



Arts and Culture Annual Report

2022 - 2023



University
of Exeter

**ARTS
AND
CULTURE**

A review of the work of Arts and Culture August 2022 - July 2023



Image: Arts Commission 2022-23, in which theatre maker Tom Jackson Greaves collaborated with researchers, academics, communities and other creatives to explore the world of critical minerals in his production, *All That Glitters*. Photograph © Steve Tanner.



2022 - 2023 snapshot

60,869

Views of our
website
pages

10,000

Active
engagements
across our
social media



3,000

Number of
attendees at
events

1,600

Subscribers to
our monthly
newsletter



110

Number of
artists we
worked with

72

Teaching and
engagement
sessions

35

Number of
external
partners we
worked with

Introduction

The University of Exeter's Strategy 2030 locates people at the centre. We will only achieve our goal of a “cleaner, greener, fairer” society by coming together, collaborating across disciplines, communities and geographies to bring about positive changes that affect us all. People are central to our work in Arts and Culture too, and our specific contribution is to champion creativity. **We believe creativity is indispensable to the change process.** By increasing one's ‘creative confidence’ (a phrase devised by IDEO and d.school Co-Founder, David Kelley), individuals learn new ways of thinking, knowing and doing. Creativity brings joy, inspiration and energy to those undertaking complex and demanding work, helping maintain their well-being for the long-haul commitment that social change requires.

We hope you enjoy this year's Annual Report, which is filled with examples of how we have brought people together to increase their creative confidence. In November, we introduced a new role – Programme Manager for Cornwall – which has transformed our ability to support creative collaborations with our Penryn and Truro campuses. We have established new networks - for Creative Leadership, and Creativity and Student Experience – that we'll continue to build in the coming year, and we have either led or supported dozens of creative initiatives, helping bring early ideas to life. Do please get in touch if you would like to know more about work.



Image: Musical Passage workshop. See page 29.

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Image: Artwork shown in *Embodied Labour*, Adam Garratt's exhibition at Studio KIND, Barnstaple, that was supported by Arts and Culture. See page 36..

Creative Development

Working with artists and researchers.

Arts and Culture objectives:

- Foster creative approaches to interdisciplinarity in research
- Enhance training, development and networks with the cultural sector
- Champion public engagement with creativity at the University

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Image: *Wicked Patterns and Sticky Maps workshop* - part of Daksha Patel's Creative Fellowship exploring Environmental Justice, with Professor Clare Saunders. Find out more on page 10.

Photograph © Steven Haywood

Creative Fellowships

This programme brings creative practitioners into a research group or project, encouraging a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas and world views. Usually, artists and academics experience an almost constant pressure to create outputs, so we have removed this expectation and created space for curiosity and enjoyment.

Often, these projects spark lasting collaborations, well beyond the seed funding of a 4-5 week programme.

In 2022-23, we funded three Creative Fellowships. The demand was so high from academics, we provided four, smaller £1,000 grants to realise their creative projects with artists.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship>

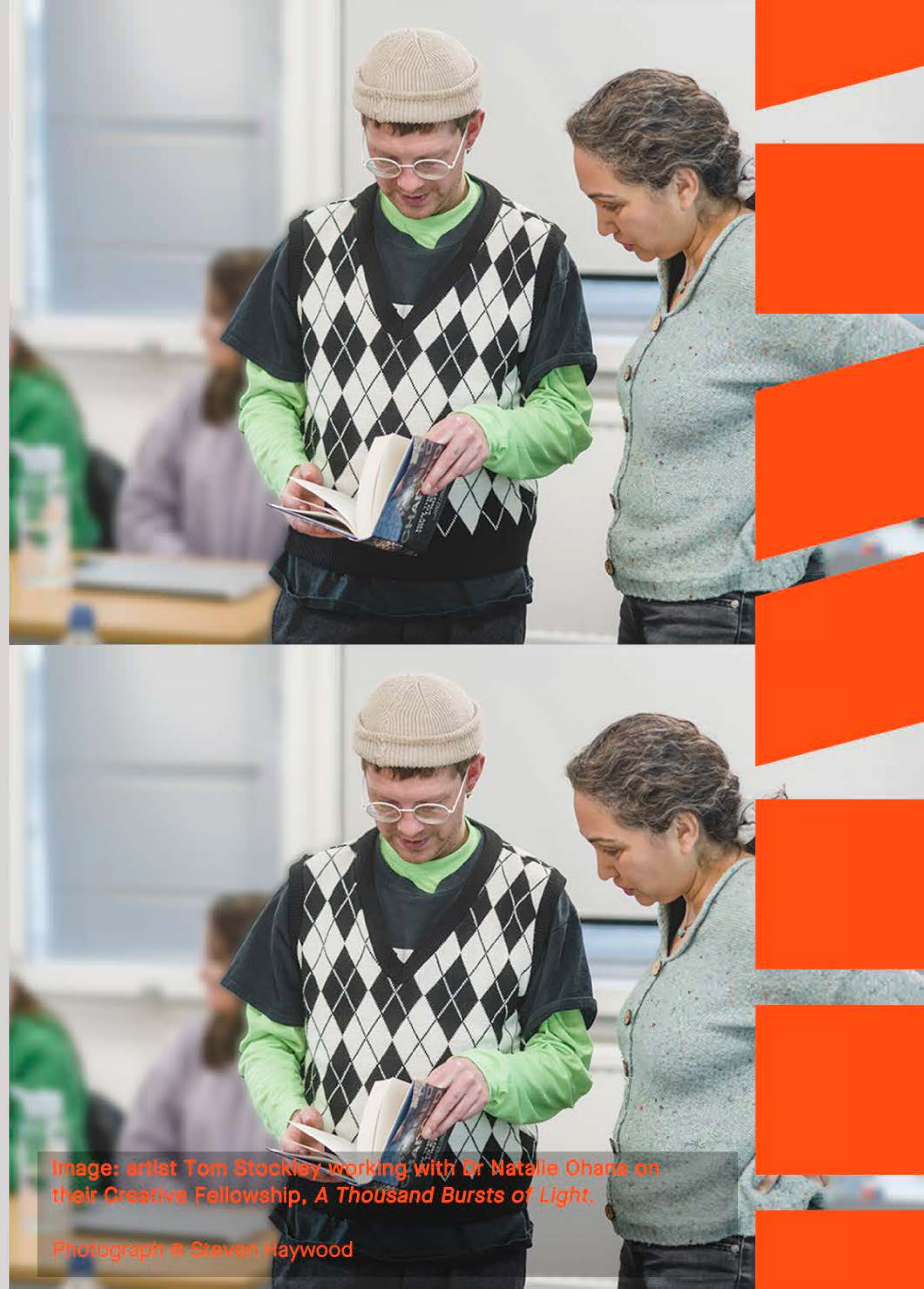


Image: artist Tom Stockley working with Dr Natalie Ohana on their Creative Fellowship, *A Thousand Bursts of Light*.

Photograph © Steven Haywood

A Thousand Bursts of Light/A Violence Filled with Flowers

Creative Fellow: **Tom Stockley, multidisciplinary artist**

Host: **Dr Natalie Ohana of Exeter Law School**

In this Creative Fellowship Tom and Natalie investigated Natalie's undergraduate research-led module, designed to develop knowledge on the relationship between law, testimony and trauma. Tom discussed with the students the legal cases they were researching and responded by creating experimental poetry from cut and pasted text, as a method of making sense of some of the issues being explored. The students were also invited to express, through the medium of collage, the social and political ideas they were investigating. Tom and Natalie spent time sharing knowledge and personal experiences surrounding the theme of Law, Testimony and Trauma and in June; their collaboration resulted in an art installation at the Exeter Phoenix Art Centre.



<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/a-thousand-bursts-of-light>

Image © Tom Stockley

“The desire to disrupt, collaborate and interconnect a creative practice with an academic structure really excites me about this project – teasing out shared experiences and different approaches to go deeper into the complexities of community, social structure and legal systems.”

Tom Stockley, Arts and Culture Creative Fellow,
Exeter Law School

Exploring Environmental Justice

Creative Fellow: **Daksha Patel, multidisciplinary artist**

Host: **Professor Clare Saunders, Politics,
Head of Department of HASS
Cornwall and Cluster Research Lead
for Environmental Justice**

Daksha joined the interdisciplinary Environmental Justice research group to help them scope the direction of their shared research and teaching using creative methods.

These led to a series of facilitated international conversations between students and staff across the globe, and then to two creative mapping workshops with the Environmental cluster group at the ESI.

The workshops experimented with how visual thinking can help us to think through challenges and contradictions of a 'wicked' problem such as environmental sustainability and how the entanglements of in-justice can be solved holistically.



As part of her Creative Fellowship, Daksha created 'Sticky Wicked', a large installation, drawn in pencil directly onto a prominent wall in the Exchange Building on the Penryn campus.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/exploring-environmental-justice>

Photograph © Steven Haywood

“The workshops have created beautiful artwork but they have also captured the conceptual ideas and critical junctures for Environmental Justice. What we got out of it conceptually was what I was hoping for but what we got out of it in terms of process was mind blowing.”

Professor Clare Saunders, Politics,
Head of Department of HASS Cornwall and
Cluster Research Lead for Environmental Justice

Maritime Environmental History: Oral Histories and Creative Conversations

Creative Fellow: Ella Frears, poet and artist

Host: Dr Timothy Cooper, Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities, Penryn Campus

Ella and Tim spent a lot of time writing poetry together during their Creative Fellowship and were the first collaborators to take our Creative fellowships abroad, working together in Venice. Early on Ella delivered a session to some of Tim's history students. He said it was the best example of teaching he has ever seen.

The process of writing poetry and collaborating with Ella has fundamentally shifted Tim's perspective on his work as an academic. Developing his creative expression has provided a new form for thinking about his research as well as how he communicates it.

The pair have published a zine documenting their work and Tim continues to write poetry, hoping to publish this alongside his academic publications from now on.



<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship-maritime-environmental-history-oral-histories-and-creative-conversations>

Photograph © Venice International University

“I've found it transformative. For the last 10 years, I have been making work as output for projects and have gotten used to that particular and regular pressure. To break that rhythm and see what happens when ideas aren't forced into focus by an upcoming deadline has been amazing. The conversations felt freer, broader, we followed our interests rather than what would produce work quickly, in doing so my perception of how I work and even how I interact with research has shifted.”

**Ella Frears, Arts and Culture Creative Fellow,
Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities,
Penryn Campus**

Grants supporting creative projects

We provided four grants of £1,000 to help researchers realise creative projects with artists:

- **Freya Cox Jensen, History : *Silent Voices: Confronting the Hostile Archive***
Creative practitioners were commissioned to lead a clay workshop and a roundtable, exploring how creativity can confront and respond to silent and hostile archives.
- **Ryan Edginton, Physics : *Raman Nanotheranostics (RaNT)* – engagement with cancer patients**
A tattoo artist was commissioned to design research-themed promotional material for festivals, encouraging engagement with evaluation to feed into the research.
- **Daniel Fountain, AHVC: *Mixed Signals: Queer and Trans Coastal Marginalities***
We sponsored Daniel's art exhibition and craft workshop at the 2022 *Come As You Are* Festival in Exeter and panel discussions in Manchester and Exeter.
- **Nicola Whyte, Earth Humanities: *The Subterranean, and Environmental Humanities***

Funding supported an artist-led experimental *Mapping the World Otherwise* workshop for Climate Emergency Field school undergraduates. The workshop supported the development of an AHRC funding application.



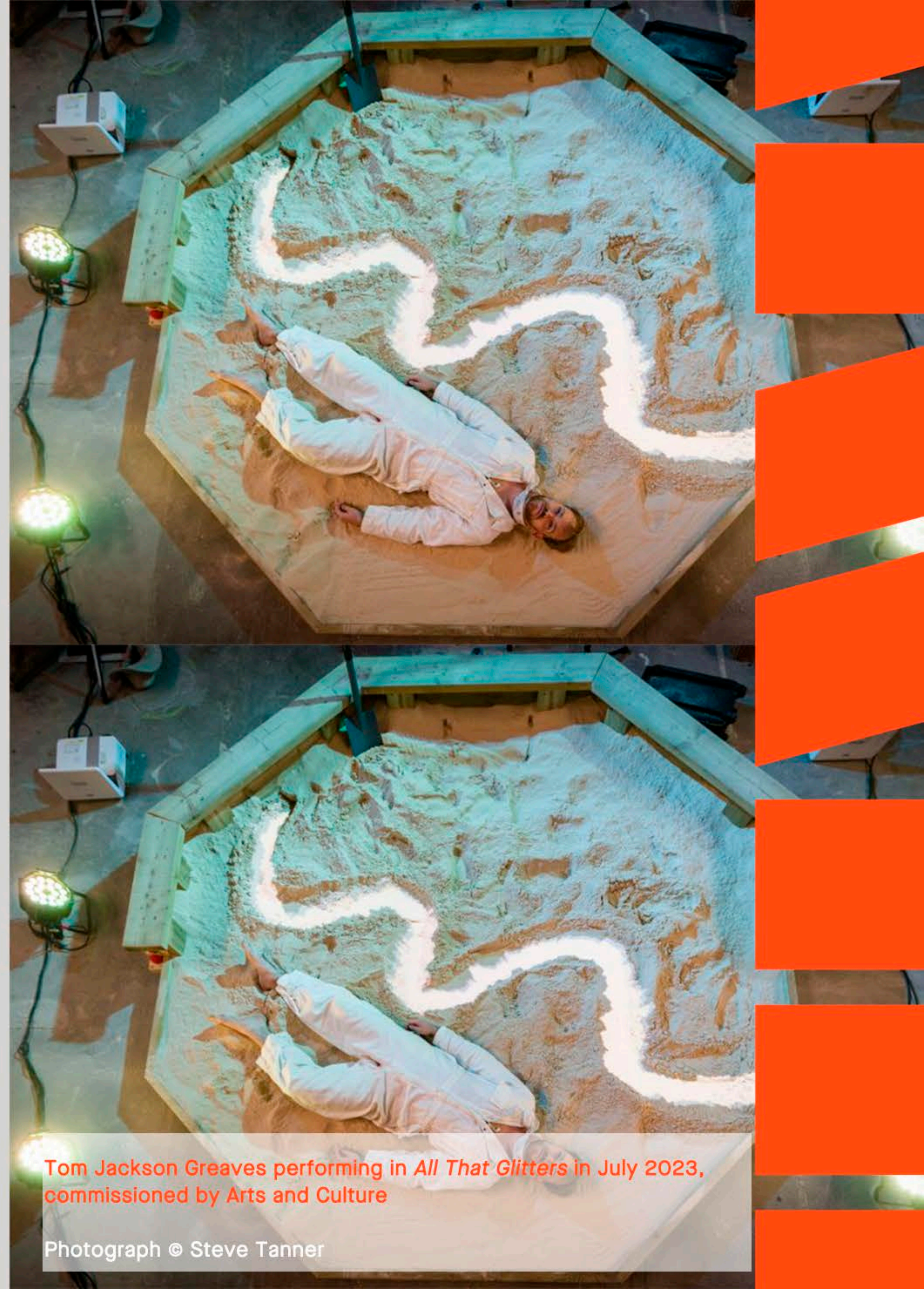
Artefacts created by participants at the *Material Culture* workshop: *creativity and clay*, part of the *Silent Voices: Confronting the Hostile Archive* project, supported by Arts and Culture.

Arts Commissions

Arts Commissions support in-depth creative research over at least one year. We work with a lead artist, making connections with academic networks and community partners.

Reflecting the collaborative nature of the arts, this funding supports dozens of creative practitioners who contribute to the overarching commission.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/arts-commission>



Tom Jackson Greaves performing in *All That Glitters* in July 2023, commissioned by Arts and Culture

Photograph © Steve Tanner

Arts Commission

Critical Minerals

Drawing on world-leading interdisciplinary research currently being conducted into critical minerals, sustainable mining, and environmental and social justice at the University of Exeter, we commissioned a new piece of performance art exploring Cornwall's place in the complex global issue of critical mineral extraction.

All That Glitters was the end result; a beautiful piece of theatre by Cornwall-born theatre maker Tom Jackson Greaves. Inspired by his experiences as a young queer person in Cornwall and working with a team of creative collaborators supported by Falmouth based producing company ImPOSSIBLE Producing, Tom worked with academics, students, mining companies and community members to devise an innovative and impactful one-man show performed at the miners' dry at the historic East Pool Mine near Redruth in July.

Supported by Arts and Culture, Camborne School of Mines and the DVC for Cornwall the show was performed on campus in October, reaching new audiences.



A STORY OF HOT ROCKS, QUEERNESS AND COWBOYS.

[https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/arts-commission/
All-That-Glitters](https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/arts-commission/All-That-Glitters)

Title design Alexander Kelly. Photograph © Steve Tanner

“This commission has given the space to make work in a way that is really hard to do normally. The creative flexibility it has allowed but also the support for the Research and Development time. The idea of a commission in general is rare, especially in Cornwall, especially in theatre and it has been a really significant process for me personally as an artist.”

“The power of making work about a subject you don’t know anything about ... I would love to collaborate with academics more in the future. They have been so generous with their time and we have shared a passion for sharing knowledge in new ways. I feel very moved by the whole project.”

Tom Jackson Greaves, Arts Commission 2022-23.

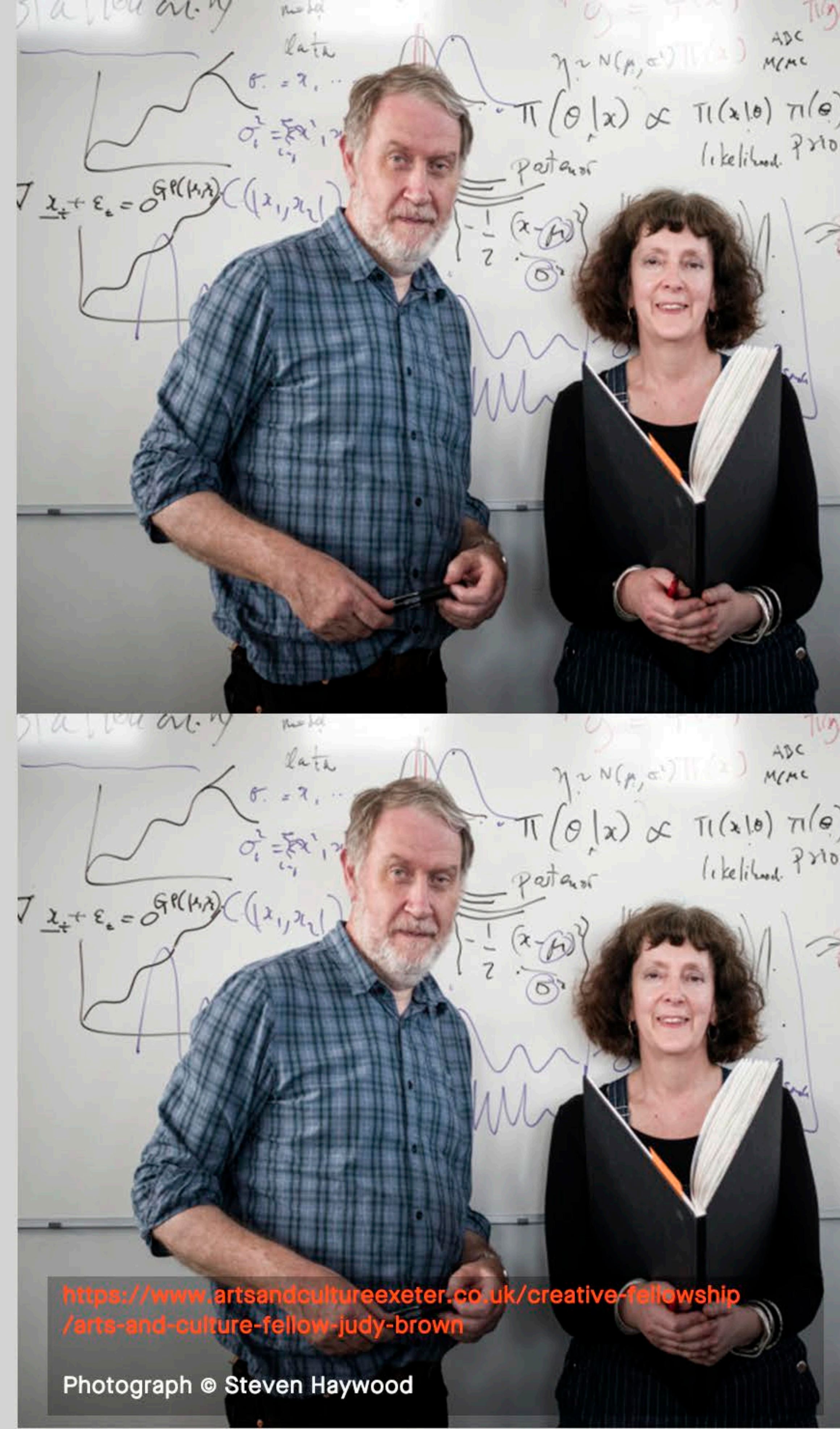
Alumni Stories

The benefits that artists gain from our Arts Commissions and Creative Fellowships last well beyond the duration of their projects. The following examples from the past year illustrate the power of the arts to disseminate University of Exeter research to new audiences.

Creative Fellowships Alumni

- Leo Jamelli's *Spotlight on Care*, created during his Creative Fellowship 2018-19 with Dr Siobhan O'Dwyer and Dr Catriona McKenzie, was nominated for the Derwent Art Prize, and included in their touring exhibition to Paris in June.
- Judy Brown's book, *Lairs*, was published in October, including poems created during her Creative Fellowship 2018-19 with Professor Peter Challenor at the Institute of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.

Image: Judy Brown with Professor Peter Challenor.



<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/arts-and-culture-fellow-judy-brown>

Photograph © Steven Haywood

Alumni Stories

Arts Commissions Alumni

- Fiona Benson's book, *Ephemeron*, was published in February. Including poems from her 2018-20 Arts Commission responding to shrinking insect biodiversity, the book has been shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize and the T.S. Elliot Prize.
- Choreographer Joumana Mourad (Arts Commission 2019 alumna) collaborated with Dr Irene Salvo to create a workshop in June using poetry, mindfulness and movement to build a practice of self-care and reflection. They met via Arts and Culture and were granted an RSA Catalyst Seed Award to realise their project.
- *Here's to Thee*, Simon Pope's Arts Commission 2020-22, continued to reach new audiences. Musicians Jim Causley and Bill Murray performed the Halstow Wassail, accompanied by Gray's Farm cider, at a *RAMM Late* in November. In January Simon, Jim, Bill, and filmmaker Bevis Bowden showcased *Here's to Thee* at Cecil Sharp House in London. Simon is currently working on a research project with Professor Harry West, continuing their Arts Commission collaboration.



Image: Bill Murray and Jim Causley performing at the Halstow Wassail in January 2022, as part of the *Here's to Thee* project.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/arts-commission/heres-to-thee>

Photograph © Robert Darch

FX Creative Exchange

The FX Creative Exchange is an exciting transdisciplinary incubator programme supporting collaborations between researchers across the University of Exeter and Falmouth University capitalising on our shared research interests around themes of environmental change, ecological citizenship and sustainable futures.

Arts and Culture worked with partners at the ESI and Falmouth University to secure agreement for a new-model programme from 2023, with joint ownership, direction and funding agreement. The programme was re-framed with a new focus on facilitating sustained and meaningful creative collaboration opportunities for all early career/emerging researchers based on the Penryn campus.

The first funded project was *Mapping Emergence* led by Dr O'Shea-Wheller (Exeter) and Dr Catarina Fontoura (Falmouth) who explored creativity, collective intelligence and self-organisation amongst a diverse array of ant species.

Resultant artworks, media, and film will form part of a compelling touring exhibition displayed on campus as well as other public gallery spaces later this year. Tom and Caterina also presented the project at the University's *Future Fest* at The Cornish Bank in Falmouth on 30th September.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/news/fascinating-new-collaboration-sees-researchers-co-create-art-with-insects>

Photograph: © Thomas O'Shea-Wheller and Catarina Fontoura

Displays in Queen's

We hosted three contrasting termly displays in the Queen's Building. Each showcased a range of research themes through a series of stunning images. These included:

Term 1: *Shame Spiral and Needlestick* – The Shame and Medicine Project (University of Exeter). Artists Hannah Mumby and Hannah Berry created illustrations of shame experienced by health professionals while in education.

Term 2: *Images of Research* - Twenty four new photographs from the University's *Images of Research* Competition 2022 featuring images representing research projects across many disciplines.

Term 3: *Wicked Problems: The Humanities in an Age of Planetary Agenda-Setting*. Photographs by Tara Nicholson (University of Columbia Okanagan) and Professor Corinna Wagner (University of Exeter), witnessing the complex obstacles caused by environmental destruction and urging us to recalibrate our activity on this planet. See an online version of this thought-provoking display [here](#).



Image: *Burn, 2021* by Corinna Wagner

Photograph © Corinna Wagner

Displays in Queen's Wallpaper Commission with Emma Molony

Print maker Emma Molony was commissioned to design and make a wallpaper inspired by 19th century engravings in the University's Fine Art Collection, after local scenes by JMW Turner. Emma combined collages of acetate prints of the engravings, with her own designs, to create a beautiful hand-printed wallpaper with a contemporary feel.

During the development process, Emma also ran two creative print workshops, one for staff and one for students, using the original 19th century engravings from our collections as inspiration.

You can see the wallpaper on display until July 2024, between the display space and the Senior Common Room in the Queen's Building on the Streatham Campus.

Find out more about Emma's process of designing and making the wallpaper [here](https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/news/captivating-new-wallpaper-commission-installed-at-streatham-campus).



<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/news/captivating-new-wallpaper-commission-installed-at-streatham-campus>

Home/Land

Home/Land saw an exhibition by six artists from Jaffna exploring memories of home and the experiences of loss in the aftermath of the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Hosted by the ESI Creative Exchange studio space in March 2023, the exhibition formed part of an international research visit by the Arts Faculty at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, who have been collaborating on a GCRF funded project with researchers at the University of Exeter (HASS Cornwall), University of Leicester and Museum of London Archaeology.

The Arts and Culture team provided practical guidance for preparations for the exhibition and its associated event, and posted a digital version of the exhibition online as a legacy of the project. See the online version of this fascinating and thought-provoking exhibition [here](#).

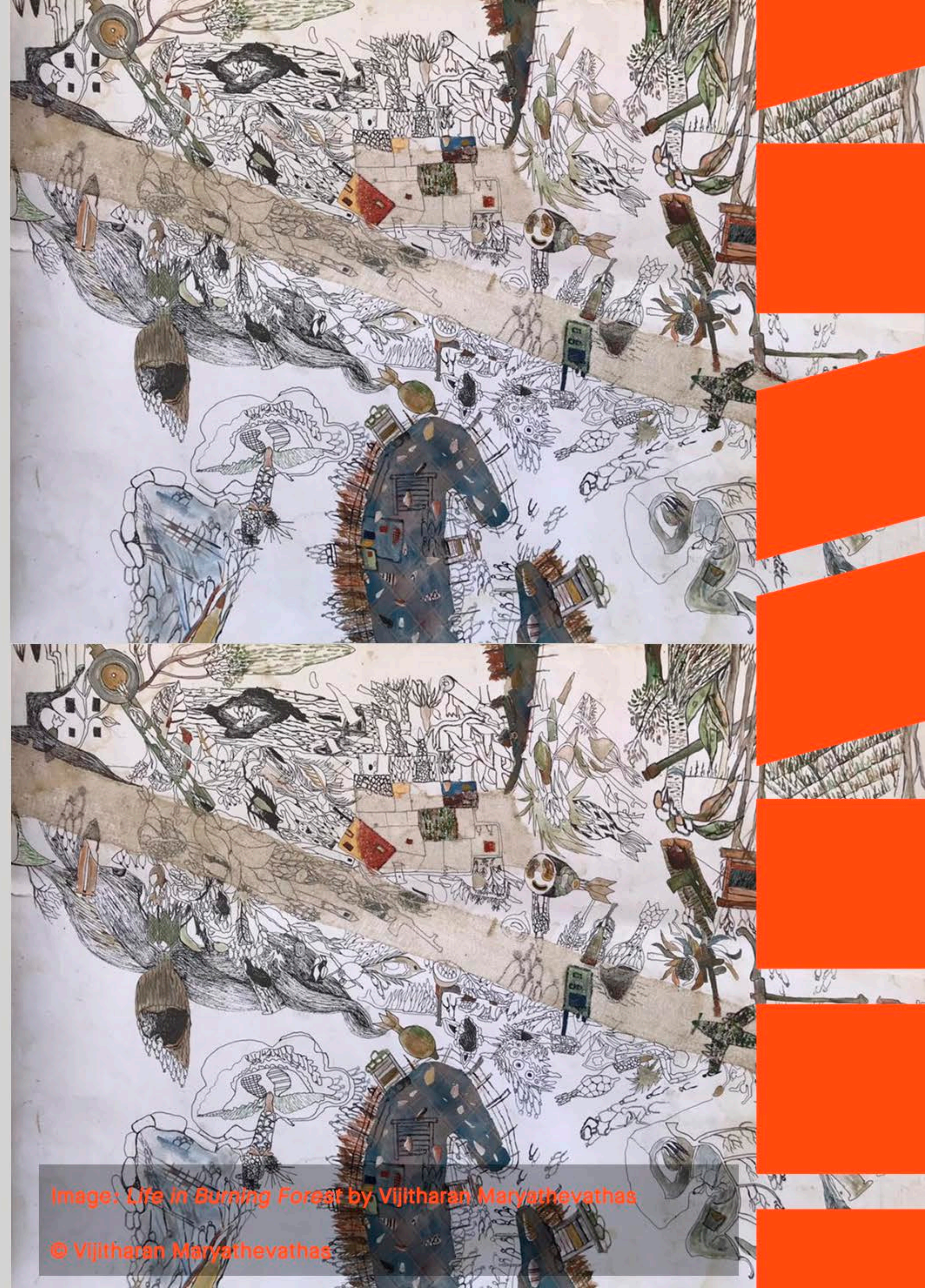


Image: *Life in Burning Forest* by Vijitharan Maryathevathas

© Vijitharan Maryathevathas

Until Tomorrow

Dr Siobhan O'Dwyer (Creative Fellowship host in 2018/19) commissioned playwright Brenda Callis to create a new play highlighting the hidden stories of parent carers who have considered killing themselves or their disabled children, and helping the community and key stakeholders recognise and respond to carers in crisis. It was made using Devised Theatre, a collaborative methodology, together with director, Ellie Buckingham, dramaturg Julie McNamara, carers with lived experience and the actresses in the play, Deni Francis, Rosie Race and Sarah McCourt. It was performed in January to a full audience at Exeter Phoenix and feedback was very positive:

Wow - never seen my family's experiences reflected in anything like this. So necessary! [Carer]

This just opened my mind. I thought I knew about the issues, but obviously not. Thank-you. [General Public]

Funded by an ESRC Impact Accelerator grant, with further in-kind support from Arts and Culture and the Medical School, the project illustrates both the power of the arts to connect people into research, and the ongoing partnerships that develop through our Arts and Culture networks.



Deni Francis performing in Until Tomorrow.

Photograph © Steven Haywood

Callouts

Living Systems Institute – Microsporidia Sculpture Commission

In November, Dr Becky Conners, Postdoctoral Research Associate and Dr Bryony Williams, Senior Lecturer, both in Biosciences, commissioned artist Jacky Oliver to create a new work that would inform the public about microsporidia, and parasitism more generally. Arts and Culture provided advice on the budget and structure of the commission, templates for callouts, and guidance on artist selection processes. In April, the new sculpture, *Coil and Spring*, was installed in the University's Living Systems Institute Exchange Hub.

Environment and Climate Emergency, led by Sustainability

We supported Victoria Patch in the Sustainability Team on her ambitious campaign to raise the profile of the University's Environment and Climate Emergency plan. Advising on and promoting a new student Haiku competition and sharing the shortlisted and winning entries on our website, we also supported the writing of an artists' callout for a campus ecological sound trail, led by poet Sean Borodale and co-created with students.



Detail from Jacky Oliver's sculpture *Coil and Spring*.

Photograph © Becky Conners

Sector Engagement

In September, Sarah Campbell chaired a session at the British Society of Medical Mycology Annual Meeting in Exeter. It included a screening of *Our Body is a Planet*, created by artist Léonie Hampton as part of her artist placement at the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, and a Q&A with Leonie and Dr Duncan Wilson, whose research helped inform the film. The event was attended by 120 researchers from across the UK and abroad.

In September, Sarah Campbell co-devised and co-presented a new workshop, *Thinking through Doing*, with Exeter-based arts organisation, Positive Light Projects, for researchers at the Wellcome Centre of Cultures and Environments of Health. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to increase the creative confidence of staff and students at the University, and to bring more creative practices into research processes.



Image: Camera-free photography at the *Thinking Through Doing* workshop.

Sector Engagement Contd/..

In November, Sarah Campbell chaired a panel, *Independent Projects and Artist-led Initiatives*, at the *Creative Peninsula* Symposium, hosted by the Eden Project. *Creative Peninsula* is an AHRC-funded knowledge exchange project that explores place-based co-creation and culture-led regeneration in Cornwall and Devon.

In April, Naome Glanville hosted a monthly City of Literature meeting on the Streatham campus, providing a highlights tour from the Fine Art Collection Sculpture Trail and the Wallpaper Commission. This was a valuable opportunity to bring cultural providers in the city onto campus and raise the profile of the creative work of the University.

Image: *Skysails* by Paul Mount, one of the sculptures on the Streatham Campus sculpture walk.



Photograph ©University of Exeter

Partnerships & Collaborations

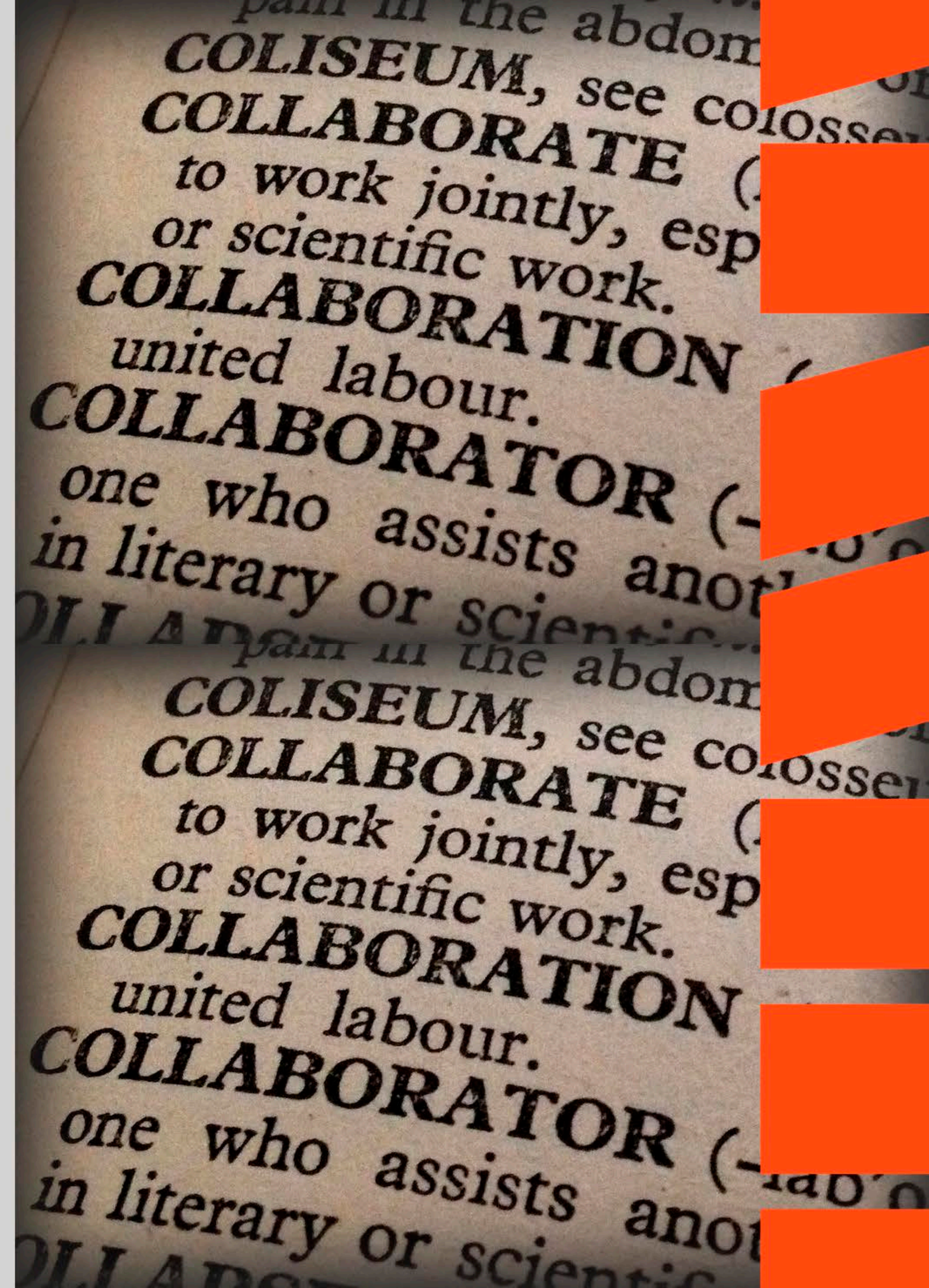
Responding to climate, social justice and well-being challenges.

Arts and Culture objectives:

- Enhance training, development and networks with the cultural sector
- Champion public engagement with creativity at the University

The majority of our work is delivered in partnership, working with peers inside the University and across the region.

The following collaborations highlight the interconnectedness of climate, social justice and well-being challenges.



Arts Commission - Musical Passage

Devised by Ashish Ghadiali, Radical Ecology, this partnership brought together jazz education charity, Tomorrow's Warriors, with Arts and Culture, music education hubs (AsONE, Plymouth Youth Music Service, Devon and Torbay Music Education Hubs, and Leskyn Kernow) and cultural providers (The Box, Plymouth and Eden Project) for a pilot training programme for teachers and pupils in Devon and Cornwall.

The aim was to strengthen jazz education networks in the South West, with an emphasis on inclusion and diversity. On 9-10 June, The Box hosted a 'summer school', including teacher training, student workshops, a public gig and a jam session with all participants. Regular, on-going jazz workshops are now being planned in Penzance, Plymouth and Exeter.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/arts-commission/musical-passage>



Photograph: © Steven Haywood

Anti-Racism and Gender Equity Initiative - Creative Leadership

In partnership with two University of Exeter teams, Education Incubator and EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), we collaborated with Rama Gheerawo and Ve Dewey from the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, Royal College of Art, to create a new training course that supports anti-racism and gender equity work by staff and students.

At its heart was Rama's book, *Creative Leadership*, an approach that foregrounds a trio of skills – empathy, clarity and creativity - arguing that all three are needed to bring about meaningful change. Launched in June, the project team are planning regular workshops and action-oriented activities throughout 2023/24.



Creative Facilitation Training

We have long wanted to build a ‘creatives rolodex’ of skilled facilitators in the South West who can support groups to address complex challenges.

In partnership with Innoplay (led by academics Adam Lusby and Dr Maarten Koeners) and Creative Arc (led by Exeter Innovation, Exeter City Council, and Liveable Exeter), we supported the development of a three-day training course for 25 creative practitioners, which ran in July.

The group developed skills in applying playfulness and design thinking to ideas-generation and problem-solving. The cohort will be invited to support a range of Creative Arc projects running over the next two years.



Photograph © Theo Moye

British Art Show publication

The British Art Show is a national touring exhibition that takes place every five years. In 2022, BAS9 came to Plymouth. In partnership with CAMP and Flock South West, Arts and Culture supported a publication and postcard run that celebrated Devon and Cornwall artists.

Titled *FRONTPAGE/BACKPAGE/CENTREFOLD*, we were thrilled to see Catherine Cartwright's artwork, created during her Art Commission with us in 2019, on the cover. 4,000 copies of the free publication were available at galleries and venues across the city during the run of the show.



FRONTPAGE/BACKPAGE/CENTREFOLD, produced for the British Art Show 9 by Flock South West and CAMP.

Featured art by Catherine Cartwright and QUIETBRITISHACCENT.

Sonic Landscapes of Colour

Arts and Culture and the Provost Commission provided partial funding towards this innovative Podcast/Documentary series, created by Devon-based sound artist Somatic. It tells the story of young (18-26) People of Colour who have grown up in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. The voices are underscored by a soundscape built from recording sessions with South West based non-western traditional instrumentalists and Somatic's own compositional skills.

Along with one of his mentors, Body psychotherapist, Anti-racism practitioner and Cultural Educator Sandhya Dave, Somatic led listening and reflecting sessions at Exeter Phoenix, Totnes Arts Festival, The Cornish Bank, Falmouth and The Old Bakery, Truro amongst others.

Initially broadcast on BBC Radio Devon & Cornwall, the documentary is now on BBC Sounds and major streaming platforms. This innovative, powerful and much-needed work was also nominated for an ARIA (Audio & Radio Industry Awards), in 'Best Factual Series' category 2023.



Sonic
Landscapes
of Colour



Sonic
Landscapes
of Colour

Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene

On 5 March, Arts and Culture supported a one-day event at Exeter Phoenix, curated by Ashish Ghadiali to support the Royal Albert Museum and Art Gallery exhibition, *Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene*, co-curated by Lara Goodband, Contemporary Art Curator at RAMM, and independent curator Gemma Lloyd.

A sold-out performance by artist Ashanti Hare, titled *Ritual for Belonging*, was followed by a screening of Andrei Tarkovsky's film, *Stalker* (1979), and *Plant Music* by sound artist and composer, Jason Singh, played in the bar as further networking followed the event.

RADICAL ECOLOGY PRESENTS

CINEMATICS OF GAIA & MAGIC

SUN 5 MARCH, 2-7PM, EXETER PHOENIX, GANDY ST EX4 3LS

RITUAL FOR BELONGING
A SHORT PERFORMANCE BY ASHANTI HARE

TICKETS £5
FROM EXETERPHOENIX.ORG.UK

STALKER, DIR. ANDREI TARKOVSKY, 1979
+ INTRO BY ASHISH GHADIALI

PLANT MUSIC
BY JASON SINGH

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXHIBITION
EARTH SPELLS
WITCHES OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

ramm exeter phoenix ARTS AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER GLOBAL SYSTEMS INSTITUTE KARST CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Ingrid Pollard: Three Drops of Blood

Arts and Culture contributed support for the project *Ingrid Pollard: Three Drops of Blood*, which was commissioned and produced by experimental visual art curating and producing practice *talking on corners*.

This multi-faceted project explored the artistic practice of British artist and photographer and Turner Prize nominee (2022) Ingrid Pollard. A programme of activities was organised by *talking on corners* including an exhibition of Pollard's work at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, print workshops and a series of online expert talks and Q&A sessions, in which a range of writers, scholars, artists and curators provided different perspectives on Pollard's practice. Arts and Culture organised ticketing, hosted and provided the technical support for these talks.



Ingrid Pollard, detail from *Three Drops of Blood*, digital print, 2022
© Ingrid Pollard

Embodied Labour - Adam Garratt and Studio KIND

In March, Sarah Campbell chaired a discussion between artist Adam Garratt and artist/gallerist Laura Porter at Positive Light Projects. The talk was promoting Adam's upcoming exhibition at Studio KIND in Braunton, where Laura is a Director. Arts and Culture sponsored the show, *Embodied Labour*, and worked closely with Adam and Laura to promote his work and the gallery, making introductions to relevant University of Exeter staff.

The University Grounds Team kindly donated used hi-vis gear to Adam, which he transformed into sculptures featured in the exhibition. The show ran from 21 April – 13 May.

Watch Adam and Laura's talk [here](#).

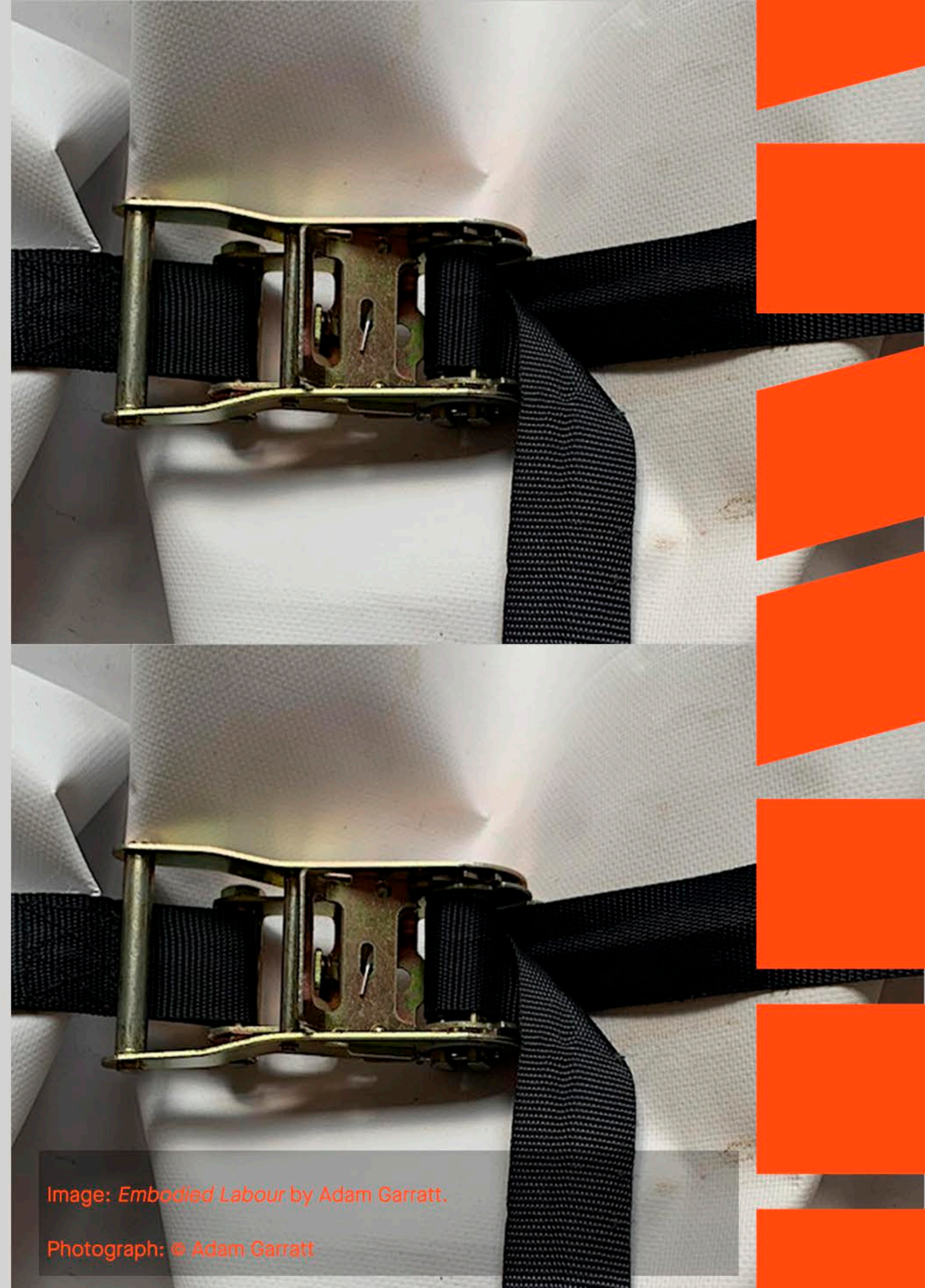


Image: *Embodied Labour* by Adam Garratt.

Photograph: © Adam Garratt

International Women's Day: Occupy the Airwaves

On 8 March, Arts and Culture brokered two contributions to the 24-hour women's-led broadcast, *Occupy the Airwaves*, programmed by Dreadnought South West.

University of Exeter Academic, Professor Amina Yaqin spoke about her new publication, *Gender, Sexuality and Feminism in Pakistani Urdu Writing*, and Sarah Campbell spoke about *Bioluminescent Baby*, the collection of poems created by Fiona Benson as part of her Arts Commission 2018-20. Two of the recorded poems were broadcast.



COP27:

We Still Have a Chance

This project brings climate researchers and artists together to write powerful stories to be shared at the annual global climate conference. For COP27, we supported the presentation of a new performance by Cygnet Theatre at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter to a sellout audience. We also assisted Dr Eliana Maestri in realising a series of print workshops with Double Elephant Print Workshop and a commissioned installation by Steve McCracken displayed in Exeter Library. Dr Maestri successfully secured Arts Council England funding for her strand of the programme.

COP28:

12 Poems for 12 Days of COP28

We continued our support for the COP28 iteration, enabling a series of writing workshops that were held online in March. The stories will culminate in a new publication, schools' resource and performances.



Critical Friends Network

Breaking down silos between disciplines, faculties and campuses is a great way to support the flow of inspiration. To encourage serendipitous new connections, Arts and Culture host termly meetings for peers across the University to share their creative practice, and give feedback to Arts and Culture about our programmes.

Many thanks to the following contributors for their presentations this year –

Using Music as a Decolonising Tool

Ursula Crickmay, PhD Student and Graduate Research Assistant, and Nancy Katingima Day, PhD Student, School of Education

Introduction to Black British Studies

Nour Azzalini-Machecler, Associate Fellow, Ryan Hanley, Lecturer in History, and Diana Valencia Duarte, PhD Student, Humanities & Social Sciences

Environmental Intelligence Arts Laboratory

Harriet Poznansky, Artist & Hywel Williams, Director of the Environmental Intelligence Research Network

The Co-Production Oracle

Hannah Mumby, artist, introducing how to use a new resource developed during a Creative Residency with the Global Systems Institute in 2022.

Using Music as a Decolonising Tool: publicity design for workshop by the Music Research Network, University of Exeter.

Creativity and Student Experience Network

Arts and Culture, the Students' Guild, and Innoplay launched a new network in April 2023, wanting to bring together staff and students across the university to better support creativity and student experience.

Our aims are to work together more effectively, to make the most of the data we collect, to reach the broadest range of students, and to create a varied offer than minimises duplication. We're also keen to put creativity into practice, so want to work together creatively to achieve this.

We delivered three workshops over April-June, with our homebase in the inspiring Creative Quadrant, Business School. We have a full programme of workshops and network lunches scheduled for 2023/24.



Creativity and Student Experience Network - INNOPLAY
Session, April 2023

Student experience

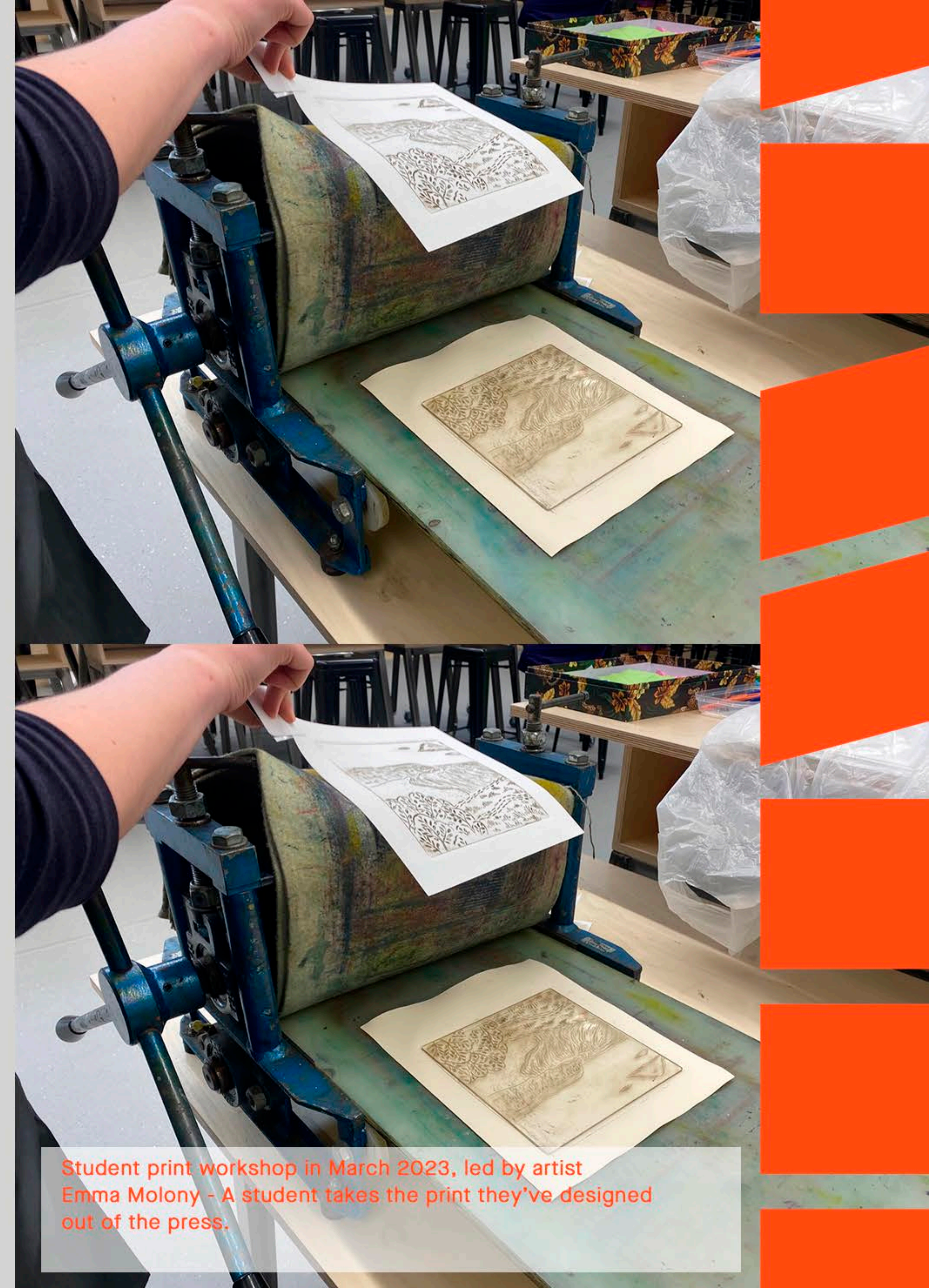
Supporting and promoting student creativity.

Arts and Culture objectives:

- Promote creativity as vital to holistic student experience.
- Support creativity in teaching.

Student experience and the learning environment have been significantly affected by recent national and global events. The Nurture-U **Autumn 2022 Student Survey** noted that, “nearly half of students reported having had a diagnosis of a mental health condition, learning difficulty, or challenging childhood experiences. Loneliness in particular affected over half of students.”

Irrespective of core discipline, students can benefit from creative activities that support ideas-generation, problem-solving, collaboration, and the sheer joy of making. We support students and teaching staff to bring creativity to module delivery and extra-curricular programmes.



Student print workshop in March 2023, led by artist Emma Molony - A student takes the print they've designed out of the press.

Creative Together

Creative Together is an exciting new knowledge and skills exchange project we piloted as a part of the Arts and Culture programme in Cornwall. Drawing from the rich inter-disciplinary environment of the Penryn campus, two brilliant pairs of students from the University of Exeter's Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) Department in Penryn and Falmouth University respectively were partnered across the institutions for two forty-hour collaborative internships in June and July.

The objective of the initiative is to share understanding of socio-political issues and create confidently and collaboratively in an interdisciplinary environment.

The pilot's two projects, both on the theme of conflict, were undertaken by Edward Hart (History and Politics, University of Exeter) with Vee Moretti (Fashion, Falmouth University) who explored political and historical conflicts connected with the Punk movement, and Joseph Mathers (Politics and International Relations, University of Exeter) with Toby Sadgrove (Creative Music Technology, Falmouth University) who explored and creatively represented the dreams of people affected by the war in Ukraine. Find out more [here](#).

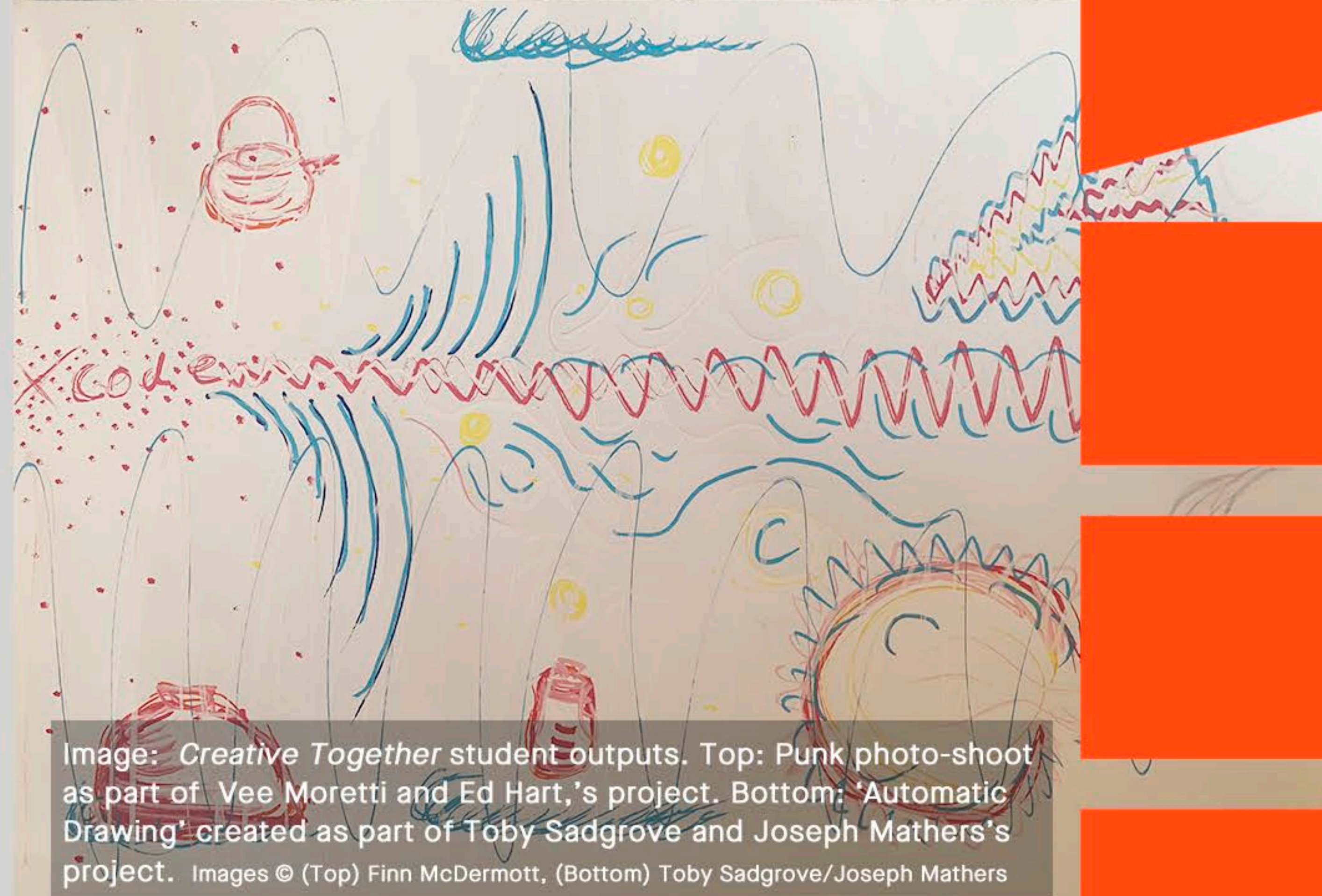


Image: *Creative Together* student outputs. Top: Punk photo-shoot as part of Vee Moretti and Ed Hart's project. Bottom: 'Automatic Drawing' created as part of Toby Sadgrove and Joseph Mathers's project. Images © (Top) Finn McDermott, (Bottom) Toby Sadgrove/Joseph Mathers

Student-led research

Working with the Fine Art Collection

In Term 2, we supported one of the undergraduate Art History and Visual Culture modules by providing a selection of original artworks from the Fine Art Collection for the purposes of a project to research and curate an online exhibition.

This year the students focused on a selection of illustrations created for early 20th century magazines such as *Punch*, *The Bystander* and *The Graphic*.

The students were given the opportunity to view the original artworks and attend an illustrated talk about turn of the century illustrations by a specialist Art Historian Catherine Flood. In May 2023, following personal research of the illustrations, the artists and the cultural context of the works, their online exhibition was published on the Arts and Culture website. You can see it [here](#).



Image: *A Fellow Feeling* drawn in 1905 by Tom Browne for the periodical *Punch*.

Supporting module delivery and career development

Arts and Culture regularly contribute to module delivery, and now run annual workshops for the Medical Humanities module (compulsory for all 4th year medical students), Pathways to Arts, Culture and Heritage (a highly competitive vocational programme run by the Careers Zone), and Academic Professional Pathways (compulsory training for all new teaching staff).

In addition, this year we developed a new 'Building Creative Confidence' workshop for the Student Well-Being team, and supported Nursing modules, for both 4th and 3rd Year students (see page 46 for more on the latter).

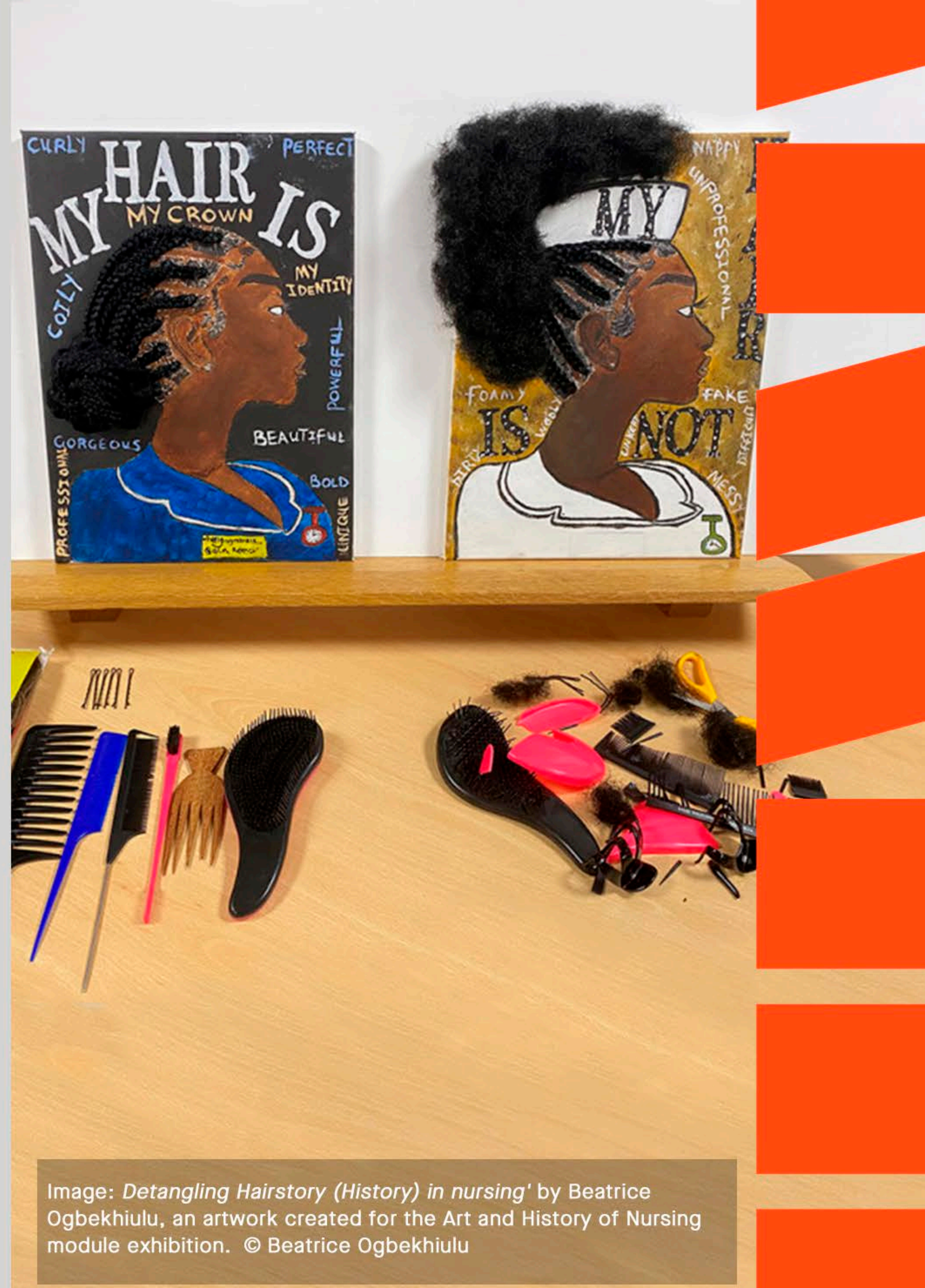


Image: *Detangling Hairstory (History) in nursing* by Beatrice Ogbekhiulu, an artwork created for the Art and History of Nursing module exhibition. © Beatrice Ogbekhiulu

Student Placements

We hosted Binjie Wang, an MA Curation: Contemporary Art and Cultural Management student, for a placement during February and March. Binjie gained experience cataloguing Fine Art collection items, researching and writing blogs for the Arts and Culture website and designing customised images for an online exhibition.

In the Spring term an undergraduate Art History and Visual Culture student assisted with the research needed for the creation of a series of new captions for the Fine Art Collection on display in Reed Hall.

Astrid Baker, a recently-graduated Politics and International Relations student at Penryn, joined us for a four-week internship supporting our work on the Cornwall campuses including co-ordinating the new *Creative Together* project.

We brokered a placement for Exeter College Fine Art Foundation Course student Helen Freeman who shared her artistic knowledge with student nurses developing their *Art and History of Nursing* exhibition. She guided them on design of their works and curated the display.

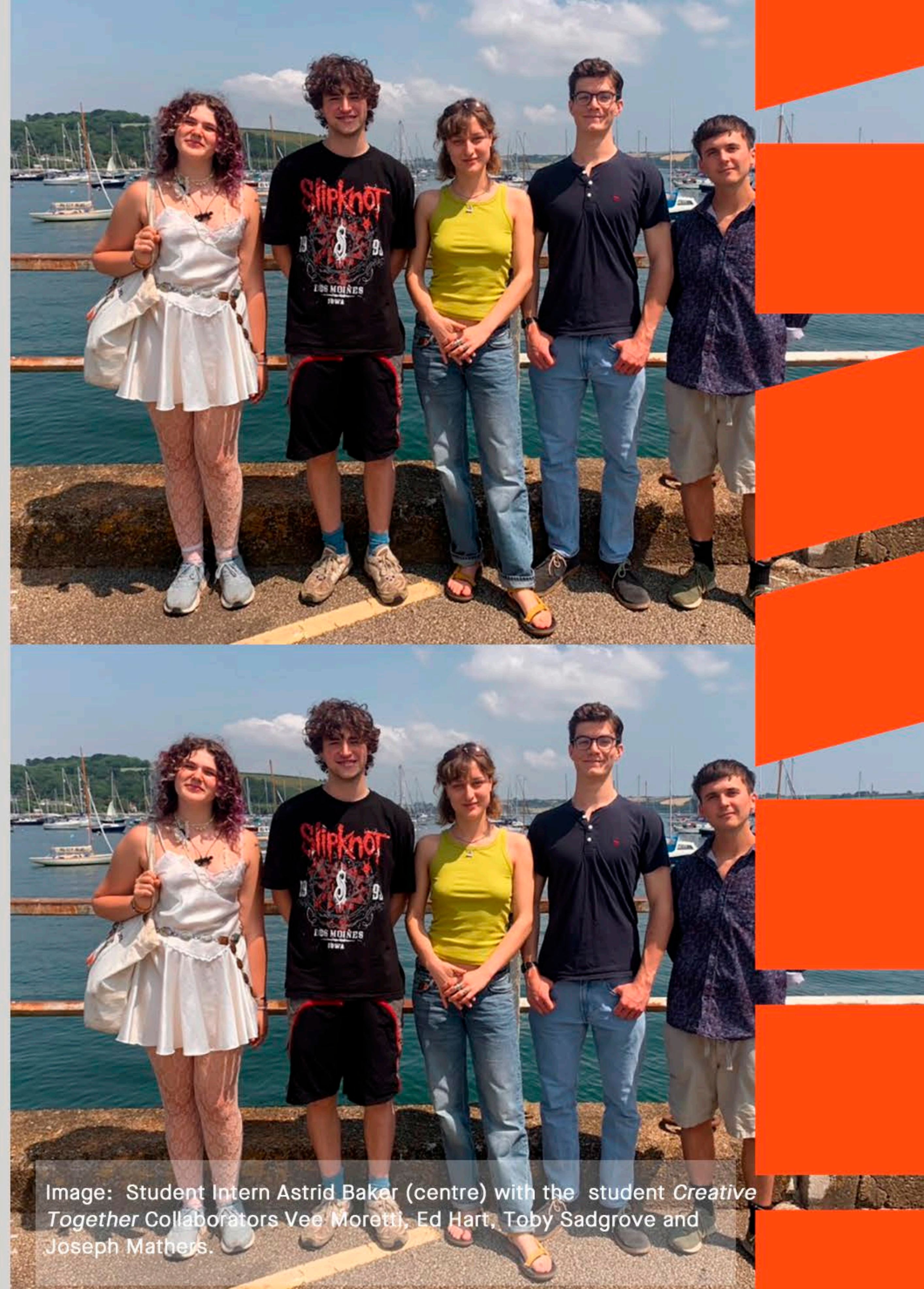


Image: Student Intern Astrid Baker (centre) with the student *Creative Together* Collaborators Vee Moretti, Ed Hart, Toby Sadgrove and Joseph Mathers.

The Art and History of Nursing exhibition

In the autumn term Arts and Culture supported an undergraduate module led by Dr Marie Clancy, entitled *The Art and History of Nursing*, in which student nurses create an exhibition of their own work based on individual research on a theme from the history of nursing.

Sarah Campbell led a workshop on ideas-generation and design thinking for the students.

We also provided guidance on layout and technical options for the exhibition which was held in December 2022, and we secured a TV interview on BBC Spotlight with Dr Clancy and two of the student nurses, promoting the exhibition and the course module.

An online version of the exhibition, posted on the Arts and Culture website, has created a lasting legacy of the work. You can view it [here](#).



Image: *What is important to you when you die?* by nursing student Francesca Rubke - © Francesca Rubke

Festival of Creativity

A new initiative supported by Arts and Culture, The Literary Platform, Exeter Art Week and Stranger Collective, titled the *Festival of Creativity* took place in June.

It was organised by Anna Kiernan and a team of students from MA Creativity and MA Publishing and included a sold out event at The Exploding Bakery, Exeter, with award-winning environmental writer Daisy Hildyard and an exhibition of new print works from Double Elephant at Kaleider Studios.

'I am so grateful to you for organising it, asking questions...I really enjoyed the conversation, I'm still thinking of some of the things people said, and I loved being in the bakery, everybody sitting together and the summer evening.'

Daisy Hildyard

Other events included a magazine launch party for *Small Town Stories*, readings, exhibitions, writing workshops, and book group, *Read Between the Wines*, with authors Amy Lilwall and Gurnaik Johal.

15TH & 16TH JUNE AT KALEIDER STUDIOS FESTIVAL OF CREATIVITY



THURSDAY 15 JUNE

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE
JOURNALLING 2-4PM

THE LIT MAGAZINE
EXHIBITION AND LAUNCH 5-6.30PM

READ BETWEEN THE WINES 7-9PM

FRIDAY 16 JUNE

WRITING ABOUT PLACE
WITH NOVELIST AMY LILWALL 11-1PM

EMERGENCY AT THE EXPLODING BAKERY,
WITH NOVELIST DAISY HILDYARD 6-7.30PM



ARTS
AND
CULTURE

The Lit Platform

Stranger
Collective

Securing our Cultural Assets

In March 2023, the University was delighted to receive a gift of a stunning artwork by Cornwall-based landscape artist and Honorary Graduate, Kurt Jackson. The mixed media work, donated by the artist and his wife Carloline, is entitled *Biodiversity and Taxonomy*. It can be viewed in the atrium of the Environment and Sustainability Institute, Penryn Campus. It features a view of the sea, sky and land in macro and micro scale. The painted landscape includes an abundance of flora and fauna, which the artist has labelled with detailed, handwritten, descriptions. The work now forms part of the University's Fine Art Collection.

The programme of conservation of sculptures continued, including inspection and cleaning of the sculptures 'Figure for Landscape' and 'Skysails'.

Each month, we have researched and written about one of the artworks in the Fine Art Collection. You can now explore the stories behind over 40 of our artworks in the collection. Find out more [here](#).

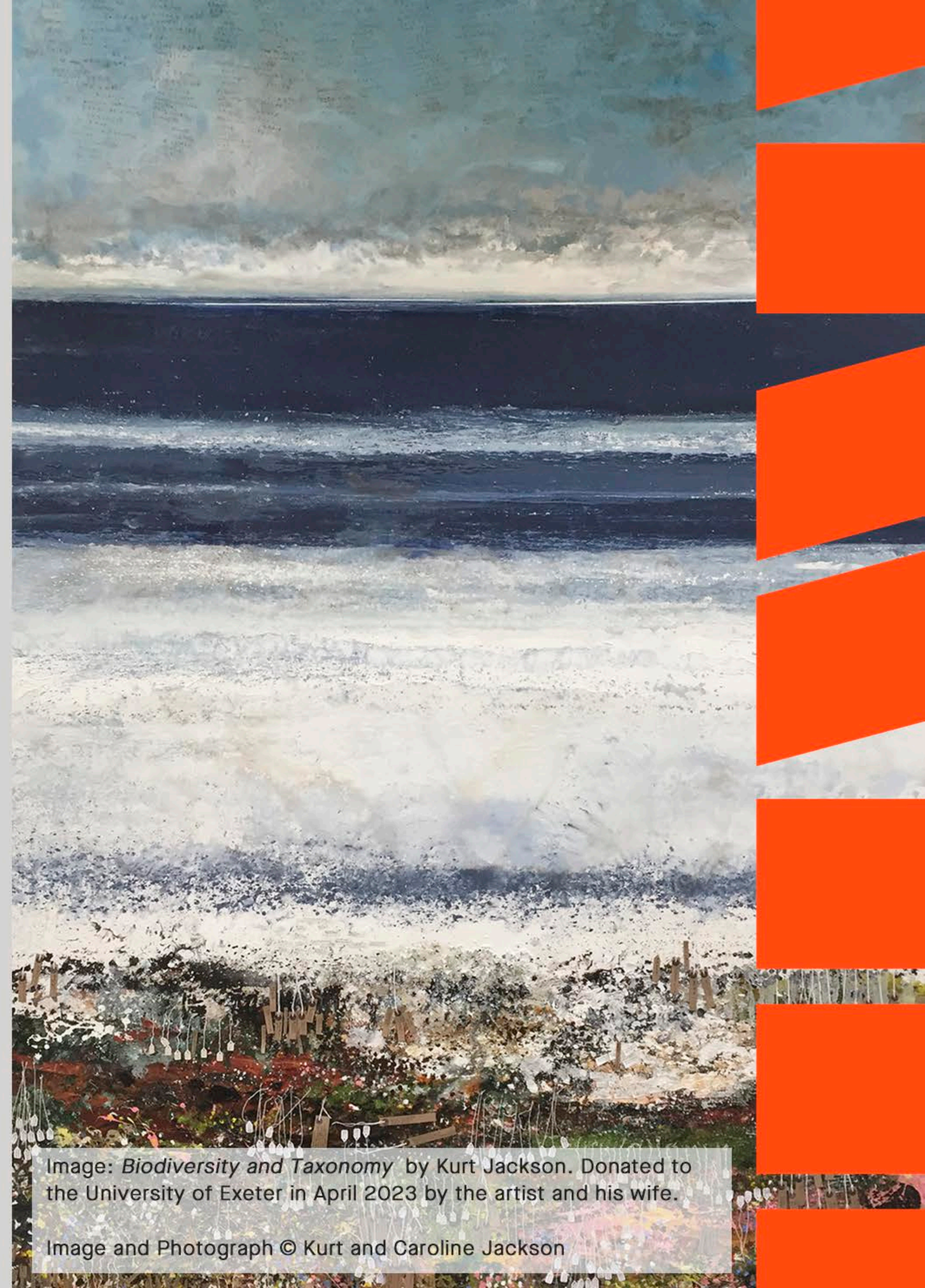


Image: *Biodiversity and Taxonomy* by Kurt Jackson. Donated to the University of Exeter in April 2023 by the artist and his wife.

Image and Photograph © Kurt and Caroline Jackson

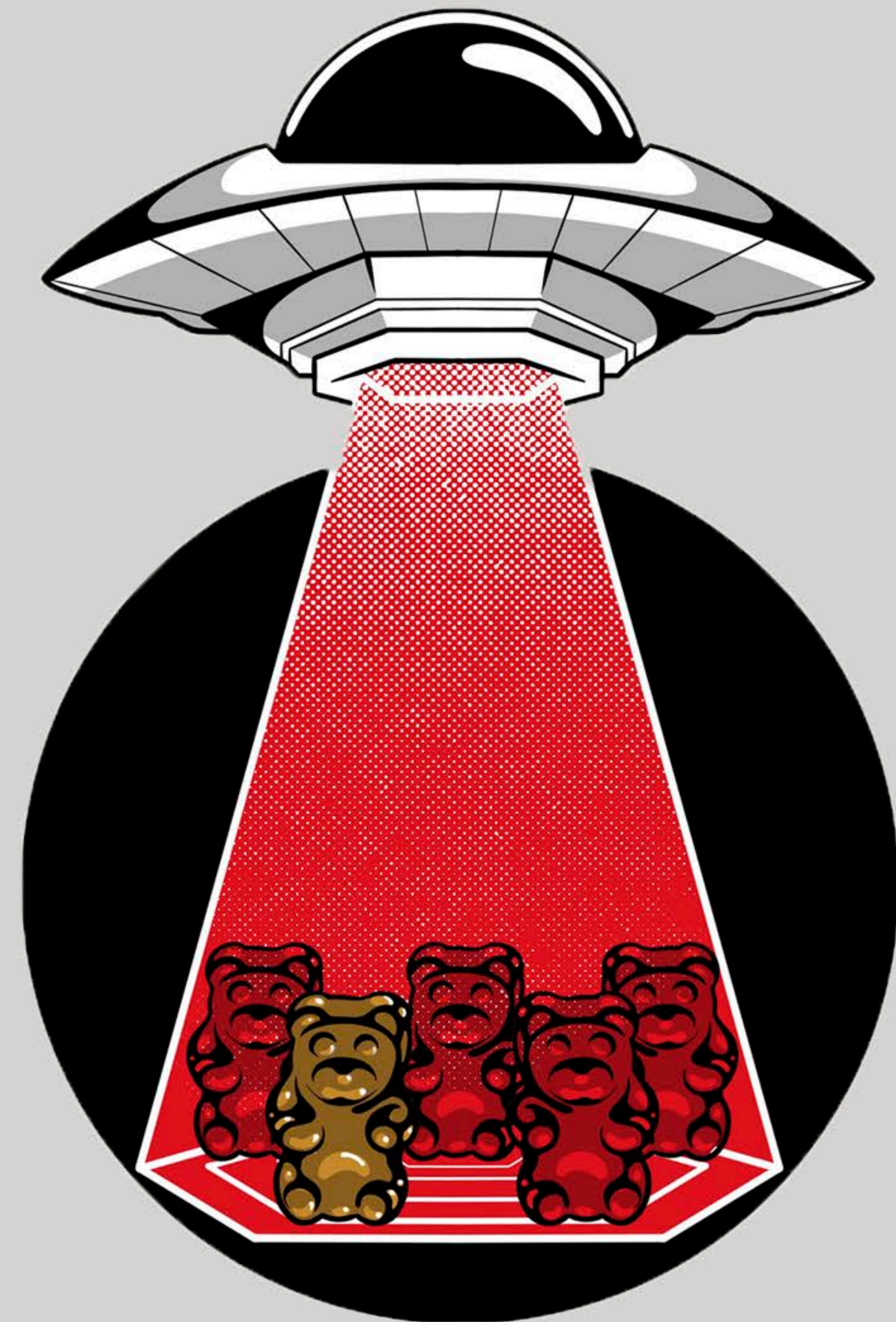
Thank You

We are so grateful to everyone who has worked with us this year, for all of their time, support, and imaginative energy.

It has been a joy to welcome Annie Sheen to the team, as our part-time Programme Manager for Cornwall, and Dom Jinks as our Innovation, Impact and Business lead.

Many thanks also to Sarah Hamlin, Senior Finance Administrator, for keeping us on the budgeting straight-and-narrow, and the support of Tom Begbie, Amie Fulton and Martin Siegert for making Annie's role possible. We appreciate Vanessa Otim and Angela Mandrioli for their sterling work on the Fine Art Collection records, and Steve Haywood for his beautiful films and photographs that help tell the story of our work.

The Directors would particularly like to thank our core team who pour so much passion and brilliance into their work – Arts and Culture is very much a team effort, and it's a privilege to work alongside such wonderful colleagues.



Tattoo design *Beam me Up Gummies* by Clara Welsh, commissioned by Ryan Edginton for use in public engagement with Raman Nanotheranostics (RaNT). The arts commission was supported by funding from Arts and Culture. See page 14.

Arts and Culture

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