

Art in Practice: Collective Creations

Killick Street Health Centre, N1 9RH

16.10.-09.12.2024

Open weekdays: 8am-6pm



This exhibition responds to the unique spatial and social conditions of Killick Street Health Centre in Islington. By integrating art into this medical environment, we extend the practice's mission of community outreach, bringing together emerging artists with different local community groups to find an artistic language for different facets of wellbeing.

By creating practical links between emerging artists and the GP community, people with dementia or neurodiversity, younger and older people, we promote understanding, awareness and de-stigmatisation of marginalized groups. This exhibition aims to activate and involve the local community, celebrate their talents and combat stigma.

So right at the entrance, as you enter the exhibition, you encounter *Birdsong, 2024*, a multi-media installation with over 80 birds made by artists at **Muriel Street Care Home**, and a nesting box on a tree with a sound work with recordings of different bird songs and recordings of the making process at Muriel Street Care Home - discussions, chatter, stories, secrets, the sound of hands reaching out and paper and materials being sorted and manipulated.

"We hear birdsong all our lives, I think it's a way of bringing back our memories when we have dementia. And also the movement of the birds connects with our human mind". (Monika Drabot, Artist).

Artists **Monika Drabot** and **Richard Cook** worked with 20 artists with cognitive difficulties, including dementia, and coordinator **Pooja Tanwar**. Our Muriel Street Care Home Artists are **Albert Wilkinson**, **Ann Brownrigg**, **Anthony O'Reilly**, **Beryl Lloyd**, **David Crockett**, **Eleni Costa**, **Girma Moges**, **Helena Baker**, **Irish Porter**, **Jabbar Ramadan**, **Kathleen Blake**, **Kenneth Dalzell**, **Kyriacou Charalambous**, **Lydia Archibald**, **Margaret Brown**, **Paul Scalpello**, **Rashmi Thakkar**, **Rita Bradley**, **Susan Whittick**, **Victoria Ward**.

As you enter the main hall, you will see a huge textile called *Colour Curtain, 2024* by **Artbox London** in the window above you and at the end of the corridor.

"Everyone worked together to make art on squares of fabric. We sewed the art together and made a warm, colourful patchwork. It was reassuring to do it and to help everyone. 'I wanted to brighten up the GP waiting room, make everyone happy and not worry!'" (Bobbi, Artbox London).

To create the colourful wall hangings, coordinator **Alexandra Tidswell** worked with 27 Artbox artists with learning disabilities and autism, led by **Bobbi** and including **Zeinab**, **Liam**, **Lia**, **Hanni**, **David**, **Vy**, **Ahmar**, **Seatton**, **Michaela**, **Shruti**, **Shine**, **Emma**, **Ashley**, **Violet**, **Hisbah**, **Lee**, **Lekan**, **Anna**, **Giulia**, **Kasia**, **Josh**, **Charlie**, **Lana**, **Roland**, **Chantel**, **Toyin**.

Standing in the middle of the waiting room, it is impossible not to notice the 14 figurative textile hangings on a black background, inspired by images that testify to the social context of the lives of the **Claremont Project** artists' parents. Each tapestry has its own story to tell, such as the popularity of cycling clubs at the time:

"The Balham Cycling Club Runs List for 1941-42 shows a winter programme of rides to the countryside every weekend. We don't know which members of the family were in the club, but there is a single photograph of a man on a racing bike with the handlebars down. In 1956, a Mr Cross paid for a driving test for a car licence. The beginning of the end of an era in cycling?"
(Sabrina Aaronovitch, Claremont Project).

Artist and workshop co-ordinator **Martine Charambolou** worked with 14 artists from the Claremont Project - a community for people aged 55 and over who want to stay creative and healthy in mind and body - to create the appliqué entitled *Photos in the Attic, 2024*, based on sepia photographs from their parents' era. Our Claremont artists are **Sabrina Aaronovitch, Nadia Anwer, Janet De Cruz, Valerie Flanagan, Jean Harris, Karen Holden, Nick Kaloyirou, Valerie Mac Donald, David Milner, Andrea Shaw, Alexandra Spyra, Fran Stevens, Anthony Tam and Harvey Towning.**

Looking to the right, you will see two bright yellow pin boards, part of **Ruben Pinhal's** interactive artwork. As a receptionist, he interacts with almost everyone who visits the surgery, sensing their mood when they enter and noticing how they feel when they leave. This inspired his interactive work *Before and After, 2024*, which gives **patients** at **Killick Street Health Centre** the opportunity to sketch or scribble before and after their appointment - exploring sketching and scribbling as a calming activity, offering a way to reflect and think through the simple movement of the hand.

As you move deeper into the practice, you are greeted by a sound in a smaller room on your left. It's a sound, metal and text installation called *Some Things are Always Free, 2024*, created with rocks, wood, a metal staircase, puddles, dried leaves, the wind, footsteps and a variety of plants around the **Global Generation** Garden that give the young Global Generation artists a sense of inner peace or connection to the real world that grounds them:

"I feel relaxed in green spaces. I like to walk around (especially at night) and hear the breeze against the trees. I also think that (some) plants look pretty in the moonlight. The night air plus the silence of people and just listening to the sounds of the plants in peace tends to clear my heart." (Anaiyah, Global Generation).

Artist **Nina Oltarzewska** worked with coordinators Laura Price and Jaime Lock from Global Generation, an educational charity that works with local children and young people to show how disused urban spaces can become an oasis for plants and people. They co-created *Some Things are Always Free, 2024* with 4 young artists from Global Generation: **Anaiyah, Ryden, Charlie and Tyler.**

Art in Practice: Collective Creations is sponsored by Slash Arts Gallery and Killick Street Health Centre.

Curated by **Hannah Imhoff** and **Simon Hodgkinson**
Hosted by **Dr Polly Wootton**, Killick Street Health Centre
Enabled by **Sarah LaBrasca** and **Simon Hodgkinson** (Slash Arts)