



RIPE exhibition artwork on display at the Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: alicelouisap

Impact Report

RIPE at Old Northam Road 2023



Supported using public funding by
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SOUTHAMPTON



Audiences at Ripe Pears #01 exhibition launch. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

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 2023, the RIPE programme has increased its reach and its reputation whilst continuing to provide artists and audiences a chance to meet and engage with new artworks and new ideas.

In May we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the RIPE programme by commissioning a series of short films, made by RIPE artists past and present. A screening and launch event at God's House Tower provided an opportunity to bring the RIPE community together, providing a platform for **17** artists to showcase their work.

Across the summer, we hosted a series of multi-venue events at ONR as RIPE Live became a regular feature. 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.

The ZEST Arts Collective continued to grow this year too. ZEST comprises of artists from the RIPE programme and offer membership to all future graduates to provide a pathway for further development after RIPE. This year, members of ZEST have continued to support the programme by working behind the bar and leading crit sessions with the new RIPE cohort, the Ripe Pears. They've also been working on their own Arts Council England (ACE) funded projects and exhibitions.

AS also continued to support RIPE artists through the exhibition programme at the Hidden Wardrobe (HW) with regular events across the year. In 2023, seven artists exhibited in the windows of the HW and gave a talk about their work at public openings.

This year we also hosted an exhibition by the Winchester School of Art Artist Collective for the first time, which was organised and led by current WSA students looking to exhibit and build networks in Southampton.

Season at a glance

RIPE Impact Report 2023



62

Artists have worked with 'a space' arts across the 2023 programme



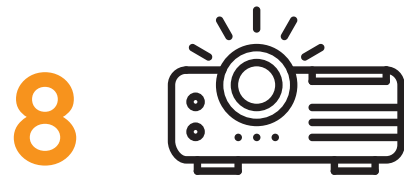
12

New graduates have been supported by the RIPE programme



12

Exhibitions held at RIPE venues on Old Northam Road



8

Launch events were held at RIPE venues on Old Northam Road



15

Free studio spaces for artists



14k

Audiences reached via RIPE and 'a space' arts social media



862

Visitors attended RIPE events throughout the year



£1,156

Total income generated through bar sales at events and split 50/50 between RIPE and ZEST



2023 graduates, the Ripe Pears, outside the Alfred Arcade with AS Curator & Programme Manager Mia Delve and Creative Programme Officer & Artist Studios Manager James Hunter. Photo credit: Emily Wells.

In 2023, AS worked with **62** artists through the RIPE programme.

12 new graduates, **18** members of the ZEST collective, **15** artists from previous RIPE seasons, **11** external artists, **2** photographers, **1** musicians, **3** DJ's.

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 Pears exhibited at Ripe Pears #01 and Ripe Pears #02 at the Alfred Arcade. All of them have been offered studio space at the Alfred Arcade over the winter period.



Audiences at RIPE Live: Plum Pudding. Photo credit: Georgia Penny.



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 and creatives.



The Alfred Arcade on Old Northam Road. Photo credit: Georgia Penny.

Overview:

The Alfred Arcade welcomed **12** new graduates, **4** 2022 graduates (Plums), **16** ZEST artists and **11** external artists this year and hosted **5** exhibitions - *Plum Pudding*, *Ripe Pears #01* and *Ripe Pears #02*, *5 Years Time* and *Heavy Presence*.

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 Hampshire.

Objectives:

- Exhibit the work of at least 12 new recent graduates.
- Continue to provide support and exhibition opportunities for artists.
- 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.

Plum Pudding

Launch Night: 16th June 2023

Open to the Public: 16th - 18th June 2023

Plum Pudding was a short-term residency project that aimed to encourage artistic and professional development through a series of skill sharing activities.

For this third Plum project, the Ripe Plums - who exhibited at the Alfred Arcade in 2022 - reconnected and developed both individual and collective outcomes, culminating in a group exhibition.

The project was a hybrid of digital and physical exchanges and art-making, and provided participating artists with the opportunity to remain connected and optimistic in these challenging times.

Artists

Ben Topping -

Drypoint Tetra Pak Printmaking

The workshop will be a spin-off of the 'exquisite corpse' game, focusing on buildings, where participants will work into a Tetra Pak plate, drawing sections of different built structures. The architecture in Old Northam Road will provide inspiration for each plate, but participants are welcome to bring their own imagery to help distort the overall image.

"While the participants are playing the game I will talk informally about the history of etching, relating this to my practice and why I focus on etching to represent and reproduce ruined buildings of the past. In addition to this, I will teach various techniques in mark making, so participants can experiment with different textures within their drawings of the building."

When the drawings are done, I will show the participants how the ink up Tetra Pak and run it through the press, as this is the most technical part of the process. After each plate has been printed multiple times, we will use the prints to construct a print installation of an 'exquisite building'."



Drypoint Tetra Pak Printmaking by Ben Topping.
Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Signe Eliza Pook - Making A Paper Installation

Using paper and other basic stationary fixings such as tapes and staples, this workshop aims to investigate the possibilities and limitations of these simple materials whilst reflecting how a two-dimensional image can be used as a prompt of making sculptural and installation based works. Integral of this workshop is communal decision making, making of work without being too precious of the outcome and introducing participants of new ways of working and executing ideas through material play.



Making A Paper Installation by Signe Eliza Pook.
Photo credit: Georgia Penny



Making Felt Birds by Stephanie Parker.
Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Stephanie Parker - Making Felt Birds

Each participant will be given pre felted bird bases. They will be provided with coloured felt to needle onto the base. They can be inspired by a real bird or a final one from a book or their imagination. I will provide the eyes, legs and clay to make the beaks. I will also provide scrap fabric if they wish to dress the bird in a little outfit. They can take the birds home to finesse them if they want to - sometimes bird fashion can take a little longer. Once the bird is finished they will be placed on a standing bird feel and exhibited at the Alfred Arcade.



Visitors outside The Alfred Arcade at the Plum Pudding Exhibition. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Anjella Stevenson - Pocket Photography

"For my workshop, I aim to be as eco-conscious as possible, creating something where art and nature intertwine. Each artist participating in the workshop will be required to photograph images of plants using their smartphones. To do this, I have organised a presentation for each artist to follow so that they can experiment with their phone's camera settings and enhance their photography skills on their phones."

The outcome will be a variety of photographs taken by the participants. A selection of these images will be printed and hung on the walls of the Alfred Arcade, and the other images will be printed on biodegradable seed paper and made available to audience members to take home. These can then be planted at home, allowing visitors to grow their own wildflowers."



Pocket Photography by Anjella Stevenson.
Photo credit: Georgia Penny



Visitors at Ripe Pears #01 Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Ripe Pears #01

Launch Night: 4th August 2023

Open to the Public: 4th - 6th August 2023

Ripe Pears #01 was the first in a two-part exhibition of outstanding work by a group of graduates from Solent University and Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton. The project provided an opportunity for the emerging artists to exhibit a recent body of work in a new space, the Alfred Arcade. The artists met, exhibited and engaged in critical debate; forming networks and friendships to help them to sustain a fruitful visual arts practice.

Artists

Gonçalo Almeida & Eurico Brandão

Gonçalo works across photography, video, sculpture and installation. He is interested in construction, deconstruction and reconstruction, often working collaboratively with other artists to create temporary installations with live audio/visual components. Within these installations are large-scale prints and projections of black and white, analogue photographs - intimate self-portraits and images of his family and friends.

"I remember being a child and loving going to my grandparents house, leaving the flat to go and discover unknown things in the big green and dense garden. Using basic tools like hammers and nails to build shelters and always looking for a deconstruction process to build new things. Like recovering pallet boards to build structures".

Rachel Buckle

Rachel is a photographer. She draws on her own lived experience to explore cultural notions of femininity and the impact of poor mental health on young people today. The portraits she creates explore the ambiguity and complexity of expression and the emotions conveyed or concealed within.

“Being feminine can be a good thing as it can be expressive, but a women’s femininity can be used against her; labelled to a shallow, foolish and small-minded person whilst only being deemed worthy when her image is sexualised by men. I combat this by creating work to connect with who I am and draw inspiration from my experiences, in the hopes for my photography to have an emotional impact on the viewer.”



Ripe Pears #01 Artist Rachel Buckle.
Photo credit: Georgia Penny



Ripe Pears #01 Artist Lucas Console-Verma
. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Lucas Console-Verma

Lucas is a painter who is interested in appropriation and artificial intelligence (AI) technology. His process involves selecting old masters’ paintings and transforming them using online generative AI systems, distorting the original image as a way of studying composition, colours and subjects. He then uses these images to create paintings that open up a dialogue between the traditional and the contemporary.

“By manipulating old master paintings through the use of technology, I’m able to create new meanings and interpretations that go beyond the original context of the artwork....Overall, my goal as an artist is to create work that contributes to a broader cultural conversation and that expands the boundaries of what is possible within the world of contemporary art.”

Harrison Jones

Harrison is primarily a painter. His practice is both a sanctuary and a place of discomfort, incorporating familiar everyday scenes with more transient, inconclusive thoughts and experiences. His work takes inspiration from both reality and fantasy, domesticity and dreaming.

“My instincts, sensations, dreams and observations of what I see fuel me to make my ideas into a reality. I see shapes, forms, colours, lines, light, tone, texture, negative and positive space of what is around me and what is in my mind. Using materials and methods that are in reach to respond to these sensations”.



Ripe Pears #01 Artist Harrison Jones. Photo credit: Georgia Penny



Ripe Pears #01 Artist Georgia Menear. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Georgia Menear

Georgia's practice explores themes of identity, sexuality and ill-health. She is interested in colours and their associations – particularly pink, a colour that reoccurs in her work as both a symbol of oppression and liberation. A multidisciplinary artist, Georgia works across drawing, painting, photography and poetry.

“My films and photography document my mental health episodes, dealing with depression, social anxiety and generalised anxiety. Through the lens of black and white analogue, they reflect the complex emotions and struggles I experience with my existence, and bringing to light the harsh reality someone who has poor mental health deals with”.

Izzy Plant

Izzy works with textiles, plaster, wire and wood to create large, imposing sculptures and installations. She constructs other-worldly environments occupied by creature-like assemblages that are both impressive and intimidating. Her practice is informed by her reflections on individuality and womanhood.

"I'm interested in the process of making, and animating my work as I go. Bringing my work to life introduces questions about their purpose, and more recently, this is under the umbrella of my experience as a woman with a lack of autonomy".



Ripe Pears #01 Artist Izzy Plant. Photo credit: Georgia Penny



Audiences explore works by Ripe Pears #01 Artists. Photo credit: Georgia Penny



Visitor looking at photography works by Jim Elston. Photo credit: alicelouisap

Ripe Pears #02

Launch Night: 8th September

Open to the Public: 8th - 10th September

Ripe Pears #02 was the second in a two-part exhibition of outstanding work by a group of graduates from Solent University and Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton.

The project provided an opportunity for the emerging artists to exhibit a recent body of work in a new space, the Alfred Arcade.

The artists met, exhibited and engaged in critical debate; forming networks and friendships to help them to sustain a fruitful visual arts practice.

Artists

Jim Elston

Jim is interested in environmental issues, the effects of deforestation, urban forestation and the relationship between people and place. Working across digital and analogue photography, his experimental images depict familiar environments in unfamiliar ways, challenging the way we perceive the world around us.

"My final major project at Solent University, "'Dark Skies and Biospheres", explores at the relevance of the Isle of Wight achieving 'UNESCO Biosphere Reserve' status and the Island's current bid to become accredited as a Dark Sky reserve".

Abigail Hart

Abi's practice is an exploration of British working class identity. Her work is informed by her own upbringing and lived experience, but also draws on broader narratives about class and patriotism. Abi uses found materials and objects, such as family photographs and memorabilia, alongside original drawings and paintings to create multi-layered installations.

"My work has led to consider what belonging can mean, the prevalence of childhood and adolescence, and how identities are expressed creatively. I'm heavily inspired by modern British folk and pop art, as well as British film, music and literature, resulting in unsophisticated, often maximalist pieces of work with strong political undertones".



Exhibited artwork by Ripe Pears #02 Artist Abigail Hart.
Photo credit: alicelouisap



Ripe Pears #02 Artist Rosie James. Photo credit: alicelouisap

Rosie James

Rosie's practice explores the blurred boundaries between digital and physical manipulation of the female body. She creates fake products and advertisements that expose the ludicrous and unrealistic beauty standards perpetuated by cosmetics companies and influencers on social media, using filmmaking as a way to reveal her processes.

"My work studies body modifications and its adjacent 'filtering' of the body. It exists in the form of digital imagery and film, often depicting the relationship between experimental materials and my body such as plastics, liquids and food".



Public gathering around a Ripe Pears #02 sign outside the Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: alicelouisap

Sofia Krook

Sofia paints portraits based on childhood photographs of herself or her friends. By studying and recreating these images, she considers how identity is formed, looking to the past as a way of navigating the future. She uses both figurative and abstract elements to represent the body and the mind.

"I have been struggling these past two years to find myself within my neurodivergence, going from not understanding why I've always felt so different to accepting the why. It's similar within my art...With my squares in my work, my portraits, I feel like I am finally beginning to find that balance of what I want to do, combining it with my love for the flat surfaces and abstractness together with the figurative".



Ripe Pears #02 Artist Sofia Krook. Photo credit: alicelouisap

Sophie Smith

Sophie is an illustrator interested in pattern, mark-making and typography. She uses unconventional surfaces and materials in her work, such as clothing and household items, creating 3D sculptures from 2D designs. Recently, her work has explored ideas about grief and memory.

"Grief coat was intended to be a thank you letter to my grandparents for the lifetime of advice, memories and support, specifically my nans who passed around the beginning of my first year of University. It was my way of acknowledging the way I processed my own grief and what I took away from it".



Exhibited artwork by Ripe Pears #02 Artist Sophie Smith.
Photo credit: alicelouisap



Visitors interacting with Ripe Pears #02 Artist Ren Wooldridge.
Photo credit: alicelouisap

Ren Wooldridge

Ren is a multidisciplinary artist working across painting, printmaking, performance and sculpture. Her engagement with clay, and making in general, is both intuitive and conceptual. Her practice is informed by psychoanalytic and feminist theory, but also makes space for instinctive material experimentation.

"My work draws on my personal lived experience, explores feminine psychological dynamics, it grows from a personal narrative to a collective subjectivity, it is intimate but universal in its relevance".



Audiences exploring Winchester School of Art Artist Collective Exhibition 5 Years Time. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

5 Years Time by the Winchester School of Art Artist Collective

Launch Night: 20th October

Open to the Public: 20th - 22nd October

5 Years Time is a group show by 11 artists from the Winchester School of Art Artist Collective (WSAAC)

Following on from their previous exhibition, Come Together, the show aims to explore the way in which work is made at varying points in their practices. Artists featured in this show span from undergrad students, recently graduated students, as well as artists who have supported these students in their studies, with practices of their own.

The aim of the collective is to work together to showcase our work as they learn, and this show is a celebration of that.

Artists

Grace Atkins, Jess Babbini Baker, Megan Berry, Olivia Crawley, Peter Driver, Dave Gibbons, Ian Golding, Shelby Gove, Amy Hamilton, Esme Keenleyside and Rhiannon Richardson



Public exploring 5 Years Time Exhibition. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

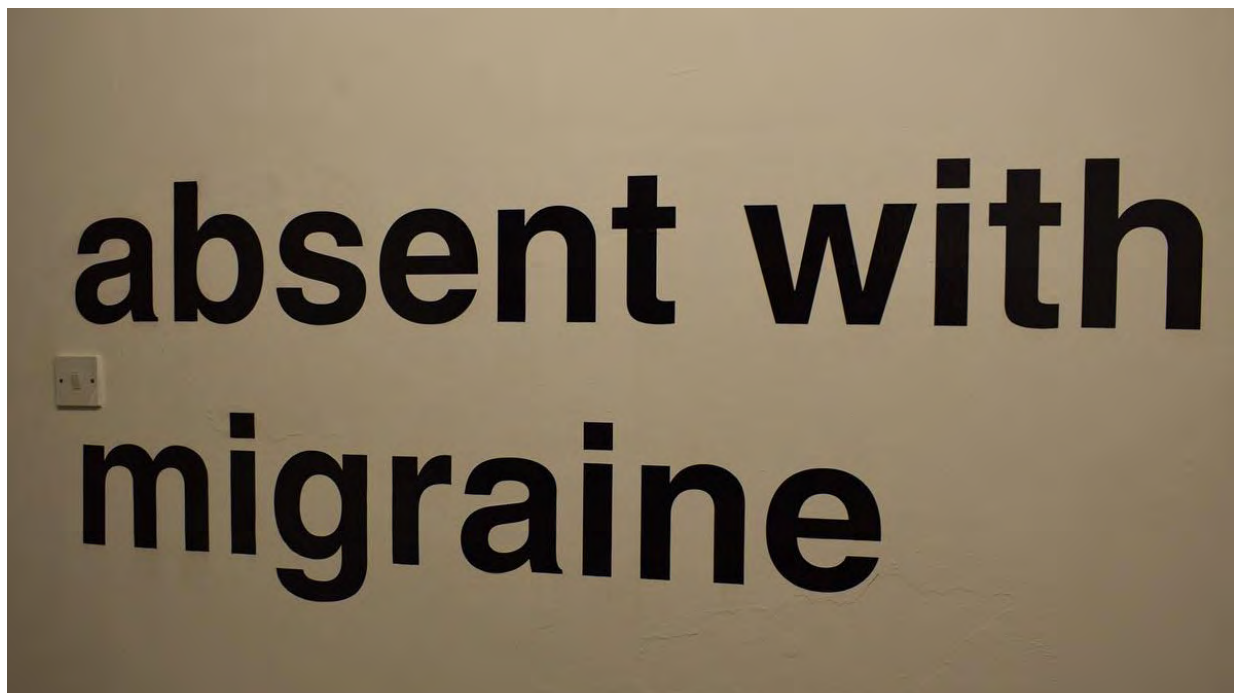
Heavy Presence by ZEST Arts Collective
Launch Night: 10th November
Open to the Public: 10th November

Early one morning in 2018 two life-sized, white figures seated nonchalantly on wooden chairs mysteriously appeared in Guildhall Square, Southampton.

The figures had been placed there by Robin Price and Kane Applegate, two of our founding members who had recently graduated from Solent University, and had cast themselves in plaster. The artwork declared the pair's intention to actively stay in a city that at the time had very little resources or opportunities for emerging artists. Their intervention 'Opposite, Working Girl' was accessible to the public by virtue of being outdoors, easily understood, and without restrictions or rules about how it could be interacted with. Being present for each other and our communities, taking pride in our city, and radically challenging how art can be made and experienced in Southampton are core values of ZEST Collective that predate even the founding of the collective.



Heavy Presence Exhibition Poster. Credit: ZEST Art Collective



Work Exhibited by Maryam Kaz for Heavy Presence. Credit: ZEST Art Collective

Our exhibitions and projects have always centred around our presence on Old Northam Road and the communities that surround it, where, with the support of 'a space' arts we have established ourselves over the last 3 years, delivering exhibitions, public art interventions and creative workshops for the benefit of local artists and local people.

ZEST Collective's 5th exhibition, 'Heavy Presence', comes at a time of change. We are in the process of relocating our studio spaces from the Alfred Arms on Old Northam Road, to Tower House on Winkle Street in the Old Town. The decision to leave was beyond our control and is a heavy one, 'the little pub' is where we started, where we have grown our art practices, our relationships to local communities, and to each other.

Tower House, our new studios, presents an exciting and rare opportunity to strengthen ourselves as an organisation, build on our collaborations with 'a space' arts and expand our efforts more widely in the city. Despite our relocation we will be a continued presence on Old Northam Road, supporting the RIPE graduate programme,

exploring the potential of new spaces on the road, continuing to build our relationships with local communities, and, of course, installing playful public art interventions that challenge perceptions of Southampton and its artistic community.

The work shown here has been made by ZEST artists during, and in spite of, this time of upheaval. This exhibition is a reaffirmation that we are present in the city, and that we aren't going anywhere.

Artists:

Jenny Andrews, Kane Applegate, Poppy Ash, James Hewins, Ellen Gillett, Maryam Zahra Kazimi, Bryn Lloyd, Anna Marris, Katie Mullender, Robin Price, Mandy Smith, Alex Sutherland, Annabel Tennyson-Davies, Fred Thornton, Sharlott Wardner, Net Warner.



Work Exhibited by Sharlott Wardner for Heavy Presence. Credit: ZEST Art Collective

Polymer Waves by ZEST Arts Collective Launch Night: 2nd June

Within this thought-provoking showcase, artists have responded to a brief centred around the pressing issue of the climate crisis, intertwining sustainable practices and utilisation of recycled and found materials.

The exhibition title, 'Polymer Waves' draws inspiration from the evocative ecological dystopia in J.G. Ballard's novel, "The Drought." In this, the oceans succumb to a suffocating film of chemical-bonded polymers—a dire consequence of rampant waste and chemical dumping. The repercussions manifest as a catastrophic global drought, leaving an indelible mark on the environment and the human psyche.

The artists within 'Polymer Waves' channel their creative energies to shed light on the urgent perils of our present reality. Through their interpretations, visitors are invited to traverse an immersive tapestry of artworks that encapsulate the essence of our imperilled planet.

Fuelling the collective spirit of creation, group workshops served as incubators of ideas, harbouring collaboration and the birth of collective visions.

'Polymer Waves' transcends the boundaries of conventional art exhibitions, embracing the potential of art as a catalyst for change. Each artist's distinct voice intertwines with an underlying call to action, compelling viewers to contemplate their role in the climate crisis narrative and the imperative need for sustainable practices. Join us on this transformative journey, where art, sustainability, and societal consciousness converge in a symphony of visual narratives. 'Polymer Waves' is an invitation to pause, reflect, and reimagine our collective future amid the turbulent tides of climate change.

Artists

Jenny Andrews, Poppy Ash, James Hewins, Ellen Gillett, Maryam Zahra Kazimi, Jojo Lewis, Bryn Lloyd, Anna Marris, Katie Mullender, Robin Price, Mandy Smith, Fred Thornton, Sharlott Wardner, Net Warner.



Artist Work for Polymer Waves Exhibition. Credit: ZEST Art Collective

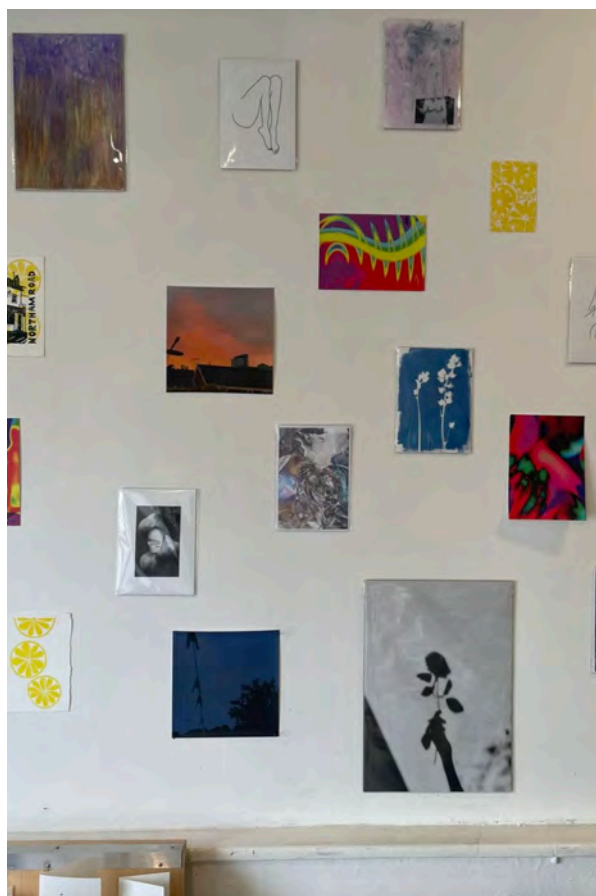
Hampshire Open Studios by ZEST Arts Collective & ZEST Inclusive Group (ZING)
Open to the public: 19th August - 28th August

This year ZEST and ZING opened the doors of The Alfred Arms to take part in Hampshire Open Studios for the first time.

"After much Whatsapp-ing back and forth we managed to put together quite the spread of arts and crafts at our humble pub with help from the local creative community. After a successful first attempt, we look forward to taking part next year and seeing all your lovely faces again".

Artists:

Jenny Andrews, Kane Applegate, Poppy Ash, James Hewins, Ellen Gillett, Maryam Zahra Kazimi, Bryn Lloyd, Anna Marris, Katie Mullender, Robin Price, Mandy Smith, Alex Sutherland, Annabel Tennyson-Davies, Fred Thornton, Sharlott Wardner, Net Warner.



Work Exhibited for Hampshire Open Studios.
Image Credit: ZEST Art Collective



Work Exhibited for Hampshire Open Studios. Image Credit: ZEST Art Collective



Anna Artist Talk at the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Overview:

Throughout 2023, a varied programme of **8** exhibitions took place in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. The nature of the space meant the exhibitions could be viewed from outside the building and were accessible to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This year, **7** RIPE artists had solo shows at the Hidden Wardrobe and **17** RIPE artists exhibited their work in the space as part of RIPE FIVE, an exhibition celebrating the fifth anniversary of the RIPE programme.

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 artist 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.



Surface Between by Jenny Andrews on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe.
Photo credit: 'a space' arts

Surface Between - Jenny Andrews **13th January – 19th February 2023**

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.

As Jenny's first solo exhibition at Old Northam Road, Surface Between is a site-specific hanging installation consisting of various handmade fused and slumped glass elements.

For this new body of work, Jenny has been inspired by *The Poetics of Space* by French Philosopher Gaston Bachelard (1885 – 1962), in which he describes the window as a “transitional object” from interior to exterior, a place to communicate with the outside. The window becomes a border-line surface between the here and the beyond. Surface Between explores the poetics between the materiality of glass, and light and space within architecture.



The Tooth Is Out by Poppy Ash. Photo credit: Mia Delve

The Tooth Is Out - Poppy Ash **24th February – 2nd April 2023**

What happens when we lose our baby teeth?

Exploring worldwide 'tooth fairy' traditions, Poppy's illustrations examine the ways in which the loss of baby teeth are celebrated and the rituals that surround them. The tooth fairy that we grow up with in the UK varies hugely around the world, from culture to culture, sometimes taking the form of a tooth mouse, bird or leprechaun.

Poppy's practice draws from everyday life, with a focus on narratives and lore. The unique stories, passed down through generations and unquestioned in our youth, are here brought to life. The playful comic-style illustrations celebrate the power of storytelling.



SNAZZ-A-ROO/CROWD PLEASER + by Signe Eliza Pook on display at the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: 'a space' arts

SNAZZ-A-ROO/CROWD PLEASER + - Signe Eliza Pook 7th April - 14th May 2023

SNAZZ-A-ROO/CROWD PLEASER + features material of previously resolved and on-going development of ideas within Installation work that is complimented by a drawing made in situ: responding to the surroundings of Old Northam Road.

Driven by the sound and physicality of rhythm, whilst envisaging space as a flexible landscape, the work addresses the presence of notions of play and chaos; but equally a sense of preciousness, that together form a synergy depicting a life unfolding, right here and now.

RIPE FIVE

Launch Night: 19th May

Open to the public: 19th May - 11th June 2023

2023 marks the fifth anniversary of the RIPE programme. To celebrate, 'a space' arts commissioned a series of short films by RIPE artists, past and present.

The artists have responded to the theme 'future', whether that relates to their own future, the future of their art practice, the art world, the RIPE programme, Old Northam Road, the city, or the world.

There are **17** films in total, ranging from 20 seconds to 5 minutes. **5** were made by Bananas (graduates from 2018), **1** by a Mango (2019), **1** by a Tomato (2020), **4** by Peaches (2021) and **6** by Plums (2022).

Some have experimented with animation and others have created live action films.

For many of the artists this project has been their first foray into film making and has provided an opportunity to develop new skills and test new ideas.

The films were exhibited online and at the venues listed below:

RIPE FIVE Online

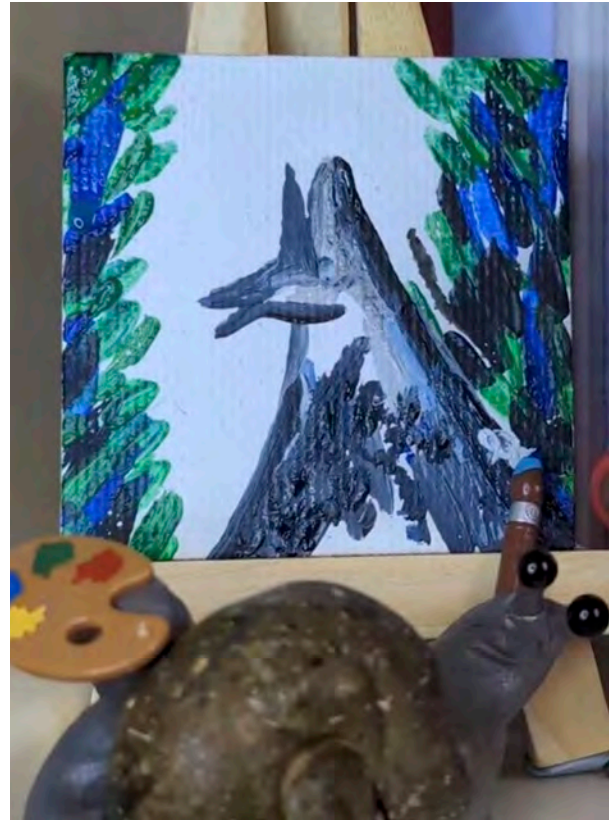
Friday 19th May – Sunday 11th June

RIPE FIVE at the Hidden Wardrobe

Friday 19th May – Sunday 11th June

RIPE FIVE at God's House Tower

Friday 26th May – Sunday 4th June



Stephanie Parker's work titled 'Snailbert' showcased at the RIPE FIVE Exhibition.

Image Credit: 'a space' arts



Michele Waldron-Cooper's installation in the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: Mia Delve

The Deceits of the World, the Flesh and the Devil - Michele Waldron-Cooper
16th June - 23rd July 2023

Michele is primarily a painter. Her work is figurative, depicting faces and bodies, often contorted and disturbing, with elements of magic realism. Michele's practice is driven by socio-political concerns and contemporary issues. Sometimes her paintings are centre pieces in larger installations or assemblages.

"Aspiring to complete emotional identification with a painting. Compartmentalising my own feelings while trying to reach into the mind of the person I dedicate my paint brushes to. This has been the technique adopted to create these larger than life and grotesque depictions of morphed and stitched together monsters.

I google countless images on terrible things to provide the stimulation that aids me to formulate and ferment these thoughts and ideas that I share with only myself. No understanding of this process personally only to document in my own painterly way the hideous realisation of how humanity has been let down by another's greed and avarice. A kind of historical document laid down like a flayed creature that reaches out and snaps something necrotic and demonic in anyone who feasts their eyes upon them.

Some days, I walk away. No longer being able to compartmentalise enough to paint. Capturing what I see in my many roomed mind. Others, I smile at the delicious parody. These moments are fleeting but feel wickedly good. The cheeseburger was one of these moments".

My process takes many hours of patience and equal stages. Sometimes it can take up to 9 attempts to get the expression exactly how I need it to start stitching it together with my paint brushes. Building the musculature of a human face in my head to then distort or morph. Many different skulls lay at my side as I paint. A book on human muscles is now my companion. Different structures are formed as I go. Constantly flicking through imagery.

*At the beginning of these journeys with paint, I must absorb as much about the person as I can. This can make me feel guilt. How can I possibly find some of these personality traits funny, or even endearing? Back to compartmentalising. Shutting it down if need be. But this is the honest depth I go to, to try and capture a likeness, but also the true wicked darkness of my subject.... *The Deceits of the World, the Flesh and the Devil*".*



The Deceits of the World, the Flesh and the Devil by artist Michele Waldron-Cooper on Old Northam Road.
Photo credit: 'a space' arts



The Aftermath of Geological Interference by Anna Marris. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

The Aftermath of Geological Interference - Anna Marris **4th August - 3rd September 2023**

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.

"My artwork attends to the scattered fragments of satellite and microscopic imagery connected to disused open pit mines. I translate imagery into surface texture, materialising archived data to respond to deep time and deep futures at the core of a landscape subjected to the speeds of industry and profit."

I am drawn to the physicality of building imagery, working with screen printing to transfer my immaterial, digital reconstructions into lively, glossy surfaces. The imagery I create does not resemble a particular place but forms new imaginaries that unearth active threats in the land. I curate my prints to echo an ore body or mineral.

This mined landscape is a visible marker of human interference with geology. Fragments of deep time bleed through artificial formations, glowing amongst arid scenery consumed by eroding equipment, buildings in a state of ruin, and the intense, swirling body of water engulfing the disused site".

Exhibitions



Artist Charlotte Rose outside the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo credit: alicelouisap

I'm so Fragile and Delicate, Please be Gentle with Me or I Might Break - Charlotte Rose

8th September - 28th October 2023

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.

"I'm so Fragile and Delicate, Please be Gentle with Me or I Might Break is a response to fragile femininity and its link with the male gaze.

Fragile femininity is a term that is used to describe an aesthetic that relies heavily on attracting male validation and approval. In character, women could have a compliant attitude, choosing to appear as the inferior in the presence of a masculine identifying person.

This includes the teachings of damaging behaviours and misogynistic views, such as demonising untypical forms of femininity.

'I'll Have the Sirloin Steak and She'll Just Have a Salad' explores feminine relationships with food and diets. Whilst in '31 Ways to Act More Feminine and Look More Attractive' we investigate 2000s fashion magazine advice, topics typically catering to male wants and needs.

Satire and playfulness was a very important factor during the very beginnings of these two oil paintings. Using oversaturated colours and eclectic objects to decorate the scenes, these works take on an unserious approach to the subject matter. Its fine details hope to draw the eyes in order to forget about it's not-of-this-world backdrop and focus on its smaller elements".

Exhibitions



Home Is Where The Kettle Is - Beth Givens. Photo credit: Emma Andrews

Home Is Where The Kettle Is - Beth Givens

1st December 2023 - 7th January 2024

Beth is a draughtsman not limited to pen and paper; her many processes mirror the complexity of her subject matter. She makes rugs with yarn, collages with paper, ceramics with clay and patterns with colour. Her practice explores themes of identity and belonging in an attempt to bring clarity to a confusing world and to situate herself within it.

"Home is Where the Kettle is, consists of a collection of tufted rugs that explore the coexistence of comfort and anxiety, my relationship with them and how they can be strongly tied to objects and spaces. I first started investigating the coexistence of comfort and anxiety during the UK Lockdown 2020, when I found myself spending 90% of my time in my bedroom. The room soon became a comfort zone as I found relief from

social and work-related anxieties.

Although pleasant at first, I started to feel a creeping sense of unease, knowing that I wasn't challenging myself or progressing in life. The line became blurred as to whether my comfort zone was comforting, or whether it was claustrophobic and restrictive. The juxtaposition of the 2 emotions intrigued me: I found that multiple spaces and objects in my life could host the two easily. I started asking whether the objects and spaces that I associate with comfort are positive, or whether they represent the very anxieties that they shield me from".



Benji Heinke performs in the Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Overview:

The Alfred Arms continued to be an invaluable home for the ZEST collective in 2023, offering **9** studio spaces across 3 floors, along with a wood workshop and a kiln. The artists used the building for two exhibitions this year, Polymer Waves and Hampshire Open Studios.

The Alfred Arms was once again used to host live music and serve drinks during four RIPE Live events. Temporary Events Notices approved both the use of the ground floor and part of the pavement for

outdoor seating and allowed AS to serve alcohol until 11pm at each event. DJ in residence, HANIN, supplied equipment and lights and was able to invite **2** other DJs to be part of the RIPE Live events.

Using the Alfred Arms as a venue during RIPE Live events allowed AS to generate income through drinks sales, which were fed back into the programme to support artistic activity. The total profit was **£1,156.54**. This income was split 50/50 with ZEST, who worked behind the bar at all four RIPE Live events.

Professional Development Opportunities

1-to-1 tutorials

Each artist was offered a one-to-one session with AS programme manager, Mia Delve and AS programme assistant, James Hunter upon agreeing to exhibit at Plum Pudding or Ripe Pears. 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.

Collaboration

There have been numerous opportunities for RIPE artists to collaborate across this year's programme. In June, the Plums were invited to participate in a project, which was a hybrid of digital and physical exchanges and art-making. It provided participating artists with the opportunity to remain connected and optimistic in this new, difficult and digital time, and further build on their connections made last year as recently-graduated artists.

Curatorial Support

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



Visitors outside of Alfred Arms. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Professional Development Opportunities



Audiences enjoying the exhibition at the Alfred Arms. Photo credit: Georgia Penny.

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 **7** RIPE artists have sold work through the shop located within 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. This year, every artist that exhibited at the Hidden Wardrobe had a video made of their work, which was created in-house. Similar videos were also made for all the RIPE events, totalling 25 artists with videos capturing their work in situ.

In addition, **17** artists were commissioned to make short-form video content for the RIPE FIVE exhibition in May.

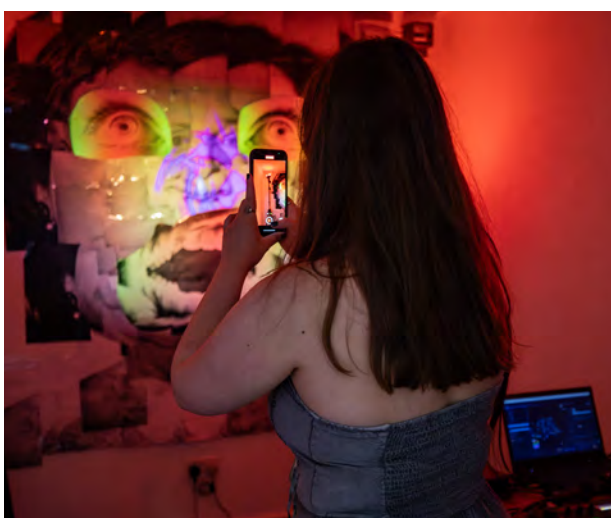
Website profiles

All of the new RIPE artists (the Pears) 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

“It was exciting and a good experience to start showing art post uni”

“It was professional and also family based feeling working with the team at ‘a space’ arts and ZEST”



Audiences enjoy works by Gonçalo Almeida
Photo credit: Georgia Penny

“I really enjoyed working with ‘a space’ arts, great platform to build a connection with local grassroots artists”

“RIPE Live was vibrant and had a lot of energy”

“A great support network for new art graduates, A hub for grassroots artists”



Public interacting with artwork from Plum Pudding.
Photo credit: Georgia Penny

“All good, informative and supportive”

“Was able to find out what I enjoy with art better than during university”

“Learning about their [artists] practices and how they work is inspiring and you get to know new things that makes you think of how you can develop on your own”

“Friendly and casual. I appreciated that some meetings could be done online”

“Great for starting artists”

Artist Feedback

“I feel my artistic progression will be more likely”

“Hopefully it makes more of an impact on art in Southampton”

“Fun, positive and very well supported”

“The experience had a positive impact on my professional development”

“Participating in the group show motivated me to create new work and a platform to showcase my artwork”

“The crit sessions and meetups provided important peer support”

“Being able to have group crits has made me bolder when it comes to approaching other artists because I realised actually lots of people have the same mentality when it comes to putting work out there”

“I got a commission because someone liked the style of my coat, I agreed because the feedback from the event gave me confidence”



Artists at 5 Years Time Exhibition by WSA Artist Collective. Photo Credit: Georgia Penny

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, Peaches, Plums and Pears who have been pro-actively seeking new experiences and opportunities.

Within the first year of graduating, the RIPE artists have:

Been commissioned to exhibit or facilitate workshops at God's House Tower, Southampton

Been awarded £500 Lucky Dip bursaries by AS

Been employed by AS

Secured internships at AS

Gained employment as freelance technicians

Gained employment at John Hansard Gallery, Southampton

Been commissioned by Solent Showcase Gallery, Southampton

Exhibited at K6 Gallery, Southampton

Exhibited at the Art House, Southampton

Exhibited at Yellow Edge Gallery, Gosport

Been nominated for the Platform Graduate Award and exhibited at Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth

Been awarded £2,000 as winner of the Platform Graduate Award.

Exhibited at SPUD Works in Sway, New Forest

Exhibited as part of an online group exhibition organised by TSDAP, Life Interrupted: Painting in the Pandemic

Been selected to exhibit at Got it for Cheap, a London art fair

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

Exhibited at The Harbour House Gallery in Devon as part of Spacial Temporalities, a group show

Set up small businesses and sell their work online and at Re:So, GHT and Sea City Museum, Southampton

Exhibited at Ryde Studio Art Trail 2023, Isle of Wight

Exhibited and sold work at Art on a Postcard's Winter Auction 2023, London

Formed a band and co-written a debut album

Been accepted to study on MA courses at WSA, Royal College of Art, Kingston School of Art and the Slade (UCL) in Fine Art, and Contemporary Curation

Been awarded a full scholarship to study a post-graduate course at the Royal Drawing School in London



Public outside the Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Overview:

Digital engagement data has been captured from RIPE's 2023 programme (January - December), using analytic platforms including Hootsuite and Meta. The data collected provides greater insights into RIPE's online presence over the past year, and identifies areas of growth and scope for greater engagement and opportunity.

Data has been collected from across RIPE and 'a space' arts social media channels - Instagram, Facebook, X (formally known as Twitter) and YouTube.

In addition to digital marketing, traditional approaches such as print were also employed to enhance the reach of RIPE activities within the local area, 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 overall insight into the delivery and impact of the marketing strategy employed, and the continued growth of the RIPE programme in the digital space.

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

Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2023

Instagram

@ripe_southampton

342

Posts

1.1k

Post engagement rate

21k

Post impressions

73k

Post reach

Data collected from Hootsuite RIPE Instagram Report (January - December 2023)



Visitor takes photo of artwork outside Alfred Arcade. Photo credit: alicelouisap

Facebook

@aspacearts

38

Posts

320

Total post engagements

91k

Total post reach

Data collected from Facebook Analytics (January - December 2023)



Artists engaging with 5 Years Time by WSA Artist Collective. Photo credit: Georgia Penny

Twitter

@aspacearts

38

Tweets

579

Total tweet engagements

2.9k

Total tweet impressions

Data collected from Twitter Analytics (January - December 2023)



Crowd outside The Hidden Wardrobe during RIPE LIVE: Ripe Pears #02. Photo credit: alicelouisap

Engagement

RIPE Impact Report 2023

YouTube
'a space' arts

27 1381
RIPE videos Total views

Most popular videos



RIPE FIVE: Snail's Pace - Stephanie Parker
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFJXYWOVCrM>

347
Views

5.4k
Impressions



SNAZZ-A-ROO/CROWD PLEASER+ - Signe Eliza Pook
<https://youtu.be/VT0CYN78jo>

82
Views

1.8k
Impressions



Ripe Pears #01
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynCumGN9Vkc>

73
Views

985
Impressions



RIPE FIVE: A Fiction of the Future by Anna Marris
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_EVWj8QErBA

68
Views

2.5k
Impressions

Data collected from YouTube Analytics from (January - December 2023)

Visitor numbers

15

Surface Between by Jenny Andrews
Hidden Wardrobe Launch

13

The Tooth Is Out by Poppy Ash
Hidden Wardrobe Launch

12

SNAZZ-A-ROO/CROWD PLEASER +
by Signe Eliza Pook Hidden Wardrobe
Launch

46

RIPE FIVE Launch

112

Polymer Waves by ZEST Arts Collective

92

RIPE Live: Plum Pudding / The Deceits
of the World, the Flesh and the Devil
by Michele Waldron-Cooper (inc 79 at
launch)

116

RIPE Live: Pears #01 / The Aftermath of
Geological Interference by Anna Marris

220

Hampshire Open Studios by ZEST Arts
Collective & ZEST Inclusive Group (ZING)

79

RIPE Live: Pears #02 / I'm so Fragile and
Delicate, Please be Gentle with Me or I
Might Break by Charlotte Rose (inc 71 at
launch)

69

5 Years Time by Winchester School of
Art Artist Collective (inc 59 at launch)

78

Heavy Presence by ZEST Arts Collective

10

Home is Where the Kettle is by Beth
Givens Hidden Wardrobe Launch
Launch

862

In Total

Digital Feedback

RIPE Impact Report 2023

These look beautiful
@piers_inkpen

Great exhibition. Just loved it !!!
@johnflatwound

oh hells yeah @se.pook 🔥
@yellowbeanie

Can't wait! Great previews 🔥❤️
@curator_sara

This looks so exciting! Can't wait to see them
🔥🔥🔥
@mandysmithartist

These pics are great 🔥
@net.warner

I bloody love the stickers, theres a few banana ones round town still that are fun to spot
@amyscottpillow

👏hi pears, can't wait to see what you make of the arcade spaces!
@mandysmithartist

Looking forward to 4th of August!
@lucascv8

Thank you for the opportunity
@isalenplant_

Congrats @itsthatanna and all the pears it looks amazing 🔥👏
@annabel_tennyson_davies

Fantastic organisation. Fun event. Great networking. Grateful for all your support. Nicola Console-Verma
@nicolacv888

An amazing show. A great night, as always
@james_frew

Fantastic! Well done and best of luck to you all xx
@sarahmaccario

It's a great show and was a fabulous opening night! Well done everyone!
@peterdriverstudio

Smashing evening! Thanks to all involved!
@oh_that_dave_gibbons

Actually WOWED By YOUR WORK 🔥🔥🔥
@chloeharrisprint



Artists from ZEST Collective gather in Tower House HQ. Photo credit: ZEST Collective

Overview:

The ZEST Collective continued to grow in 2023. There are now **18** ZEST members, and the collective hosted two exhibitions throughout the year. Alongside this, they took part in the Hampshire Open Studios for the first time, in which they exhibited and sold work at the Alfred Arms. The collective underwent a transitional phase towards the end of year and have temporarily moved into Tower House: a building located right next to the 'a space' arts main office.

The first of ZEST's two exhibitions was Polymer Waves. For this exhibition, the artists responded to the pressing issue of the climate crisis, using recycled and found materials and exploring sustainable practices. Following that was Heavy Presence, which addressed the collective's imminent eviction from Old Northam Road. Although the work was made at a time of upheaval, the exhibition was a reaffirmation that they are present in the city, and aren't going anywhere.

Current Members:

Jenny Andrews
Kane Applegate
Poppy Ash
Ellen Gillett
Benji Hienke
James Hewins
Maryam Zahra Kazimi
Jojo Lewis
Bryn Lloyd
Anna Marris
Katie Mullender
Robin Price
Mandy Smith
Alex Sutherland
Fred Ashleigh Thornton
Sharlott Wardner
Net Warner
Annabel Tennyson-Davies

There are currently **18** members of the ZEST collective, **6** Bananas (the first cohort of RIPE artists, who graduated in 2017 and 2018), **3** Mangoes (the second cohort, 2019), **4** Tomatoes (the third cohort, 2020) **3** Peaches (the fourth cohort, 2021) and **2** Plums (the fifth cohort, 2022).

ZEST Inclusive Group (ZING)



Artists from ZEST Inclusive Group (ZING). Photo credit: ZEST Inclusive Group (ZING)

Overview:

ZEST INCLUSIVE GROUP (ZING)

This year ZEST received a lot of interest from Southampton artists about joining the collective. As ZEST is only open to graduates of Solent University and the Winchester School of Art, they decided to create a new network called ZING (ZEST Inclusive Group).

ZING is a local group of artists supported by ZEST that meet once a month for skill sharing workshops, go on group trips and do regular life drawing classes. They were also part of Hampshire Open Studios, alongside ZEST, and put on an excellent exhibition in two shipping containers in Guildhall Square called 'Common Thread'.



BANANA BREAD

Ingredients:
1 cup of butter
1 cup of sugar
3 eggs
1 cup of flour
1/2 cup of baking powder
1/2 cup of vanilla extract

Method:
1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together.
3. Add the eggs one by one, beating well.
4. Sift the flour and baking powder together, then add to the mixture.
5. Stir in the vanilla extract.
6. Pour the mixture into a greased loaf tin.
7. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

BANANA SPLIT

Ingredients:
1 banana
1/2 cup of ice cream
1/2 cup of whipped cream
1/2 cup of chocolate sauce
1/2 cup of strawberry sauce
1/2 cup of raspberry sauce

Method:
1. Slice the banana into 1/2 inch thick slices.
2. Place the slices on a plate.
3. Drizzle with the ice cream.
4. Top with the whipped cream.
5. Drizzle with the chocolate sauce.
6. Drizzle with the strawberry sauce.
7. Drizzle with the raspberry sauce.

RIPE BANANAS

Launch night: Friday 18th September 7pm until late
Continues: Saturday 19th September 12pm until late
The Alfred Arcade, Old Northam Road, Southampton SO14 0JZ

RIPE PEACHES #01

Launch night: Friday 20th August 6pm until late
Continues: Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd August
The Alfred Arcade, Old Northam Road, Southampton SO14 0JZ

TOMATO CATCH-UP

Launch night: Friday 21st August 6pm until late
Continues: Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd August
The Alfred Arcade, Old Northam Road, Southampton SO14 0JZ

Homemade Mang Chutney

Launch night: Friday 20th September 7pm until late
Continues: Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd September
The Alfred Arcade, Old Northam Road, Southampton SO14 0JZ

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