



Impact Report

RIPE at Old Northam Road 2024



Supported by public funding from
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**University of
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www.ripesouthampton.org.uk

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Audiences at Ripe Papayas #01 exhibition launch outside the Alfred Arcade. Photo: Luke Shears

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).

In 2024, the RIPE programme has continued to respond to the needs of graduate artists, as well as build its reputation further afield by inviting in new audiences to engage with fresh artists and ideas.

Across the summer, we once again hosted a series of multi-venue events at ONR, embedding RIPE Live as a significant part in the Southampton arts roster. 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.

In January 2024, The ZEST Arts Collective (ZEST) took a significant step towards securing their future growth when they were

awarded an ACE Project Grant - the landmark funding was aimed at supporting ZEST's projects over the following 18 months. ZEST now operate out of AS's old HQ in Tower House, providing them a new location for meeting spaces and studio provision.

Furthermore, they have widened their membership scope by allowing non-RIPE alumni to join, bringing the current total members to 22 artists. They also continue to work closely with AS and provide support to the RIPE programme by working behind the bar and leading Crit sessions with the new RIPE cohort, the Ripe Papayas. Alongside membership with ZEST.

RIPE continues to offer alumni an extended professional pathway with an offer of an exhibition at the Hidden Wardrobe (HW). In 2024, **9** RIPE alumni artists, including a newly established collective - Stick (with) It - exhibited in the windows of the HW and gave a talk about their work at public openings. The HW also developed its programming to include non-RIPE artists that are members of other AS projects: with two artists from As studio provision - The Arches - also showing work at the HW.

Season at a glance

RIPE Impact Report 2024



67

Artists have engaged with the RIPE programme across 2024



12

New graduates supported by RIPE programmes



12

Exhibitions held at RIPE venues on Old Northam Road



9

Launch events held at RIPE venues on Old Northam Road



21

Free studio spaces for artists



6.8k

Audiences Engaged via RIPE Instagram



446

Visitors attended RIPE events in 2024



£1,435

Generated as total income through bar sales at events



2024 graduates, the Ripe Papayas, outside the Alfred Arcade.

In 2024, AS worked with **67** artists through the RIPE programme:

12 new graduates, **24** members of the ZEST collective, **17** artists from previous RIPE seasons, **5** external artists, **1** photographer, **5** musicians and **3** DJs.

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

Exhibiting Artists for Pear Drops:

Ozzy Crawley, Jim Elston, Rosie James, Harrison Jones, Sofia Krook, Izzy Plant, Sophie Smith and Ren Wooldridge

Exhibiting artists for Ripe Papayas #01:

Holli Kalina, Yingying Zheng, Jessica Babbini-Baker, Paige Robinson, Lachlan Chester and Elwyn Coombes

Exhibiting artists for Ripe Papayas #02:

Laura Cordell, Esme Keenleyside, Ian Golding, Rhannon Richardson and Abigail Clancy

Hidden Wardrobe Artists:

Maria Valaitis, Stephanie Parker, Sharlott Wardner, Annabel Tennyson-Davies, Anjella Stevenson, Ben Topping, Stick (with) It, Mandy Smith & Jenny Andrews, Will S Woods & Barbara J Graham

A RIPE Artist's Journey

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Student graduates from
Southampton Solent University
or Winchester School of Art,
University of Southampton



Joins the year-long RIPE programme:
exhibitions, skill-sharing workshops,
crit sessions, free studio provision, and
close support and guidance from AS team

Joins RIPE alumni network: first-access
to artist development opportunities
via AS, peer network of artists,
ongoing support from AS team



Graduates from
RIPE programme



Offered a solo
exhibition at the
Hidden Wardrobe



Able to apply to join the
ZEST artist collective or
Join ZING artist network

Offered to join AS
subsidised studio
provision - The Arches



Fully-fledged RIPE Alumni



Audiences at RIPE LIVE: Pear Drops. Photo: 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 Hidden Wardrobe



The Alfred Arcade



The Alfred Arms

Bethany Ley performs outside the Alfred Arcade.
Photo: Georgia Penny



The Alfred Arcade



Audiences at RIPE LIVE: Pear Drops. Photo: Georgia Penny

Overview

The Alfred Arcade welcomed **12** new graduates (Papayas) and **8** 2023 graduates (Pears) in three exhibitions - Pear Drops, Ripe Papayas #01, Ripe Papayas #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 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.



We Can Go Anywhere From Here by Josef Minta on display at the back of the Alfred Arcade. Photo: 'a space' arts

We Can Go Anywhere From Here

Josef Minta

Launch Night: Friday 5th April

Open to the Public: 5th April 2024 - April 2026

In April, we revealed the latest Alfred Arcade Banner Commission 'We can go anywhere from here' designed by Josef Minta.

"I feel that this ties the idea of the expansive potential of travel, seeing new places, enjoying new experiences and the value of the journey as well as this destination that commuters would connect with while on the train, with the unlimited potential of creative practices which are core to the work of artists and the exhibition programme in The Alfred Arcade."

Josef's thought-provoking work is currently installed at the back of the Alfred Arcade overlooking the railway tracks and offers a message to locals, commuters and visitors to Southampton by inviting them to reflect on habits of the 'value of the journey' and a connection to unlimited creative practices.

at the Alfred Arcade



Ripe Pear artists exhibiting at Pear Drops. Photo: Georgia Penny

Pear Drops

Launch Night: Friday 21st June

Open to the Public: 21st June - 23rd June 2024

Pear Drops was a short-term residency project with aims to encourage artistic and professional development through a series of skill sharing activities.

For the third Pear project the Ripe Pears, who exhibited at the Alfred Arcade in summer 2023, 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 the participating artists with the opportunity to remain connected and optimistic in these challenging times.

Artists involved in Pear Drops:

Izzy Plant, Jim Elston, Ozzy Crawley, Rosie James, Sofia Krook, Sophie Smith, Harrison Jones and Ren Wooldridge

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Delve Into the Story Isabel 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 will then start the workshop with a prompt. It will be a singular sentence written on the wall of the exhibition space, setting the scene for the undetermined outcome. Thinking through making is the core of this activity, and will be made directly in the exhibition room. I will encourage people to use the sculpture and installation techniques to respond to this introductory prompt. The artists will then take it in turns to add on another sentence to the story. With each added sentence the artists, including me, will collaborate on adding these extra details to the installation. As this takes place the outcome may deviate from the original sentence. This way we can look at the metamorphosis of the work. It may be indecipherable when reading it as a paragraph at the end, but the process makes it poetry."



Delve Into the Story by Isabel Plant. Photo: Georgia Penny



Delve Into the Story by Isabel Plant. Photo: Georgia Penny

at the Alfred Arcade

How We See Each Other 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.

“For this challenge I wanted to explore how we see each other, and portraiture was a natural choice to explore this theme. For many photographers portraiture involves forming a relationship with the model and for others they form an instant impression. As a group we discussed how this might affect outcomes and how an existing friendship between some members of the group might mean that they would compose a portrait differently from someone working on a first impression. We used a simple two light set up with the initial idea that the images would be all in monochrome, but as the session evolved we decided to abandon the rigid parameters and do what felt right for each model.”



How We See Each Other by Jim Elston. Photo: Georgia Penny



How We See Each Other by Jim Elston. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Making Shapes Ozzy Crawley

Ozzy makes colourful prints, books and sculptures that combine abstract shapes with everyday objects such as chairs, ladders, forks and fruit. Their process often results in playful, humorous installations made with paper, ink and cardboard.

“As an introduction, I’ll encourage everyone to draw some shapes in whatever medium they’d like and put them all together to create a library of shapes to start working with. These shapes can then be used for the next two methods of making - paper cuts and pochoir printing. Paper cutting is simple, it’s cutting the shapes out of coloured/painted paper or card, as well as some magazines or newspapers, to introduce more colour and texture to the shapes. Pochoir printing involves cutting paper stencils and then stamping paint through them with sponges. It’s a quick and easy way to get a printmaking type of finish without needing any complicated equipment. Both of these methods encourage simplifying of shapes down to silhouettes.”



Making Shapes by Ozzy Crawley. Photo: Georgia Penny



Making Shapes by Ozzy Crawley. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

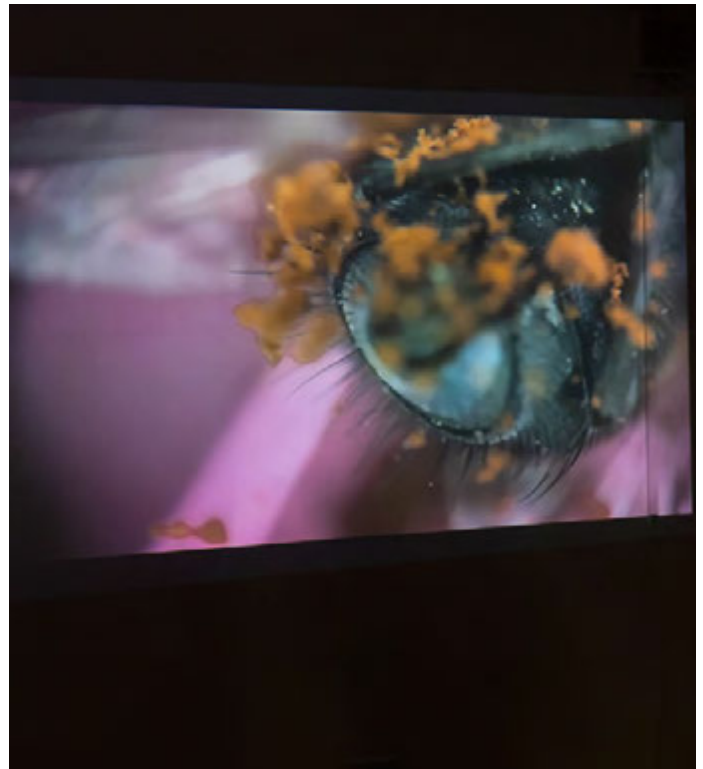
Why Does It Look So Hairy Rosie James

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 film making as a way to reveal her processes.

"My activity will consist of using a microscope to film objects/materials/the body, to produce a variety of film footage. This aims to produce art from a different visual perspective, that is not seen by the human eye, and to allow us to draw up comparisons between objects/materials and the body at a different scale. This also includes curating micro-scenes by composing objects and materials together that may alter the way in which we see the objects themselves."



Why Does It Look So Hairy by Rosie James. Photo: Georgia Penny



Why Does It Look So Hairy by Rosie James. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

Fika Sofi Krook

Sofia makes paintings 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.

"My original plan was to use prompts and questions, to use them as icebreakers to build something up just as in group exercises in cooperation games, but as time moved forward and my fellow Pears started to do their workshops I realized that this was something that would be too much and time consuming for a small workshop. Instead I settled on something simpler that in the end felt right. We haven't had much time together just being without having any meeting or any other forms of commitments, so instead I decided to invite everyone to just come over to the Arcade to hangout, drink some coffee, and draw and paint on the couch, to create a relaxed atmosphere where we could get to know each other a little bit more. The resulting collaborative artwork is called Fika, a Swedish word which roughly translates to 'having a coffee with a friend'."



Fika by Sofi Krook. Photo credit: Georgia Penny.



Fika by Sofi Krook. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Verb Blanket 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.

"I will make a textile artwork (a blanket) and one by one we will post it to each other along with a handwritten letter. The letters will communicate how we felt during the making process and why we each chose to do what we did to the blanket, until everybody has had their turn. Each person can do as much or as little as they wish with the blanket, whether it be auto-destructive or auto-creative is up to them. While making the blanket I took inspiration from Richard Serra and his "action verb list" and sewed in some verbs as prompts for inspiration should any of the artists like to use them."



Verb Blanket by Sophie Smith. Photo: Georgia Penny



Verb Blanket by Sophie Smith. Photo: Georgia Penny





at the Alfred Arcade



The exhibiting artists for Ripe Papayas #01. Photo: Luke Shears

Ripe Papayas #01

Launch Night: Friday 9th August

Open to the Public: 9th August - 11th August 2024

Ripe Papayas #01 was the first in a two-part exhibition of outstanding work by a group of 2024 graduates from Solent University and Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton.

The project provided an opportunity for a group of emerging artists to exhibit a recent body of work in a new space, the Alfred Arcade. The artists would meet, exhibit and engage in critical debate; forming networks and friendships to help them sustain a fruitful visual arts practice.

Artists involved in Ripe Papayas #01

Lachlan Chester, Jessica Babbini-Baker, Holli Kalina, Yingying Zheng, Elwyn Coombes and Paige Robinson

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

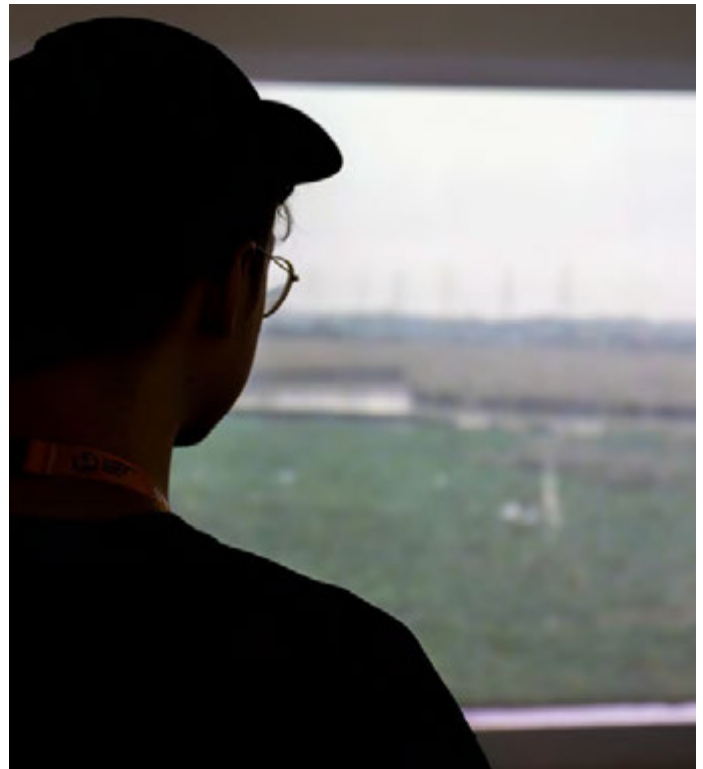
Lachlan Chester

Lachlan is a photographer and filmmaker. Using his studies in history, psychology and sociology as a foundation, his practice explores the world around him. Lachlan's work attempts to capture an essence of 'timelessness': they speak of time and place but hold a sense of ambiguity and the known/unknown. This exploration of timelessness is further heightened by his exclusive use of analogue processes.

"I use my own consciousness to consider the psychological experience of being in a certain time and place. Although all my projects have different subjects and methods, these are the common threads that hold them together."



Ripe Papaya Lachlan Chester. Photo: Luke Shears



Ripe Papaya Lachlan Chester. Photo: Luke Shears

Jessica Babbini-Baker

Jessica is interested in the deep-sea and eco-feminism. Using traditional women's craft practices, she makes large, imposing textile works that depict the geology of the coast and the ocean, using data gathered by scientists at the National Oceanography Centre.

“Through ongoing experimentation, the fibre arts have taken on a variation of forms but still all revolve around highlighting overlooked women's skills and to highlight the history of the materials used. Not only does this provide a way of making work depicting the geology of the coast and sea, it also reminds us of issues with the climate and the patriarchy.”



Ripe Papaya Jessica Babbini-Baker. Photo: Luke Shears



Jessica Babbini-Baker. Photo: Luke Shears

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Holli Kalina

Holli is an artist/photographer based on the Isle of Wight, whose work explores people and land through the lens of her camera. By using large format analogue and contemporary digital media, her work embraces a dialogue with photographic history, while attempting to document and offer commentary on contemporary society.

“What began as an academic study of the Isle of Wight landscape developed into something more introspective as I allowed reminiscence to inform what felt important to me. As I walked the ancient footpaths crisscrossing the island, I pondered the nature of the photograph as both tangible objet d’art, and catalyst for remembrance and reminiscence. The resulting photographs, printed in my journal, and on silver gelatin paper for the gallery wall, serve to remind us that the history of the land and the history of the individual are eternally intertwined.”



Ripe Papaya Holli Kalina. Photo: Luke Shears



Ripe Papaya Holli Kalina. Photo: Luke Shears

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Yingying Zheng

Yingying's painting practice explores the geometric composition of familiar spaces in unfamiliar ways. Using oil paint and pallet knives, she creates textured, ambiguous landscapes and interior spaces that challenge the viewer to reconsider their own environment and surroundings.

"I strive to highlight the significance of familiar objects and spaces that are frequently disregarded. By re-configuring space through geometric thinking, I challenge people to perceive the world both macroscopically and microscopically."



Ripe Papaya Yingying Zheng. Photo: Luke Shears



Ripe Papaya Yingying Zheng. Photo: Luke Shears

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Elwyn Coombes

Elwyn is primarily a printmaker. Their work examines the complexities of queer identity, sexuality and censorship of the human body. Informed by their lived experience and visits to Berlin, James' prints depict explicit, homo-erotic images of gay people and the spaces they occupy.

"My interest in printmaking, specifically silk screen printing and linocut, allows me to fully actualise my artworks using a variety of traditional mediums. I also utilise digital design software which allows me to explore the relationship between traditional and modern printmaking techniques."



Ripe Papaya Elwyn Coombes. Photo: Luke Shears



Ripe Papaya Elwyn Coombes. Photo: Luke Shears

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

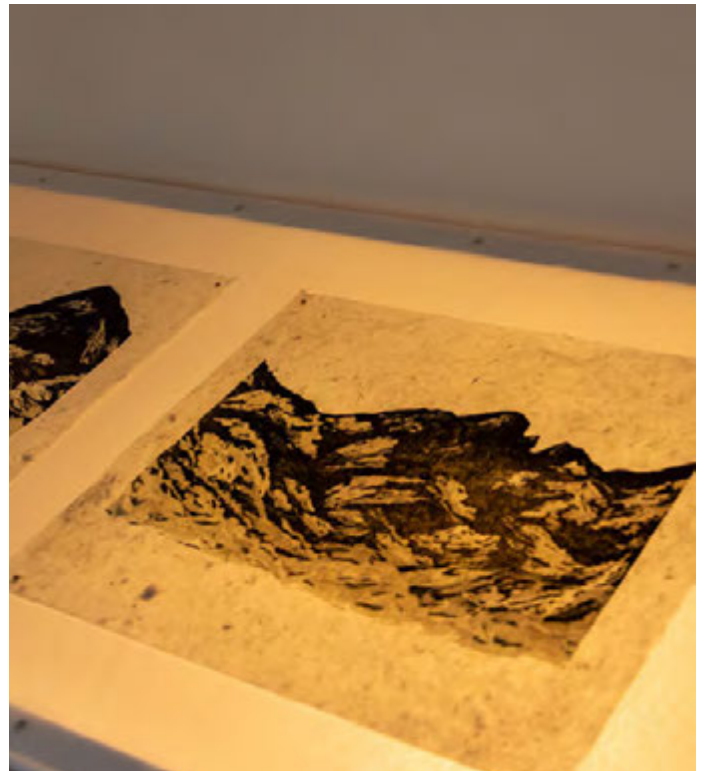
Paige Robinson

Paige's practice explores the conceptualisation of the rural environment through printmaking. She is interested in how humans interact with the natural world and how these interactions inform our perceptions and visions of nature.

"The context of my work represents my own experiences in life and my relationship with nature, using a wide variety of mark making, colour and textures with organic forms being the focus. The purpose is to represent the sense of sublime that is felt when immersed in the landscape."



Ripe Papaya Paige Robinson. Photo: Luke Shears



Ripe Papaya Paige Robinson. Photo: Luke Shears



at the Alfred Arcade



The exhibiting artists for Ripe Papayas #02. Photo: Georgia Penny

Ripe Papayas #02

Launch Night: Friday 20th September
Open to the Public: 20th September - 22nd September 2024

Ripe Papayas #02 was the second instalment of a two-part exhibition of outstanding work by a group of 2024 graduates from Solent University and Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton.

The project provided an opportunity for a group of emerging artists to exhibit a recent body of work in a new space, the Alfred Arcade. The artists would meet, exhibit and engage in critical debate; forming networks and friendships to help them sustain a fruitful visual arts practice.

Artists involved in Ripe Papayas #02

Laura Cordell, Abigail Clancy, Esme Keenleyside, Ian Golding, Rhiannon Richardson and Tallulah Callan

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

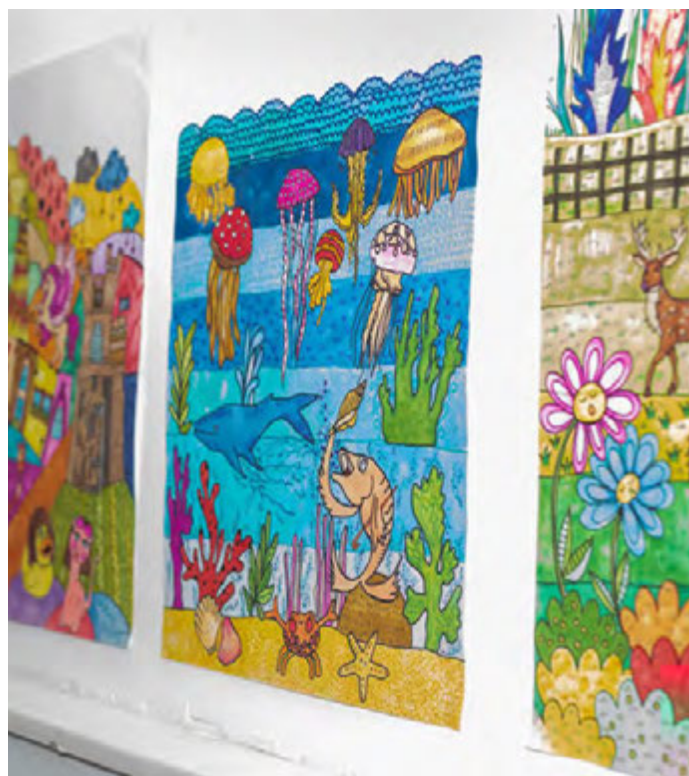
Laura Cordell

Laura explores themes of innocence, fantasy and folklore through her practice. She works with a number of different mediums, including acrylics, charcoal, ink, pencils and felt-tip pens, creating characters and building worlds. Her drawings and prints are dream-like, naive and whimsical.

“My creative process is deeply influenced by my travels, cherished memories, and everyday experiences. I enjoy infusing my work with elements that inspire and captivate me, resulting in vibrant and dynamic artwork. Printmaking is a source of immense joy for me, allowing for a unique and original creative process.”



Ripe Papaya Laura Cordell. Photo: Georgia Penny



Ripe Papaya Laura Cordell. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

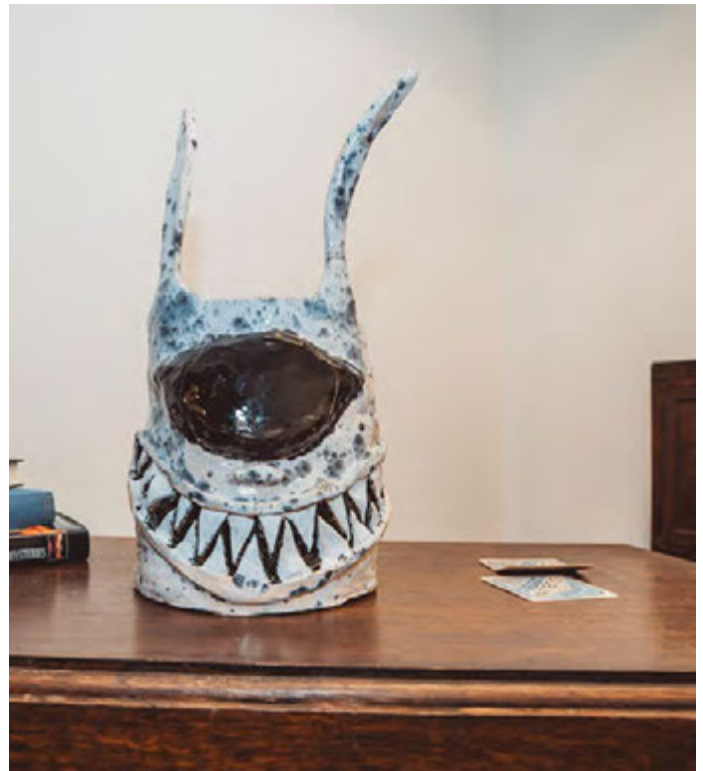
Abigail Clancy

Abigail is an illustrator and a ceramicist. She uses the coiling method to make monstrous pots, exploring the interplay between form and function. The resulting works are both useful, common domestic objects and works of art.

“Before this module I hadn’t really worked with clay, so the entire experience overall was a bit overwhelming at times, but very enjoyable. So much so that it has inspired me to want to go on and do a ceramics course in the near future.”



Ripe Papaya Abigail Clancy. Photo: Georgia Penny



Ripe Papaya Abigail Clancy. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

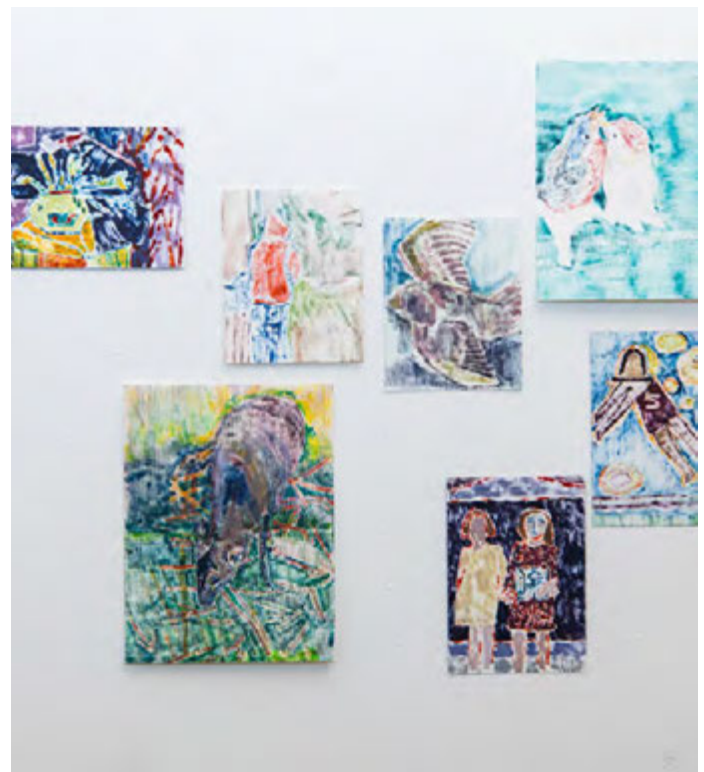
Esme Keenleyside

Through specific methodologies used in her practice, Esme seeks to convey the importance of process in painting. Her work is also guided by thematic interests: her most recent body of work analyses the relationship between humans and teddies as vessels for memories.

"I move through ideas like projects, and so it is through the way in which I explore painting itself that ties my work together. I enjoy, through layering paint, the reference to memory and the passing of time, as well as the idea of painting over history, twisting and changing memory, and rewriting stories."



Ripe Papaya Esme Keenleyside. Photo: Georgia Penny



Ripe Papaya Esme Keenleyside. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

Ian Golding

Ian's practice is guided by a framework, written himself, which he revisits and updates continually.

1. I want to avoid defining the creative outcomes that I make.
2. I want to be able to use anything in my work, not just physical material.
3. Work is integral to being human, it makes sense to think of art emerging from work.
4. My hands are part of the process of making, but other hands can participate in this.
5. I am not interested in creating the novel for the sake of it, I would rather synthesise that which I know or can know.
6. All my work is in some way political, but it need not be complex.
7. I don't want to be obsessed by any one thing, but I do want to be interested in many things.
8. Failure is a feature of being human, I always want my work to relate to being human.
9. I want to make things that somehow alter the world, my work then is evidence of my intervention.
10. I am not interested in representing truth, but I am interested in examining truths.
11. All my work is built upon a small part of the stuff we know, it is therefore anthropological in nature.
12. I like challenge and want my outcomes to challenge others.
13. Fixed beliefs in anything prevents progress.
14. Imagination is what gives all human the potential to create a better world.



Ripe Papaya Ian Golding. Photo: Georgia Penny



Ripe Papaya Ian Golding. Photo: Georgia Penny

Exhibitions

at the Alfred Arcade

RIPE Impact Report 2024

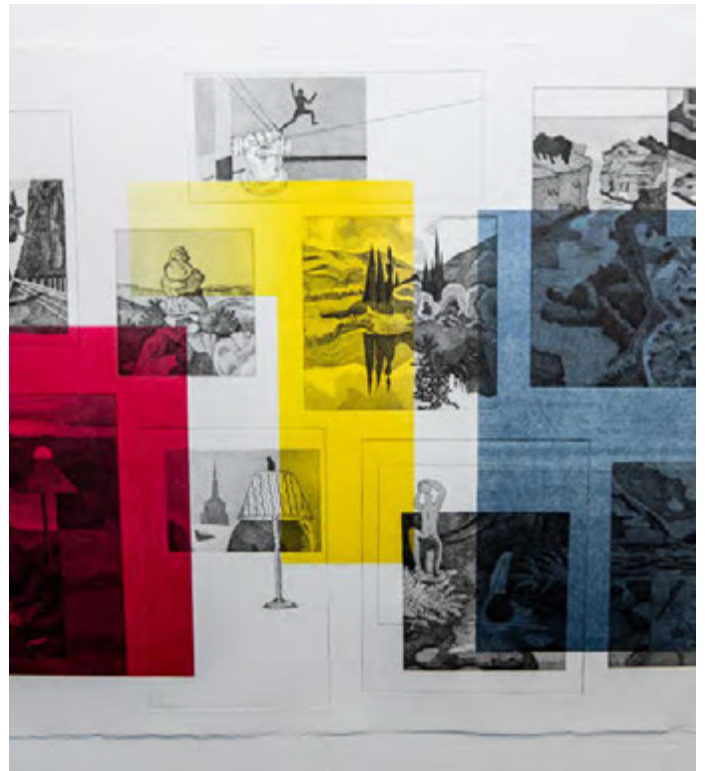
Rhiannon Richardson

Rhiannon is a printmaker and collage artist. She intertwines the processes of printmaking and collage, abstracting both meaning and making, creating new narratives and, ultimately, exploring the relationship between the two.

“My most recent series of works shows black and white images from a model railway book layered over scenic landscape images. This juxtaposition between reality and a model in the choice of imagery creates many layers of contrasts within the singular print.”



Ripe Papaya Rhiannon Richardson. Photo: Georgia Penny



Ripe Papaya Rhiannon Richardson. Photo: Georgia Penny





Ripe

The Golden Wardrobe

...being used by a group of graduate artists and
...partnership with Winchester School of Art, U
...University, Ripe is an ambitious programme
...venues at the Alfred Arcade, the Hidden
...ons on Old Northern Road.

...ate artists in the city
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The Hidden Wardrobe



Artist Collective Stick (with) It talk outside the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: Georgia Penny.

Overview

Throughout 2024, a varied programme of **9** 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, **6** RIPE artists had solo shows at the Hidden Wardrobe, **2** RIPE artists collaborated on a show and **1** RIPE artist had a show as part of a new artist collective - Stick (with) It.

For the first time we opened up the Hidden Wardrobe opportunity to other artists that are engaged with 'a space's wider artist support offer. **2** artists that have studios at 'a space's studio provision - The Arches- closed of the year with their first ever collaborative show.

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.



The Air Smelt Salty by Maria Valaitis on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: 'a space' arts

The Air Smelt Salty

Maria Valaitis

12th January – 18th February 2024

The Air Smelt Salty explored Maria's Lithuanian heritage. The multimedia installation addresses the historical and biographical narrative of her great grandparents' migration experience from Lithuania to Scotland in the early 1900's.

Anchoring the images are the voices of two Lithuanian actors playing the role of her great grandparents and how she imagined them to be, they speak about their experience to the listener whilst also conversing with each other.

During the 1900s large portions of the Lithuanian population migrated from the country as increasing levels of poverty were worsened by a typhus epidemic and the threat of war looming on the horizon.

For her grandparents, these increasing levels of instability and the threat of Russian rule was enough to make them take the leap of faith towards Scotland.



Anxiety is all that she felt by Stephanie Parker on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: 'a space' arts

Anxiety is all that she felt

Stephanie Parker

23rd February - 31st March 2024

Anxiety is all that she felt delves into the world of anxiety with a series of felted animal scenes, each one telling a story about the battles with and the overcoming of anxiety, worrying, and over-thinking.

Inspired by my love for animals, this installation uses whimsical art to portray the multifaceted nature of these emotional challenges. The scenes not only reflect the struggles but also the triumphs in dealing with anxiety.



Desolate Disney Dreams by Sharlott Wardner on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: 'a space' arts

Desolate Disney Dreams

Sharlott Wardner

5th April - 12th May 2024

Sharlott used the name and the history of the exhibition space – The Hidden Wardrobe – to inspire the creation of an unconventional garment made out of photographs.

The work centres around her relation with nostalgia, memories and grief. The images are from trips to Disney Land Paris with former “life long” friends.

Sharlott and her friends loved the nostalgic childlike atmosphere and also enjoyed cosplaying their favourite characters.

Therefore, it seemed fitting to create a final solo garment as a memorial of the friendships she has grieved for, accompanied by a wardrobe installation of her previous cosplay outfits to bring the narrative to life.

at the Hidden Wardrobe



[eco]SYSTEM by Anjella Stevenson on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: 'a space' arts

[eco]SYSTEM

Anjella Stevenson

17th May - 16th June 2024

In this composition of cables and photos, Anjella hoped to illuminate the dichotomy between nature and technology: it seems that they compete for humanity's attention, prompting a reflection on the delicate balance between progress and preservation.

Trees are often a symbol of nature, but in this case, its branches and leaves have been replaced by the cables and screens that have taken over our lives.

As the modern world evolves, such technology often overshadows the earth's natural beauty, or even, stand in its place.

It is important to recognise how innovation, while important, can distract us from protecting our natural environment and understand what it might mean for the next generation.

at the Hidden Wardrobe



The Remnants of Early Modern Humans by Ben Topping on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: Georgia Penny

The Remnants of Early Modern Humans

Ben Topping

21st June - 4th August 2024

Remnants of the past manifest in scattered boulders, skeletal stonework, and abandoned monoliths stubbornly passing through time, wearing their history across ruined surfaces.

Each element of Ben's artworks responds to the nature of ruination. He interprets and manipulate weathered stone buildings, emulating sporadic erosion through his creative interventions, to visually capture a moment in time that can speak to both a rich history of civilisation and spark imagination into the deep future.

In this exhibition, he subjected his drawings and photographs of castle ruins located in Corfe to experimental practices in printmaking and sculpture, exploring the potentials of combining traditional methods and techniques, like etching, aquatint, and bronze casting, alongside contemporary materials and processes that include photogrammetry and 3D print.

at the Hidden Wardrobe



The Whirling World by Annabel Tennyson-Davies on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: Luke Shears

The Whirling World

Annabel Tennyson-Davies

9th August - 13th September 2024

Our planet whirls and while it revolves we strive to remain balanced. The Whirling World highlighted the hidden role of our inner ears and their effects on attaining physical balance in our everyday lives.

It is the result of her investigations into physical stability and the mechanisms which negate it; issues presented by her continuing vertigo. In this exhibition, she took a humorous examination of mechanisms involved, offering sculptural solutions to maintain equilibrium when things go wrong.

at the Hidden Wardrobe



Building a Home by Stick (with) It artist talk outside the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: Georgina Penny.

Building a Home

Stick (with) It

20th September - 27th October 2024

Stick (with) It is an artist collective of former fine art students continuing their practice after their studies. Building a Home was an absurdist exploration into coming of age and nostalgia.

at the Hidden Wardrobe



Reflections in Shadows by Mandy Smith and Jenny Andrews on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: 'a space' arts

Reflections in Shadows Mandy Smith & Jenny Andrews 1st November - 8th December 2024

Reflections in Shadows is the result of a collaboration between two RIPE alumni: Mandy Smith and Jenny Andrews.

Over the past year, the two artists have undergone a process of learning new skills while also exploring the commonalities in their practices.

This has resulted in a joint interest in space and, specifically, their relation to it as older women. The exhibition was a testing performance space for their new experimental works.

Through the use of both traditional and experimental glass making techniques, they created two distinct installations that playfully investigate light and space: one that interacts with the constant shifting of natural sunlight; while the other comes alive after the sun sets, though the use of carefully placed lights.

at the Hidden Wardrobe



Air of Different Temperatures by Barbara J Graham and Will S Woods on display in the windows of the Hidden Wardrobe. Photo: 'a space' arts

Air of Different Temperatures

Barbara J Graham & Will S Woods

20th September - 27th October 2024

Air of Different Temperatures re-animated the atmosphere in forgotten corners and considers The Hidden Wardrobe's current contents not as hidden but as hiding.

Objects obscured in storage are cast as performers through shadow play in a translucent, hanging, collage.

Sections of painting waft in a breeze, revealing and concealing the space.

After dark, oscillating lights cast shadows and scatter through the air, rebounding off the surfaces, through the glass at the front of the shop, and onto the street.



THE HIDDEN WARDROBE



DJ set at RIPE LIVE: RIPE Papayas #01. Photo: Luke Shears



The Alfred Arms



Wynona performs outside the Alfred Arcade for RIPE LIVE: Ripe Papayas #02. Photo: Georgia Penny.

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.

This year we collaborated with a local CIC and music collective - Address - to curate the line-up of DJs for the evening at each RIPE Live event. For the first time, we staged a live music set outside, which was a resounding success - it allowed us to make the music more accessible and engaging, as well as work with **5** new musicians, who brought their own supporters to the event too.

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 **£1434.70**.

This income was split 50/50 with ZEST, who worked behind the bar at all four RIPE LIVE events.

Professional Development Opportunities

One-to-one 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.

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.

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.

'Crit' Sessions

To help artists think critically about their work and others, as well as provide a moment for gathering and discussion, we held 'crit' sessions on the morning of each launch event. The sessions were led by a ZEST member and we extended the invite to all ZEST members and RIPE alumni. In these sessions we viewed the artwork on display and discussed it in-depth as a group with the artist present:

creating new connections about the artwork and suggesting further routes of development for future work.

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 Makers 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 2024.

Website Profiles

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



“The freedom was what made it great I think. It was hard navigating organisation, but as a result I became friends with more of the other pears!”

(on Pear Drops)

“Clear communication and support on any issues I had.”

(on Pear Drops)

“Very good, fun and new for me.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)

“It offered a great opportunity to exhibit my work to a different audience.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)

“I had a good time, it was a great opportunity.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)

“It was helpful to have different voices speaking into my work.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)



Audiences inside the Alfred Arcade for RIPE LIVE: Ripe Papayas #01. Photo: Luke Shears.



Public inside the Alfred Arcade RIPE LIVE: Pear Drops Photo: Georgia Penny.

“I hoped to show my work in a different way and reach a new audience and I believe with the exhibition I achieved this.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)

“The exhibitions have brought a lot of people together, we had fun time, I think how people meet and see our works and talk about them are the main goals at the current stage of been an artist.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)

“Overall it was a positive experience, the team have been great and opening event was great!”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)

“I felt really supported. The exhibition was really clear and planned out.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)

“I enjoyed meeting other creatives and experiencing their work.”

(on Ripe Papayas #01/#02)



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

Been awarded a partnership with the Oetker Collection as part of The Lanesborough Art Programme.

Had work commissioned for the The Lanesborough Hotel/Oetker Collection in London

Been accepted at the Royal College of Art (RCA) to further their studies

Won the COLAB / Royal College of Art / Yorkshire Sculpture Park 2023 Award



Ginkgos perform at the Alfred Arcade. Photo: 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

Visitor Numbers

RIPE Impact Report 2024

20

by Maria Valaitis Hidden Wardrobe Launch

25

by Stephanie Parker Hidden Wardrobe Launch

68

by Sharlott Wardner Hidden Wardrobe Launch/ YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE FROM HERE by Josef Minta Banner Commission Launch

38

by Anjella Stevenson Hidden Wardrobe Launch

81

RIPE LIVE: Pear Drops / by Ben Topping Hidden Wardrobe Launch

77

RIPE LIVE: Ripe Papayas #01 / by Annabel Tennyson-Davies Hidden Wardrobe Launch

73

RIPE LIVE: Ripe Papayas #02 / by Stick (with) It Hidden Wardrobe Launch

20

by Mandy Smith and Jenny Andrews Hidden Wardrobe Launch

44

by Will S Woods and Barbara J Graham Hidden Wardrobe Launch

446

in total

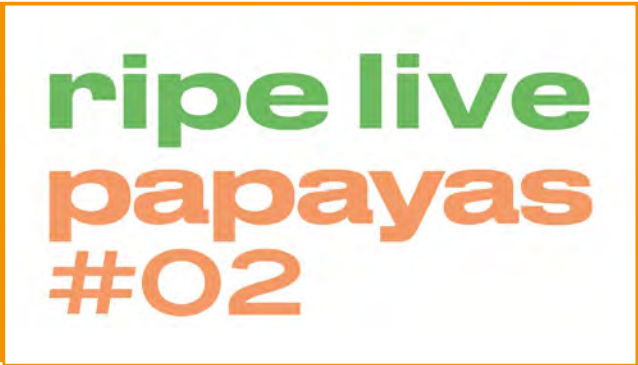
YouTube
'a space' arts

12 458

Total RIPE videos Total views

Data collected from YouTube Analytics
(January - December 2024)

Most popular video



103 3.4k

Views Impressions

Data collected from YouTube Analytics
(January - December 2024)

Ripe Papayas #02 Exhibition Video Guide
A Ripe Event

Instagram
@ripe_southampton

465 11.2%

Total Posts Engagement Rate

Most popular post



187

Likes

Data collected from Hootsuite Analytics
(January - December 2024)

"Looks fascinating and so nice to see everyone"
(on 'The Air Smelt Salty' by Maria Valaitis)

"It was encouraging to see so many guests, thanks all for coming!"
(on 'The Air Smelt Salty' by Maria Valaitis)

"Looks amazing!"
(on 'Anxiety is all that she felt' by Stephanie Parker)

"Really enjoyed you sharing your experience, processes and insight into the work Steph"
(on 'Anxiety is all that she felt' by Stephanie Parker)

"Really made up with this guys-hope this will spread the positivity and maybe open up a few eyes and minds to the expansive potential of creativity!"
(on 'YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE FROM HERE' by Josef Minta)

"My favourite part of the southwest network. So many stories."
(on 'YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE FROM HERE' by Josef Minta)

"A devastating visual manifesto on the force of sisterhood. I loved this show."
(on 'Desolate Disney Dreams' by Sharlott Wardner)

"SO EXCITED"
(on [eco]SYSTEM launch announcement)

"Really enjoyed you sharing your experience, processes and insight into the work Steph"
(on 'Anxiety is all that she felt' by Stephanie Parker)

"Beautiful! They exude that endorphin kick you get being surrounded by nature!"
(on '[eco]SYSTEM' by Anjella Stevenson)

"Wonderful coinciding with the footfall of the football match. Passers-by get a chance to be made aware of these events and the artists. In any case the movement continues to grow. Great work!"
(on '[eco]SYSTEM' by Anjella Stevenson)



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

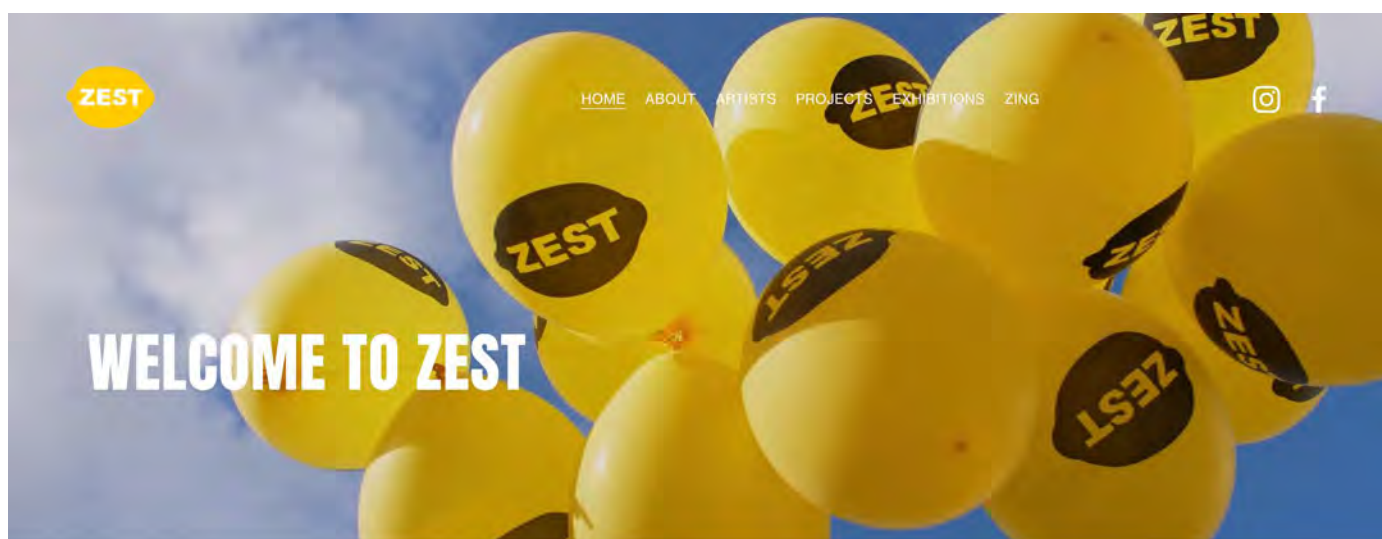
Overview

The ZEST Collective continued to grow in 2024. They now operate out of AS's old HQ in Tower House, providing them a new location for meeting spaces and studio provision. In February, they were awarded an ACE Project Grant for the first time, which provides them funding for the next 18 months, as well as allowing them to widen their support of their artist networks. There are now 22 ZEST members, and the collective hosted two exhibitions throughout the year. Alongside this, they took part in the Hampshire Open Studios for the second time, in which they exhibited and sold work at Tower House. 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.

Exhibitions

The first of ZEST's two exhibitions was Brief Attempt. For another first ever, AS were able to offer the main exhibition gallery in our flagship venue - GHT - to the collective, for a short period. The exhibition occurred over 48 hours and the artists responded to the idea of time and value placed on artists and their work.

Following that was Light Work, this time hosted at Tower House, it featured 7 new members to the collective and reflected a convergence of the artists' dynamic ongoing practices. 'Light' itself became both a concept and a playful element to the show, inviting the viewer to contemplate, question, and participate in the unfolding process of art-making.



WE'RE A SOUTHAMPTON-BASED ART COLLECTIVE DEDICATED TO CREATING SOCIALLY-ENGAGED ART.

We are ZEST, an art collective of Southampton-based art Tower House, Winkle Street, we represent new talent and of artistic practices.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

www.zestcollective.org.uk. Photo: ZEST Collective.

Current Members

Jenny Andrews
Kane Applegate
Poppy Ash
Megan Du
Ellen Gillett
James Hewins
Maryam Zahra Kazimi
Bryn Lloyd
Kristina Marosiova
Anna Marris
Jennifer Mon
Stephanie Parker
Robin Price
J Pyrite
Rabia Raja
Sophie Rawlingson
Lucie Smith
Tom Stewart
Alex Sutherland
Rae Turpin
Shallot Wardner
Net Warner

Of the current **22** members of the ZEST collective, there are:

- 4** Bananas (the first cohort of RIPE artists, who graduated in 2017 and 2018)
- 2** Mangoes (the second cohort, 2019)
- 3** Tomatoes (the third cohort, 2020),
- 3** Peaches (the fourth cohort, 2021),
- 1** Plum (the fifth cohort, 2022),
- 8** non-RIPE alumni.

ZING

ZEST Inclusive Group



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

Overview

ZING's momentum really picked up in 2024 - the ACE Project Grant allowed ZEST to employ a ZEST member in a part-time admin role to help support and grow the network - and its membership now stands at **64** local artists.

They continue to host monthly skill-sharing workshops, go on group trips and do regular life drawing classes.

Exhibitions

They were also part of Hampshire Open Studios, alongside ZEST, and put on another excellent exhibition in two shipping containers in Guildhall Square called 'Material Remains'.



Public outside the Alfred Arcade RIPE LIVE: Ripe Papayas #01. Photo: Luke Shears.



BANANA SMOOTHIE EXHIBITION

A wonderfully rich and smooth, creamy recipe to encourage artistic and professional development through skills sharing workshops and opportunities. Be sure to use really ripe mangoes.

LAUNCH NIGHT FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 4PM UNTIL LATE
Open to the public 7pm - 10pm on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September

BANANA SPLIT

Ripe Bananas
at the Market Arcade Southampton

Ripe
Old Northam Road

RIPE PEACHES #01

TOMATO CATCH-UP

Homemade Mang Chutney is a virtual exhibition of new work by RIPE artists past and present.

Go to spacearts.org.uk/events just before to join the live launch party
@space_arts_southampton @spaceartsouthampton
www.spacearts.org.uk

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Southampton**



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