

Who gets to create art and why? Sussex art organisations join forces to ask the question this summer with new exhibition and studio programme

Putting Ourselves in the Picture
Fabrica with Project Art Works
Fabrica
13 July-26 August 2019

Fabrica, Brighton's Centre for Contemporary Art, will open its doors this summer with an accessible studio and temporary gallery for artists of all ages, levels and abilities to access. Work created in the studio space will also then be exhibited at Fabrica for the public to experience.

The exhibition is a co-commission with Project Art Works as part of the EXPLORERS – an ambitious, creative and collaborative programme of work with neurodiverse people across the UK. *Putting Ourselves in the Picture* is multilayered in both the questions it asks and the opportunities that it offers to a broad range of visitors, whilst also positioning creators with and without complex needs, at the centre of the exhibition. *Putting Ourselves in the Picture* also asks questions about the politics of who gets to make art and whose artwork is worthy of public view.



Image: Project Art Works

Three artists-in-residence will lead activities in the gallery which will be accessible to visitors of varying capacities. The artists, who all have a socially engaged practice, are Sara Dare, Jo Offer and Annis Joslin. Sara Dare plans to create a giant loop of canvas, playing with Fabrica's unique architecture to create an inviting space for visitors to make work within. Jo Offer will invite artists to create large floor based work during her residency via playful pop up activities. Finally, Annis Joslin will invite people to respond to a series of objects and consider free-play, assemblage, notation, and documentation.

Once the artists have worked with studio visitors and participants to create work, a group of curators will then select from what has been produced for presentation in the gallery. Curators include: Kate Adams, Director of Project Art Works, Marc Steene, Director, and Cornelia Marland, Exhibitions Co-ordinator, from Outside In, and independent curator Lisa Slominski

whose involvement is closely linked to their wider ambition of diversifying the artworks for public consumption.

Liz Whitehead, Director, Fabrica, said, “At the heart of this experimental exhibition is the question ‘*who gets to create art and whose work is selected, and thereby validated, for public consumption?*’ The project also explores how artists with a socially engaged practice develop their work. And whilst highly respected as artists, when working as artist-facilitators the work produced is often marginalised within arts institutions. Everyone who would like to make art will have the opportunity to do that during this exhibition and have the possibility to have it exhibited at Fabrica ”

PROJECT ARTWORKS QUOTE

Kate Adams, Artist Director & CEO, Project Art Works said, “Through EXPLORERS we have worked to increase the visibility and representation of people with disability in culture. Why is this important? Because art is enriched by diverse voices and artists. Organisations and institutions have a critical role to play in social cohesion. The people and organisations involved in the work have been extraordinary and have fully embraced the relationships with new communities of artists and audiences that have emerged through collaborative working. We love working with Fabrica and share many values. These are relationships that will endure long after the EXPLORERS programme – nurturing and promoting art that truly reflects different ways of living in and experiencing the world.”

ENDS

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LISTINGS

Putting Ourselves in the Picture

Fabrica

13 July-26 August 2019

Opening Times

1-6pm Wednesday to Saturday

2-6pm Sunday and Bank Holidays

Artist-in-residence for 13-26 July - Sara Dare

Meet the Artist, Wednesday 24 July, 4-5pm

Artist-in-residence for 13-26 July - Jo Offer

Meet the Artist, Saturday 3 August 4.30-5.30pm

Artist-in-residence for 13-26 July 2019 - Annis Joslin

Meet the Artist, Thursday 22 August 5-6pm

Mon 22 July, 6-7.30pm: Annis Joslin, Jo Offer and Sara Dare will join Liz Whitehead, Fabrica Director, to talk about the status of artists who describe their practice as socially-engaged and their relationship with arts institutions.

Exhibition dates:

Sat 13-Sun 21 July 2019 - Kate Adams and studio artists from Project Art Works

Wed 24 July-Sun 4 August 2019- Lisa Slominski (independent curator)

Wed 7-Sun 18 August 2019 - Marc Steene and Cornelia Marland (Outside In)

Wed 21-Mon 26 August 2019 - Liz Whitehead (Fabrica)

ABOUT FABRICA

Fabrica is a contemporary art gallery in the heart of Brighton's historic Lanes. Based in the former Holy Trinity Church, Fabrica responds to the building and its history through a programme of site-specific exhibitions and a diverse engagement programme, using creative and social activity to provoke investigation into how audiences look at the world.

2017 saw Fabrica mark it's 21st birthday and the bicentenary of the Holy Trinity Church building. Fabrica has worked with artists ranging from Anish Kapoor, Brian Griffiths, and Kaarina Kaikkonen to Brian Eno, Alfredo Jaar, David Shrigley and Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva

Fabrica is a registered charity. Profits from bar sales and venue hire help Fabrica support artists and sustain valuable community work. To support Fabrica further become a member at fabrica.org.uk/forever-fabrica

fabrica.org.uk

ABOUT EXPLORERS

EXPLORERS is a three-year programme of creative investigations through collaborations with neurodiverse communities and cultural organisations across the UK and in Australia.

EXPLORERS is taking place against a backdrop of increased hardship and marginalisation of vulnerable people. The project celebrates and raises awareness of the dynamic, extraordinary contribution neurodiverse communities make to art and culture.

The EXPLORERS project is supported by the Arts Council Ambition for Excellence Programme and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

For information visit explorersproject.org.

Partners include

1. [Tate Liverpool](#)
2. [MK Gallery](#)
3. Autograph
4. [Fabrica](#)
5. [Photoworks](#)
6. [UNSW, National Institute for Experimental Arts, Sydney, Australia](#)
7. [De La Warr Pavilion](#)

About Project Art Works

Based in Hastings, **Project Art Works** is the UK's leading artist led organisation working with people who have complex needs. Project Art Works is an Arts Council England

National Portfolio Organisation and delivers intensive programmes in house through PROPEL and works with arts organisations across the country through EXPLORERS. Started in 1997, Project Art Works has collaborated with thousands of people who have complex needs and continues to offer support and friendship to them and their families. Project Art Works and has over 20 years' experience of initiating and delivering responsive, collaborative projects with artists, galleries, psychologists, neurodiverse children and adults and their families and carers.

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk