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The Art Circle

May 2020

Durham University's Art Collection Newsletter

Hello Art Circle!

We just want to ask how are you doing? We have been busy bees working from home, in the hope of bringing you some virtual creative fun to delve into from home.

In this month's Art Circle we want to share with you some activities you can create at home, online exhibitions, great projects to get involved in, and our best recommendations and artist inspirations.

NOW ONLINE!

A British Museum touring exhibition

Pushing Paper: contemporary drawing from 1970 to now.

The physical exhibition at the Oriental Museum may currently be closed, but we have created some DIY activities, alongside a virtual tour and exhibition films to watch online or download for later. Using these materials and films you can find out more about the artworks and get inspired to create your own.

Watch the video below and explore our [website](#) for more information.

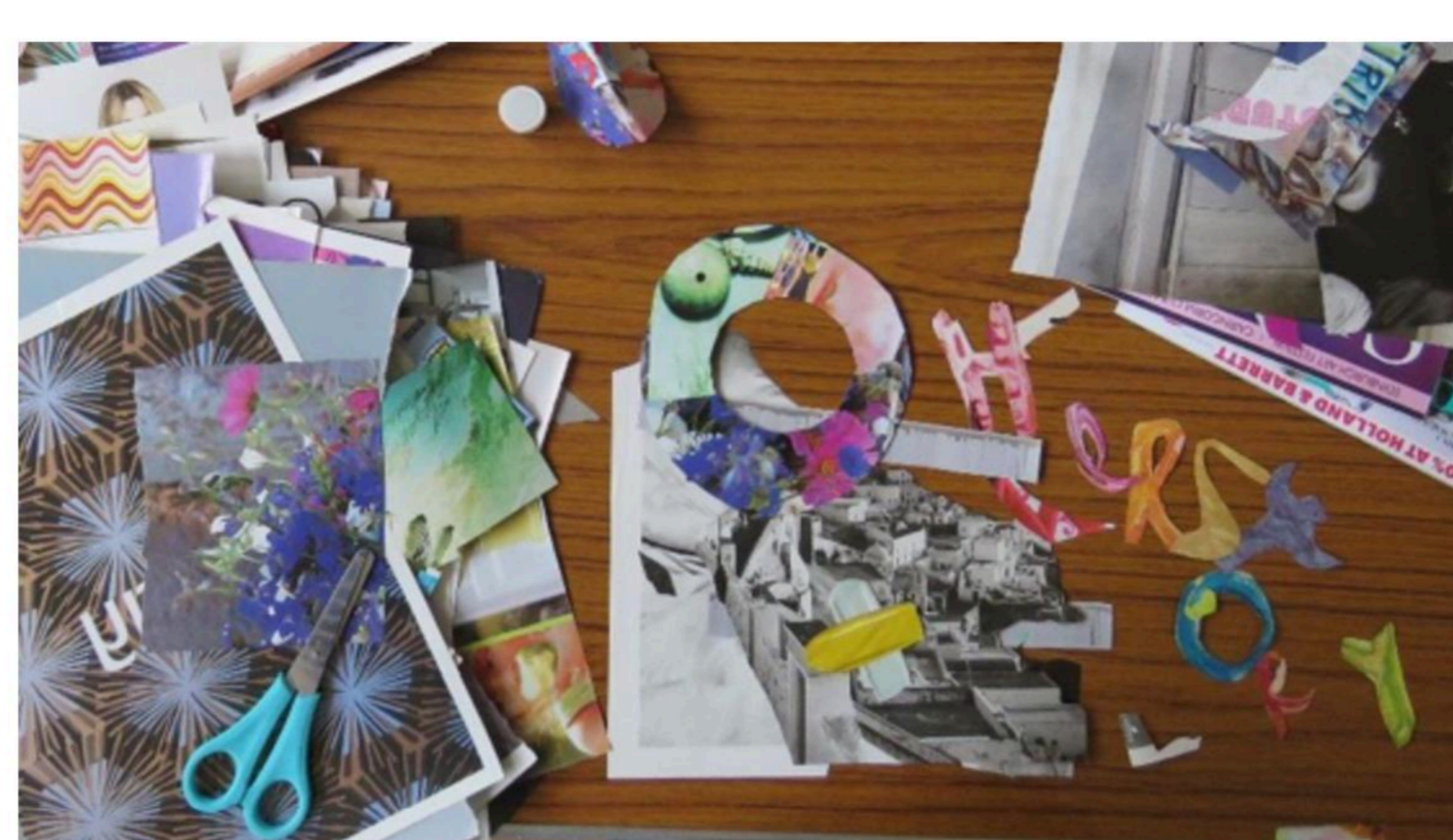
Throughout history individuals have invariably sought to situate themselves as part of a greater whole. Everyone has multiple identities based on religion, race, politics, language, culture, profession, sexuality, gender and class, to name a few. In many of these works portraiture is used to examine the character of the sitter, and the artist's relationship to them, displaying a deeply touching intimacy.

By contrast, Hajra Waheed's subjects were unknown and instead provide a means for her to investigate questions of national and cultural identity. Under these works is the ancient notion that personal identity be read through the detailed rendering of a person's body. Drawings by Louise Bourgeois, Tracey Emin and Harde examine how identity is constructed, especially noted in the physicality of the female form. They demonstrate a form of emotional self-exploration and a readiness to reveal intimate aspects of personal identity.

Grayson Perry and Marcia Kure explore the tensions inherent in reconciling multiple or fluid identities. Perry represents his alter-ego Claire, while Kure, combining abstraction with elements of traditional Nigerian Uli art, considers how cultural identity informs her practice.

Text written by Alex Collingwood Swainson, Curator, Durham University Library & Archives

[Watch the Identity exhibition film below!](#)



ART ONLINE

Quarantine does not mean creativity has to stop. Inspired by the Durham University Art Collection and the artists we work with, you will find activities to explore your creativity using what you have around you at home at [ART ONLINE](#).

You can watch our [How to Videos](#), download activities created by regional artist [Helen Schell](#) and find [exhibition inspired resources](#).

As well as exploring our [Online Community Gallery](#) which includes work by families, young people taking parts in our Arts Award programme and Creative Age - a local group for people living with dementia.

Summer in the City Festival is going ONLINE

Summer in the City is Durham's art, theatre and music festival which runs throughout June. This year, for the first time, we are taking the festival online.



This year's festival, including virtual exhibitions, performances, creative activities, art walks and more, can be found at [sitcfestival.org](#) ...stay tuned for more details next month.

#StayatHome recommendations from the Art Circle...

It's sometimes hard to stay creative when we are at home, but fear not, we have some recommendations to keep you creative.

Try... [Emma Scottchild](#) for anyone who is looking for educational, fun craft ideas to do at home including a lily pad activity inspired by Monet.



Create... We were always told not to play with our food, but we say do it! This month we have been inspired by Japanese artist [Manami Sasaki](#) who creates beautiful works of art on the humble piece of toast.

Look... [Forced Collaboration](#) is an online platform matching artists' practices and creating a space for cross disciplinary collaborations.

Follow... [Isolation Art School](#) is a creative community Instagram page which presents projects, lessons and tips by artists to help people get creative while housebound.

PostArt with Eleanor Matthews

Eleanor Matthews, Durham artist (and now homeschooling mam) has set up a project where artists create original, postcard-sized artworks and send them to other artists and those needing a morale-boost during the COVID-19 crisis.

Eleanor is a member of Interface Arts – a County Durham based art group. Their members and other artists are taking part in the project which is looking for new participants. The aim is to connect people in isolating times and encourage people to use their time to share their creativity, brightening up someone's day through their letterboxes.

So far hundreds of cards have been sent to carers, care homes, those self-isolating on their own, refuse collectors, shopkeepers and other essential workers by members of Interface Arts, and partner artist networks such as Spectrum and Little Green Hut.

If you or any other artists would like to take part, we'd love to have you join the project! please email eleanormatthewsart@gmail.com for full details.

#postartcovid

Interface Arts is affiliated to the Oriental Museum in Durham and Locomotion in Shildon. The group meets once a month to share work and ideas and to set up exhibitions of our work throughout the North East.



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



© Lady Kitt (2018) 89 Ways You Are Worth More to Me Like This

Bank note and glass bottle mounted on board, Durham University Collection

Art Collection spotlight on Lady Kitt

Lady Kitt is an artist, activist, performer and researcher based in Newcastle. They use the pronouns they/them. In their Worth series (2016–ongoing) they depict strong and influential women by cutting heart shapes out of £50 banknotes. This is a portrait of Charlotte Roberts, Professor of Archaeology at Durham University. By depicting inspirational women from all walks of life, the series highlights the fields in which women are still underrepresented and experience discrimination.

You can see Kitt's work alongside works from the British Museum and Durham University's collections in our online exhibition [Pushing paper: contemporary art 1970 to now](#).

Thank you for subscribing to our mailing list, get 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)



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