

projectart works

Project Art Works

Press Pack



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ABOUT PROJECT ART WORKS

**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.*

Project Art Works collaborates with people with complex support needs, families and circles of support. Our practice intersects art and care, responding to neurodivergence, its gifts and impacts. Challenging paradigms of inclusion, it spans direct practical and holistic support, film, events, projects and exhibitions.

Our studios provide the conditions for a broad range of autonomous and collaborative practices with neurodivergent artists, who take part on their own terms. Alongside the studios, the [Support Collective](#) brings together people who care for people with complex support needs where we share our experience and protect our rights through training, resources and advocacy.

Human connection and what it reveals about identity and how we view each other are explored within our work. Our practice continues to respond to the functional and ethical structures of diligence and care, respecting self-determination and privacy whilst working towards greater visibility and understanding of neurodiversity in culture.

Project Art Works is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. Alongside neurodiverse artists and makers, the collective includes paid and unpaid caregivers who help each other to navigate through the complexities of health and social care systems.

Project Art Works is based in Hastings in the UK.

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RECENT INITIATIVES AND WORKS

Lucy, Jack, Gabby, Phoenix Art Space, 2023; *Illuminating the Wilderness*, Nottingham Castle, 2022; *documenta fifteen*, Germany, 2022; *Have You Ever Had* – Sharif Persaud, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill (2021); *IGNITION*, Hastings Contemporary, Hastings (2021); *Turner Prize Exhibition*, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum (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); Siddharth Gadiyar, Phoenix Gallery, Brighton (2019);

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**RECENT INITIATIVES AND
WORKS**

Project Art Works were invited to share new models of art and activism with 14 other collectives from around the world as part of documenta fifteen (Kassel 2022).

In 2021 Project Art Works was nominated for the *Turner Prize* and exhibited at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry.

Their project EXPLORERS is a programme of relationship-building between cultural organisations, social care organisations and neurominorities. Previously this project resulted in 6 co-commissioned exhibitions across the UK and in Sydney, Australia as well as events, seminars and a national conference. A new programme launched for 2021-2023 with more co-commissions, exhibitions and creating new platforms to promote neurominority artists.

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.

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**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.

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**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.

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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.

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IMAGES

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

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

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CONTACTS

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

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