

The Art Circle

June 2020

Durham University's Art Collection Newsletter

Hello Art Circle!

As we slowly start to ease our way out of lockdown and begin to explore the new normal, we have plenty of online activities, exhibitions, workshops and events to get involved in. From soup cans to Haiku poems, we have the ideal creative 'to-do' list for you.



Summer in the City online

Summer in the City festival (SiC) is a collaboration between Durham University and Durham County Council. The festival is in its second year, but this is the first time it's been completely online. Featuring art, theatre and music, there are tons of activities and events you can take part in - open mic nights, exhibitions, drawing tutorials, weekly art club, videos, poetry, workshops.....

We have just added some brand new artist commissions to the festival line up. North East based artists Lady Kitt, Ian Horn, Lila J Naruse, Sophia Barton, Jo Stanness, AJ Garrett, Alice Highet, Kirsty Childs, Katie Bell and Paul Raymond have created a collection of artist films and workshops available to view and download at home. Make sure you keep up to date with all the information on our website and social media. Visit us and find your next project!

www.sitcfestival.org

Facebook: [Durham Summer In The City](#)

Twitter: [@DurhamSiC](#)

Instagram: [sitconlinefestival](#)

Evaluation

As this is the first year we've taken Summer in the City festival online, we want to hear from you! If you have visited any of the exhibitions or taken part in our activities, we would really appreciate you taking the time to fill in our evaluation and help us to plan for next year.

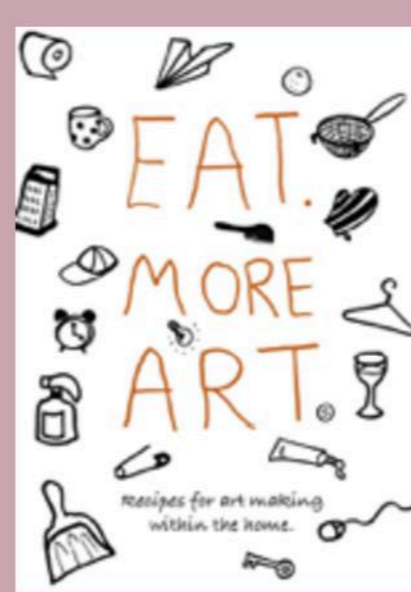
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SiC2020/>

Activity Spotlight

Here are a few of the fantastic events and activities you could be participating in. Don't miss out.

EAT. MORE ART! With Katie Bell

Make a self-portrait out of fruit, musical instruments from recyclables and create art on bananas. The possibilities are endless with this downloadable isolation art recipe book. Send us your creations!



Common Thread with Melanie Kyles

Sign up for our free workshop on 20 June, made possible by Melanie Kyles.

Common Thread will help you document this period of time in history with embroidery. This live event will be hosted via Zoom. Get your tickets [here](#).



INCIDENTAL by Kirsty Childs

Artist Kirsty Childs has been learning how to create animations in lockdown and these films are based on her experience of living life through the pandemic.



Visit our website for more information on [workshops](#) and [videos](#).

If you have any isolation art recommendations or photos of what you have been creating, we would love to feature them in our next Art Circle Newsletter. Email us at artcollection@durham.ac.uk

What's happening this week

WHAT'S ON
15 - 21 June 2020

COMMON THREAD WITH MELANIE KYLES
Live embroidery workshop
Saturday 20 June, 10.30-13.30
Tickets available from eventsbrite.co.uk

A SPACE TO CALL HOME
Artful workshops for all ages exploring home, food art, lockdown still life and rainbow poetry
abdfeastival.org/community-art-club

ARTISTS SHORT FILM PROGRAMME
Home in lockdown
abdfeastival.org/shortfilm-programme

POST ART
Postcard project in response to Pushing paper:
Contemporary drawing 1970 to now
abdfeastival.org/postart

COMMUNITY ART CLUB
Take part in our weekly art club and add your family artwork to our online gallery
abdfeastival.org/community-art-club

PODCAST PROGRAMME
abdfeastival.org/podcastprogramme

ART

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A British Museum touring exhibition: PUSHING PAPER: CONTEMPORARY DRAWING FROM 1970 TO NOW [ONLINE]
dur.ac.uk/art-collection/events/future/online-resources

STUDENT ART PRIZE DIVERSITY [ONLINE]
Exhibition featuring student artwork exploring themes of diversity
abdfeastival.org/student-art-prize

ART COMMUNITY DURHAM SIXTH FORM - ARTISTS EXHIBITION [ONLINE]
dur.ac.uk/art-collection/events/future/durham-sixth-form

THOUGHT FOUNDATION AFFORDABLE ART EXHIBITION [ONLINE]
TF Digital present a curated selling exhibition to enjoy from home
thefoundation.org.uk

THE BROOKLYN ART LIBRARY SKETCHBOOK PROJECT
Collaborative sketchbook showcase responding to life before and after lockdown
thefoundation.org.uk

ART



Lighting Up the Home

We want you to make your own light installation in your home! Inspired by the Lumiere light festival, which takes place across Durham every two years, this competition asks people use their own houses, bedrooms, gardens, bathrooms to make a unique piece of light art, being creative with what you have lying around. Closing date is 17 June, check out our website for more [information](#)

Here are some top tips from artist Stuart Langley!

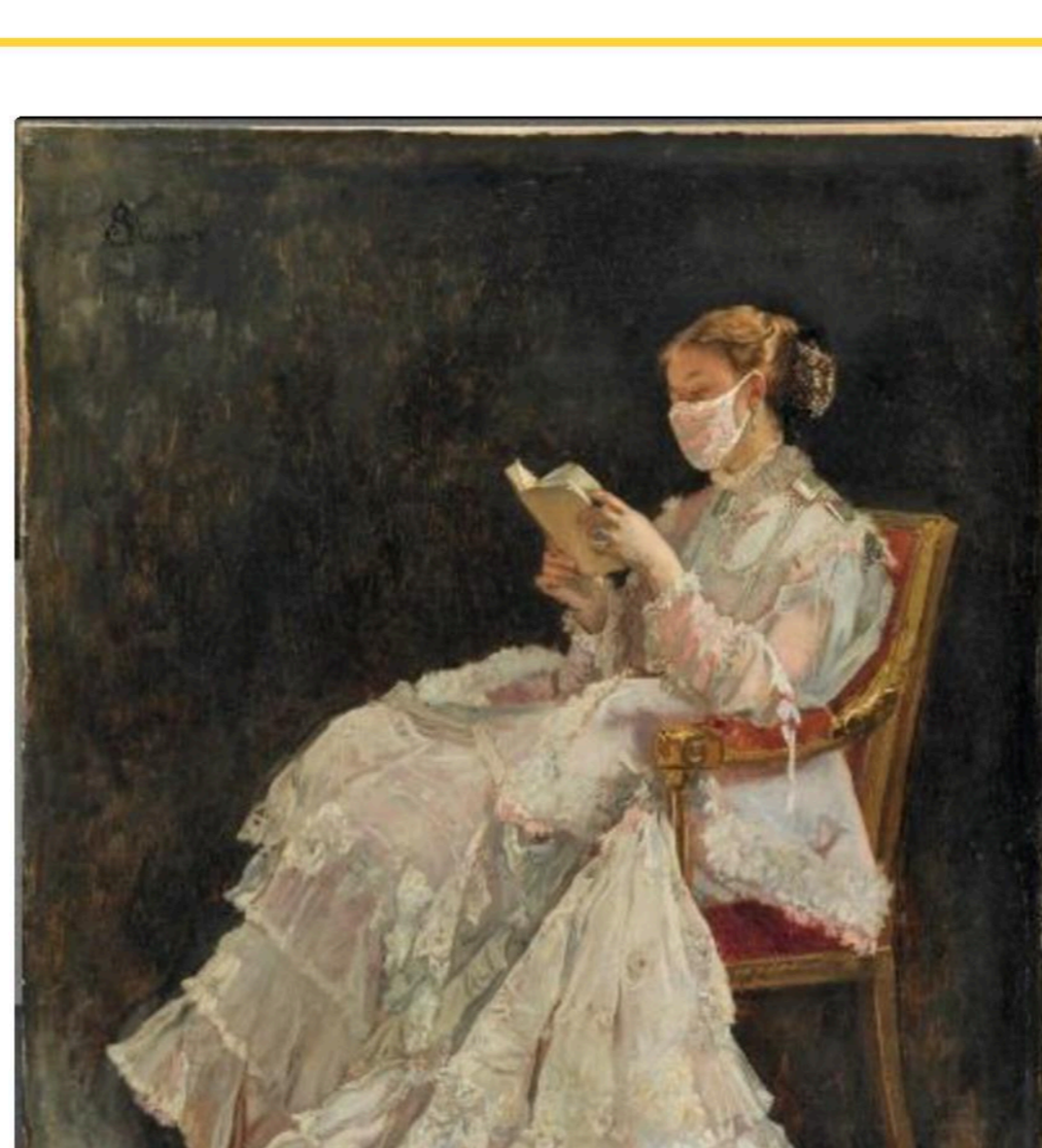
Colour – light and colour go hand in hand and can really draw people to a piece of light art. RGB LED devices are brilliant at being able to employ the full colour spectrum into a piece of work but equally coloured plastic and film can be used as filters for white light sources providing the light source doesn't emit too much heat.

Mirrors – clever use of mirrored objects and surfaces can add a sense of magic and intrigue to a piece of light art whilst extending the ambient reach of a light source. Placing a mirror directly next to a light source will have the effect of doubling your light source whilst shining a light onto a collection of moving mirrors (think disco mirror balls) will have an altogether magical effect.

Shadows – whilst light art often focuses on the spread and source of brightness in the dark, playing with shadows can be a really interesting way of creating images and even text in dark spaces. Something as simple as cutting shapes and text from a piece of card and positioning a light behind it can create a simple and effective analog projection. You could even place the design you've cut on a window to give it even more of a showcase.

Waste plastic – transparent waste plastic takes on a life of its own when flooded with light, helping to extend the spread of a simple light source whilst often being used by many light artists to emphasise messages of sustainability. A bundle of old plastic bottles, scissors, a hot glue gun and a few hours play could result in a fascinating sculpture that would come to life at night.

Fire – its primal draw links us back to an age where fire was an essential element of life. Whilst safety needs to be a top consideration, no technology can match the life and energy fire brings to an artwork. A simple arrangement of candles can often be more poignant than the most complex of light installations.



Did you know?

Even though museums across the country are closed, The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has released a selection of new postcard designs based around the COVID pandemic. The *Art for our Time* series revamps artworks from their collection for our current conditions. Think facemasks on masterpieces.

You can get involved too.

Think of your favourite painting. Who is portrayed? How are they portrayed? How do you think would they be spending lockdown? What conversations would they be having? What activities would they be doing?

Thank you for subscribing to our mailing list, keep a look out for our monthly updates. If you ever want to get in touch with us directly you can email us at: artcollection@durham.ac.uk

Until next time,

The Art Circle
(Alix, Emily and Katie)



You can follow us on:

