

hARTslane



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Review of the year

Looking back over 2019, we couldn't be more proud. The successful delivery of two art projects in our community gave us the opportunity to both create a strong legacy and grow our local network. 'Stitching Time' brought joy and new meaningful connections between school children and the elderly in Lewishm. For us the project was a tribute to the power of creative making as an act of kindness. Similarly, 'The 100 Wishes of Hatcham' represented a new wonderful opportunity for our organisation to pilot a project, where the people living in the neighbourhood came together to create and express their voice. We are very grateful to both the Big Lottery Fund and the Mayor of London Culture Seeds Programme for their support. The news that 'The 100 Wishes' project was shortlisted for a Mayor of London Award filled us with joy and gave us the confidence to submit the '100 Wishes' project model for new opportunities. We are honoured to have been selected for the "People First in Architecture" Exhibition in Sicily organised by AIAC - Associazione Italiana Architettura e Critica!

2019 also saw the start of an important journey for hARTslane. On the back of the success of our 'Bags of Love' project (2018), we were approached by the Dutch organisation De Rode Loper to start a collaboration aimed at inspiring and leading children both in London and in Amsterdam to produce art works that will be presented at the first Kinder Biennale in Amsterdam in 2020. We can't wait to continue this exciting work.



Finally, there are a number of steps we have taken in order to secure a tenancy of the building from Lewisham Council. After 8 years of many attempts, some progress and set backs, we have never felt so close to obtaining a long term lease which will allow us to raise the funds necessary to build a new roof and do the necessary refurbishments at hARTslane that will allow us to continue the work we do there.

At the moment of writing this report, we are living the surreal experience of the lock down caused by the global spread of Covid-19. These are uncertain times but we can't help be resilient and optimistic that this crisis will also bring opportunities to reflect, adapt, change and fight back.

Cristiana, Sigrun and Tisna

At a glance

“There is a very definite need for affordable experimental art spaces such as hARTslane. Such places serve a vital need for young and developing artists, enabling them to try out and develop new work and conduct various forms of research in a supportive and flexible environment with as little distraction and financial stress as possible in an otherwise overpriced city.”
Steven Scott, artist



Some of our achievements

- We conceived and produced 2 new amazing community art projects; 'The 100 Wishes' supported by The Mayor of London and 'Stitching Time' supported by The Big Lottery Fund, which saw the participation of over 200 children and adults.
- We delivered 2 theme based six-monthly exhibition programmes addressing social issues, and our first Charity Event: 50 Years 50 States 50 Pounds by Paul Tecklenberg for St Mungos Charity for the Homeless..
- In January we hosted the ORISUN / Spring theatre festival by Orisun production. The start of a long-term collaboration to bring voices from the African diaspora to hARTslane.
- March saw us delivering an exciting series of creative workshop at the Hermitage Primary School (Tower Hamlet). The first leg of a 2 year partnership with Dutch organisation De Rode Loper and the 2020 Amsterdam Kinder Biennale.
- In April hARTslane converted into a C.I.C. - Community Interest Company.
- In October, hARTslane was part of DeptfordX and Art Licks Weekend with the exhibition "Murmuratum" by Drawing Connections
- This year also saw the beginning of our apprenticeship programme. We were honoured to collaborate with Mathilda Green who took on updating our Instagram.
- And our Instagram account went from 86 to 916 followers in just a few months!
- Finally, we continued with the essential maintenance work at hARTslane and in October we carried out a complete refurbishment of the electrical system.



Detail from "Orisun-Spring"
performance, April 2019

Stitching Time



Pupils from Hatcham Temple Grove Primary School visiting the Manley Court Care Home

A creative intergenerational project bringing together 2 diverse groups of our community: urban primary & secondary school children and residents of care homes specialising in Alzheimer's care.

By exploring aging caring and memory, creating connections and a sense of purpose, 60 children have crafted personalised memory cushions that bring joy and comfort to the elderly.

PARTNERS:

Hatcham Temple Grove Primary School &
Manley Court Care Home
Sandhurst Primary School & Beechcroft Care
Centre
Brent Knoll Special School & Pear Tree Care
Home.



100 Wishes of Hatcham



“The 100 Wishes of Hatcham” workshops. Photo by Ka Christodoulou Lee

Between May and July 2019, 100 residents of Hatcham, New Cross Gate, have participated in Delft Blue ceramic decorating workshops to visualise their wish and words of wisdom. Participants have mixed onglaze enamels, transferred imaginary, painted and fired 100 tiles.

The 2 by 2 metre ceramic tile installation will send daily positive messages of hope and joy into the world for generations to come.

PARTNERS:

All Saints Community Centre,
The Ageing Well Fun Club of New Cross,
32nd Deptford Scouts,
Somerville Adventure Playground
and The Five Bells Pub.



EAST OOST OST Mail Art!



Mail Art Workshop at the Hermitage Primary School

An International Art Exchange project in the field of art education for children from neighbourhoods from three European Capitals: East London, Amsterdam Oost and Ost Berlin.

25 pupils from the Hermitage Primary School, Tower Hamlet, London. received Mail Art from Barbara School and Nelson Mandela School in Amsterdam and were invited to respond and make their very own Mail Art to send back. They learnt about the history of Mail and Mail Art, about life in Holland, some Dutch words and replied to their art pen-pals sharing common ground: school and family life in the urban city.

The creative programme of “share, connect and exchange” will last for 2 years and will culminate in the Amsterdam Kinder Biennale 2020. Initiated by De Rode Loper op School - Art Education Amsterdam (NL).

“In current political challenging times, it is refreshing, humbling and hopeful to spread a message of collaboration and exchange across borders celebrating unity and diversity through creative expression by our next generation.”

Headteacher at the Hermitage School

ROOM 6.4 / Artists and Mental Health (September 2018 – February 2019)

Examining mental health through the experience of artists and their work, to raise awareness and to advocate for the arts as a tool to wellbeing.



Continues from 2018:

18-21 January 2019 "Love on the Isle of Dogs and other Intimate Stories", Exhibition

28 February 2019 "Rubble", site specific installation, Camberwell College of Arts (picture)

ROOM 6.5 / Unseen and Unspoken (June - November 2019)

Giving visibility to the under-represented and unheard voices in our society. Untold stories and unexplored realities to reveal and share.

24-30 June 2019, "All the things I cannot say"
Exhibition by Erika Trotzig, Jenny Klein and Alex Dixon.

22-28 July 2019, "RIOT SOUP", Residency & Exhibition @riotsoup

11 September 2019, SHADO presents "GLOBAL" I am a Woman, a photography exhibition and live music event to celebrate the work of 20 photographers from around the world. (photo)

16-22 September 2019, "The Peculiar Space Between Things",
Exhibition by Sinéid Codd Sharon Haward



Sali Mudawi @ "GLOBAL"

25-29 September 2019, "A Visual Symphony", Exhibition by Livia Garcia and Martin Harris

30 September - 6 October 2019, "Wasteland 2.0", site-specific installation by Ka Ian Hoi, Rita Castanheira, Pui Pui Ip, Lelia Byron, Xiao Jing Li, and Yao Yao Yu.

17 October - 3 November 2019, "Murmuratum" by Drawing Connections. Part of DeptfordX and Art Licks Week end.

6-9 December 2019, "Through the Unknown, we'll find the New", group exhibition curated by Nikos Akritidis. With: Jun Ainouta, Victor Dantician, Giorgia Galantino & Frankie Parham, Margaret Jennings, Lucas Lauridsen, Maria Lissoni, Alejandra Lopez, Aron Mathe, Daniel Törnell, Nathan Troussard, Ucherchie, Marina Vallejo



Inauguration of 'The 100 Wishes of Hatcham' community art wall. Photo @ Clive Burton

"I took part in the 100 Wishes project with my 12 year old son. We joined other local residents at the Five Bells Pub, to create tiles of our wishes for the local area.

There was a wonderful sense of excitement amongst those joining at creating pieces for the community through the work. Everyone's pieces were celebrated by Tisna and Cristiana as they developed them, and I watched even the shyest artists blossom with excitement as they painted their tiles. We left feeling we'd provided a valuable contribution to such a wonderful project. Seeing the work launched was very exciting for everyone involved, and other residents that joined the celebration. However for me what I have loved most has been seeing reactions to the work now that it is up. I walk by it daily and often see people stopping to look at it.

This has included teenagers taking selfies in front of the wall, young children excitedly showing off their work, and adults stopping to admire each individual tile. Everyone has a look of joy as they look at this, and as others stop and join them there's a sense of community that develops - far beyond those that contributed".

Kristina Leonnet, participant and local resident.