

projectart works

Project Art Works

Press Pack



00

CONTENTS

01 ABOUT PROJECT ART WORKS

02 ABOUT THE TURNER PRIZE NOMINATION

03 ABOUT THE TURNER PRIZE EXHIBITION

04 RECENT INITIATIVES AND WORKS

05 HOW PROJECT ART WORKS STARTED

06 ABOUT KATE ADAMS, CEO/ARTIST DIRECTOR

07 IMAGES

08 CONTACTS

09 GLOSSARY

01

ABOUT PROJECT ART WORKS

Project Art Works is a collective working at the intersection of art and care to create the conditions where people with complex support needs can work independently and collaboratively to produce paintings, drawings, sculptural objects and film.

The collective is made up of 40 neurodivergent artists, as well as artists, activists, families and carers, who work together in their Hastings studio to develop long-term supportive and creative relationships.

Their practice spans art, support and activism.

Themes of human connection and what it reveals about identity and how we view each other is explored in their work.

Support is holistic and includes training, resources, advocacy, exhibitions and events that seek to protect the rights of people with complex support needs.

Together this approach seeks to challenge paradigms of inclusion in art; responding to the functional and ethical structures of diligence and care; and respecting self-determination and privacy whilst working towards greater visibility, understanding and appreciation of neurodiversity in culture.

02

ABOUT THE TURNER PRIZE NOMINATION

Project Art Works was nominated for their practice which celebrates and raises awareness of the dynamic and extraordinary contribution neurodiverse communities make to art and culture.

The jury praised their continuing work through the pandemic, both online and in residency.

One of the world's best-known prizes for the visual arts, the Turner Prize aims to promote public debate around new developments in contemporary British art. Established in 1984, the prize is named after the radical British painter JMW Turner (1775-1851). Originating at Tate Britain, the Turner Prize regularly travels to other venues in the UK. It has previously been shown in Liverpool in 2007, Gateshead in 2011, Derry in 2013, Glasgow in 2015, Hull in 2017, and Margate in 2019. In 2022 it will be held at Tate Liverpool.

The Turner Prize 2021 exhibition is a highlight of the Coventry's UK City of Culture 2021 celebrations. Herbert Art Gallery and Museum champions Coventry's culture, city and arts and is one of the UK's leading regional museums.





**Project Art Works
Press Pack**

03

**ABOUT THE TURNER PRIZE
EXHIBITION**

At the heart of their presentation for Turner Prize 2021 is a constructed space that holds a physical and digital archive from over 4,000 works by neurodivergent artists and makers over two decades. The archive embodies a visible trace of people who are often hidden in the world.

A newly edited film of the whole archive sits within the central structure and a small number of works have been selected for exhibition in collaboration with the Herbert's curatorial team.

There is a studio set up for making work at the far end of the gallery.

This is a place for conversation as well as collaborative and independent practice by artists who benefit from supported environments, so that they can represent themselves within the exhibition.

Ideas of interdependence and structures of support provide the context for a range of workshops, creative events and dialogues facilitated by the Project Art Works' artistic team over the course of the exhibition.

Project Art Works ways of working are established and explored through collaborative processes with individuals, families and communities.

As an integral part of the exhibition, they will be sharing their practice across 25 days of the exhibition period, through artist residencies, community collaboration and public conversations about art and care.

Project Art Works
Press Pack

04

RECENT INITIATIVES AND
WORKS

IGNITION, Hastings Contemporary, Hastings (2021); *Have You Ever Had* – Sharif Persaud, Autograph, London (2021); *Illuminating the Wilderness, in Lie of the Land*, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes (2019), Tate Liverpool (2019) and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia (2019); *Putting Ourselves in the Picture*, Fabrica, Brighton, (2019); *I Hear You* – Mikhail Karikis, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea (2019); and Siddharth Gadiyar, Phoenix Gallery, Brighton (2019).

Project Art Works has also been invited to share new models of art and activism with 14 other collectives from around the world as part of DOCUMENTA 15 (Kassel 2022).

Their recent project EXPLORERS (2017- 20) was a programme of relationship-building between cultural organisations, social care organisations and neuro-minorities. It resulted in 6 co-commissioned exhibitions across the UK and in Sydney, Australia as well as events, seminars and a national conference.

This included *Illuminating the Wilderness*, a film and installation by Project Art Works artists, which reveals time spent together investigating a remote Scottish glen with a group of people who are highly sensitive to the sensory stimuli of the world around them. The film was one of the joint winners of the 2020 Film London Jarman Award.

05

HOW PROJECT ART WORKS STARTED

Project Art Works was co-founded by artists Kate Adams and Jonathan Cole, who shared a studio.

Kate and her husband and young family had conducted a programme of intensive, sensory stimulation therapy (sourced via the Institute for Human Potential of Philadelphia US) with Paul their son, for 5 years with the help of over 40 volunteers from the local community, until he attended special school aged 6.

In 1996 she saw a small exhibition of works made by children in Paul's class of 8. The children were all very different unique individuals yet the works were all the same.

Bringing art and life together she proposed a collaboration with Jonathan to experiment with high quality, sensory materials and media and to explore direct, unmediated mark making establishing multiple approaches to facilitating this with children who had a range of profound and multiple disabilities.

Working with over 100 disabled children in two special schools they conducted a radical series of residencies between 1996 and 1997. This led to their first exhibition, many new creative actions and to Project Art Works being constituted in 2000.

05

HOW PROJECT ART WORKS STARTED

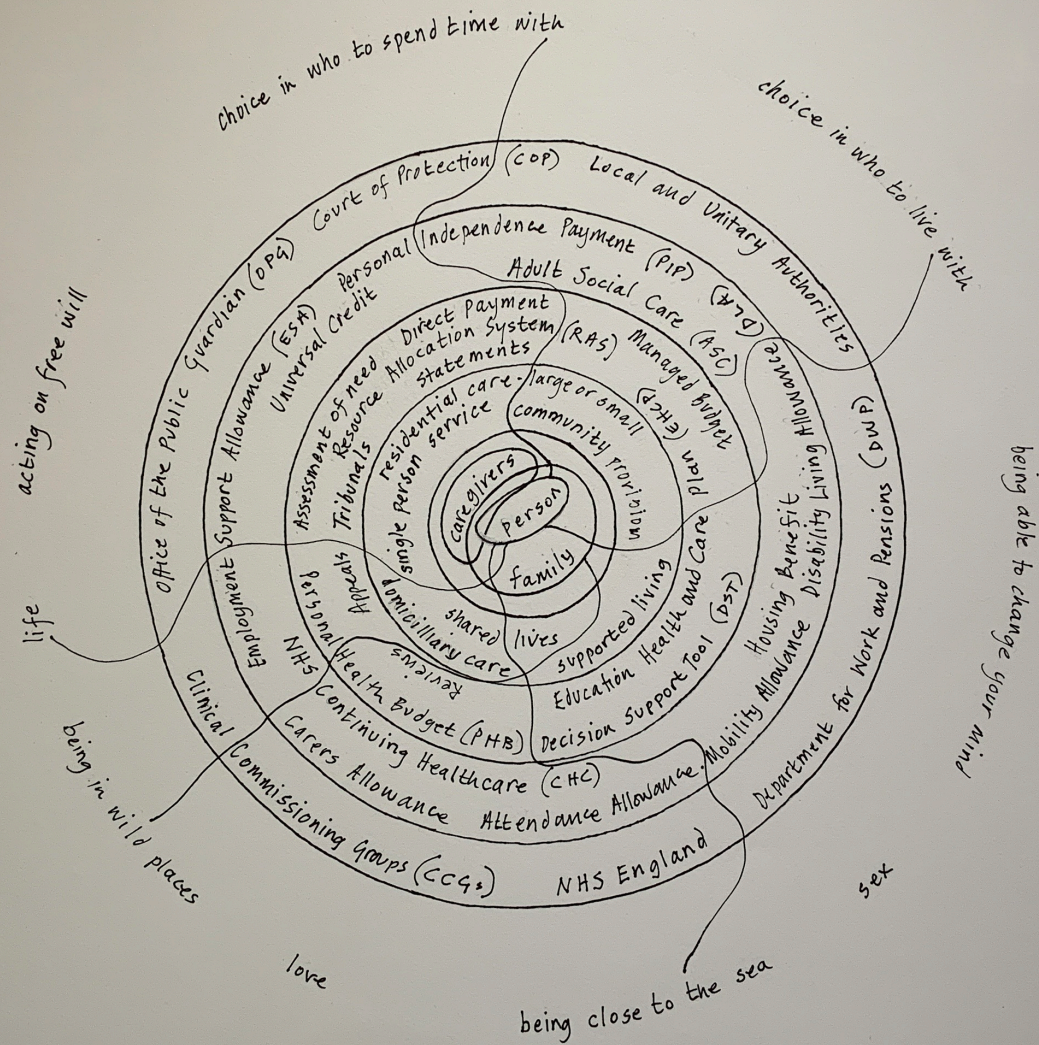
Jonathan Cole was a brilliant and empathetic communicator and artist. He died tragically in a motorbike accident in Cambodia in 2007 aged 44.

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2007/may/03/guardianobituaries.artsobituaries>

Over the past 20 years, Kate has worked in partnership with Tim Corrigan (Creative Director) and many artists, organisations and others. Project Art Works has evolved into a national and international leader in collaborative creative practice.

They raise awareness about neurodivergence and the interdependencies of people who have complex support needs, caregivers, art and social care systems that both enable and disable full participation in life, community and culture.

Project Art Works has become a vital point of connection and contact for many people and organisations. They develop and promote new ways of thinking about agency, ethics and praxis that challenges paradigms of inclusion in all ways.



06

ABOUT KATE ADAMS,
CEO/ARTIST DIRECTOR

Kate Adams MBE is an artist, advocate and activist.

She is Artistic Director & CEO of Project Art Works. She has initiated and curated many responsive, collaborative projects with people who have complex support needs, families, caregivers, artists and galleries.

Kate co-founded Project Art Works in 1997 to explore an expanded concept of art that was and continues to be influenced by Paul Colley, her son, who has profound and complex support needs.

Project Art Works collaborates with many individuals and their circles of support.

The work embraces personalised studio practice, peer support and award-winning films, art actions, installations and exhibitions.

Kate's practice disrupts preconceptions about what people can and can't do, who they are and how they live.

It reveals other ways of being in world whilst subtly exposing the constraints of neurotypical constructs and environments.

07
IMAGES

To download images from Project Art Works and credits please visit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/71t5a23jrltyxhx/AABFRzfooFu9y9i66UVQKjWra?dl=0>

08

CONTACTS

www.projectartworks.org

Jessica Courtney Bennett, 01424 423555, jessica@projectartworks.org

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/71t5a23jrltyxhx/AABFRzfooFu9y9i66UVQKjWra?dl=0>

09

GLOSSARY

Neurodiverse is a term used to acknowledge different states of understanding and living in the world. Neurodivergence and neuro-minorities are terms that embrace autistic people and/or those who have learning or intellectual disabilities.

Advocacy means getting support from another person to help you express your views and wishes, and help you stand up for your rights. ... Someone who helps you in this way is called your advocate.