

## **Press release**

### **08-June-2011**

#### [Valuing the arts in an age of austerity](#)

WITH the government promoting happiness and wellbeing while at the same time cutting funding to the arts, what is the role of culture in an age of austerity?

Many organisations have seen their grants by the Arts Council slashed and the arts in general are being told to deliver value for money.

The [Manchester Salon](#) has brought together two key speakers to address the issues surrounding this vital debate.

Dr Patricia Allmer is a research fellow in art history at Manchester Metropolitan University and recently curated the sell-out [Angels of Anarchy: Women Artists and Surrealism](#) show at Manchester Art Gallery. Angus Kennedy is head of external relations at the Institute of Ideas and writes for Culture Wars among others.

They will be asking whether the arts deserve public funding and which arts in particular are more or less deserving: opera, theatre or local amateur groups.

With the battle for the arts now taken to the frontline of library closures, the question will be

asked whether the arts are a luxury we can afford in these lean times. One UK playwright has even celebrated the new austerity in the arts, arguing that only the best will succeed and that great art is forged under difficult circumstances.

**Date:** Tuesday 21 June, 7.30pm

**Venue:** Shakespeare pub, Fountain Street, Manchester, M2 2AA.

There is a £5 charge to cover costs. Book in advance by emailing [events@manchestersalon.org.uk](mailto:events@manchestersalon.org.uk)