



Impact Report

RIPE at Old Northam Road 2020



Led by 'a space' arts (AS) in partnership with Solent University (SU) and Winchester School of Art (WSA), University of Southampton, the RIPE gradate scheme is an ambitious programme of exhibitions, events and residencies at the Alfred Arcade, the Hidden Wardrobe and the Alfred Arms on Old Northam Road (ONR).

In 2020, the programme was forced to adapt to changing circumstances in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. Although some exhibitions were able to go ahead and physical studio space was still offered to graduates as part of the scheme, the main exhibition programme moved online and new collaborations were established.

AS worked with WSA graduate, George Thom to create a virtual version of the Alfred Arcade which hosted two online exhibitions. The first, Homemade Mango Chutney, provided an opportunity for 18 RIPE artists from previous years (the 'Bananas' and the 'Mangoes' that graduated in 2018 and 2019 respectively) to exhibit new work in a virtual gallery space and feel connected and supported during the first lockdown. Then, in summer 2020, 18 new graduates were invited to exhibit in Ripe Tomatoes. The artists met via zoom and adapted unrealised degree show projects to be exhibited in the virtual Alfred Arcade. For the artists, this opportunity was even more valuable in the context of Covid, at a time when graduates across the country were struggling to find work and exhibition opportunities.

Throughout the year, a varied programme of six exhibitions by RIPE artists took place in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. The nature of the space meant the exhibitions were accessible to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week and could be viewed from outside the building, allowing visitors to view the work safely during the pandemic.

12 RIPE artists currently occupy studio spaces on ONR - six 'Bananas', three 'Mangoes' and three 'Tomatoes'. A number of resident artists have worked together this year to continue renovating and maintaining the spaces. Whilst the Alfred Arcade and the Hidden Wardrobe have needed some attention, the Alfred Arms has been the main focus of the remedial work. Repairs have been made to the roof, all the rooms have been painted, furniture has been built for the communal area downstairs and a wood workshop and pottery studio (with a kiln) have been installed.

AS also worked with local design studio, Chapt'r to build a new website for RIPE in 2020. The site functions as a directory of past events and exhibitions, as well as providing a platform for us to share news about upcoming RIPE activities. Each RIPE artist has their own profile on the website with links to their social media accounts, and there is a page for each of the spaces, informing visitors about their use and location. The website can be accessed at ripesouthampton.org.uk

Another exciting development in 2020 was the formation of the ZEST collective; the result of a growing ambition amongst the RIPE artists to take an active lead on planning and producing projects and a desire to learn more about how art activity is funded, developed and delivered. Having established themselves as an independent artist collective last year, ZEST are currently working on new ideas and projects that will play a vital role in the regeneration of ONR and create a pathway for future RIPE graduates.

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'The Tomatoes'

In 2020, AS worked with 18 new graduates and 18 artists from previous RIPE seasons.

The new graduates were selected from the WSA BA Fine Art course and the SU BA Fine Art and BA Photography courses. This group of 18 'Tomatoes' met over zoom and exhibited together at the virtual Alfred Arcade. Four of these artists are current studio residents.

In 2020 we continued to work closely with the graduating cohort from 2018 and 2019. Nine 'Bananas' and eight 'Mangoes' exhibited at Homemade Mango Chutney at the virtual Alfred Arcade this year. Six of these artists have also exhibited in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe this year and eight of them are current studio residents.

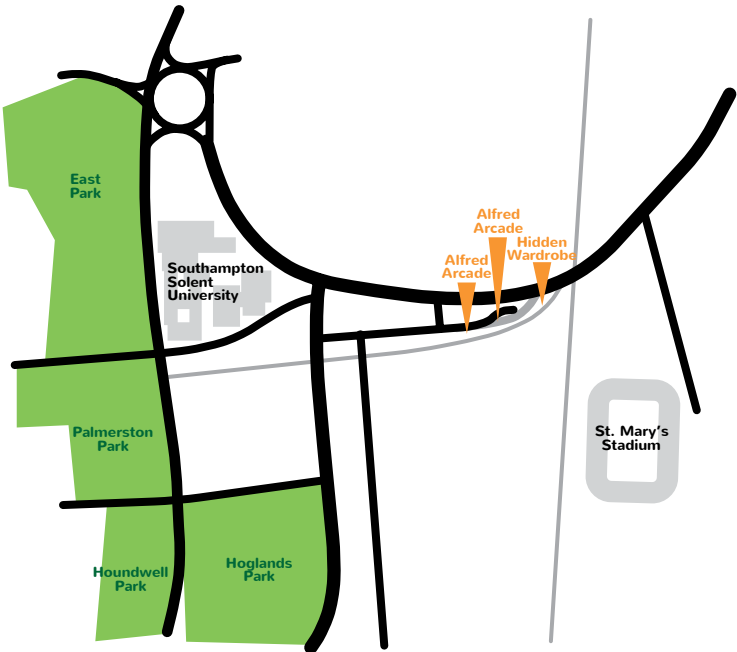
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Location



Old Northam Road at Sunset



Old Northam Road (ONR) is a stone's throw from the city centre and is home to a growing community of artists. In the past, the street was a busy and bustling place in the heart of the city. It became known as the antiques quarter in the 60s and 70s and attracted visitors from all over the world. In 1988, however, the new dual carriageway and Six Dials interchange was built, leaving ONR cut off from the rest of the city. Since then, many vendors have gone elsewhere, leaving behind long rows of beautiful Victorian shop fronts with nothing on display.

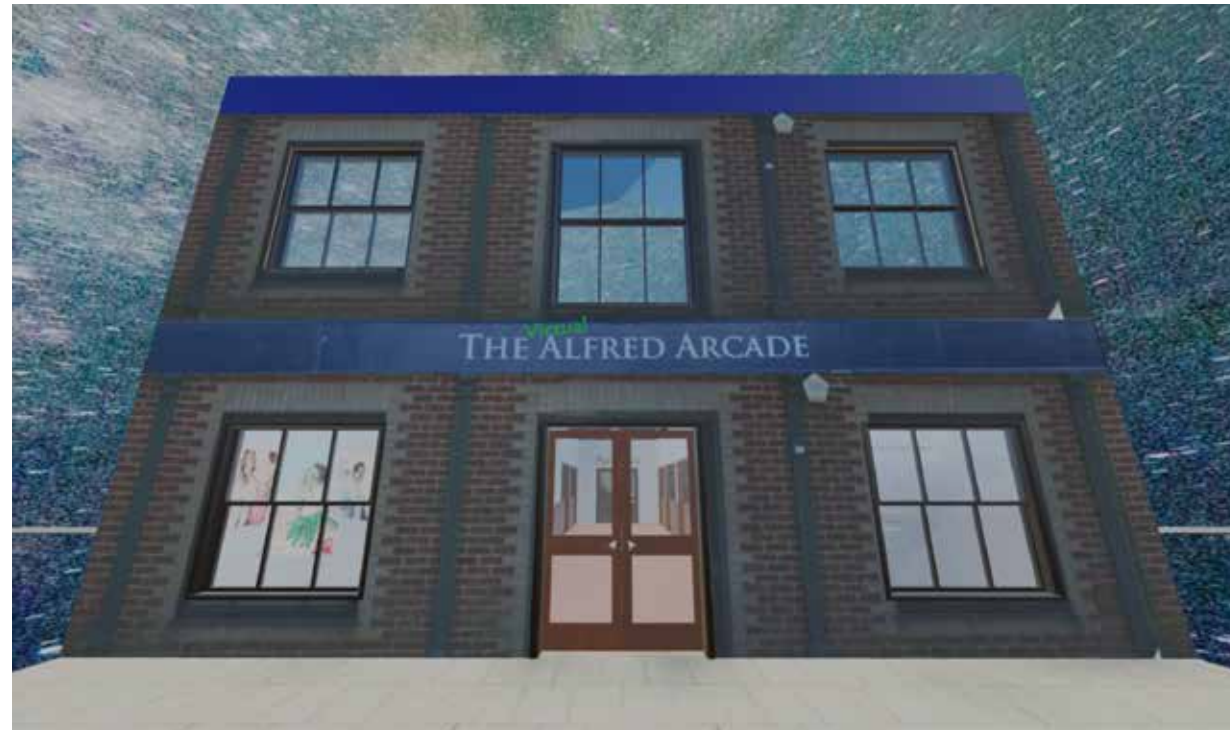
With its rich history and abandoned spaces, the street is brimming with opportunities for artists.

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The (Virtual) Alfred Arcade

The Alfred Arcade



The Virtual Alfred Arcade, created by George Thom

Overview:

The virtual Alfred Arcade welcomed 18 new graduates and 18 artists from previous RIPE seasons this year and hosted two exhibitions, Homemade Mango Chutney and Ripe Tomatoes.

The virtual space was modelled on the Alfred Arcade and was created by WSA alumni and artist, George Thom.

"The creation of this virtual space has been a dialogue between myself, the artists, the virtual environment and the artwork. This space, although it appears to be akin to an installation of different artworks, is more a representation of artworks in an imagined space, based on reality. A physical installation would require a dialogue between artist, artwork and space. The added element of the virtual environment has transcended the work beyond its physical properties, back into the realm of the conceptual and imaginary, it is then presented to us via electronic impulses from the network cloud, generally known as the World Wide Web. Together we are witnessing the same dream, of a Virtual Alfred Arcade." - George Thom.

Aims:

- To provide a platform for recent graduates to showcase their work.
- To encourage recent graduates to form meaningful connections and networks in the city, with the hope that this, in turn, will encourage graduate retention.
- To provide the tools and support for recent graduates to establish financially sustainable careers.
- To work with recent graduates to develop ideas about how to programme ONR in a way that reflects the needs and wants of the emerging artists in Southampton and Winchester.

Objectives:

- Exhibit the work of at least 12 new recent graduates.
- Continue to provide support and exhibition opportunities for all RIPE artists during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Provide opportunities for live art, performance and public engagement via digital launch events
- Offer professional development and curatorial support and advice for RIPE artists from our creative programming team.
- Inform the RIPE artists about organisations, networks, opportunities and resources available to them in Southampton.

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Exhibitions

The Alfred Arcade



Homemade Mango Chutney

Homemade Mango Chutney

Previously titled Mango Chutney, this exhibition was originally intended to showcase the work of 10 artists who occupied studio spaces on Old Northam Road (ONR) at the beginning of 2020, having exhibited at Ripe Mangoes the year before.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic it felt important to expand the project, and take advantage of new digital ways of working, to include RIPE artists who have since left ONR and are now working and living in other places, on other projects. Homemade Mango Chutney provides all the participating artists with the opportunity to remain connected and optimistic in this new, difficult and digital time.

The virtual gallery which hosts Homemade Mango Chutney is modelled on the Alfred Arcade and was created by WSA alumni and artist, George Thom.

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Exhibitions

Homemade Mango Chutney

The Alfred Arcade

Treasureland by Jade Anthony
@groupcritpowerdynamics

Jade's practice is about mapping connections and the organising of visual information through drawing, film or installation. Her work focuses on developing ways to merge and blend the conventions of various visual languages to tell narratives that span across many different subjects and time periods.

Untitled By Kane Applegate
@kaneapplegate

Kane is a scavenger. His practice is fed by an ever-growing collection of abandoned materials and objects, discarded and disregarded by the citizens of Southampton. Working with these found objects, he builds sculptures and structures that explore the notion of three physical forces: balance, compression and tension. In their final form, his sculptures become illusions; the objects, stripped of their function, stack, balance and bend in seemingly impossible ways.



Untitled By Kane Applegate

A Love Letter to My Imago in Lockdown
By Moylin Chong
@peach_art101

'The imago' is a dead psychoanalytical term. It is Latin for the divine image that we carry within us. Moylin's practice is fueled by her quest to uncover her own repressed imago through the exploration of various personas and approaches to making art. With a keen interest in storytelling, theatre, marionettes and folklore, Moylin's work is eerie, uncanny and ambiguous.



Gloves By Gwen Datyner

Gloves By Gwen Datyner
@gwendatyrerart

Gwen makes images and films that offer the viewer a voyeuristic insight into her personal life. Her work is about growing up, feeling vulnerable and what it's like to experience periods of anxiety. Through photography, she explores changing social issues, gender inequalities and the impact of social media.

Isolate By Ethan Edwards
@ethanedward.s

Ethan is primarily interested in composition and colour; the spaces and subjects he photographs are often removed from their original meaning and context. Working in both digital and analog, Ethan captures moments that are quiet and contemplative, revealing beauty in the banal.

Checking In, The House Plant Shop (Eden), In the Temple, Reflector By Benji Heinke
@benjiheinke

Benji's work is a distillation of the contemporary everyday, filtered through an autobiographical lens. Informed by digital manipulation and collage, his paintings incorporate original and appropriated imagery ranging from photographs and pattern designs to art history. The use of digital technology in the construction of his paintings addresses the position of the medium in the 21st century, as well as reflecting the seemingly blurred line between fact and fiction in today's internet saturated world.

Exhibitions

Homemade Mango Chutney

The Alfred Arcade

Hand Painted By Bryn Lloyd
@bryn_lloyd

Bryn manipulates materials to make them move. Using motors, magnets and natural forces he creates kinetic installations and experiments with unpredictable outcomes. Often constructed from recognisably recycled objects and technologies, his handcrafted mechanics are eerily attuned to the ever-shifting sights and sounds of the world around us.

Cotton Wool By Beth Luxton
@bethluxtonart

Beth makes images, animations and elaborate textile sculptures that blur the lines between appeal and repulsion. The pink, fluffy, feminine characters in her work reveal the dark and dangerous reality of stereotypical gender representations. Her work is often semi-autobiographical, drawing on her own personal conflicts to explore wider socio-political issues.



Cotton Wool By Beth Luxton

5440.255 By Charlotte Marchant
@charlottemarchantphoto

Charlotte's photographic practice is an ongoing investigation into the tenets of the documentary discipline. Her work explores the boundaries of an ever expanding medium and demonstrates how this style of photography can take many forms in the 21st century.

Lilli Put By Imogen Marooney
@imogenmarooney

Imogen's practice is rooted in printmaking and creative writing; it is informal, intimate and inviting, often literally involving the audience in the creation of new work through workshops and performance.

Basking By Sam Newby
@samnewbyart

Sam creates drawings and prints of everyday objects and materials that are often overlooked or unseen. She is interested in the domestic environment, the designs and patterns that decorate our homes and our casual, familiar interactions with them.

Adapting To The New Reality Of Life Under Lockdown / Inside Space By Svetlana Ochkovskaya
@svetlanaochk

Svetlana makes immersive, disorientating, alien spray-foam installations and costumes; mythic representations of her world view. Inhabited by a creature that is neither human nor alien, real or imaginary, these glowing environments and tactile costumes bend the fragile boundaries of our perceived reality.

Sweetcorn By Grace Payne
@thegracepayne

Grace's practice pits the personal against the universal and the digital against the analogue. She uses her work as a platform for discussing social and political issues informed by her own experiences. Grace combines performance, costume and narrative to construct digital realms that are funny and insightful.



Sweetcorn By Grace Payne

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Exhibitions

Homemade Mango Chutney

The Alfred Arcade

Untitled By Robin Price
@robin_price_

Robin is interested in space and volume; his practice explores different ways of measuring space beyond a numerical value. He builds simple, geometric sculptures and installations, working with ordinary materials such as string, paper, plaster, wood and wire.

Lunar by Mandy Smith
@mandysmithartist

Mandy's practice focuses largely on familial interactions, from the small, everyday, seemingly insignificant events that happen whilst bringing up children, to the sometimes overwhelming feelings of loss from birth, illness and death. She makes prints, sculptures and costumes using modest, domestic materials, repurposed and reworked to unsettling effect - the result is both bodily and monstrous.



Lunar By Mandy Smith

Covid Clown, Nest By Alexandra Sutherland
@a_sutherlanda

Alexandra's multidisciplinary practice explores themes of femininity, domesticity and ritual. She is interested in the romanticism and sensuality of drapery, found objects that evoke memories and analogue photography; mapping the connections between each.

Untitled by Ashleigh Turner
@ashleighturnerart

Ashleigh makes cluttered, confrontational artworks using paint and felt-tip pens from Poundland. Her practice stems from her lived experience as a fat, feminist, queer trauma survivor. The work is often humorous and relatable, littered with popular culture references, the language of social media and her own stream of consciousness.



Untitled By Ashleigh Turner

Small Worlds By Annette Warner
@annettewarner_art

Annette's practice is adaptive and agile. She is interested in the memories of objects and spaces, often using mundane materials to create site-specific installations and interventions that reveal the awkward quirks and corners of the rooms we inhabit. The work is temporary and transient, exploiting the fragility and fluidity of our perceptions.

Exhibitions

MOVE PAST THIS

The Alfred Arcade



The Banner Commission

Building on last year's successful banner commission, in May 2020 AS launched an open call for a new banner to be designed, printed and installed at the back of the Alfred Arcade, overlooking the railway. The banner was also displayed in the virtual version of the Alfred Arcade and the commissioned artist and University of Southampton alumni, Isaac Fravashi gave a short talk about the work at Homemade Mango Chutney.

MOVE PAST THIS by Isaac Fravashi

"MOVE PAST THIS functions through the interplay of its multiple meanings. The sentence firstly comes across as a type of advice in the imperative grammatical mood. The reader is encouraged to move through whatever hard times they are afflicted by and reminded that even when we feel immobile, 'stuck' in a situation or mindset, time is always moving and our relationship with our problems changes even if the problems don't go away. In this interpretation the 'PAST' would also take on a double meaning, showing how we 'MOVE' from the 'PAST' to 'THIS', the present. The second interpretation refers to the movement of the train in relation to the banner.

Unlike books or other literature that we often seek out, writing on display in public places catches us by surprise, we have often registered the words on a sign before realising we have been reading anything at all. As a result, the power dynamic between reader and the word is subverted. Advertising uses this subversion, this enhanced power of the word, to utilise the imperative grammatical mood with great effect. Jenny Holzer and Barbara Kruger often criticised the advertisement industry by using this core tool against them, most obvious in works like Kruger's *I shop therefore I am*. MOVE PAST THIS similarly utilises the power of the imperative in public spaces, but the order is fulfilled in the reading. If we take 'THIS' as self-referential then we are being shown the wish being fulfilled as we move past the banner while on the train. The constant state of the world as movement, as flux, is proven to us. When we interpret the two initial meanings simultaneously we are symbolically completing the wish we hope to enact on our own reality. In more recent times this is known as 'manifesting' or 'the laws of attraction' but we can trace it throughout human history and see similarities in the treatment of the murti in Hindu puja or the Christian eucharist. MOVE PAST THIS becomes a wish and a mantra, a comforting knowledge that, with the ever present movement of time, if you simply stay along for the ride, even the bleakest situations will change."

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Exhibitions

The Alfred Arcade



Ripe Tomatoes

Ripe Tomatoes was an online exhibition of outstanding work by a group of recent graduates from SU and WSA.

The project provided an opportunity for 18 artists to exhibit a recent body of work in a new virtual gallery space: the Alfred Arcade. The artists met via Zoom and engaged in critical discussion and debate; forming networks and friendships that have helped them sustain a fruitful visual arts practice.

The virtual gallery which hosted Ripe Tomatoes was modelled on the Alfred Arcade and was created by WSA alumni and artist, George Thom.



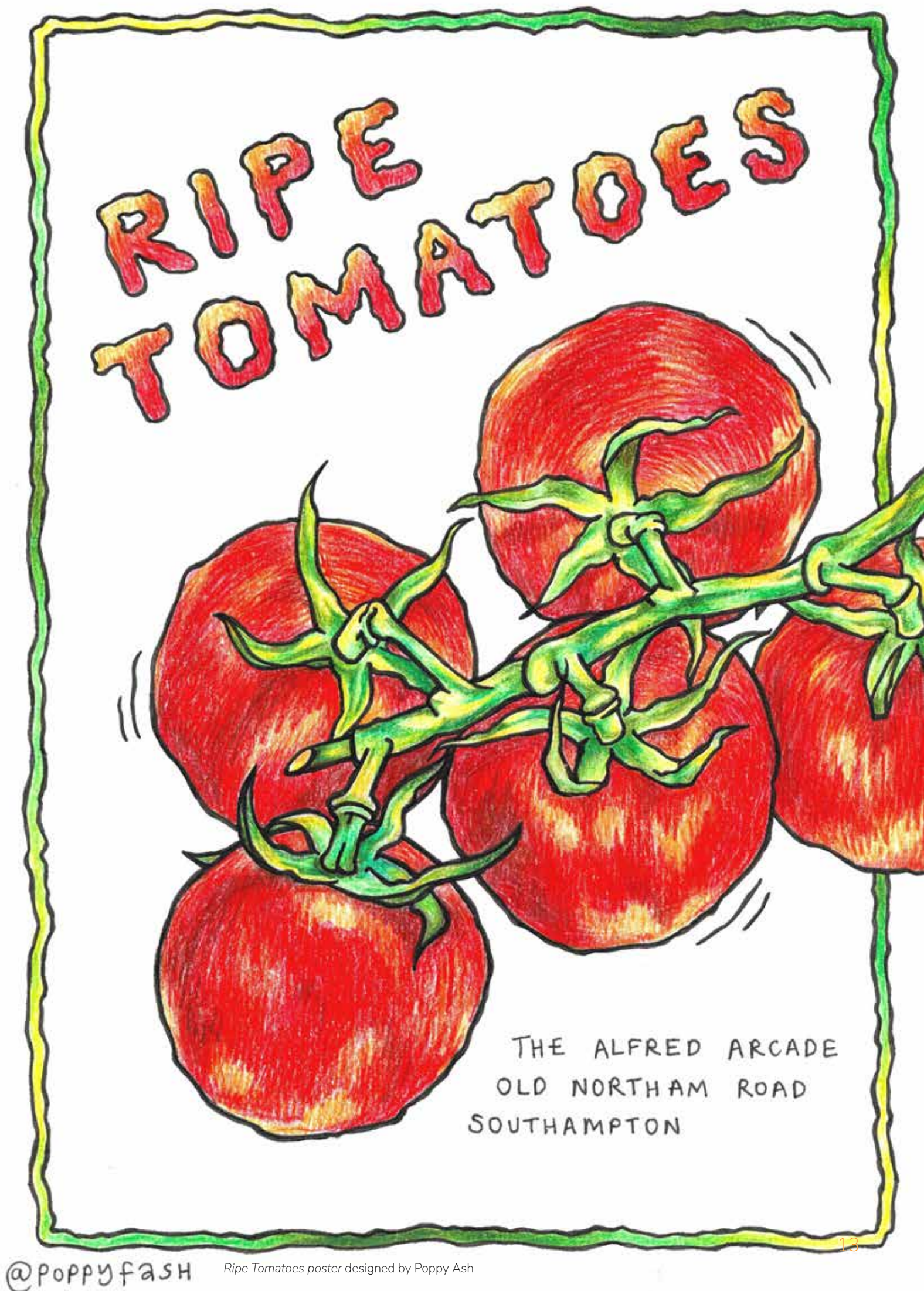
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Exhibitions

Ripe Tomatoes

The Alfred Arms

Poppy Ash
@poppyfash

Poppy makes humorous and honest observations of the world around her. Often drawing on everyday experiences and daily routines such as trips to Tesco and drinking tea in the bath, she creates small, informal drawings and zines using cheap, readily available materials.



Poppy Ash

Jess Curtis
@jesscurtisart

Jess' practice is digital. Her work is about memory and loss, distance and abstraction. She is interested in sentimental, evocative objects such as her grandmother's ring which is studied, scanned and photographed and then replicated and manipulated until a new ambiguous narrative forms, concealing the object's true meaning and function.

Olivér Gáspár
@trollchika

Olivér is concerned about the environment and wasteful consumption. He uses recycled crisp packets to make flags and paints on flattened cardboard boxes. His work is often satirical and includes imagery appropriated from the media of famous and infamous figures and faces, including the royal family and reality TV stars.

James Hewins
@sev_lovv

James makes physical and digital sculptures, installations and soundscapes with a strange, alien aesthetic. He is interested in dystopian futures and post-apocalyptic narratives. Physical sculptures are made with found materials such as latex and silicone; he then uses digital software to recreate these forms and textures in a virtual world.

Thirsika Jeyapalan
@thirsika

Thirsika's work is informed by her activism, identity and politics. As a second-generation British-Eelam Tamil, she is interested in what it means to be part of a diaspora and frequently attends protests, reading groups and discussions about the Tamil struggle and Sri Lankan politics. Thirsika's multidisciplinary practice includes painting and filmmaking and often references her cultural heritage.



Thirsika Jeyapalan

Hayley Jones
@hayleyjonesart

Hayley's photographic practice previously explored themes of identity and celebrity. Since lockdown, however, her focus has shifted to subjects closer to home. Photographs of local landscapes, garden flowers and busy insects are framed by the edges of a cardboard box. The images are both reassuring and restrictive; they depict moments of calm, but the frame is a constant reminder of confinement.

Exhibitions

Ripe Tomatoes

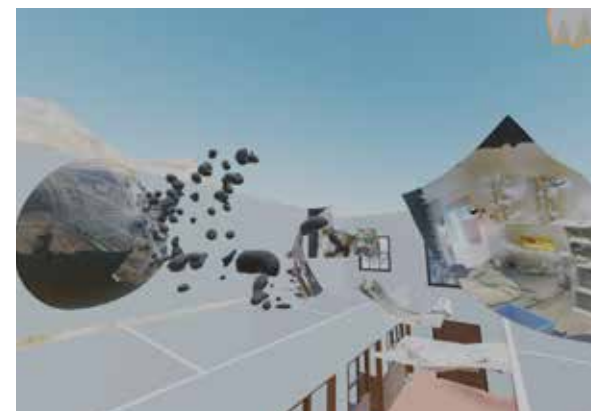
The Alfred Arms

Harry Joyce
@harry_joyce_art

Harry is interested in the expanded field of painting, stretching canvas over found materials and objects such as chicken wire and recycled wooden pallets. He uses oil pastels, paints, charcoal and clay in a process-led approach to mark-making. Recently he has been working in a shed, considering the artists' studio as space for making and exhibiting work.

Maryam Kazimi
@_maryamkaz / @just3boysinkimonos

Maryam's practice is experimental and unpredictable. It exists at the intersection of research-creation, socially engaged art, curation, intervention and the expanded field of drawing. Ideas begin as doodles, drawings and notes and evolve through collaborative and collective activity, conversations and large-scale installations.



Maryam Kazimi

Jojo Lewis
@jojolewisart

Jojo is an activist as well as an artist. Her work attempts to dismantle patriarchal, oppressive social structures by challenging and mocking the established order. She uses photography and text to confront the viewer and raise awareness of issues such as tampon tax, slut-shaming and domestic abuse.

Nicole MacDonald
@nicolecandice.art

Nicole's paintings are bright, bold and uplifting; her naive style gives the work an honest and endearing quality. Her practice is about body positivity and empowering women to be proud of their shape, size and the colour of their skin. The work is about celebrating and embracing our differences and promoting the message: all bodies are beautiful.



Nicole MacDonald

Katie Mullender
@katiemullenderart

Katie's paintings are textured and colourful. She is interested in physical, tangible objects and experiences that only exist IRL. Scenes from fruit markets and museums are created by layering acrylic paint, emulsion, oil pastels, ink and paper collage.

Carolyn NiChonbhai
@cafineart

Carolyn's multidisciplinary practice includes poetry, performance and moving image. Drawing on personal experiences of heartbreak and womanhood, her work addresses wider socio-political issues surrounding the body, sexuality and gender.

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Exhibitions

Ripe Tomatoes

The Alfred Arms

Victoria Rich
@vickyrich8

Victoria uses analog photography and darkroom manipulation techniques to create experimental images that challenge the conventions of traditional, representational photography. Referencing 19th and 20th century art movements such as Impressionism and Cubism, she creates abstract images of local landscapes and architectural structures.



Victoria Rich

Agata Rygielska
@ aggs_art01

Agata is interested in the human form. Her work stems from an obsessive study of the female body, through drawing, painting and sculpture. Her practice is concerned with how the mind perceives the body, investigating the paradoxical relationship between body positivity and body dysmorphia.

Megan Georgia Smith
@megangeorgiasmith

Megan is a painter. Her large-scale works depict chaotic, overcrowded public spaces, shops and pubs filled with grotesque, exaggerated figures behaving badly. By amplifying and mocking stereotypical representations of British working-class people and youth culture, Megan's practice remains critical of these harmful generalisations.

Karolina Trhonova
@3anglesart

Karolina creates intricate illustrations and stop-motion animations that explore notions of dualism. Her work is red and blue, masculine and feminine; it's about creation and destruction, life and death. Often incorporating sculptural elements and soundscapes, the final outcome is an immersive experience.

Sophie Warwick
@_sophiewarwick

Sophie is a photographer, using mainly large format analog cameras. Her work documents the homes and faces of family members and loved ones, recording and preserving their features, feelings, possessions and domestic environments.

Morgan Watson
@m0ggart

Morgan's practice combines philosophical theory with relatable, humorous snippets of the everyday. She uses footage from interviews, wet-weather walks, conversations in the pub and scenes from the studio to create short, experimental films that explore the question, why do we choose to keep on living?



Morgan Watson

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The Hidden Wardrobe

The Hidden Wardrobe



Untitled 2, (Grinder) by Robin Price at the Hidden Wardrobe

Overview:

In 2020 the Hidden Wardrobe provided studio space for two 'Bananas' and hosted six exhibitions throughout the year, providing opportunities for RIPE artists to exhibit their work, test ideas and gather feedback from passing members of the public. The nature of the space meant the exhibitions were accessible to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week and could be viewed from outside the building, allowing visitors to view the work safely during the pandemic.

Aims:

- To increase the visibility of art activity on ONR.
- To continue to support new artists, providing them with the tools to maintain their arts practice and build a financially sustainable careers.

Objectives:

- Increase public engagement with the artists and activity at ONR by hosting a series of exhibitions.
- Continue to provide exhibition opportunities for RIPE artists during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Hidden By Annette Warner
6th December 2019 - 16th January 2020

Annette's practice is adaptive and agile. She is interested in the memories of objects and spaces, often using mundane materials to create site-specific installations and interventions that reveal the complexities of the space the work inhabits. The work is temporary and transient, exploiting the fragility and fluidity of our perceptions.

"Hidden explores its own position as an artwork in the context of the location and society it resides in. The viewer is given only a glimpse of what lays beyond the surface, concealed behind the glass; the movement of the material sparks their curiosity. The work demands attention from passers by and asks us to acknowledge the physical realm in an increasingly digital and visually saturated world."

Falling into the shadows of the current art-world trends of elusive light features and reflective displays, Hidden makes purposely naïve visual connections to emphasise the ways our growing digital environment is impacting our physical world."

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Dust-up By Alexandra Sutherland
23rd January - 23rd February

Alexandra's multidisciplinary practice explores themes of femininity, domesticity and ritual. She is interested in the romanticism and sensuality of drapery, found objects that evoke memories and analogue photography; collecting and arranging each component to reveal an uncanny new form.

"Dust-up is an accumulation of objects and memories – an assembly of possessions that evoke potent emotions for the artist. The presence of drapery remains in this work, initially suggesting ideas of romanticism and grandeur. But on closer inspection the work confesses its own tarnished appearance, it runs on struggle and disorder before it can present itself. To contrast, amongst the install of gathered items are tender ceramic outcomes. Ornate in their form and entangled in their own plaited detail, they act as vessels lacking function. Dust-up invites the viewer to engage with the artist's intentional struggle."

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Dark Ergonomics By Jade Anthony
28th February - 12th July

Jade's practice is about mapping connections and the organising of visual information through drawing, film or installation. Her work focuses on developing ways to merge and blend the conventions of various visual languages to tell narratives that span across many different subjects and time periods.

"Dark Ergonomics presents itself as a fake start-up company producing an assemblage of objects and images with reference to the aesthetics of advertising, graphic design and the surrounding architecture – a kind of sanitised office neurosis. Dark Ergonomics merges occult, alchemical and historical imagery with diagrams, text from the artist's collaborative project – Visual Signal – and various references from across media charting connections both fictional and real in an information fuelled hysteria. A visual representation of neoliberal psychopolitics, Dark Ergonomics is especially concerned with the prevalence of self-optimisation, personality seminars, self-help books, self-care strategies, a consistent state of self-surveillance.

Dark ergonomics focuses on image production and reproduction, a continual process of consumption and exploitation. Images are printed and reprinted, cut, copied and altered – ripped from their original contexts. In such a violent crash of signifiers poetics develop alongside absurdities. The work continues to develop Jade's focus on corporate aesthetics- that is, the aesthetics of productivity, ergonomic design, push architecture and distressingly legible graphic design. The visual signifiers of Neoliberalism's perfect workplace. The office, an artefact of relatively recent history, is a site of violence, terror, pop-comedy, and perhaps most importantly, boredom. It lends itself to humour in subtle transgressions of established convention."

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Untitled 2 (Grinder) by Robin Price
17th July - 6th September

Robin is interested in space and volume; his practice explores different ways of measuring space beyond a numerical value. He builds simple, geometric sculptures and installations, working with ordinary materials such as string, paper, plaster, wood and wire.

"After the success of our latest virtual exhibition, Homemade Mango Chutney and exploring how I could make artwork in the digital realm, I have created over a 100 folded cubes in an attempt to measure the physical space in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Each cube is made up of 12 individual folded units, each unit slots together to create one cube. For me the repetitive process of folding over 1200 sheets of paper distracts from the wider chaos that is happening around the world. The work isn't just about experimenting with the idea of measuring spatial quantities, it's also a measure of my time through lockdown. The other window contains a café-style coffee grinder that I have taken apart and suspended within the space. These two separate works play against each other - the grinder portraying the inner density of an object in exploded view and the cubes being uniform in design to mark out the space."

Funded thanks to the generous support of:



A Jacket for Lonely God / A Curled Celebration of Everyone by Imogen Marooney
9th October - 29th September

Imogen's practice is rooted in printmaking and creative writing; it is informal, intimate and inviting, often literally involving the audience in the creation of new work through workshops and performance.

A Jacket for Lonely God / A Curled Celebration of Everyone is an installation that the artist began making in February this year. Then, during lockdown the project changed and the artist had to make do with materials that she found around the house.

"A ceremonial jacket for Lonely God, an unreal character of great importance, and because Lonely God can't put it on himself, because he is too Godly, Lonely God has never worn it.

Made with old bedsheets and quilted with a tailor's herringbone stitch removed in normal tailoring, this jacket embraces the hidden skill of the tailor. It is finished with my newly learnt historical sewing techniques, such as removable sleeves tied on with ribbon with an underarm gap following the tradition of kimonos. Also, the use of felling throughout, a historical sewing technique of trimming and wrapping the seam within itself, finished the jacket off beautifully with no raw seams and a smooth finish. Luxury for a God.

These difficult times remind me and Lonely God of good people who are all around us; I wanted them to know that I and Lonely God care and have made these prints for them. Names and pronouns captured in mono-screen-print hang from the ceiling curling to the floor, brightly coloured and all individual; this is the beginning of my celebration of everyone."

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FRUITING by Mandy Smith
11th December - 21st March 2021

Inspired by a mushroom found growing inside the Hidden Wardrobe, FRUITING is a reflection on the regeneration of Old Northam Road, the new communities 'growing' there and the incredible life of fungi.

"The idea for this installation was conceived and made during the first lockdown and finished off in lockdown #2, FRUITING is a site-specific installation for the Hidden Wardrobe inspired by a mushroom found within. I have tried to create a light-hearted installation to lift the spirits of those passing by during this difficult time. Using ultra violet light, electricity and bright, bold colours FRUITING is inspired by the work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama.

Mushrooms, the fruiting body of fungi, have always fascinated me. My lockdown reading has taken me on a journey underground, understanding a little more about the way they grow and their amazing adaptability to different environments and the many symbiotic relationships they have with the environment around them. Some types of fungi are now used to digest pollutants and some can filter out toxic waste in contaminated water using mycelium mats whilst others digest plastic, explosives and pesticides. For my installation I have imagined a place with a litter strewn floor, a sight unfortunately all too common but out of which life emerges in the form of fungi.

Fungi can take on some of the characteristics of their environment, usually with a change of smell or taste. For this installation I have envisaged the mushrooms changing colour, taking on the characteristics of the paintings that are inside the building and made by fellow RIPE artist Benji Heinke. Benji's paintings contain a bold use of colour and design which I enjoy. His work references pop art from the 1960s, an era during which Old Northam Road was thriving as a busy and bustling antiques quarter."

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The Alfred Arms

RIPE Impact Report 2020



Although we haven't been able to host any exhibitions or events in the Alfred Arms this year, a number of RIPE artists have been busy renovating the space and making improvements. Repairs have been made to the roof, all the rooms have been painted, furniture has been built for the communal area downstairs and a wood workshop and pottery studio (with a top-loading kiln) have been installed.

This space has become vital for many of the RIPE artists who reside at ONR. Bigger and brighter studio spaces and access to the workshop and kiln has enabled the 'Bananas', 'Mangoes' and 'Tomatoes' to continue practicing and experimenting with new materials during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Southampton



Before



Before



After



After



Professional Development Opportunities



Homemade Mango Chutney

One-to-one tutorials

Each artist was offered a one-to-one session with our creative programme officer, Mia Delve upon agreeing to exhibit at Homemade Mango Chutney (HMC) or Ripe Tomatoes (RT). The artists discussed the development of new work, how it was going to be adapted and installed in a virtual space and other commitments, ambitions and career goals.

Following this, the artists were offered ongoing support and encouraged to request a one-to-one meeting with a member of our creative programming team, through the AS website.

Curatorial support

During the development of HMC and RT, both Mia Delve and George Thom were on hand to meet with the artists and assist in curating and installing the exhibition.

Live art opportunities

A small programme of performative activity took place during the launch events for HMC and RT. At the HMC launch event, Mandy Smith wore a costume and delivered a performance on webcam and Imogen Marooney presented a spoken-word piece. At the RT launch event, Carolyn NiChonbhai also delivered a reading of poems that accompanied her work.

Retail opportunities

In 2020, AS set up an online shop associated with our headline venue, God's House Tower (GHT). In the run up to Christmas all the RIPE artists were offered the opportunity to sell work through the shop. Collectively the artists made £1551.

Video and digital content creation

Since the outbreak of coronavirus in March last year, creating digital content has become a vital form of communication and a crucial skill for artists to have. In 2020, both Imogen Marooney and Mandy Smith were supported by AS to record audio and visual content of their Hidden Wardrobe exhibitions. The footage was edited in house and a short film was produced to promote each exhibition.

Website profiles

All the RIPE artists worked with creative programme officer, Mia Delve this year to write individual artist profiles and bios for the new RIPE website, increasing their online presence and developing new written communication skills.

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Artist Feedback



Artists at the launch event for Untitled 2 (Grinder) by Robin Price

"As an emerging artist, it is hard to get your foot in the door, in terms of approaching galleries with your work. RIPE allowed me to show my work to an established audience when I was unable to have a degree show due to COVID-19. It boosted my confidence at a time when I thought my work would not get shown. It was great to work with other local artists and I feel we have developed a small community in which I can connect with other creatives at similar stages in their careers"

"This experience has motivated me to be a part of more exhibitions and has given me confidence in my art skills."

"It [RIPE] was a nice opportunity for students to take part in online exhibitions... it has inspired me to keep doing things such as writing in regard to mine and others artwork."

"Such an amazing experience and one that continues to be. Great opportunity, very supportive, motivating and the best thing to be part of fresh from uni. This experience has given me some extra confidence in my practice rather than being lost, enabling me to be part of new art projects. I think they way Ripe Tomatoes was done was an incredible project, especially in the time of Covid."

"It [Ripe Tomatoes] made me think about how a virtual exhibition is similar and yet different to a physical exhibition and how to tackle preparing artworks for a different format."

"The online exhibition was an interesting alternative to a physical gallery space which I enjoyed. Being able to work with George on creating the interactive space was cool and something new and challenging. Having a place to work over the lockdown has been great."

"Honestly an excellent experience, been able to develop projects that had been on hold/ undeveloped due to Covid and degree show cancellation in an exciting virtual rendering of the old Alfred Arcade, with a solid group of artists. Excellent alumni network and opportunities, and a space staff have been brilliant! It's inspired me mostly ... to be more ambitious and apply for opportunities I wouldn't think I would necessarily get. It's the first time since university my work has been shown in a real (albeit virtual) gallery space. I'm hoping to come down and make use of the very generous offer of studio spaces very soon!"

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Since exhibiting as part of the RIPE programme, our graduate artists have been involved in a number of projects both within 'a space' and outside of the organisation. Some of these successes have been a direct result of the opportunities and support provided by RIPE; others are due to the exceptional skill, talent and perseverance of the Bananas, Mangoes and Tomatoes who have been proactively seeking new experiences and opportunities.

- Jojo Lewis was awarded a public art commission as part of the BENCH project run by Solent Showcase Gallery.

- Mandy Smith has exhibited at Solent Showcase as part of their project, Make Your Mark.

- Kane Applegate, Mandy Smith, Robin Price and Bryn Lloyd have exhibited at K6 Gallery, Southampton.

- Mandy Smith was hired by K6 Gallery as an Audience Engagement Officer as part of their project, Next Stop: City Bus.

- Robin Price, Mandy Smith and Jojo Lewis have exhibited at the Art House, Southampton.

- Mandy Smith's prints are stocked at Re:So, GHT and Sea City Museum.

- Alexandra Sutherland, Benji Heinke, Mandy Smith, Jade Anthony and Nicole Macdonald all have work listed on the GHT online shop.

- Kane Applegate, Robin Price, Mandy Smith, Alexandra Sutherland and Annette Warner have been attending the Critical Exchange peer-to-peer group at the Arches studios.

- Ethan Edwards and Benji Heinke have formed a band and co-written a debut album.

- Benji Heinke was selected to exhibit at Got it for Cheap, a London art fair.

- Kane Applegate, Moylin Chong and Kelly Sinclair have been awarded commissions at GHT.

- Alexandra Sutherland, Ashleigh Turner and Annette Warner have delivered online workshops for GHT.

- Kane Applegate and Rob Price delivered a workshop to the public as part of ArtVaults: Live 2018.

- Svetlana Ochkovskaya performed as headline act at ArtVaults: Live.

- Kane Applegate and Svetlana Ochkovskaya were selected for the 2018 Platform Graduate Award at Aspex, Portsmouth.

- Jade Anthony, Imogen Marooney, Sofia, Matt Scott and Gwen Datnyer were selected for the 2019 Platform Graduate Award at Aspex, Portsmouth. Imogen went on to win the award.

- Maryam Kazimi and Megan Georgia Smith were selected for the 2020 Platform Graduate Award at Aspex, Portsmouth.

- Maryam Kazimi, Svetlana Ochkovskaya and Alexandra Sutherland have been awarded a £500 Lucky Dip bursary by 'a space' arts.

- Gwen Datnyer exhibited at Please Mind the Flash at Hoxton Arches in London as part of Creativity Works: Visual Storytelling, a collaboration between Magnum Photos and Create Jobs.

- Annette Warner exhibited at The Harbour House Gallery in Devon as part of Spacial Temporalities, a group show.

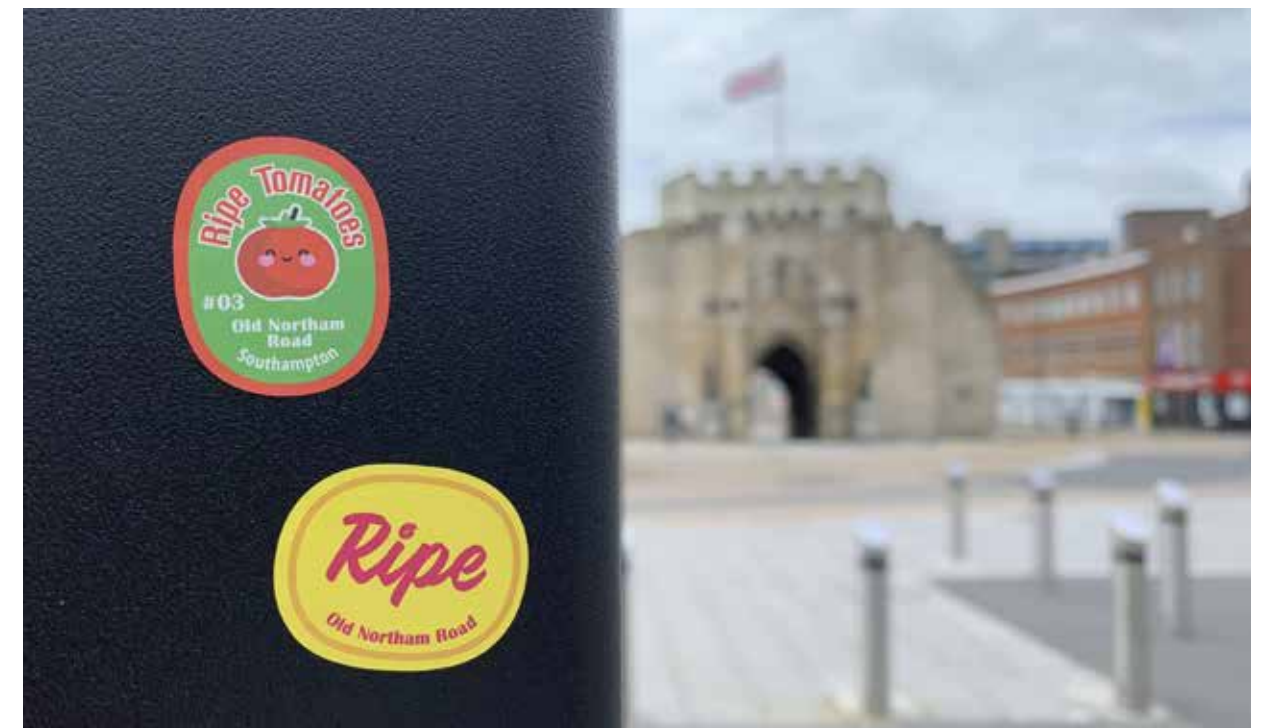
- Robin Price and Annette Warner gained employment as a crew members at GHT
- Benji Heinke gained employment at John Hansard Gallery as a gallery assistant.

- Annette Warner undertook an internship at 'a space' arts

- Annette Warner has been accepted onto the MA Sculpture course at the Royal College of Art, London.

- Jade Anthony was awarded a full scholarship to study a post-graduate course at the Royal Drawing School in London.

- Jess Curtis and Megan Georgia Smith are due to exhibit in a group show called Power to Us at Yellow Edge Gallery in Gosport.



Visitor Numbers

Homemade Mango Chutney
At the Virtual Alfred Arcade

635

(including 104 at launch)

Ripe Tomatoes
At the Virtual Alfred Arcade

657

(including 128 at launch)
Ripe Tomatoes

Launch events
At the Hidden Wardrobe

37

In total:

1329

Press Coverage

Daily Echo
Arts at University of Southampton Blog - February
Arts at University of Southampton Blog - July

Newsletters

GHT Newsflash - May
Southampton City Council Culture Vulture - May
'a space' arts Newsflash - October
'a space' arts Newsflash - December

Event Directories & External Websites

VASW, Art Rabbit, Culture Hampshire, a-n

Print Marketing

499 Stickers

Social Media

Facebook - 22,809 people reached
Twitter - 44,221 people reached
Instagram - 29,527 engagements

'a space' arts Website

23 articles on 'a space' website
+8 events pages

Digital Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2020

Website

Website Page	Page views	Unique views	% of total page views
Banner vote	921	689	2.64
RT	562	450	1.61
HMC	550	461	1.58
Banner vote 2	416	218	1.19
HMC 2	341	341	0.98
Banner open call	220	208	0.63
RIPE in Lockdown	138	119	0.40
HMC: first six artists	110	87	0.32
Grinder HW	95	82	0.27
RT artists announced	94	81	0.27
Dust-up HW	88	76	0.25
New exhibition for ONR	80	71	0.23
HMC now open	77	62	0.22
HMC: final six artists	73	56	0.21
Dark Ergonomics HW	49	46	0.14
Banner artist announced	70	63	0.20
HMC: next six artists	61	44	0.18
RT now live	59	51	0.17
ONR expansion	40	39	0.11
Hidden HW	34	28	0.10
RT artist profile 07	33	33	0.09
RIPE	33	32	0.09
Jacket for Lonely God HW	30	26	0.09
Grinder HW 2	30	20	0.09
New exhibition - ONR	27	23	0.08
RT artist profile 08	26	26	0.07
RT artist profile 06	22	22	0.06
RT artist profile 02	20	17	0.06
RT artist profile 05	18	14	0.05
RT artist profile 04	18	18	0.05
FRUITING HW	5	5	0.01

34,845
Total website visits

4,320
RIPE website visits

12.4%
% of website visits
attributed to RIPE pages

Digital Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2020

Facebook

Post	Post reach	Clicks	Engagement
Launch: FRUITING HW	334	8	14
Lockdown: FRUITING HW	164	0	5
Preview: FRUITING HW	211	2	13
FRUITING HW	231	6	8
RT reminder - Megan	250	12	11
Launch: Jacket for Lonely God	892	20	44
RT reminder - Morgan	149	1	2
RT reminder - Thirsika	288	3	4
RT reminder - Hayley	105	3	2
RT reminder - Carolyn	163	4	1
RT reminder - Jess	144	1	2
RT reminder - Oliver	287	7	3
RT reminder -Agata	751	32	13
RT reminder - Jojo	197	2	7
RT reminder - Karolina	263	12	8
RT reminder - James	214	3	2
RT reminder - Sophie	344	6	6
RT reminder - Harry	197	4	3
RT reminder - Vicky	208	5	5
RT reminder - Poppy	292	4	11
RT reminder - Maryam	520	20	13
Groocks Gallery - RT open!	150	1	2
Thanks - RT launch	744	103	34
RT launch 2	142	1	0
RT launch 1	492	29	32
Artists: Morgan & Megan	191	5	2
Artists: Katie & Jojo	199	2	4
Grinder reminder 2	617	18	15
Artists: Maryam & Karolina	176	3	6
Artists Harry & Victoria	198	7	3
Artists: James & Agata	190	4	7
Artists Thirsika & Sophie	267	19	10
Artists: Olivér & Nicole	561	37	28
Artists: Jess & Hayley	259	13	10
Grinder reminder	182	0	7
Introducing RT	2100	243	88
HMC reminder 3	1100	41	23 3
Launch: Grinder	414	14	5
HMC reminder 2	451	17	11
HMC - hidden features	508	16	10
HMC reminder	341	7	8
Thanks - HMC	426	40	15
HMC launch	185	8	2
Last six artists: HMC	324	20	10
Next six artists: HMC	964	123	33
First six artists: HMC	850	106	34
Banner artist announced	896	134	98
RIPE 2020 announced	1100	68	51
Coming soon! HMC	205	5	7
Natural Dyes with Alex	220	18	3
Banner deadline	212	5	2
Banner artist opp	1100	117	38
Launch: Dark Ergonomics	232	8	12
WSA Careers Fair 2	183	16	2
WSA Careers Fair	162	0	2
Launch: Dust-up	264	9	10

22,809
Total post reach

1,412
Total clicks

831
Total engagement

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Digital Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2020

Twitter

Tweet	Impressions	Engagements	%
Dust-up	878	14	.6
Dark Ergonomics	628	7	1.1
Banner commission	796	23	2.9
Dark Ergonomics launch	781	10	2.4
Banner commission	643	15	2.3
Banner shortlist	1312	183	13.9
HMC	818	21	2.6
Banner deadline	465	7	1.5
HMC launch	698	9	1.3
Artist announcement HMC	808	27	3.3
Banner proposal	887	28	3.2
1st RIPE update	1840	77	4.2
Deadline for Banner vote	1914	44	2.3
HMC online 3	547	16	2.9
HMC online 2	1084	14	1.3
HMC online	575	18	3.1
HMC: Thanks	562	14	2.5
Grinder	499	11	2.2
Introducing RT	2456	230	9.4
HMC - one week left	1748	14	0.8
Grinder launch	1880	33	1.8
Jojo Lewis	519	29	5.6
Karolina Trhonova	483	16	3.3
James Hewins	369	13	3.5
Sophie Warwick	409	21	5.1
Victoria Rich	827	24	2.9
Poppy Ash	409	18	4.4
Maryam Kazimi	449	20	4.5
Katie Mullender	855	52	6.1
Launch thank you	841	42	5.0
1 hour to go	496	17	1.4
Launch announcement	586	25	4.3
Morgan & Megan	584	21	3.6
Grinder 1 week left	486	14	2.9
Intro Maryam & Karolina	436	17	3.9
Harry & Victoria	426	27	6.3
James & Agata	411	17	4.1
Thiriska & Sophie	962	51	5.3
Oliver & Nicole	476	11	2.3
Jess & Hayley	425	33	7.8
Poppy & Carolyn	1047	40	3.8
Fruiting	634	21	3.3
Fruiting sneak peek	2700	62	2.3
Fruiting announcement	697	17	2.4
Paintings by Megan	854	21	2.5
Jacket for Loney God 2	854	27	3.2
Jacket for Lonely God	551	9	1.6
Morgan Watson	517	15	2.9
Thirsika Jeyapalan	744	22	3.0
Nicole MacDonald	457	8	1.8
Hayley Jones	484	16	3.3
Carolyn NiChonbhai	397	5	1.3
Jess Curtis	669	26	3.9
Oliver Gaspar	448	14	3.1
Agata Rygielska	900	26	2.9

44,221

Total impressions

1,602

Total engagements

3.5

Total %

Digital Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2020

Instagram - 'a space' arts account

Post	Impressions
Grinder launch	857
HMC announcement	788
Dark Ergonomics	754
RT launches next week	735
Banner announcement	710
Meet the artists	691
RT virtual show	691
Banner winner	658
FRUITING extension	586
FRUITING announcement	575
HMC coming soon	560
RT animation vid	549
1 week left for HMC	540
FRUITING sneak peek	526
1 hour to go RT	507
RT: Thanks for coming	494
FRUITING open	410

12,999

Total impressions

Instagram - RIPE account

Post	Impressions
Svetlana takeover 2	540
RT Launch	418
HMC Launch	385
Svetlana takeover	438
Grinder launch	344
RT Reminder 3	330
Jacket for Lonely God	322
Introducing: Megan	322
New Stickers	322
RT: Karolina graphic	320
HW: FRUITING	313
RT reminder 2	313
RT Reminder	313
Svetlana takeover 3	308
HMC - Tonight!	307
Introducing: Poppy	306
Introducing: Morgan	305
HMC - one week left!	293
Introducing: Maryam	288
Introducing: Jess	288
Introducing: Thirsika	284
FRUITING Reminder	283
Introducing: Katie	276
HMC - Spinning toilet	276
HMC - one week to go	275
RT sticker - news	273
Introducing: Carolyn	271
Introducing: Harry	269
Introducing: Oliver	269
Introducing: Karolina	259
Introducing: Victoria	259

Instagram - RIPE account

Post	Impressions
Mandy takeover	256
Introducing: Haley	250
Introducing: Sophie	249
Introducing: Jojo	247
Introducing: James	239
Benji takeover	238
Imogen takeover	237
Bryn takeover	237
Beth takeover	233
Introducing: Agata	232
Charlotte takeover	232
Annette takeover	227
Introducing: Nicole	224
Alexandra takeover	222
MOVE PAST THIS	195

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Digital Feedback

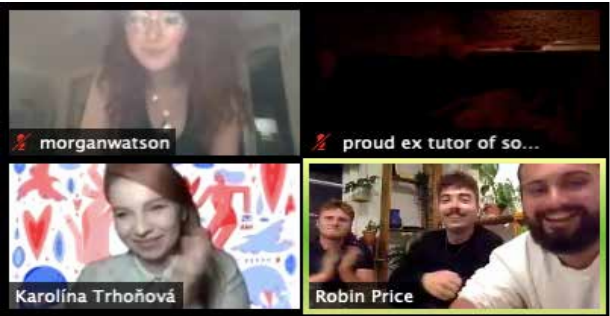
“Woahhh nobody warned us the mango chutney would be this spicy! Checkout the beautiful work @ripe_southampton”

@wsa_ba_fineart



“@ripe_southampton Absolutely loved @imogenimogen marooney’s work as the next installation at the Hidden Wardrobe”

@annettewarner_art



“Well done to you all. A great show!”

@amandadelve

“Can’t wait to see how George Thom has put our @ripe_southampton exhibition together. He has done awesome work. Exciting times!”

@hayleyjonesart

@hayleyjonesart

“Boom!”

@georgepeterthom

Digital Feedback

“Look at Mandy’s awesome exhibition currently in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe on Old Northam Road! @mandysmith artist @ripe_southampton @aspacearts

@cafineart



“Really enjoyed the @ripe_southampton Homemade Mango Chutney virtual exhibition tour by @aspacearts last week. Really impressed by the VR Alfred Arcade

@vickie.fear

“Now for some tasty chutney @ripe_southampton @aspacearts”

@jesscurtisart

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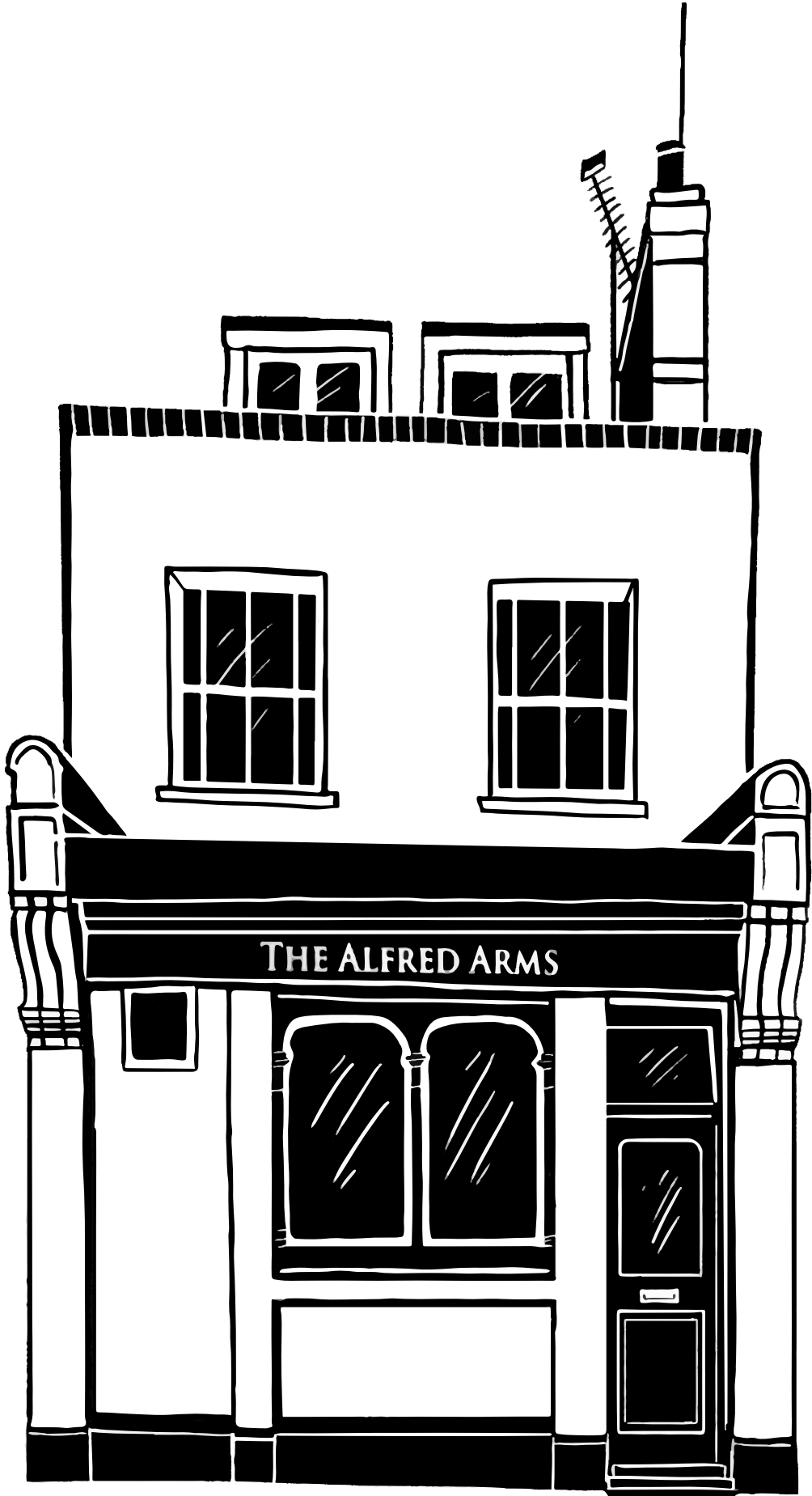
The RIPE website homepage

Shortly after the outbreak of the pandemic it became obvious that we would not be able to proceed with the RIPE programme as planned. Having already secured our funding for 2020 however, it seemed sensible to invest our time and money in creating digital content and establishing a better online presence for RIPE.

We reached out to local design studio, Chaptr who worked with us across the year to design and build a new website for RIPE. The site functions as a directory of past events and exhibitions, as well as providing a platform for us to share news about upcoming RIPE activities. Each RIPE artist has their own profile on the website with links to their social media accounts, and there is a page for each of the spaces, informing visitors about their use and location and featuring newly commissioned illustrations by Solent graduate Diana Dagadita. The website can be accessed at ripesouthampton.org.uk



Funded thanks to the generous support of:



Diana Dagadita's illustration of the Alfred Arms commissioned by 'a space' arts for the RIPE website



Another exciting development in 2020 was the formation of the ZEST collective; the result of a growing ambition amongst the RIPE artists to take an active lead in planning and producing projects and a desire to learn more about how art activity is funded, developed and delivered.

Having established themselves as an independent artist collective last year, ZEST are currently working on new ideas and projects that will play a vital role in the regeneration of ONR and create a pathway for future RIPE graduates.

As of January 2021, the current members of the ZEST Collective are as follows:

Kane Applegate
Poppy Ash
Jess Curtis
Ellen Gillett
James Hewins
Maryam Kazimi
Jojo Lewis
Bryn Lloyd
Imogen Marooney
Sam Newby
Carolyn NiChonbhai
Svetlana Ochkovskaya
Robin Price
Mandy Smith
Alex Sutherland
Ashleigh Turner
Annette Warner
Morgan Watson

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