

hARTslane



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

ART BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER, AND CLOSER TO THEMSELVES

2020 will be forever remembered as the year when the world went into lockdown because of Covid-19. The pandemic brought challenges we had never experienced before. It has changed ways of working for good and helped re-imagine what's possible.

The importance of art has been made emphatically obvious during the pandemic. Many museums and galleries were forced to close plunging many cultural institutions into uncertainty and immediate financial loss while also threatening the long term effects on the arts. Creativity has nonetheless been flourishing throughout self-isolation with many people learning new skills and taking up some forms of creative expression.

The arts create wellness in our day-to-day lives by helping us process our experiences individually and allowing us to come together collectively. Art allows us to communicate from afar, generating positivity, appreciation and hope during COVID-19. In times of social injustice and unrest, art amplifies important voices and messages. Creativity helps us to express and to understand the world around us.

Having to close the hARTSlane gallery space in March came as a shock. We had to cancel a whole year of events and our funding applications for intergenerational projects with children and older people were rejected due to the pandemic.



image @ Kai Christodoulou

However, seeing how artists and art organisations responded to the current situation in a resourceful and meaningful way inspired us to turn the limitations that Covid-19 was exposing into a positive challenge and opportunity.

It turned out to be one of the most productive and successful years for hARTslane. Not only have we managed to create a meaningful Covid-friendly cultural programme, engaging professional and non professional artists of all ages, but we have also embarked on a productive journey of growth, which saw the establishment of our first Advisory Board and the creation of a brand new, inspiring business plan.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

- We produced our first Blog: 21 artist interviews carried out during the 1st lockdown exploring how artists around the world were coping with the pandemic.
- We received an emergency grant from Arts Council England which enabled us to produce 2 projects and carry out an organisational development programme. In particular:

- The Relay Residency (Room 6.6) welcomed 6 artists/collectives in hARTslane for 6, one month long residencies with the aim of engaging with the local community to produce work in response to current times.
 - Over 50 people participated in the "Bunting of Hope" an outdoor participatory art installation inspired by the Tibetan prayer flags that spread hope and wisdom.
 - We produced a Business Plan as well as an Audience Development Plan, a brand new Environmental Policy, a sleek new website and attended a range of training courses in marketing and fundraising.
 - Thanks to a micro-grant from Lewisham Council, we also produced the Be Seen, Be Heard project for young black creatives from Lewisham, which is now becoming a permanent platform coordinated by the amazing young creative Jada Perry!
 - Last but not least, we are proud of and thankful to our new Advisory Board made up of 6 skilled, supportive, inspirational members.
- What a year to get on board!

Cristiana



AT A GLANCE

9

ARTISTS IN
RESIDENCE

15

ART EDUCATION
WORKSHOPS

7

EVENTS &
EXHIBITIONS

50

PARTICIPANTS
@ THE BUNTING
OF HOPE

21

ARTISTS
INTERVIEWS

50

YOUNG BLACK
ARTISTS @
BE SEEN BE HEARD

120

CHILDREN
TAKING PART
@ STROMEND
BLAUW IN
AMSTERDAM

1

NEW ADVISORY BOARD
NEW BUSINESS PLAN
NEW AUDIENCE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
NEW WEBSITE
NEW ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY



image @ Shadi Abib Hallah

LOCKDOWN CHRONICLES

The Lockdown Chronicles was a series of 21 artist interviews carried out during the Covid-19 lockdown to artists around the world who have collaborated with hARTslane in the past 8 years.

We believe that in times like these, it is important to reach out, connect and share common personal experiences, concerns and struggles, beliefs as well as practical or inspirational hidden gems. We interviewed artists with the hope that their stories would inspire other fellow artists as well reassure those who might feel alone or isolated or too overwhelmed to create.

"I hope that the clamour for normality does not mean we return to the mindless hamster wheel of consumption; that we don't forget the clearer skies, quiet roads, the sounds of nature no longer drowned out by the cacophony." - Frederica Agbah

Artists: Fiona Grady | Ting-Ting Cheng | Jenny Klein | Andrew James | Carol Wyss | Charlotte C Mortensson | Kate Murdoch | Rath Chun | Valerio Guadagno | Aude Hérail Jäger | Ernesto Torres | Dana LaMonda | Maurizio Camposeo | Clive Burton | Shadi Habib Allah | Dagmara Bilon | Gayle Ching Kwan | Sabina Tupan | Emma Roper-Evans | Frederica Agbah | Helen Rose Hamilton



image @ WhittyGordon Projects

RELAY RESIDENCY (ROOM 6.6)

The outbreak of Covid-19 caught us all by surprise and was a huge collective shock. Whilst the hARTslane project space had to close its doors abruptly for group shows and audiences, we felt the need to find new ways to connect with our communities in these trying times.

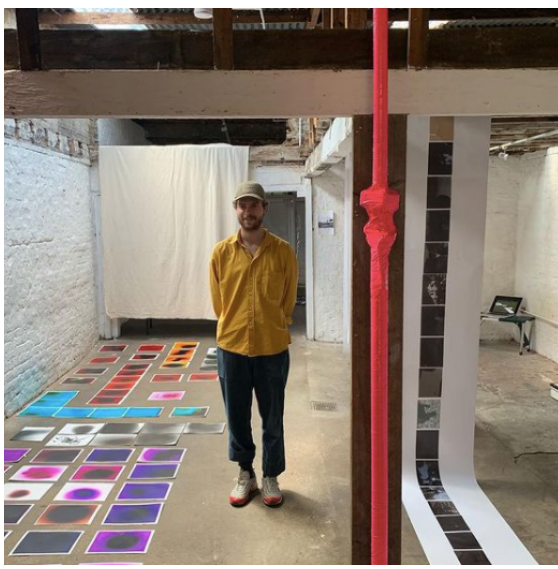
We created a 6 month-art residency scheme of singular use of the space with 6 artists with a socially engaged practice to research and produce work that responded to current times. The aim was to create a safe work environment for artists to continue their practice and to find out the impact of confinement, lack of interaction and to reimagine life after lockdown, reset and elaborate new ideas and new narratives.

When the open call for the residency was first released in May 2020 the main requirement was for the six artists to be London based with a socially engaged practice.

Their work had to respond to the impact of the unprecedented times by re-imagining a new normal, one where community is at the centre in a kinder, more wholesome environment. Each artist would have access to the studio space, be required to contribute to a digital journal and submit regular reports on their experiences and public response during their residency.



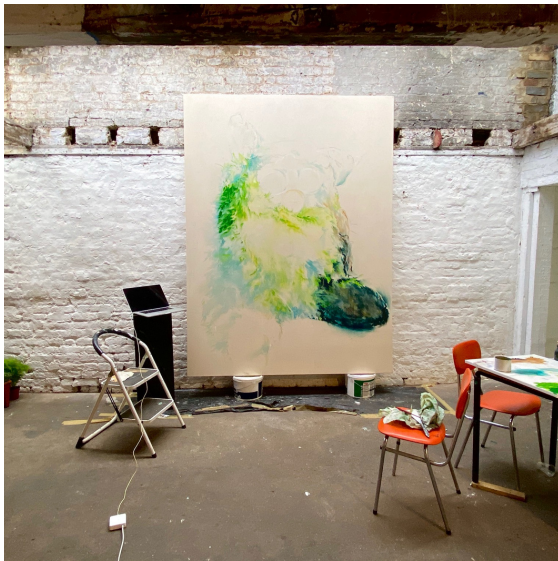
Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Mathias Contard
29 June - 19 July



WhittyGordon Projects
27 July - 16 August



Sam Schmitt
24 August - 11 September



Blackbird Collective
21 September - 9 October



Diana Puntar
19 October - 6 November



Dagmara Bilon
16 November - 6 December

BUNTING OF HOPE

HILLY FIELDS PARK



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

A restorative community art project aimed at creating a public bunting installation based on the Tibetan Prayer Flag, traditionally used to promote peace, strength, and wisdom.

Local residents and artists have contributed with a message on a squared piece of recycled fabric in response to the current situation.

In collaboration with Friends of Hilly Fields Community Group, Pistachios Cafe.

“Found a sense of hope in my local community as artists come together for a common cause: to bring and maintain a sense of hope for the future with messages akin to those on Tibetan prayer flags - of peace, compassion, strength & wisdom.” - Local resident





STROMEND BLAUW

As part of the EAST OOST OST international art education exchange project initiated and produced by De Rode Loper Op School, hARTslane was invited to collaborate in the production and delivery of Stromend Blauw, a series of artist led creative workshops for 400 children at the Aldoende Primary School in Amsterdam. The workshops, led by Tisna Westerhof, explored people and place and Dutch heritage through various art techniques like print making, collage, embroidery, textiles and ceramics.

Each year group worked on a different brief to create an element that contributed to the Crockery of East, a Delft Blue inspired installation of a domestic kitchen and dining room scene. Children hand painted paper-mache vases larger than themselves, decorated their own

AMSTERDAM

paper plates and cups, screen-printed and embroidered tea towels and cushions; they crafted their own cutlery sets from clay, decorated vintage crockery using decal transfers and created a Delft Blue patchwork blanket and dining cloth. The complete installation will be presented at the first Amsterdam Kinder Kunst Biennale in 2021 at the OBA (Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam). Stromend Blauw / Flowing Blue symbolises the connecting element of water streaming across London and Amsterdam. The project celebrates art education across borders, identity and heritage, children and neighbourhood.



KUNST- EN CULTUURENEDUCATIE AMSTERDAM

DE RODE LOPER OP SCHOOL

BE SEEN, BE HEARD

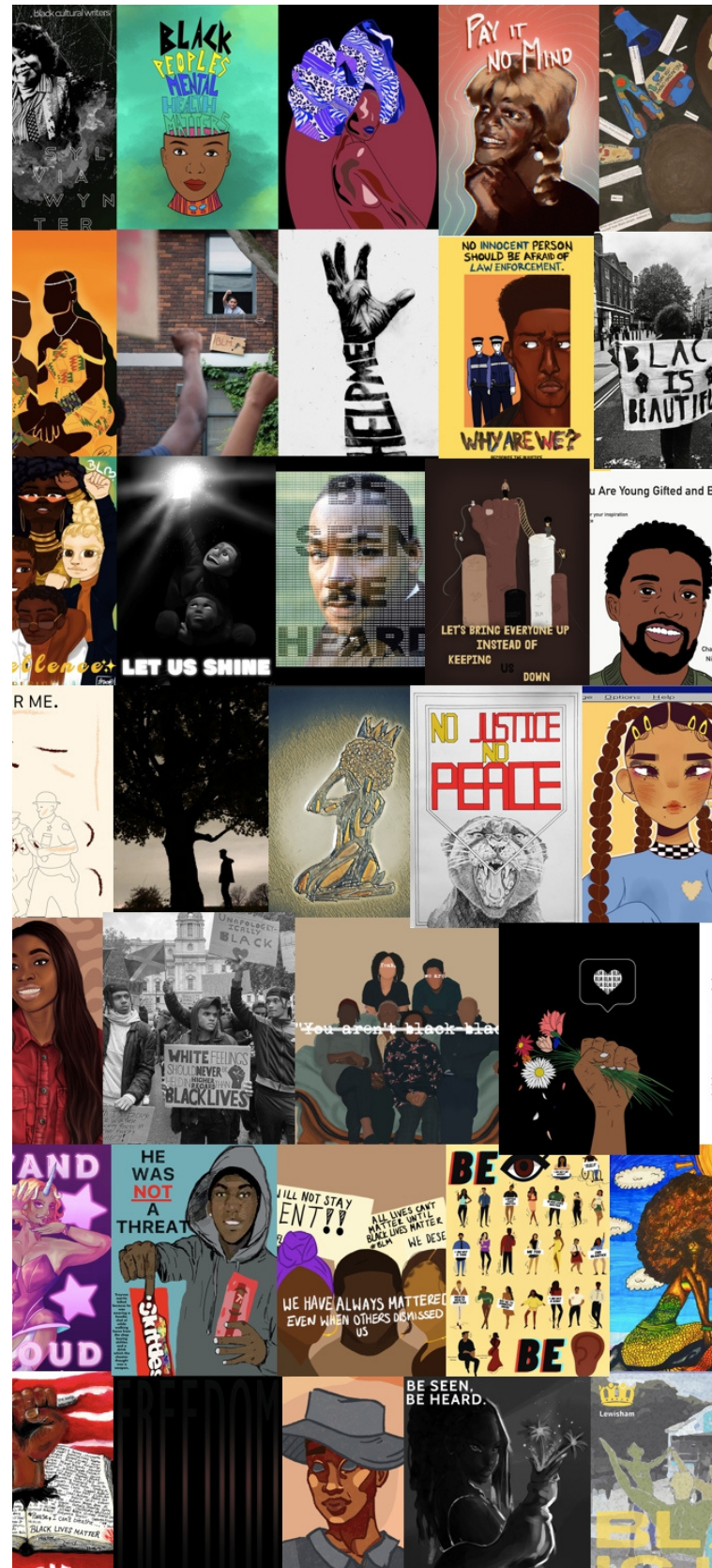
A PLATFORM TO SUPPORT
YOUNG BLACK CREATIVES IN
LEWISHAM AND SE-LONDON

Be Seen, Be Heard aims to introduce fresh voices into the visual conversations that echo round our cities as well as provide a forum to debate the roles of art, visual activism and change within the art world. Our intent is to create opportunities for exposure, paid work, networking and professional development for black creatives aged 16-25 in Lewisham and South East London.

As an art gallery, we are committed to listening, learning, evolving and further diversifying the art world, not only in representation but also in the leadership.

ART FOR POSTER-ITY IN LEWISHAM

Supported by Lewisham Council, the first exhibition organised by the Be Seen, Be Heard Youth Forum, brought together 50 young black artists and creatives from Lewisham & South East London celebrating black lives as well as addressing disparity, marginalisation and the need for change.



Detail of the BSBH poster collection currently available to purchase on hARTslane's webshop



hARTslane with the artists of the Relay Residency

ABOUT HARTSLANE

DIRECTORS

Cristiana Bottigella
Sigrun Sverrisdottir
Tisna Westerhof

BE SEEN, BE HEARD

Coordinator Jada Parry
Mentor Cedric Whilby

COLLABORATORS 2020

Francesca Thatcher
Flynn Richards
Matilde Stocchi

ADVISORY BOARD

Anita Van Mil
David Holloway OBE
Guy Forrester
Nikos Aktridis
Sara Willett
Shereener Browne Hudson

ACCOUNTANT

Martin Connell