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Video Installation By Leeds-Born Artist On Show At City Art Gallery

By Fiona Winward

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*Big V, installation at Leeds City Art Gallery.
Georgina Starr. Courtesy Leeds City Art
Gallery.*

A new exhibition exploring the concerns and experiences of adolescent girls growing up in inner-city Leeds has opened as part of the permanent collection of Leeds City Art Gallery.

Georgina Starr's Big V is a four-screen video installation based on the artist's memories of life as a schoolgirl growing up in Leeds and attending the city's Corpus Christi High School.



*Big V, installation at Leeds City Art Gallery.
Georgina Starr. Courtesy Leeds City Art Gallery*

The work focuses on the themes of female sexuality, guilt and punishment in relation to Catholicism but also investigates issues of adolescent identity and uncertainty in the 21st century.

“Although naturally the work is proving very popular with girls, many men have found it relevant to them, particularly from the perspective of a Catholic upbringing,” Lisa Fieldhouse of Leeds City Art Gallery told the 24 Hour Museum.

“As a study of inner-city teenage life the work has a lot of appeal and significance for both genders.”



*Big V, installation at Leeds City Art Gallery.
Georgina Starr. Courtesy Leeds City Art Gallery.*

Starr, who was born in Leeds in 1968 and attended the Leeds College of Art and Design before London's Slade School of Art, interviewed people she grew up with to create Big V's emotional narrative.

Auditions were then held at the gallery for students at Leeds drama schools to find the 21 children and four teenage girls who recreate the incidents and memories from Starr's youth. Footage for the project was shot at locations around the artist's native city, including her old school.



*Big V, installation at Leeds City Art Gallery.
Georgina Starr. Courtesy Leeds City Art Gallery.*

Now London-based, Starr has affirmed her standing in the international art scene in recent years with exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and Tate Britain.

Big V, commissioned by the Contemporary Art Society with funding from the Arts Council of England, is Starr's first work to enter the designated permanent collections of fine art in Leeds.

Featured Venue

[Leeds City Art Gallery](#)

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<http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/leeds/news/ART24602.html>