



Visitors exploring exhibition at Ripe Peaches #01. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

Impact Report

RIPE at Old Northam Road 2021



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

**SOLENT
UNIVERSITY**
SOUTHAMPTON



Visitors exploring ZEST collectives' 'Signs of the Times' on Old Northam Road. Photo credit: Damian Cook

Led by 'a space' arts (AS) in partnership with Solent University (SU) and Winchester School of Art (WSA), University of Southampton, the RIPE graduate 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).

Now in its 4th year, each graduate cohort has been given the name of a different fruit, making reference to the fruitful networks cultivated through the programme and offering a nod to the area's market history. These are the RIPE cohorts to date: the Bananas (2018), the Mangoes (2019), the Tomatoes (2020), and the Peaches (2021).

In 2021, the programme returned to ONR after a year of virtual exhibitions and online communication during the pandemic. Despite some challenges and postponements due to coronavirus cases, the season was a great success and provided the artist community and audiences at ONR a well needed opportunity to meet and engage with the programme in person.

This year, to coincide with the three main exhibitions at the Alfred Arcade and a satellite programme of exhibitions at the Hidden Wardrobe, AS hosted a series of events across the summer,

titled RIPE Live. Each event celebrated the launch of two new exhibitions and all three of the buildings were open to the public. The Alfred Arms was used as a venue for live music, accompanied by projected visuals and a paid-for bar, which enabled us to raise extra funds for the programme.

Another exciting development in 2021 was the growth of the ZEST collective. Having established themselves as an independent artist collective last year, ZEST have since delivered a very successful first project, Signs of the Times, funded by Arts Council England via a project grant. All ZEST artists are graduates of the RIPE programme, and have been offered continued support from AS through studio provision at the Alfred Arms. In return, the collective have offered membership to all future RIPE artists, providing a pathway for graduate artists after the first year of support from AS (via the RIPE programme) comes to an end.

AS also reached out to other collectives and community groups in 2021, offering the Hidden Wardrobe as a site for workshops and exhibitions, building links and partnerships with two new groups, Northam and St Mary's Art Collective (a local youth-led community group) and Mouthing Off Magazine (a national online student magazine).



Ripe Peaches and 2021 graduates outside the Alfred Arcade. Photo Credit: Damian Cook

In 2021, AS worked with **60** artists through the RIPE programme.

12 new graduates; **18** members of the ZEST Collective; **6** artists from previous RIPE seasons; **16** artists from external collectives and community groups; **2** photographers and **6** musicians.

The new graduates were selected from the WSA BA Fine Art course and the SU BA Fine Art, BA Illustration and BA Photography courses. This group of 12 Peaches exhibited at Ripe Peaches #01 and Ripe Peaches #02 at the Alfred Arcade. All of them have been offered studio space at the Alfred Arcade over the winter period.

There are currently 18 members of the ZEST collective, 6 Bananas (the first cohort of RIPE artists, who graduated in 2017 and 2018), 6 Mangoes (the second cohort, 2019) and 6 Tomatoes (the third cohort, 2020). All of these artists exhibited as part of the Signs of the Times Takeover at the Hidden Wardrobe and most are current studio holders at the Alfred Arms.

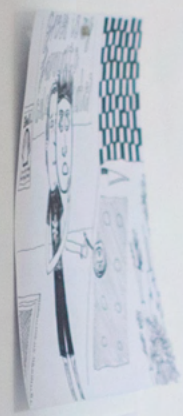
6 Tomatoes who are not currently members of ZEST exhibited at the Alfred Arcade in July 2021 as part of Tomato Catch-up.

16 artists were supported through the provision of space for workshops and exhibition opportunities at the Hidden Wardrobe, 3 members of Northam and St Mary's Art Collective and 13 associate artists at Mouthing Off Magazine.

5 RIPE events provided opportunities for 2 photographers, hired to document the events, and 6 musicians, hired to provide live music including a rap performance and 3 DJ sets.



A Thousand Faces
2007
100% acrylic on paper
100% handmade
100% one of a kind
100% Poppy Ash



Signatures
100% handmade
100% one of a kind
100% Poppy Ash



Signatures
100% handmade
100% one of a kind
100% Poppy Ash



Visitor exploring Poppy Ash's exhibition 'Drawing by Cues' at RIPE Live: Tomato Catch-up/Remote Icons. Photo credit: Luke Shears



Audiences at RIPE Live: Tomato Catch-up/Remote Icons. Photo credit: Luke Shears



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.

THE ALFRED ARCADE

This building is currently being used for a group of graduate artists as part of a project called RIPE.

Let us be clear, in partnership with Liverpool School of Art, University of Liverpool and the University of Liverpool, this is an ambitious programme of exhibitions, events and activities at the Alfred Arcade, The Alfred Arcade and the Alfred Arcade in the Liverpool Dock.

The programme supports graduate artists in the city to develop and engage in their work, exchange and experimentation, forming networks and friendships that will help them sustain a practice in the city.

To find out what's on this summer at RIPE, please see the other side of the page, to the right of the Alfred Arcade entrance.

RIPE is a project of the University of Liverpool, supported by the Liverpool City Council and the Liverpool School of Art.

RIPE 2021 Summer Season

The Alfred Arcade

The Alfred Arcade is a space for artists to develop and engage in their work, exchange and experimentation, forming networks and friendships that will help them sustain a practice in the city.

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Tomato Catch-up at the Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Overview:

The Alfred Arcade welcomed 12 new graduates and 12 artists from previous RIPE seasons this year and hosted three exhibitions, Tomato Catch-up, Ripe Peaches #01 and Ripe Peaches #02.

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 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 artists during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
- Provide opportunities for live art, performance and public engagement via RIPE Live launch events.
- Offer professional development and curatorial support and advice from our creative programming team.
- Inform the artists about organisations, networks, opportunities and resources available to them in Southampton.



Work by Maryam Zahra Kazimi. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Tomato Catch-up

Launch Night: 31st May 2019

Open to the Public: 1st/2nd June

Tomato Catch-up was a collaborative project that aimed to encourage artistic and professional development through a series of skills-sharing workshops and activities. For this second tomato project the Ripe Tomatoes, who exhibited at the Virtual Alfred Arcade last summer, reconnected and developed both individual and collective outcomes which were exhibited IRL at the Alfred Arcade in July 2021.

The project was a hybrid of digital and physical exchanges and art-making. Artists ran workshops online, sent letters, materials and instructions in the post and created physical artworks that responded to the challenges of remaining connected in unprecedented times. A number of the artists met for the very first time at the launch event, as restrictions were lifted and we were able to meet in person again.

Artists

Jess Curtis / Reiteration & Translation

The activity I propose will be semi-instructional. Each artist will work within an allocated time frame over the six week production period, responding to an audio prompt given by the artist before them that loosely describes their own outcome. The first artist will nominate themselves and describe an artwork created within the designated time-frame. The artists can use whatever medium they

like to reflect the way that they interpret their individual audio prompts, and accommodate for working abroad/remotely if needed. The medium must not be revealed in the audio prompts. The audio prompts must be unrehearsed to ensure descriptions are vague and colloquial so as to illustrate something unprecedented rather than planned and perfectly executed. Each artist will record and send one prompt describing colour, size, functionality and/or feelings that the work aims to bring up, but the prompts should only give clues rather than be a detailed description of the work.

Outcomes can't be revealed to each artist until everyone has responded to the audio prompts, so that visual inspiration can't be taken from each other's work.

Jojo Lewis / What Does It Mean to Be an Artist?

My activity is about bringing a group of people together and creating a safe space for conversation. We will talk about what it's like for each of us to be an artist, celebrating our commonalities and differences. As artists who graduated during the pandemic, at a time when art is increasingly considered non-essential, I want the workshop to strengthen our bond and demonstrate how artists are uniquely important.

Participants will be asked to sew, stitch, draw or paint on a square piece of fabric during the workshop. The content will be informed by our conversations and shared experience.



Work by Jojo Lewis at Tomato Catch-up exhibition. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Maryam Zahra Kazimi / Ketchup: Satire and Subversion

Situated in the contemporary context of fake news, post-truth, and alt-fact, workshop participants will develop fictional narratives around tomato ketchup, to generate work in an interdisciplinary 'expanded field' and blur the lines between fact, fiction, truth and myth... is ketchup in fact genetically-modified alien blood, pumped by the gallon from Area 51 (and/or Roswell, New Mexico) to factories far and wide, duly bottled for mass human consumption?

Poppy Ash / Drawing by Cues

1. Each artist provides a prompt (sentence/phrase/word – ideally interesting/random)
2. Prompt is given to another artist
3. Artist makes work inspired by prompt
4. Work is sent back and displayed
5. Participants title another artist's piece, guessing what the artist has depicted

The activity focuses on thoughts and encounters of one individual, which another artist translates and interprets through drawing. The activity will encourage the artists to draw subjects that they may not normally consider. A collaborative body of work will be produced in the form of individual artworks in the same media - red and black pens on white card. These outcomes will be displayed together for the final exhibition.

Olivér Gáspár / Tomatoes x Kultúrmaszti

Kultúrmaszti, based in Budapest, is an

experimental yearly exhibition to give emerging artists a platform to share their works with an audience. It also gives them an opportunity to connect with each other and build their networks as well as consider audience engagement. The main basis of this project is community building and local engagement through artist collaborations.

For Tomato Catch-up, I plan to host a workshop for both artist groups - the Tomatoes and Kultúrmaszti - to share skills and experiences about how to involve local spaces and places in the exhibition process and how to engage locally. We would also make a design for an artwork that the other party has to make.

Then we will make the work. The artists here will make an artwork based on instructions from the other group, and vice versa. And on the day of the exhibition we will set up a livestream to connect the two events.

James Hewins / How to Throw a Vase

I am a sculptor and digital artist interested in dystopian futures and post-humanism. I started using a potter's wheel because I've always wanted to try it and I wanted to make vases for my plants. I'd like to offer people the opportunity to experience using a potter's wheel. I plan to demonstrate how to make a vase on the wheel then assist and inform the participants through the process.



Ripe Peach Rodrigo Lourenco Mestre making prints at Ripe Peaches #01. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Ripe Peaches #01

Launch Night: 19th July

Open to the Public: 20th/21st July

Ripe Peaches #01 was the first in a two-part exhibition series of outstanding work by a group of recent graduates from SU and WSA. The project provided an opportunity for six artists to exhibit a recent body of work in a new gallery space: the Alfred Arcade. The artists met via Zoom and in person, engaging in critical discussion and debate and forming networks and friendships that have helped them sustain a fruitful visual arts practice.

Artists

Macie Emery

Macie is a photographer interested in people and portraiture. The work is staged and satirical, often using humour and exaggerated caricatures to analyse personalities and stereotypes. Influenced by cinema and pop culture, her photographs depict carefully constructed scenes that reveal complex narratives.

Megan Honey

Megan is inspired by nature. Through photography, filmmaking and installation, she creates imagery and environments that evoke a sense of calm and wonder, romantic and sublime. Seas, skies, light and landscapes are distorted, reflected and refracted, permitting the viewer to be still and contemplative for a moment, amid the chaos of contemporary life.

Anna Marris

Anna is interested in images and their capacity to project the world, capture newfound knowledge,

and mark technological progress. Her practice combines both traditional and contemporary modes of printmaking and drawing, embracing both the digital and handmade. Through experimentation and reiteration, Anna explores the meaning and integrity of images generated by machines and technology.

Rodrigo Lourenco Mestre

Rodrigo is a printmaker and illustrator with a naïve and playful style. He uses a variety of materials and methods, such as screen printing, woodcut and block printmaking, collagraphy and rug weaving. The work is inspired by toys, particularly traditional wooden folk toys and educational Omocho toys, made in Indonesia.

Jennifer Russell

Jennifer makes collages, drawings and paintings using both original and appropriated imagery. Informed by her lived experience and activism, the work challenges harmful stereotypes of women and other marginalised people. Often surreal and unsettling, the images she creates depict dystopian futures in which societal expectations have become a grotesque reality.

Molly Taylor

Molly is interested in intuitive, instinctive ways of making. She works with clay to create bent, folded and broken pots and vessels, which are then fired and glazed to create organic ceramic objects. She also makes paintings which depict similar sculptural forms in seemingly familiar yet surreal environments.



Visitors enjoy works by sound artist Christina Karava at Ripe Peaches #02. Photo credit: Damian Cook

Ripe Peaches #02

Launch Night: 16th August

Open to the Public: 17th/18th August

Ripe Peaches #02 was the second in a two-part exhibition series of outstanding work by a group of recent graduates from SU and WSA. The project provided an opportunity for six artists to exhibit a recent body of work in a new gallery space: the Alfred Arcade. The artists met via Zoom and in person, engaging in critical discussion and debate and forming networks and friendships that have helped them sustain a fruitful visual arts practice.

Jenny Andrews

Jenny's practice explores the connections and poetic links between art and architecture. She is interested in architectural forms and materials, the utility of the building, its cultural and structural history and its environment. Using sculpture and projection, her work documents cities and spaces, the people who inhabit them and how they exist as a link between the present and the past.

Christina Karava

Christina is a digital artist. She makes soundscapes and compositions with an electronic aesthetic. These audio tracks are sometimes overlaid with video components that sync or contradict the sound. Her work is an attempt to understand how our everyday activities, habits and attitudes shape human behaviour.

Bethan Long

Bethan is a photographer working with both digital and analogue photography, as well as installation and mixed media. She is interested in human behaviour, self-reflection and vulnerability. Through portraiture, she attempts to document more than just an image of a person, but their connection with the world, their spirit and character.

Charlotte Rose

Charlotte paints hyper-feminine, pastel pink self-portraits that explore evolving attitudes towards feminism, femininity and female sexuality. The work seeks to subvert the male gaze and challenge conventional representations of women in art.

Tiffany Struwig

Tiffany is an artist and a curator. She uses traditional craft techniques, such as embroidery and DIY dolls houses to consider contemporary issues and contemporary exhibition spaces. She works collaboratively with other artists to realise miniature exhibitions as part of the Struwig Miniature Gallery project. Her embroidery works depict pixelated, digital imagery in contrast to the domesticity and nostalgia often associated with the medium.

Charlotte Wardner

Charlotte works with found objects such as childhood toys, beads, jewellery and textiles to create assemblages and sculptures. Her practice explores themes of memory, nostalgia, innocence, imagination and loss, resulting in odd, unsettling and macabre figures and forms.

THE HIDDEN WARDROBE





Visitors observe work by Benji Heinke at Remote Icons in the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

Overview:

Throughout 2021, a varied programme of seven exhibitions 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 peaks of the pandemic. This year, four ZEST artists had solo shows at the Hidden Wardrobe and three exhibitions were hosted by collectives and community groups including, ZEST, Northam and St Mary's Art Collective and Mouthing Off Magazine.

Aims:

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

Objectives:

- Continue to provide exhibition opportunities for graduate artists, after the first year of support from AS is over.
- Make the space available for artists outside of the RIPE programme and provide support for external collectives and community groups.
- Increase public engagement with the artists and activity at ONR by hosting a series of exhibitions.



Kane Applegate with works from Will it Float. Photo credit: Mia Delve

Will it Float - Kane Applegate **Friday 2nd April – 16th May 2021**

Kane is a scavenger; his practice is fed by an ever-growing collection of abandoned and abused materials and objects, discarded and disregarded by the citizens of Southampton. Working with these found things, 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.

Will It Float? explores ideas of displacement, motion and transformation. The work begins with a found object, in this instance a neglected kayak, which has been adapted and transformed into a land-based boat, complete with a set of wheels. The artist will attempt to ride the vehicle down Old Northam Road and into the gallery space to launch the project. Over the course of the six week exhibition, he will paint, break and remake the sculpture, displaying a new version of the work each week.



Thinking About the Immortality of the Crab in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Mia Delve

**Thinking About the Immortality of the Crab -
James Hewins
Friday 28th May – 4th July 2021**

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 as well as latex and silicone; digital software is used to recreate these forms and textures in a virtual world.

Thinking About the Immortality of the Crab is a visual contemplation of a dystopian future and the post-human. Synthetic flesh forms and crab-like creatures gather in a chaotic scene of an imagined future, amid remnants of the present-day. The mechanical and biological merge in the waste, illuminated by disembodied automotive lights. Seeping light from a backlit advertisement of an unknown product radiate across the rock face, lasers scan the landscape. The work is an assemblage of found materials and new forms.

'Thinking about the immortality of the crab' (Pensando en la inmortalidad del cangrejo) is a Spanish idiom about daydreaming. The phrase is usually a humorous way of saying that one was not sitting idly, but engaged constructively in contemplation or letting one's mind wander.



Featured works by Benji Heinke in the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Mia Delve

Benji Heinke - Remote Icons 30th July - 15th August 2021

Benji makes paintings based on digital collages, exploring the interaction between the physical and the digital in the 21st century. The work samples imagery ranging from photography and pattern designs to art history and pop culture. The combination of these reference points results in otherworldly scenes, informed by everyday living in the digital age.

For Remote Icons, Benji exhibited a selection of works made between 2019-2021. They explored the idea of truth and lies and the inherent relationship to storytelling and power structures. This ties in with the spread of misinformation on the internet and the increasing difficulty in differentiating fact from fiction in this so-called 'post-truth' era. Benji used digital collage as an initial means to create the images, which were then translated into oil and charcoal on canvas paintings.



Mandy Smith's work in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

Signs of the Times Takeover - ZEST Collective 20th August - 5th September 2021

Signs of the Times was a collaboration between ZEST collective and the local community, represented by Northam Local Conversation Group, West Itchen Community Trust and Northam 521 Youth Project. Artists, young people and residents co-created signs and posters that remembered the history and heritage of Old Northam Road and envisioned its future: radical artistic interventions in highly visible places.

The exhibition at the Hidden Wardrobe was an extension of the main public art trail and offered a chance to find out more about the project and the people who made it all possible.



Fred Ashleigh Thornton's installation in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Mia Delve

👤 - **Fred Ashleigh Thornton**
17th September - 31st October

Fred makes cluttered, confrontational artworks using paint and felt-tip pens from Poundland. Their practice stems from their 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 the artist's own stream of consciousness.

"Pre-pandemic I was working in a job I hated pretending to be a cis person *shudders* with no disability and little mental illness. I would leave the house at 7:50 AM and get home at 7PM. I was exhausted and was slowly watching me lose my own principles just to get by in the workplace. Then the pandemic hit. I did not have to work and slept for weeks. After recovering from some of the exhaustion of trying to survive capitalism I picked up 'Pleasure Activism' by adrienne maree brown and had my super cliched 'this book changed my life' moment. But really it is an incredible book that looks at how Audre Lorde's principle in her essay 'Uses of the Erotic' can enrich and nourish our lives in all aspects of it, especially when the world can seem overwhelming and apocalyptic. Right book, right time. It helped me remember who I am and what is important to me.

This piece for The Hidden Wardrobe is meant to illustrate these two very different states of being, before Covid and myself currently. In part, inspired by my pure hatred for 'before and after' photos that started a resurgence during lockdown as people complained of their lockdown bodies. I wanted to make use of the two windows and demonstrate how bleak things felt before and almost ironically the pure joy I learned to experience during a global bloody plague (whilst also using up as much of the cardboard from impulsive online purchases as possible)."



Billie and Abdou outside the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Space 2 Create

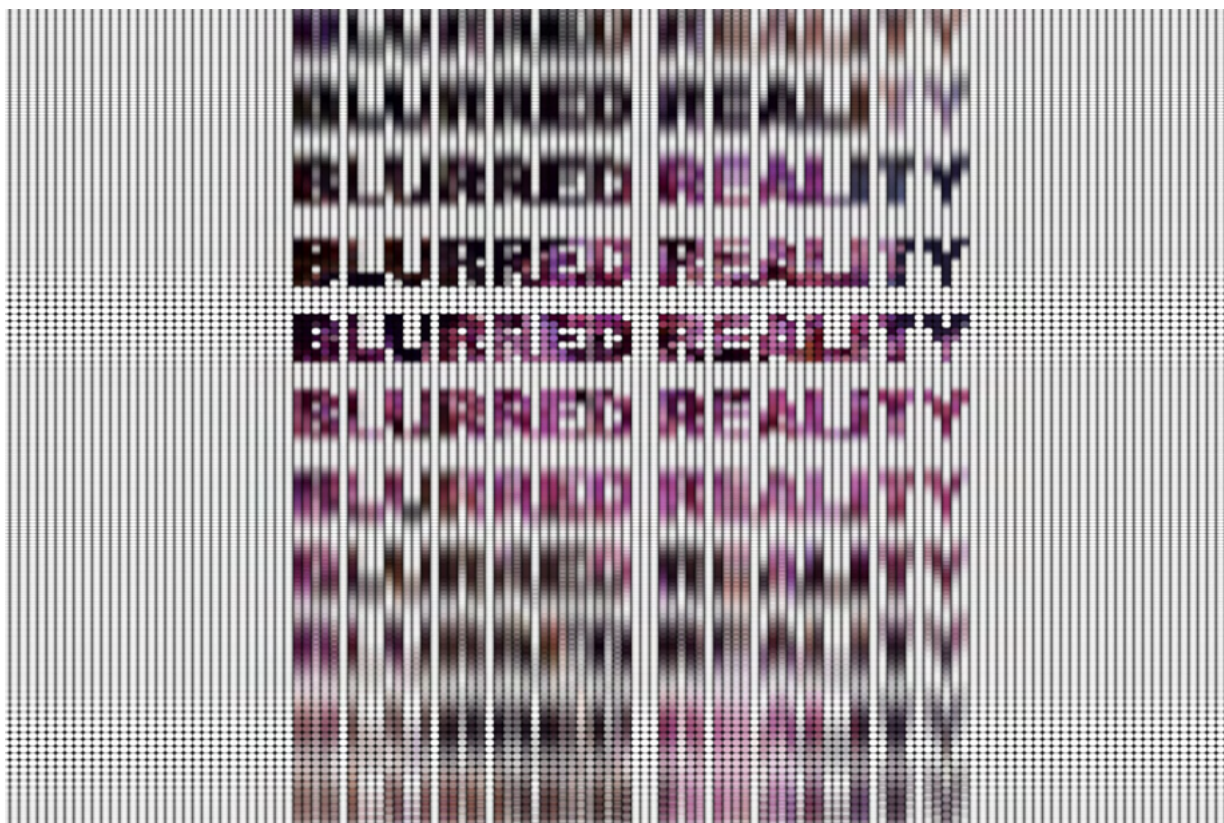
Space 2 Create - Northam & St Mary's Art Collective
1st November - 21st November 2021

Space 2 Create was a collaborative exhibition displaying a collection of new works created by young people in the local community. Having hosted free workshops for young people to build community and express themselves through art and poetry, the works produced in these workshops explored the major themes of identity and belonging and were exhibited in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe.

Space 2 Create is a community project run by Northam and St Mary's Art Collective, a duo composed of young artists Abdourahman Sanneh and Billie Davis. They provide a safe space for local young people like themselves to self-express through art and poetry, as a way to benefit their mental wellbeing and build community.

Northam +
St Mary's
ART COLLECTIVE





Featured works from Blurred Reality by Justine Rainer. Photo credit: Justine Rainer

Blurred Reality by Mouthing Off Magazine **27th November - 2nd January 2022**

Blurred Reality is an exhibition curated by Mouthing Off Magazine which explores the major themes of the Pandemic, Lockdown, Conspiracy, Propaganda, and Orwellianism.

"In a time of universal deceit – telling the truth is a revolutionary act." – George Orwell

Over the last 24-months we have seen our lives dramatically change. We have been locked in our houses – unable to see our friends or family. We wear masks and carry virtual tags that indicate the state of our health. We face a daily bombardment of propaganda from states, corporations, and the fourth estate. We have become batteries and are slowly being drained. We are without jobs, houses, savings, or prospects. We have been told by parents, teachers, celebrities, and internet gurus that we just need to 'grind' and 'hustle'... That if we work hard enough, we'll achieve our '15 minutes of fame'.

Well, you can have it back – we don't want it anymore.

When Nietzsche proclaimed that 'God is dead', he didn't mention who would replace him. Narcissus now pulls the strings – pervading and perverting society. The constant ring of 'me, me, me' echoes through the digital halls of Instagram, Facebook, Twitter,

and TikTok, infecting our collective psyche. You sell your flesh and data for a shot at success. You are a meandering sludge of binary, seeking perceptions that are doused in black and white. The lines between reality and fiction have become blurred – to know the truth, is the same as knowing a lie. We are now marching to the beat of the unknown. Our direction is aimless, our destination undiscussed, our destiny undecided.

While the old are afraid of change, the young don't know what it is. We are at the crossroad between freedom and security – the future is in our hands and only we can know which path we will take.

Exhibiting artists: Chantelle Weir, Georgia Harme, Jake Purkiss, Justine Rainer, Lance Kagoule, Molly Lambourn, Sanni Pyhanniska.

Mouthing Off Magazine is an alternative media source for students and young adults. The publication aims to promote innovative and provocative ideas to create a dialogue with our readers, while helping young writers, artists, and illustrators gain the experience they need to enter into their chosen field. The platform was founded in March 2020, in response to the lack of student-media publications available that provide artists with greater opportunities or promote freedom speech ideals.





Nomadz perform in the Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

Overview:

Having been repaired and renovated in 2020, the Alfred Arms has this year become the hub for the ZEST Collective, who occupy 9 studio spaces across three floors of the building. There is a wood workshop on the ground floor and a kiln - both are shared resources. The rest of the ground floor is a shared communal space, with seating and a bar.

In 2021, the Alfred Arms was used to host live music and serve drinks during three RIPE Live events. Temporary Events Notices approved both the use of the ground floor and part of the pavement for outdoor seating. DJ in residence, HANIN, supplied equipment and lights and worked with ZEST artists to programme other musical acts and projected visuals. Using the Alfred Arms as a venue during RIPE Live events allowed AS to generate income through drinks sales, which fed back into the programme to support artistic activity. Total sales came to £992.20.



Professional Development Opportunities

RIPE Impact Report 2021



Artist James Hewins providing a pottery demo at Tomato Catch-up. Photo credit: Luke Shears

One-to-one tutorials

Each artist was offered a one-to-one session with AS programme officer, Mia Delve, upon agreeing to exhibit at Tomato Catch-up or Ripe Peaches. The artists discussed the development of new work, how it was going to be installed and other commitments, ambitions and career goals.

Following this, the artists were offered ongoing support and encouraged to engage with the Artist Resources programme through the AS website.

Curatorial support

During the development and delivery of all 10 exhibitions that took place at ONR this year, Mia Delve was available to meet with the artists and assist in curating and installing work.

Collaboration

There have been numerous opportunities for RIPE artists to collaborate across this year's programme. In June, the Peaches were invited to create promotional signs and decoration for the arcade. They decided to create bunting together, experimenting with the visual identity of RIPE.

Then in November, all RIPE artists were invited to join an event led by Liv Fontaine and Jen Harris about their joint venture, HA HA Gallery which occupied a building on ONR between 2014 and 2017. This was the first discussion between Jen and Liv and the RIPE artists, two more sessions will be hosted in 2022 so conversations can continue and collaborative work can

be made and exhibited at the Hidden Wardrobe next year.

Live art opportunities

A programme of performative and participatory activity took place during each RIPE Live event. Demonstrations, workshops, performances and audio installations gave artists a chance to test new ideas and engage directly with a captive audience.

Retail opportunities

This year, six RIPE artists have sold work through the online shop associated with our headline venue, God's House Tower (GHT) and at the GHT Christmas Market.

Video and digital content creation

Since the outbreak of coronavirus, creating digital content has become a vital form of communication and a crucial skill for artists to have. In 2021, nine RIPE artists were supported by AS to record audio and visual content of their exhibitions. The footage was edited in house and a short film was produced to promote 4 out of 10 exhibitions hosted at ONR this year.

Website profiles

All of the new RIPE artists (the Peaches) 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.

Artist Feedback

RIPE Impact Report 2021

“Fantastic!”

“The experience enabled professional development; attending meetings to discuss work and network with like minded people.”

“Ripe is the perfect springboard for new artists to develop their practice in Southampton and can only grow from here.”



Ripe Peach Charlotte Wardner. Photo credit: Damian Cook

“The result of showcasing the work I have made, receiving positive feedback and being in that atmosphere around other artists has given me that inspiration to keep going with my practice.”

“The best part of my year so far.”



Ripe Peach Bethan Long. Photo credit: Damian Cook

“The organisation of the exhibitions and events were great. It was a highly beneficial and enjoyable opportunity to work with ‘a space’.”

“I really enjoyed my time exhibiting as part of RIPE 2021. The event I felt was a great success and I really enjoyed working alongside like-minded artists keen to make an impact on Southampton’s art culture.”

“Absolutely amazing:)”



Ripe Peach Tiffany Struwig. Photo credit: Damian Cook



Artists from Ripe Peaches #01 celebrating at the exhibition launch. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

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, Tomatoes and Peaches who have been proactively seeking new experiences and opportunities.

- Five artists have been commissioned to exhibit or facilitate workshops at God's House Tower, Southampton
- Three artists were awarded a £500 Lucky Dip bursary by AS
- Seven artists have been employed by AS
- Two artists have secured internships at AS
- One artist has gained employment at John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
- Two artists have been commissioned by Solent Showcase Gallery, Southampton
- Five artists have exhibited at K6 Gallery, Southampton
- Four artists have exhibited at the Art House, Southampton
- Two artists have exhibited in a group show called Power to Us at Yellow Edge Gallery, Gosport
- Eleven artists were nominated for the Platform Graduate Award and exhibited at Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth
- One artist was awarded £2,000 as winner of the Platform Graduate Award 2019
- One artist exhibited as part of an online group exhibition organised by TSDAP, Life Interrupted: Painting in the Pandemic
- One artist was selected to exhibit at Got it for Cheap, a London art fair.
- One artist 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
- One artist exhibited at The Harbour House Gallery in Devon as part of Spacial Temporalities, a group show
- Six artists have set up small businesses and sell their work online and at Re:So, GHT and Sea City Museum, Southampton
- Two artists have formed a band and co-written a debut album
- Six artists were accepted to study on MA courses at WSA, Oxford University, Royal College of Art, and Kingston School of Art in Fine Art, Contemporary Curation and Theology and Religion
- One artist was awarded a full scholarship to study a post-graduate course at the Royal Drawing School in London





Visitor exploring works by Maryam Zahra Kazimi at Tomato Catch-up. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Overview:

The engagement data has been captured from RIPE's 2021 season (March - November), using analytic platforms including Hootsuite to provide greater insights into RIPE's digital presence over the past year.

Data has been collected from across RIPE and 'a space' arts social media channels - Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Due to restrictions presented by the COVID pandemic, the marketing and promotion of the RIPE season and events took on a hybrid approach, offering both online and IRL ways of engaging with the programme.

In addition to digital marketing, traditional approaches such as print were also employed to enhance the reach of RIPE activities along with local and regional press coverage including features in the Daily Echo and Visual Arts South West (VASW).

The data collected has been summarised, with key highlights and statistics offering an insight into the delivery and output of the marketing strategy employed by the 'a space' arts team.

**Instagram is the only social media channel in which RIPE has its own account. All other data is collected from promotion of RIPE activity through the 'a space' arts social media channels*

Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2021

Instagram

@ripe_southampton

62
Posts

2,012
Total post engagements

15,781
Total post impressions

13,631
Total post reach

*Data collected from Hootsuite Instagram Report March - November 2021



Audiences at Signs of the Times launch. Photo credit: Damian Cook

Facebook

@aspacearts

62
Posts

782
Total post engagements

13,923
Total post reach

*Data collected from Facebook Analytics March - November 2021



RIPE artists Benji Heinke and Mandy Smith. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Twitter

@aspacearts

59
Tweets

643
Total tweet engagements

25,860
Total tweet impressions

*Data collected from Twitter Analytics March - November 2021



Visitor at Ripe Peaches #01. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2021

YouTube
'a space' arts

4

RIPE videos

299

Total views



Will it Float by Kane Applegate
<https://youtu.be/EYWZO76Rw-Y>



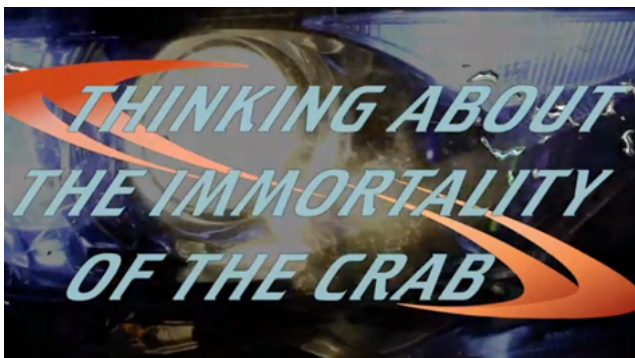
Tomato Catch-up
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0jvMfVxxM&t=571s>

65
Views

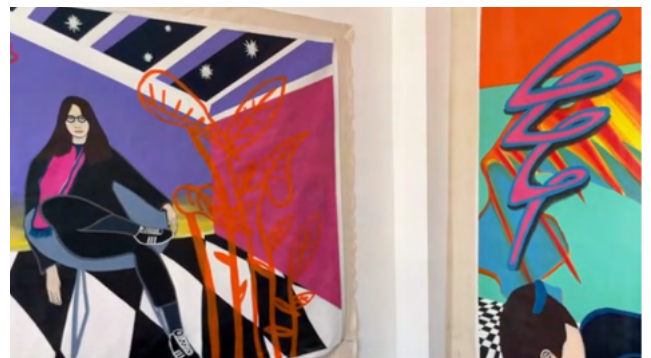
253
Impressions

38
Views

207
Impressions



Thinking About the Immortality of the Crab
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl3Kz0l5bsE&t=28s>



Remote Icons by Benji Heinke
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elirYrJ9b8o&t=29s>

69
Views

334
Impressions

67
Views

253
Impressions

*Data collected from YouTube Analytics from March - November 2021



Ripe Peaches #02 poster on lamppost on Old Northam Road. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

Visitor numbers

65

RIPE Live: Tomato Catch-up & Remote Icons
(inc 57 at launch)

95

RIPE Live: Peaches #01 & Signs of the Times Takeover
(inc 82 at launch)

133

RIPE Live: Peaches #02 & 🍌 + 🍌
(inc 97 at launch)

293

In Total

Press Coverage

Daily Echo

Newsletters

'a space' arts Newsflash June
'a space' arts Newsflash July
'a space' arts Newsflash August
'a space' arts Newsflash September
'a space' arts Newsflash October
'a space' arts Newsflash November
Council Culture Vulture

Event Directories & External Websites

Eventbrite
VASW
Muddy Stilettos

Print Marketing

50 Posters
200 Flyers
100 Stickers

Website

6 articles on 'a space' website
+9 events pages

Digital Feedback

RIPE Impact Report 2021

👏👏 exciting!
@mandysmithartist

Congrats on the show and great name! 🙌🙌
@sophieteh_art



Visitor at Ripe Peaches #01. Photo credit: Luke Shears

Well done all of you 🙌❤️❤️❤️
@peterdriverstudio

Stoked again for Ripe peaches 02! 17.09 Old Northam Road - catch some great artists and music
@hanin.mixes



Ripe Peaches #02 exhibition by Bethan Long. Photo credit: Damian Cook

👍👍👍
@georgepeterthom

It was great to see everyone - and the wonderful work 🙌🙌
@peterdriverstudio

Ah it was a fab evening. The work looked great!! 🙌🙌🙌
@alysscotthawkins



Audiences gather outside the Alfred Arms. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

Interesting fact about this gallery is that most of the shops down this road are derelict and they are working to turn it into a creative hub for young artists. I can't wait to see what happens here in the future

@mollylambourn

What a cool space!
@ireland_reeves

Digital Feedback

RIPE Impact Report 2021

This workshop was about bringing a group of artists together and creating a safe space for conversation

@jojolewisart

Woohoo! 🎉 our first session at the old wardrobe went great thanks to all participants

@space2.create



Hanin DJ set at the Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: Damian Cook

We can't wait! 🙌

@mouthingoffmagazine

Thanks as well to @ripe_southampton for having us and to @hanin.mixes for being an incredible DJ 💜

@n.o.m.a.d.z

Had such a fun weekend being a part of the 'Blurred Reality' exhibition 💛

@aphra_art



Signs of the Times Launch. Photo credit: Damian Cook

oh so beaut

@_maryamkaz

It's a Benji! This brings me joy

@sarahmaccario

Artists supporting artists

@emilyharman_art



Friends gather on Old Northam Road. Photo credit: Morten Watkins

This looks amazing - just wish we could join you for the launch IRL!

@amandadelvesilver



Visitors on art trail along Old Northam Road at Signs of the Times by ZEST collective. Photo credit: Damian Cook



Artists from ZEST collective gather on Old Northam Road. Photo credit: Damian Cook

Overview:

In 2021, following a successful project grant application, the ZEST collective embarked on their first Arts Council funded project, Signs of the Times.

Signs of the Times was a collaboration between ZEST collective and the local community, represented by Northam Local Conversation Group, West Itchen Community Trust and Northam 521 Youth Project. Artists, young people and residents co-created signs and posters that remembered the history and heritage of Old Northam Road and envisioned its future: radical artistic interventions in highly visible places.

The project was a great success and the group made many meaningful connections with the local community and lasting partnerships. They are currently developing ideas for their next project.

Current Members

Kane Applegate
Poppy Ash
Jess Curtis
Ellen Gillett
James Hewins
Benji Heinke
Maryam Zahra Kazimi
Dace Kruger
Jojo Lewis
Bryn Lloyd
Imogen Marooney
Sam Newby
Carolyn NiChonbhai
Robin Price
Mandy Smith
Alex Sutherland
Fred Ashleigh Thornton
Annette Warner



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UNIVERSITY
SOUTHAMPTON



RIPE is a project led by 'a space' arts: