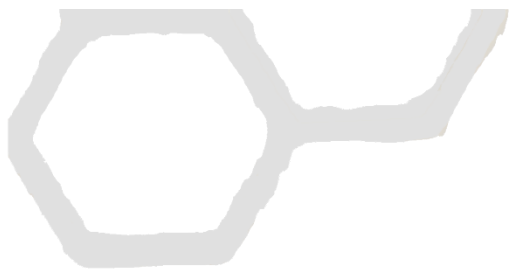
A CLEVER FAKE, A GLAMOUR, TRICK, HOAX, HULLABALOO, OR AT THE LEAST A PROVOCATION, IT KEPT THE FACADE GOING UNTIL THE WHIRLWIND OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC FINALLY BLEW THE BLOODY DOORS OFF....

BUT SUDDENLY WITH THE RINGMASTER'S ABRUPT RETREAT FROM THE BIG TOP, THIS CITY OF OZ, MINUS ITS GREAT AND TERRIBLE WIZARD, FINDS ITS BAG OF TRICKS EXPOSED, A MOMENTARY RENT OR TEAR IN THE CURTAIN, A BRIEF INTERLUDE BEFORE A NEW CURTAIN RISES AND THE SHOW GOES ON....



THE CITY, THE NORTH, THE ENTIRE NATION IN FACT IS READY FOR A NEW ORDER (SEE WHAT I DID THERE ..?) OF HUMILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY. LET MANCHESTER TRULY LEAD THE WAY AND MAKE US, THE PEOPLE, NOT MERELY THOSE FABLED, OFT MENTIONED 'STAKEHOLDERS', HEARD, INCLUDED AND INVOLVED. THE SHOW, ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY, MUSTN'T GO ON...!





INSTEAD, HERE'S AN IDEA - CREATE A NEW MEANING FOR THAT TIRED OLD MANTRA, THAT GLIB "WE DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY HERE" BLATHER AND BLUSTER. WHATEVER IT ONCE MEANT, ITS LONG BEEN RUNNING ON EMPTY, REDUCED TO A LAZY SLOGAN. LET'S USE THIS BRIEF GAP, THIS INTER REGNUM, TO USHER IN A LEADERSHIP THAT DOES THINGS FOR THE LONG HAUL, FOR THE GRASSROOTS, THE SMALL AND THE LOCAL, NOT SOLELY FOR THE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OPPORTUNITY. IN SHORT WE SAY GOOD RIDDANCE TO THE WIZARD AND GOODBYE TO THE CIRCUS.



AND TO THE NEW GUARD WE SUGGEST LESS ORIGINAL MODERN AND MORE HUMBLE, ORDINARY PLEASE...NOW THAT WOULD BE TRULY, RADICALLY DIFFERENT!



An aerial night photograph of the Manchester city skyline, featuring illuminated buildings and the distinctive curved roof of the Manchester Arena. The image is framed by a dark border with yellow and black diagonal stripes. The text is centered within this frame.

This is
Manchester
We do
things
differently
here. . .

JACKIE



INSPIRED BY DIVINE AS DAWN DAVENPORT CHASTISING HER BORED DAUGHTER TAFFY IN JOHN WATER'S 1974 FILM, 'FEMALE TROUBLE', 'CAN'T YOU JUST SIT HERE AND LOOK OUT INTO THE AIR? ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?'

Timber sole plate
219 x 35mm (incl. noggins)

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FROM THIS PLACE, I SEE OUTLINES OF FACES,
BODIES TRAVELLING IN FATED WAYS AND LANES.
THEIR ROUTES PREDICTABLE BENEATH THE CLOUD
COVER, BENEATH THE WILD DIVING ARCING
AND SPIRALLING OF BIRDS ON THEIR WING.
FROM THIS PLACE I WANT TO DESCEND AND TAKE TO
THE CONCRETE BELOW, SET OFF. BUT MY VANTAGE IS
RAPIDLY VINTAGE AND I FEAR I WOULD BE LOST AT
TRAFFIC LEVEL, EYE TO EYE WITH THOSE OTHER
OUTLINES. INSTEAD, I IMAGINE RUNNING ON THE
LOW ROOFTOPS I SEE IN THE FOREGROUND THOSE THAT
STRETCH OUT ROW UPON ROW INTO THE PAST
UNTIL THEY'RE ABRUPTLY CUT SHORT BY GLASS WALLS.
FORMED OF TERRACES, SIDE BY SIDE AND LEVEL,
NEATLY PACKED AND UNIFORMED. AN EQUALITY
OF BUILT SPACE, ON THAT STREET AT LEAST.
ONE SHARED ROOF THAT CAN BE SEEN FROM
BELOW. I WISH TO USE THAT ROOF AS A RUNWAY TO
EXPLORE THE OLD BRICK AND MORTAR CITY.
RUNNING FROM THIS PLACE FROM THE PERSON
LOOKING DOWN FROM THAT WINDOW UP THERE.
FROM THAT PLACE UP THERE. WINDOW IN THE SKY,
HOVERING ABOVE THE PATIENT-CITY
LIKE A READY SURGEON, DISSECTING REFORMING
PLANNING DEMOLISHING RAISING REMAKING
REBUILDING AND STITCHING TOGETHER THIS
MONSTROPOLIS, WITHOUT CONSENT.
IGNORING THE GROANS FROM BELOW,
FROM THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN THEIR
WHOLE LIVES FROM THIS PLACE, FROM THOSE
WHO ARE TAKEN FROM THE HEART TO BE REATTACHED
AT THE FOOT AND FROM THE EARTH BENEATH IT ALL.

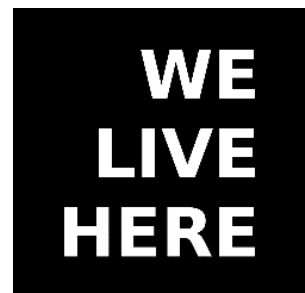
MANCTOPIA FROM BELOW

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THE UNITY THEATRE TRUST AND
GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING ACTION.



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