

# MOSTYN

3 January 2017  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Shezad Dawood – Leviathan**  
**MOSTYN, Wales UK**

**Exhibition Dates: 3 March - 1 July 2018**  
**Exhibition Preview Evening: Friday 2 March 2018 from 6.30pm**

MOSTYN, Wales UK is pleased to present a major four-month exhibition of the work of artist Shezad Dawood whose work *Leviathan* is an episodic narrative around notions of borders, mental health and marine welfare issues of foremost concern, resonating profoundly with both coastal locations and contemporary life.

A ten-part film cycle that will unfold over the next three years, the work draws connections between human activity and marine ecology. Three films have already been premiered in Venice, in conjunction with the 57<sup>th</sup> Art Biennale, with a fourth to be released in early September 2018.

In dialogue with a wide range of marine biologists, oceanographers, political scientists, neurologists and trauma specialists, *Leviathan* explores interconnections between these fields of work and will be presented through sculpture, textiles, museum specimens, films, conversations and online resource material.

During the exhibition at MOSTYN the artist will work on a new filmic episode. The film will focus upon the off-shore wind farm in Llandudno and, in collaboration with one of its maintenance engineers (who is also a professional artist previously exhibited at MOSTYN), explore the relationship between renewable energy, the local community and wider impacts on tides and marine and coastal ecology. As part of the first iteration of *Leviathan* after its Venice debut, Dawood will also show a newly commissioned painting drawing upon this specific context, and work with community groups based on the coastal location asking questions about how these issues might come to evolve in a future 20 to 50 years from now, and what that future might look like.

The exhibition is curated by Alfredo Cramerotti, MOSTYN Director, in dialogue with the artist.

For press enquiries and images, please email Lin Cummins, [lin@mostyn.org](mailto:lin@mostyn.org), or call 01492 879201.

## **About the Artist**

Born in London in 1974, where he now lives and works, Shezad Dawood trained at Central St Martin's and the Royal College of Art before undertaking a PhD at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Dawood works across film, painting and sculpture to juxtapose discrete systems of image, language, site and multiple narratives, using the editing process as a method to explore meanings and forms between film and painting. His practice often involves collaboration, working with groups and individuals across different territories to physically and conceptually map far-reaching lines of enquiry. These networks map across different geographic locations and communities and are particularly concerned with acts of translation and restaging.

Dawood's work has been exhibited internationally, including the Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice (2017); Museum of Modern Art, New York (2015); Taipei Biennial, Taiwan (2014); Marrakech Biennial, Morocco (2014); MACBA, Barcelona (2014); Witte de With, Centre for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam (2013); Modern Art Oxford (2012); Busan Biennale, South Korea (2010); Tate Britain, London (2009); and the 53rd Venice Biennale, Italy (2009). Most recently, Dawood has held solo exhibitions at Parasol Unit, London (2014); and OCAT Xi'an, China (2014). His feature film Piercing Brightness (2013) was exhibited widely at international festivals, is distributed by Soda Pictures on Blu-ray/DVD and iTunes, and was screened at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

### **About MOSTYN**

MOSTYN presents international art and culture of our time, activating people's lives through exhibitions, cultural programmes and commercial activities. Situated in the coastal town of Llandudno, it is Wales' foremost contemporary gallery and visual arts centre, serving as a place to form and share new perspectives through artistic/curatorial practice and audience engagement.

MOSTYN receives financial support from the Arts Council of Wales and Conwy County Borough Council Art Service. Mostyn Gallery Ltd is a registered charity trading as MOSTYN.

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**Open Tuesday – Sunday**

**10.30am – 4.00pm**

ADMISSION FREE

