




ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021







CONTENTS

About Artcore.....	4-5
Overview.....	6-7
Highlights of the year.....	8-9
Art In modern Culture.....	10-11
Residencies.....	12-17
Exhibitions.....	18-25
Events Of The Year	26-27
Art in the community	28-33





Art In Education & Learning.....	34-39
Art In Health & Wellbeing.....	40-41
Financial Overview.....	42
Opportunities.....	43
Statistics.....	44
Funders.....	45
Designcore.....	46-47





ABOUT ARTCORE

Artcore is an international centre for contemporary art and creativity that is based in Derby, UK, Artcore is a contemporary arts space that celebrates the cultural richness and diversity of Derby, the East Midlands and beyond. The venue presents an ever-changing programme of art exhibitions, creative activities for adults and young people, film screenings, artist residencies, talks, and festivals.

With our statement “together we stand”, we want to engage and connect with a diverse range of communities in Derby. Our key objectives are to use art as a tool to strengthen community cohesion, to engage with a wide range of audiences, to educate, raise awareness and provide a space to build self-confidence and mutual trust and respect.

We engage with society’s most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, by offering inspiring and motivating programmes in areas where there is a lack in provision and engagement with the arts is minimal. Our mission is to become a place where talent and creativity is nurtured and where art and culture are accessible to all. We aim to bring positivity and shine into people’s lives, providing a platform to encourage dialogue between people of all ages, abilities, diverse cultural background through creative activities, skills sharing and development.

VISION

Artcore believes that contemporary art and creativity are central to the development of people and places.

MISSION

Artcore is an international centre for contemporary art and creativity that is based in Derby, UK, and is home to a gallery, studios, work spaces, shop and cafe. A vibrant hub for commissioning, production, presentation and debate, we offer opportunities for diverse audiences to engage directly with creative practices through participation and discussion. We work with a diverse range of communities and the cultural, creative industries, community, education, health and regeneration sectors to deliver our programme.

VALUES

Artcore's values are excellence, innovation, diversity, engagement, transparency and resilience.

“

*Our **vision** is to serve, advance, and lead the diversified **community** of UK and individuals who cultivate, promote, sustain, and support through arts in UK. To initiate a dialogue with the community through the medium of art along with **engaging**, impacting and ensuring that everyone has access to the transformative **power of the arts**.*

”

OVERVIEW



ANDY BALL
Chair

In what has been – and continues to be – an incredibly challenging time for many, Artcore have proved as passionate as ever about supporting artists and communities. This steadfast commitment, together with strong financial management, allowed us to step up with crucial support from the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we will continue to do so as this year begins the story of recovery. In spring 2020 we reached out to our stakeholders to gain a full understanding of their changing needs brought about by the pandemic. We quickly adapted our strategy taking our programme online and launching video and digital activities that engaged our audiences and broadened the Artcore community. Our strategy was not only to meet the pressing immediate needs of our users but also to encourage bold and creative ways of navigating the future.

I would like to thank our wonderful team, who adapted with lightning speed and have achieved so much whilst working from home. Their dedication and imagination under pressure ensured our work continued and developed in exciting new directions. Despite the uncertainty, our core commitments to helping our users stay connected and engaging them in creative cultural experiences remain as important as ever. I also thank our board for their support, advice and counsel, this has been so important during these uncertain times.

It has been a year of great effort, strong partnerships and unparalleled creativity, but the pandemic and its consequences are far from over. It is in this context that, as we take the opportunity to celebrate everything we achieved in 2020, we realise the uncertainty facing us as we continue to adapt to a new normality. Together with our funders and members, we know we will make a difference. With the support of our funding partners, we will be working hard to equip ourselves for the challenges ahead, as well as to take advantage of the opportunities to work differently and better.



RUCHITA SHAIKH

Executive Director

In common with most organisations, this annual report is being published some six months or so following the end of our financial year in March 2021. In any normal year, the narrative of this executive summary would have been to capture the key events and impacts achieved during the year under review, as well as signalling our plans and ambitions for the year ahead.

In mid-March, whether we were prepared or not, the world as we knew it changed. The nation went into lockdown due to COVID-19 and business and non-essential sectors were forced to close down in lieu of public safety. But rather than focus on the immense, adverse impacts this pandemic has had on every person and every country, we, in our own way tried to overcome that. As an arts organisation we had a responsibility to our sector and to our community; responsibility became an ability to respond.

With 80% of our staff furloughed, our team bonded together and we responded as best and as quickly as we could. We aimed to deliver, to re-engage, and reimagine art; be it in gallery spaces or within participation. Our canvas was a screen and in some ways our possibilities were limitless; this was a new challenge but more importantly an opportunity to push ourselves. Seizing the moment, we released In Isolation Together- a direct response to lockdown and quarantine. There was no effort spared in giving creatives a platform. We had an overwhelming response as IIT developed into a 6-week festival showcasing works of over 50 artists in a carefully curated and designed online platform.

We did not forget that there was a big part of our community that relied on participatory activities; whether it was artists or participants. We found new programs to re-engage our audiences, and have since delivered 370 sessions with more than 80 workshop leaders. This gave our audience activities and skills to learn and practice as well as financially continuing to support our artists during this crisis.

In this time, we also stretched and nurtured our global creative network. We provided artists from a variety of practices, ages, and countries an opportunity to promote their work on our online platforms through Artist Takeovers. From Derby to Iran, we had 32 artists who have shared their work and artistic journey with our audience and followers.

With everything we have achieved, we also had to look forward. While the world was on pause, we continued programming our residencies, upcoming events and exhibitions online. Post COVID-19, we are maintaining our work online as well as planning our future programme in accordance to Government guidelines.

SPRING CRAFT FAIR

On 19th and 20th March 2021, Artcore hosted the online Beginning to Becoming Spring Craft Fair through a dedicated Facebook page which showcased works created by participants of the Beginning to Becoming course which began in September 2020.

CRAFT KITS

Throughout the pandemic craftcore has developed curated craft kits for more than 1000 people to stay connected.

HIGHLIGHTS

DEPUTY LIEUTENANT OF DERBYSHIRE

Announcing the appointment of our CEO Ruchita Shaikh DL as one of the Deputy Lieutenant for Derbyshire.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Despite the difficult year, Artcore still managed to put on a Christmas Party !

FUNDING FOR UN-AWARE

In early 2021, Artcore received funding from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Vulnerability Fund to work with adult groups in the community.

OF THE YEAR

CABIN KEYS

Artcore received the keys to the kiosk on Osnabruck Square which began the Cabin Fever residency programme that is continuing throughout 2021.

ART IN MODERN CULTURE

Artcore is an international centre for contemporary art and creativity, based in Derby, UK, and is home to Artcore Gallery, studios and work spaces as well as a shop and cafe.

Over the past year we have adjusted our gallery programme to include lots of exciting online exhibitions and events. During our two artist residencies, Error & Power and Present Tense Future Perfect, our artists in residence worked predominantly online and updated Artcore's audiences through blog posts, artist talks via zoom and online mentorship sessions. Alongside this, we hosted digital exhibitions of the Artists' outcomes on our Gallery site.

The Sharing of Uncertainty John Newling

The first Climate Emergency Declaration was made in December 2016. Since then over 1,400 local governments in 28 countries have made Climate Emergency Declarations. On 22nd May 2019 Derby City Council became one of these, declaring a Climate Emergency in the city and setting up a Derby Climate Change Working Group to make recommendations on how organisations across the City can collectively work with its inhabitants to deal with the potentially catastrophic consequences of humanity's actions on Nature.

This exhibition of John Newling's work reflects Artcore's commitment to responding to the Climate Emergency, not just through statements or policies but through our actions, and we hope John's exhibition will make a valuable contribution to the discussion of what we and you can do to reduce our negative impact on our environment.

John Newling's artwork explores his own and, by extension, our relationship to Nature. He suggests that our historic delusion that the natural world is a resource for us to use as we wish needs to be replaced by a new understanding of human beings as a part of Nature, not separate from it.

Relationship

Our relationship with it is knowledge forged in the early 21st century such attempts seem timely as for as we are conscious that we have affected Nature in a way that is irreversible, for millennia based on nature as 'other', has been a necessary and assuring machine enabling our civilisation to flourish by way of our need to communicate with its affecting nature."

"Geological Works" - also the title of a book of other resources for visitors to the gallery. One of these is a film created in 2019 to accompany the book of the same title. It is a film about Nature each day for 81 days, in which John Newling writes, in the words of these he writes,

Each year we welcome over 4000 people from all sections of the diverse communities of Derby to experience inspiring, innovative and high-quality exhibitions and events. For over 25 years, Artcore has been working to develop links and connections locally, nationally and globally which has brought together a global creative community of artists, producers and thinkers.

Contemporary art and creativity are deeply rooted in Artcore's history, and we offer an extensive exhibition and residency programme to support a range of artists at different points in their career. Our changing visual programme delivers thoughtful and critical exhibitions by artists that are concerned with social, political and environmental discourse – supported by an engaging public programme of events, workshops, and publications. This year, Artcore has adapted and responded to the times, but our artistic and community focus has not altered.



Newly opened in August 2019, Artcore Gallery operates from Artcore's second building in Derby's City Centre. This busy and dynamic hub was temporarily closed during the pandemic, so Artcore adapted its exhibition and residency programme to online and digital spaces. Programmes included: a rolling series of 'Meet the Artist' and 'Crafternoon' sessions, continuing to work with our freelance artists and to engage with our current participants; switching the planned 'Error & Power' residency to an online residency and exhibition; producing 'In Isolation Together', a series of six online exhibitions featuring the work of 52 UK and International artists; co-producing an online exhibition, 'Antonym – Life With & Without Animals', featuring work by 8 UK and International artists; producing an online project, 'The Sharing of Uncertainty' with John Newling which complemented the physical exhibition at Artcore Gallery in September/October 2020; 'In Memoriam', a postcard exhibition in February 2021, responding to the grief and loss of communities in Derby, featuring 30 artists; producing an additional online residency, 2 online exhibitions and 2 artist talks in collaboration with 'Hatchery' a UK and International artists' collective.

The team at Artcore could not be prouder of the resilience, strength and adaptability that we showed throughout this year, and we look forward to reflecting on and sharing the activity and programmes we delivered.



RESIDENCIES

ERROR & POWER

Artists: Naho Matsuda and Neale Willis

Residency date: 1 May – 31 May 2020

Online Exhibition Launch: 12th Jun 2020

Website: <https://errorandpower.artcoregallery.org.uk>

The theme of the residency dealt with the artistic strategy of creating space for chance, unintentional mistakes and errors to occur and to shape the artist's work. This residency was an opportunity for our two artists, Naho Matsuda and Neale Willis to explore the relationship between their practice and error – deliberate or accidental. We particularly wanted artists to look at technological error – the glitch, the hack, the syntax error – in media arts practice and political activism, as a response to the pervasive power of technology, and its acts of control, regulation, prevention, its power to both liberate and enslave its users.



Cabin Fever

Artists: Nicki Dennett and Dan Webber
Residency Date: Mar 2021

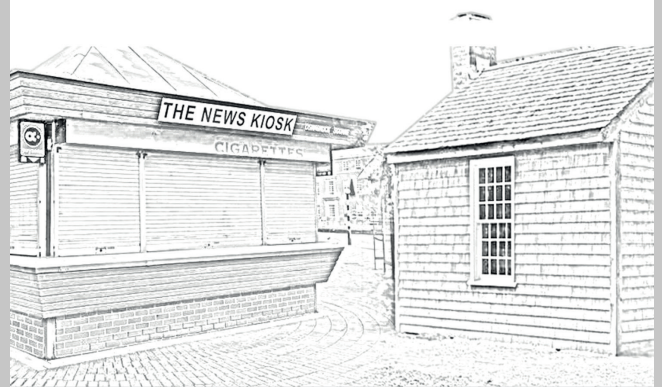
Cabin Fever is a series of 1 month long residencies over the duration of 6 months, which offers artists an opportunity to test out ideas and make new work within a cabin, located on Osnabruck Square. We are looking for artists who will creatively engage members of the public, run public workshops and celebrate Derby's people and communities.

As a result of the first and now second lockdown, many of us have had to spend time in isolation and confined in our homes. We invited artists in Derby to respond to this theme by literally taking up residence in our cabin in Derby City Centre.

Our first two artists to be in residence from April are Nicki Dennett and Dan Webber. This residency programme will run throughout 2021.



CABIN FEVER



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





Circling The Square - Visions of an Unmade City

Artists: Katy Hawkins and Ryan Heath
Residency Date: March – May 2021

Artcore's Gallery faces onto a public space called Osnabruck Square, named after Derby's German twin town of Osnabrück. There are plans afoot to redevelop the square (and other public spaces in the City) along with the regeneration of the Market Hall, and we invited artists Katy Hawkins and Ryan Heath to playfully, provocatively, radically and collaboratively propose how the City's public space could be unmade and remade, radically reconstructed to create a vision of what public space might mean in an age of social distancing. Perhaps ironically, given that we have already left the European Union and restricted in our social interactions, the square is likely to be renamed 'Friendship Square'.

Katy and Ryan are critically interrogating the situation that is Derby: 'situation' meaning a set of conditions in time and place – a convergence of site, non-site, place, non-place, locality, public space, context, past, present and future time. What is the purpose of public space in the City Centre in a post-retail world, where social gatherings are a thing of the past, and where indoor social spaces are out of bounds?

PRESENT TENSE, FUTURE PERFECT?

Artists: Thomas Wynne and Kelly O'Brien

Residency Date: Oct 2020 – Dec 2020

Exhibition Date: 15th Jan 2021

Website: <https://ptfp.artcoregallery.org.uk>

Public programme: Artists' Talk – Kelly O'Brien & Thomas Wynne
– 'Present Tense, Future Perfect?' Artists' Residency - 2 December 2020

Learning from the experience of our previous residency-from-home and our success in reaching audiences digitally, we invited artists to make work across both physical and digital platforms, recording and broadcasting both live and recorded material as the work progressed. Through this residency, we gave Kelly O'Brien and Thomas Wynne the opportunity to make new work dealing with the tensions caused by the current uncertainty whilst looking forward to a brighter future. Both artists were interested in alternative realities and fictional possibilities, which was reflected in the outcome of the residency.

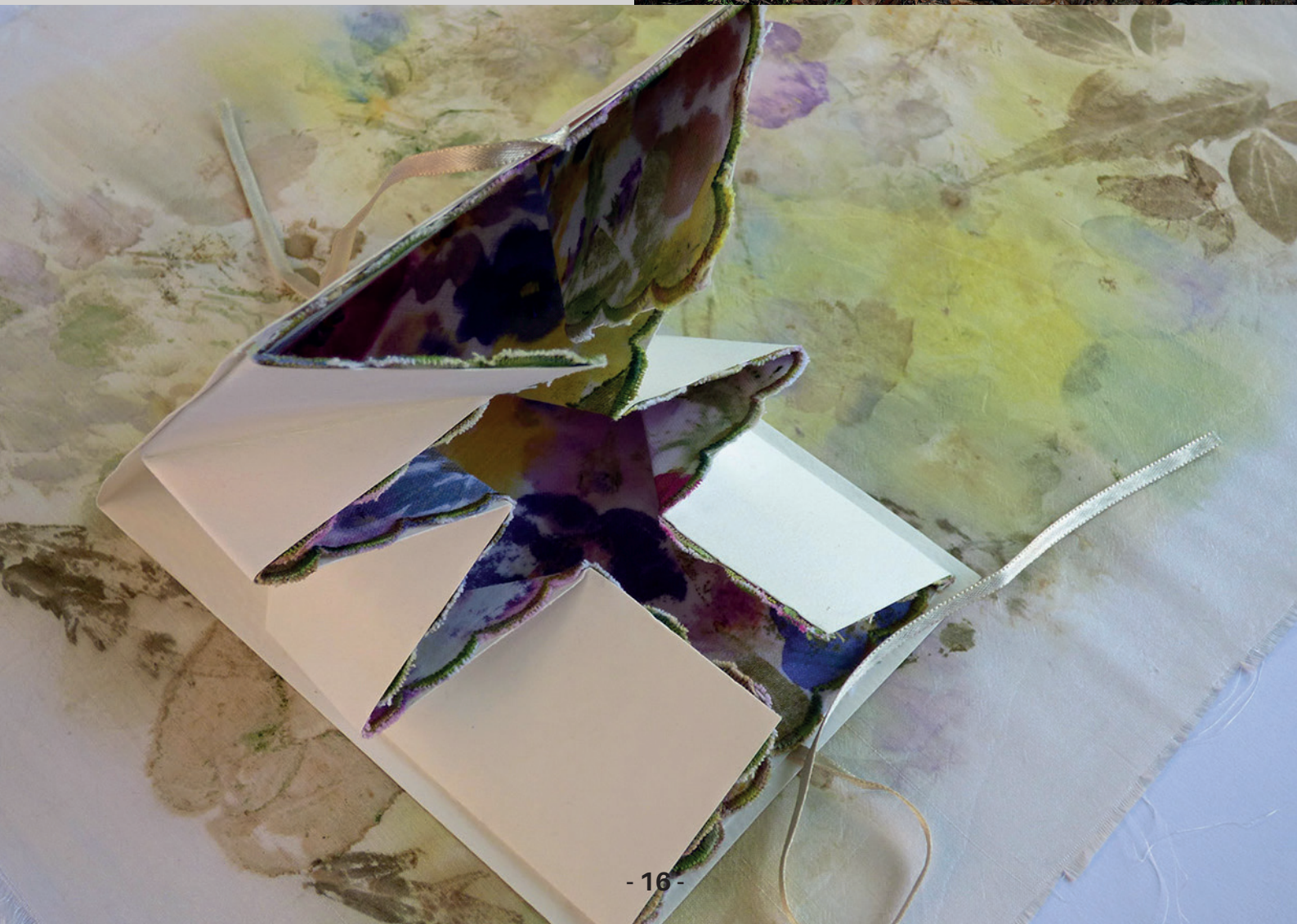
SHE'D

Residency Date: Jul 2020

The ethos for this exhibition, She'd, of which this is the first part, was to show how the Covid-19 situation has enabled us to develop our work in spite of the limitations imposed on us. This idea of a residency is to have an intense period of working on our practices, and this seemed an ideal opportunity. Having the opportunity to share our thoughts, we have also exchanged book titles and relevant exhibitions that were a substitute for access to libraries and galleries.

The development of the artists in Hatchery has been interesting. There has been a loosening up and a trying out of new things. Our exchanges have become less as we focus on our work for the exhibition.

All these works are a reflection not only on the environment closest to us but on our thinking as artists and how we are challenging ourselves.





SHE'D - ARTIST TALKS

Date: Jun 2020

In early 2021, Artcore received funding from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Vulnerability Fund to work with adult groups in the community. Through a social and artistic programme, we developed the Un-Aware project to provide people with the tools to help keep them safe from crime and to provide avenues for support if they have been victim to crimes in the past. During March 2021, we ran four taster sessions weekly to give an idea of what kind of activities are available to do during the Un-Aware project and provide an opportunity for enquiry and to meet new people. This project will run until February 2022.



EXHIBITIONS

IN ISOLATION TOGETHER

Exhibition Date: 10 Apr 2020 - 22 May 2020

Website: <https://inisolationsitogether.artcoreuk.com>

IIT was a direct response to lockdown and quarantine. We had an overwhelming response to what had started out as one singular exhibition and with that support, we developed IIT into a 6-week festival. This festival showcased the work of over 50 artists in a carefully curated and designed online platform.

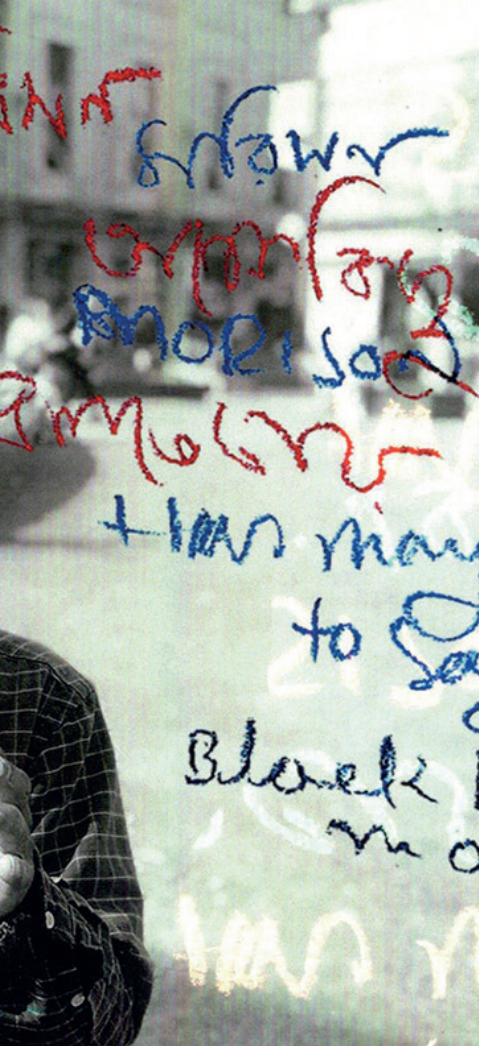
There was no effort spared in giving creatives a platform. Through the 6 weeks, we had a talk every week from one of the exhibiting artists who were part of that week's exhibition. Art has always reflected the voices of people, both in times of celebration and in dire circumstances. This crisis was no different.

We are at a point in time where technological advances are at their peak and it seemed necessary and right to utilise them. We knew there were many people, creatives and non-creatives alike that were home either in self isolation or quarantine.



“The question that looms above us all is how do we isolate but not feel isolated?”

Art has always reflected the voice of people, both in times of celebration and in dire circumstances. Now is no different. We know there are many people, creatives and non-creatives alike that are home either in self-isolation or quarantine. As a result of this, we think this is an opportune moment to have a series of themed online exhibitions. We will be releasing a new exhibition every Friday for the next 5 weeks. We have artists from over 20 countries participating. In Isolation Together is a testament to the spirit of humanity and bridges that creativity has always extended towards society in times of hardship.



In Memoriam - Online Exhibition

Launch Date: 22 Feb 2020

Website: <https://inmemoriam.artcoregallery.org.uk>

In 2020, Artcore initiated In Our Thoughts, a year-long participatory project supported by mental health charity MIND, which supported communities in response to the impact of the global pandemic. As part of In Our Thoughts, Artcore launched an open-call for a companion project In Memoriam, inviting artists based in Derby and Derbyshire to produce a postcard sized artwork to be exhibited online and auctioned as a fundraiser for Artcore's work with communities affected by COVID-19, and a way of supporting the artistic community. The aim was to provide a platform that not only supported local makers and artists, but also created a space that brought people together as a community with shared experiences of the pandemic.

In Memoriam celebrated a variety of forms of creativity, including photography, painting, and collage. Many of the artists involved in the project made works which reflected their daily routine and personal experience of the pandemic.

With many thanks to the contributing artists: Alex Waring, Ann Orrett, Ashley Allen, Caroline Backhouse, Claire Flint, David Manley, Dawn Campion, Fi Burke, Gareth Bunting, Ismail Khokon, Ivan Smith, Kate Genever, Katy Doncaster, Kelly Pickering, Lucy Stevens, Luisa Freitas, Martin Hyde, Nick Hersey, Nicky Dennett, Nisa Khan, Rachel Chapman, Ray Gumbley, Rebecca Morledge, Richard Fothergill, Sarah R Key, Shivani Khoshia, Tim Shore and Valerie Vernon.



In Memoriam - Silent Auction

26 Feb 2020 – 5 Mar 2020

28 participating artists

As part of In Memoriam, we hosted an online Silent Auction of all the artworks submitted as part of the exhibition. One of our featured artists, Nick Hersey, played a live DJ set, during the online launch of the auction.

We are proud to share that together, we raised £1121.00 in a week long Auction. Proceeds of the silent auction were shared between the contributing artists and Artcore's future programming for In Our Thoughts – a participatory project supported by mental health charity MIND, and in partnership with Sahahra, which supports communities in response to the impact of the global pandemic.

The remaining artworks that were not sold as part of the Silent Auction will be sold on Artcore's shop.



John Newling: The Sharing of Uncertainty - Online

Exhibition Launch: 19 Jun 2020

Website: <https://sharingofuncertainty.artcoregallery.org.uk>

With any new movement, what comes with it is a new visual culture. In the period before launching a physical exhibition of John Newling's work, we worked with him on a blog called 'The Sharing Of Uncertainty.' The blog explored the idea of reconstruction and also gave an insight into his project Dear Nature which was on display at IKON Gallery, Birmingham. Nottingham-based, John Newling is a pioneer of public art with a social purpose. His works explore the natural world and the social and economic systems of society – such as money or religion. To this end, Newling has innovated the possibilities and benefits for art in a renewed social and conceptual framework.

For 8 weeks, we discussed the need for kindness within society as a whole first to ourselves and then to the planet we inhabit; the idea of common values and how we value objects and materials and how important moments are and the impact a moment may have on an individual's life. The blog posts were accompanied with audio bytes where we were in conversation with John and really drilled into some of these ideas.

John Newling: The Sharing of Uncertainty

Exhibition Date: : 25 Sep – 31 Oct 2020

Artcore Gallery's opening show post lockdown exhibited the work of prominent artist and sculptor, John Newling. Newling is a pioneer of public art with a social purpose and his show *The Sharing Of Uncertainty* explored his ever-expanding relationship with nature and the human species. The centrepiece of this show was Newling's *Dear Nature Letters*, a book published in 2018, comprising letters Newling wrote to nature every day for 81 days. The letters explore our relationship with the natural world – “part truth and reconciliation, part advocacy of an urgent need, part thoughts for future social ecologies”.

The *Sharing Of Uncertainty* presented Newling's fascination with physical transformation with his piece the *Soil Books*. These sculptures were derived from Newling's everyday experience of walking from his house into his back garden, picking up leaves on the way: “It's like a ritual, so that every leaf in those books – the language of the books – is from my garden.”

Supported by the Henry Moore Foundation





Tony Kemplen - 52 Cameras in 52 Weeks

Artists: Tony Kemplen

Exhibition Launch: 11 Mar 2021

Website: www.52cameras52weeks.artcoregallery.org.uk

Tony Kemplen presented 52 Cameras in 52 Weeks, an online exhibition of 52 photographs taken by 52 different cameras. This work also featured as part of this year's FORMAT Festival, FORMAT21: Control in their online venue at New Art City. Tony Kemplen has been collecting cameras for over 50 years, and in 2010 he decided to start using them. For a decade, he used a different film camera each week of the year – 52 cameras in 10 years. The cameras and the photos in the exhibition represent a wide range of cameras, techniques and subjects, and Tony's approach to image making is every bit as important as the technical aspects of the project.

The 52 Cameras in 52 Weeks exhibition was to have been a gallery show, but as a result of the pandemic, this project was moved online. We are planning to present a physical show at Artcore Gallery later this year, as two separate exhibitions – one of the cameras in display units, the other of framed photographs on the walls. The cameras and photographs will be numbered according to the week in which they were used, but it will be left to the viewer to decide whether they are curious enough to link the two, or content to simply take in the two different displays.





Here & Now: University of Derby MA Degree Show

Artists: MA Students of Fine Art, Photography & Films

Online Exhibition Launch: 31 Mar 2021

Website: <https://hereandnow.artcoregallery.org.uk>

We presented Here & Now, an online exhibition of works by MA Fine Art and Film & Photography students from the University of Derby via Artcore Gallery's website.

All nine students exhibited in the exhibitions had been creating and developing their practice at a unique and challenging moment in history – during a global pandemic. This inevitably impacted the way they were able to make work. What this show demonstrates is that even in extreme adversity, creative minds will flourish. The students adapted and responded to the world around them, and this is playfully reflected in the title of their exhibition, as it fluctuates and shifts from Here & Now to &NoWhere – an anagram of the original title as the work exists in its online form.



ARTIST TAKEOVER

During lockdown, every evening on our Artcore Gallery page we had artists going on FB Live at 4pm, talking about their journey and practice. They explored some of their processes and techniques as well as the conceptual and thematic ideas that constituted their artistic practice. Artists shared their origins, where they were at and where they are heading, discussing current and future projects. This is a great chance to expand our sense of the national and international artist community and find out more about art, the process and what it means to be an artist in 2020!

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtcoreGallery7/videos/617362295526020>



ARTCORE ASSOCIATE

Looking for creative people from a wide range of backgrounds and skills. This is an opportunity to develop and co-produce projects and work alongside Artcore.

A curated programme offering artistic development opportunities. The callout invited more than 33 creative practitioners to express their interest in joining the programme. Artcore has been working with these practitioners to develop their proposal during the year.

ART IN THE EVENTS

ARTCORE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date: 15/12/2020

Venue: Albert St

Despite the difficult year in 2020, Artcore still managed to put together our Christmas Party albeit, a little differently than usual. Our staff, volunteers, delivery artists, participants and friends joined us from across the East Midlands on Zoom and in person to celebrate altogether.

The day of the Christmas Party was also the same day that Artcore received the keys to the kiosk on Osnabruck Square which began the Cabin Fever residency programme that is continuing throughout 2021.

Each year our Christmas Party brought together all AEL participants for food and an awards ceremony. This was an important point in the delivery where participants could be recognised for their progression.



BEGINNING TO BECOMING CRAFT FAIR

Date: 19/03/2021

Where: Facebook

On 19th and 20th March 2021, Artcore hosted the online Beginning to Becoming Spring Craft Fair through a dedicated Facebook page which showcased works created by participants of the Beginning to Becoming course which began in September 2020.

Over six months, as part of Beginning to Becoming, participants learned different craft mediums as well as how to brand, market and sell the items they made with guest speakers and mentors. The course itself took place during an incredibly challenging time as we moved in and out and back in to lockdown and it was a major learning experience and achievement for the participants to complete it online. The Beginning to Becoming course has resulted in the creation of hand-crafted beautiful, unique pieces and through the Spring Craft Fair, a collection of fifty-four items were available to buy directly from their maker with the support of Artcore.



ART IN THE COMMUNITY

BEGINNING TO BECOMING

Date: Oct 2020 - Mar 2021

A craft course supporting unemployed learners on the journey from maker to seller through art classes, marketing, packaging, design and selling support. Delivered by artists who are experts in their craft area and have experience of selling their own work.

Over the months learners completed 20 sessions learning 4 different crafts with four different artists in jewellery making, sewing, mosaics and printmaking. They also had two inspirational speakers talk from painter Sarah Perkins and printmaker Lydia Mary. They learned how to progress from maker to seller and graduated by preparing work to sell in Artcore online Facebook craft fair.

Due to COVID lockdown, the physical classes and workshops switched to take place online over ZOOM. This gave learners additional skills in technology, administration and marketing. They also learned how to use design platforms such as Canva to design business cards and Stop Motion Animation to create promo videos for their work.

14
Sessions

7
artists

12
Participants

Art Enhancing Life (AEL)

Date: Mar 2020 - Jun 2020

We purchased 18 tablets for our participants to use to access online courses and stay connected with Artcore and the wider community, our delivery has initially been a mix of digital and in person activities. Because of the lockdown measures we adapted to become completely digital for this period.

We utilised Facebook Live, ZOOM and YouTube to engage with our participants, with a weekly programme of events. The AEL Community and Wellbeing art sessions took the form of art sessions delivered on Facebook Live and ZOOM. These covered a range of activities including papercraft, sewing, watercolour painting, collage, wire sculpture, book making and printing. We started with mediums people could easily find at home but also created materials packs to support progression in our ZOOM sessions.

The AEL Education art sessions took place on Facebook and ZOOM. These sessions covered graffiti art, shadow puppet theatre, 3D stop motion and making with polymer clay.



17
Sessions

2
artists

12
Participants

MOTIVATIONAL & MINDFUL MORNINGS

Date: Sep 2020 - Feb 2021

Regular and creative 'how to' every morning at 11am during lockdown on Facebook to encourage people to keep healthy, creative and motivated during the uncertainty of the pandemic. Motivational Mornings were designed to start your day off with creativity and positivity to provide examples of activities to do and new skills to learn every day. A lot of the workshops were aimed at all ages and abilities to take part from home with limited materials and resources.

These were key to our focus on highlighting the importance of paying attention to our mental health and wellbeing!

23
Sessions

3
artists

6210
average
views



UN-AWARE TASTER SESSIONS

date 23/3/21

In early 2021, Artcore received funding from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Vulnerability Fund to work with adult groups in the community. Through a social and artistic programme, we developed the Un-Aware project to provide people with the tools to help keep them safe from crime and to provide avenues for support if they have been victim to crimes in the past. During March 2021, we ran four taster sessions weekly to give an idea of what kind of activities are available to do during the Un-Aware project and provide an opportunity for enquiry and to meet new people. This project will run until February 2022.



22
Sessions

5
artists

17
Participants



CREATIVE IN COMMON

Date: Mar 2021 - Aug 2021

A cultural programme supported by the Arts Council England aimed at combating loneliness as a result of Covid-19. In the beginning of March 2021, Artcore has brought free creative interventions for adults in a relaxed setting with simple, easy-to-follow art and movement activities and opportunities to increase participants' wellbeing, make new friends and stay connected. The project ran until August 2021 and included a variety of artistic and craft workshops separated into blocks.



STAY CONNECTED

date: Mar 2020 - Mar 2021

Stay Connected Project was funded by Foundation Derbyshire and aimed to support and improve the health and well-being of the beneficiaries, enabling them to express their experiences, stay connected, become socially active, and be included. We created materials packs to be sent out in support of skills progression.

A valuable strand of Stay Connected was our Art Surgery – every Monday, we led 'check up mornings' these were calls to our participants, mindful & motivational mornings to stay creative and keep in touch with each other.

#Stayconnected Mindful Moments Facebook Sessions - 20 Regular Participants

38
Sessions

6
artists

54560
average
views





DARE TO DREAM

Date: Apr 2020 - Aug 2020

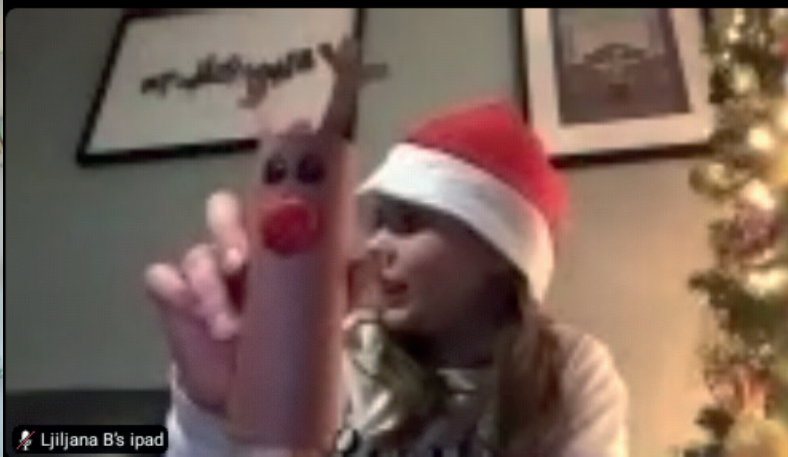
A six-month craft course supporting unemployed learners on the journey from maker to seller through art classes, marketing, packaging, design and selling support. Delivered by artists who are experts in their craft area and have experience of selling their own work.

Over the six months' learners completed 20 sessions learning 4 different crafts with four different artists in jewellery making, sewing, painting and printmaking. They learned how to progress from maker to seller through and graduated by selling in Artcore's online shop and gallery.

14
Sessions

4
artists

18
Participants



SHARING CELEBRATIONS

date: Oct 2020 - Dec 2021

We have delivered a set of sessions over the course of the months, celebrating festivals which our community takes part in such as Diwali & Christmas. Through these glittering events, participants of various ages from children to adults, had the chance to collect their specially assembled material packs from Artcore, and join the sessions through ZOOM. We had artists & staff involved in making diverse arts & crafts creations such as Diwali Lanterns, magical houses of light in polymer clay, festival decorations in clay and paper craft to celebrate Diwali and Christmas.

In November we had a special event dedicated to Diwali. Invited participants had a chance to take part in activities such as making Diwali Lanterns, Henna painting and Face Painting. As part of the celebrations with spectacular Diya Installations and experiencing different Diwali foods and sweets for everyone to share and enjoy.



REC



ART

IN EDUCATION & LEARNING

RE-IMAGINE

Date: Jan 2021 - May 2021

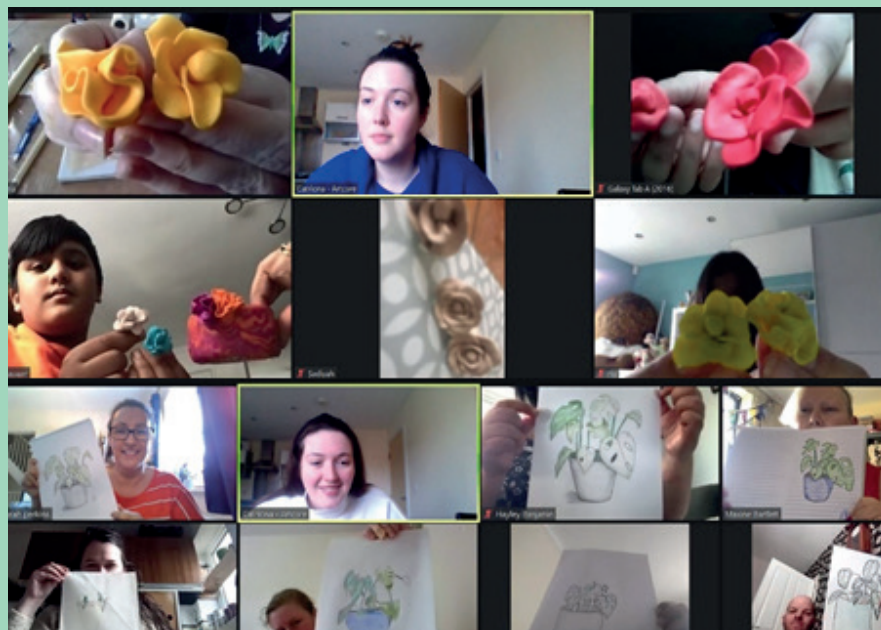
As one of five partners on the #ThisIsDerby Reimagine project, Artcore worked with young people in Normanton and Arboretum to provide access to development and learning through the creative industries and performance art.

In 2019, we began our work with Years 5 and Year 6 at Pear Tree Primary School, St. James' and Derby Libraries to create a backdrop that would finally be used for a performance. When the pandemic began we had to adapt our planned activities, so instead over the course of five weeks, delivered weekly 'Family Creatives' videos in partnership with Wrongsemble that provided guided workshops on creating a puppet theatre, the actions to go within and techniques on staging a music video with Set Designer Connie Burley. In addition to this, we filmed mini-masterclasses featuring artists Nicki Dennett and Victoria Brown.



11 SESSIONS
4 ARTISTS
154 LEARNERS

26 SESSIONS
51 LEARNERS



ESOL - LEARNING ENGLISH CREATIVELY

date: Oct 2020 - Mar 2021

Artcore provided community-based English language taught sessions for learners at New to ESOL level (pre-entry to entry level one), in speaking, listening, reading and writing led by relevantly qualified practitioners.

During this time, learners increased their confidence in using English in everyday situations and found they had an enhanced sense of belonging and engagement to their local community.

We delivered 26 sessions through a combination of onsite and online classes for 51 learners using creativity and mindfulness to teach English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Art Enhancing Life (AEL) - EDUCATION

date: Oct 2020

Our education sessions focused on engaging children to learn, make and discuss. The session objectives were to deliver art sessions that would engage the imaginations of the children and see progression in their skills and understanding through each 4 week block, and the project as a whole. The art mediums also had a STEAM element to encourage the young people to engage with all aspects of art and making. For example, learning about the chemistry of ceramics and glazes, and using digital technology.

The children experienced a range of different activities across the three years including 2d and 3d stop motion, microscope images, UV and optical illusion images. Other mediums they explored where - ceramics, mixed media, digital art, bookmaking, festive creations, Beaver Dams and drawing skills.

Our Family Fun Days ranged from mask art, poetry writing, to painting flower pots and planting sunflowers. They were designed to facilitate positive interactions between parents/caregivers and children. Supporting them to see how to be creative with their children.



**28 SESSIONS
4 ARTISTS
83 LEARNERS**



**24 SESSIONS
3 ARTISTS
5 LEARNERS**

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

date: Sep 2020 - Mar 2021

‘Shape your future’ was a project run by Artcore over one school year of 32 weeks. A collaboration of several local artists and students from 16 – 19 years of age with Special Educational Needs (SEN) from Horizons 6th form school in Derby.

The objective of this project was to work with different art mediums and themes to support students in creative exploration as well as learning new techniques and skills which link into the five main themes of Shape Your Future: Safety, Health and Happiness, Aspiration and Achievement, Positive Contribution and Enterprise.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

date: Mar 2021 - Jul 2021

Express Yourself aims to promote confidence, self-esteem and initiative among young people aged 8-15 in Derby who may be from newly arrived communities and are looking to widen their skills in art.

The goal is to offer opportunities where the participants can work and collaborate with both professional artists as well as one another using different art mediums. Each Block consists of 6 weekly after school workshops. This project aimed to be inclusive and accessible for families, and used art to reduce potential for exclusion due to language barriers.



**4 SESSIONS
1 ARTIST
20 LEARNERS**



FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

date: Jan 2021 - ongoing

The project started in January and which is designed for young people aged from 10-18 who are enthusiastic about nurturing their artistic ability and developing new skills which will let them grow as creatives in the future.

The project aims to increase possibilities, skills and opportunities that will help young people to explore paths for future careers.

**10 SESSIONS
2 ARTISTS
419 AVG VIEWS**

ART IN HEALTH & WELLBEING

IN OUR THOUGHTS

Date: Aug 2020 - May 2021

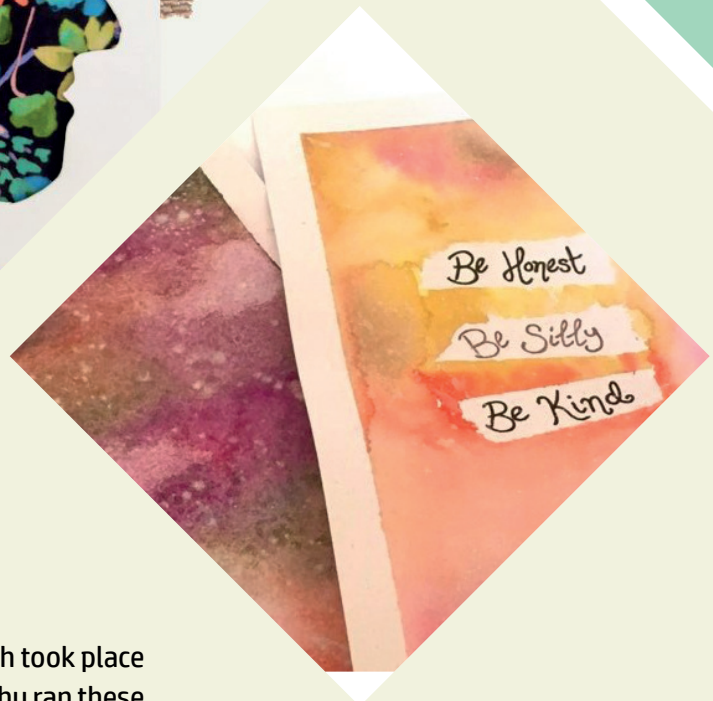
Creatively supporting our communities to cope with loss and bereavement during the Coronavirus. On Thursday 13th August Artcore launched the In Our Thoughts Project. This special year long project was supported by the mental health charity MIND. A partnership initiated by Artcore and Sahahra to support our communities to cope with Coronavirus.

The global pandemic has had a huge impact on communities in Derby and Derbyshire and Artcore invited community organisations and volunteers to share and identify the concerns of Derby and Derbyshire communities who are hit the hardest. Also, The aim was to map how we can work best with and for our communities, and support them to cope with bereavement and their mental health during these tough times.

'In Our Thoughts' memorial packs were created and distributed to people who have experienced loss as a result of the pandemic, creatively sharing their thoughts and memories of loved ones they have lost, to form a part of a virtual memorial and culminating into a showcase in 2021.

With bi weekly volunteer meetings, for those wishing to take part in the project, the volunteers could work with Programme Coordinator, Marie Hegarty, to plan activities in order to support participants with their mental health during these uncertain times.





MINDFULNESS FOR MINI MINDS

Date: August 2020

Mindfulness for Mini Minds was an online project which took place on Facebook Live. Artist & Mindfulness Coach Pam Sidhu ran these sessions which were aimed at children to help them stay creative and mindful.

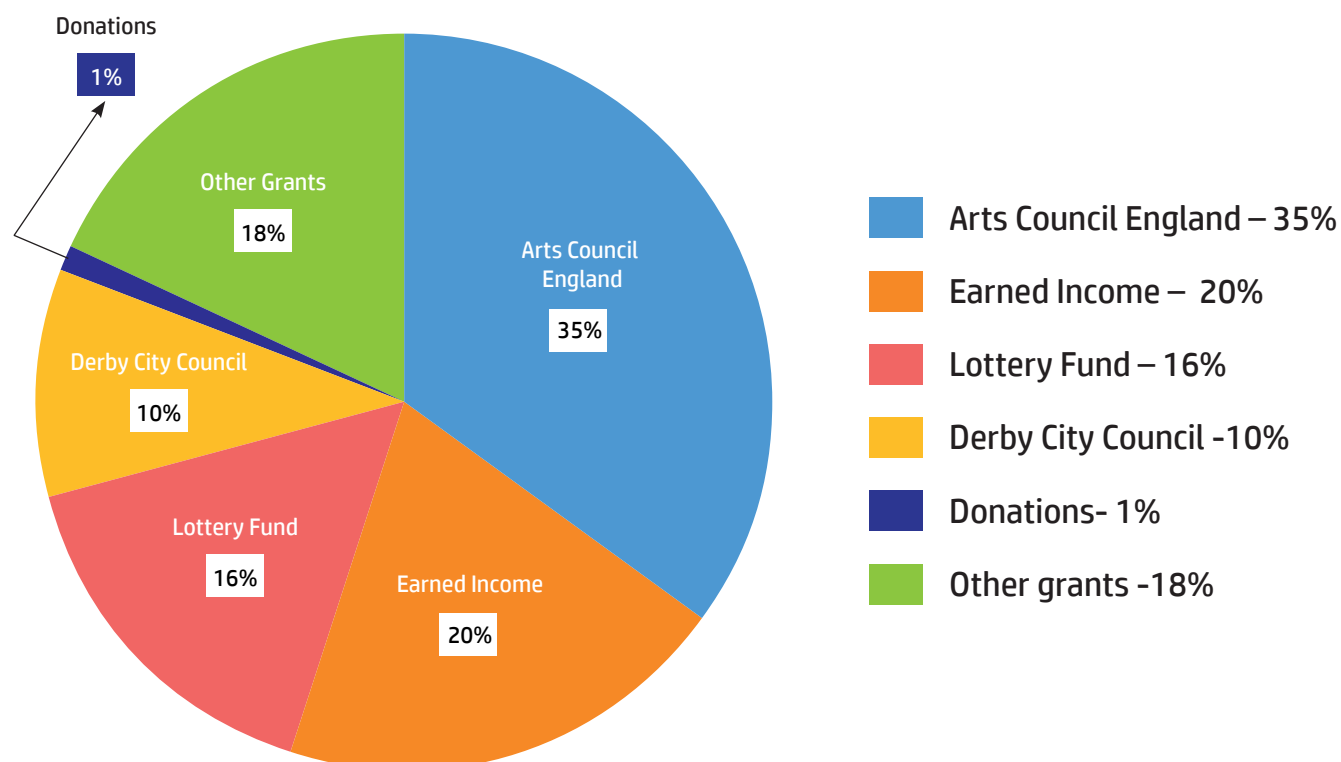
CRAFTERNOONS

Date: August 2020

As part of AEL Community and Wellbeing, the art sessions took the form of Crafternoons on Facebook Live and ZOOM, as a creative initiative to encourage people to spend afternoons with family creatively on weekdays. These sessions covered a range of activities including papercraft, sewing, watercolour painting, collage, wire work, book making and printing. We initially started with mediums people could easily find at home for instance paper, toilet tubes and pens before progressing onto ZOOM sessions that we created and provided material kits for. We had guest tutors who normally run our art sessions join us live, This was helpful in adding to the content of the sessions as well as helping us all stay connected.

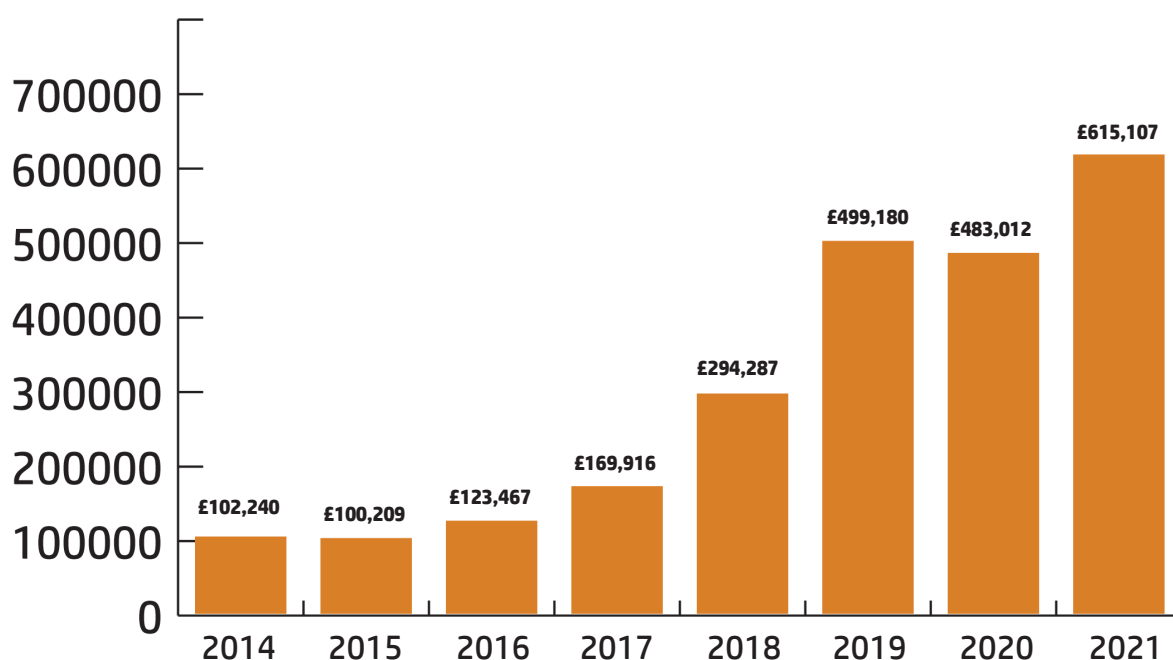
**58 SESSIONS
16 ARTISTS
831 AVG VIEWS**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



The year ended 31st March 2021 was a period of consolidation, with Artcore's income of £615,107 (2020: £483,012) being largely in line with the previous year. Despite the challenging times we were able to secure some COVID emergency funds and cut down costs where needed and manage to balance the books. There was an increased focus on sustainability and remaining viable was a priority. We allocated reserves to partially cover the deficit. We applied for COVID emergency grants. A CRF grant from ACE and lottery grant helped mitigate some losses, retain staff, stay connected with our audiences & ensure viability. We furloughed 40% of staff on rotation to prevent redundancies in order to retain our small specialised staff team. We took a bounce back loan of £50k for immediate access support work. We also took a rent & mortgage holiday & reduced expenditure where possible.

INCOME ANALYSIS



OPPORTUNITIES

CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES
2,636

ARTISTS
82

STAFF
12

PROJECTS
21

ONSITE
PARTICIPANTS
3,590

YOUNG
PEOPLE
2,000

Artcore prides itself on its progressive and forward-thinking board members and staff, who provide a strong diverse backbone to the organisation. The continued support, effort and involvement from project volunteers brings immense value to Artcore and its activities. Artcore seeks to support an artist's professional as well as creative development, and to support participation in the arts by diverse communities. Through a range of opportunities, we provide a platform for engagement, learning new and professional skills and sustaining ambitions. Our activities act as an alternative learning tool, breaking down barriers to provide learning and education strands that are accessible to all. Artcore focuses on engaging audiences on-site as well as online through a variety of multi-media and new technology tools designed to maximise audience experience and impact.

STATISTICS

From April 2020 - March 2021 we have collected these statistics relating to social media and website traffic. Between April and June 2020 we delivered online content using Facebook Live and these are also documented below:

**Artcore Gallery/
Artcore Website
Unique Visitors
93,347**

**Artcore Gallery/
Artcore Website
Number Of Visits
200,201**

**Artcore Gallery/
Artcore Website
Hits
3,114,474**

**Current Social
Media Followers
7,658**

**Online Events and
Workshops
360**

**Total Online
Participation Views
153,915**

**Facebook Likes
3,566**

**Twitter Followers
2,636**

**Instagram
Followers
153,915**

FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



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



Derby City Council



**youth
futures**
FOUNDATION

Project funded by:
Jennifer Anne Thorpe Trust



Derby Adult Learning Service
Learning Opportunities for Adults and Young People



Learn 2 Rest

déda



Foundation
Derbyshire



ABOUT DESIGNCORE

Designcore is a non-profit ethical social enterprise that provides high-quality design services for the benefit of local communities. Their innovative ideas, affordable prices and professional design services open opportunities for charitable organisations and small groups to develop. Their services include branding, print design, advertising, website design, SEO, and online marketing.

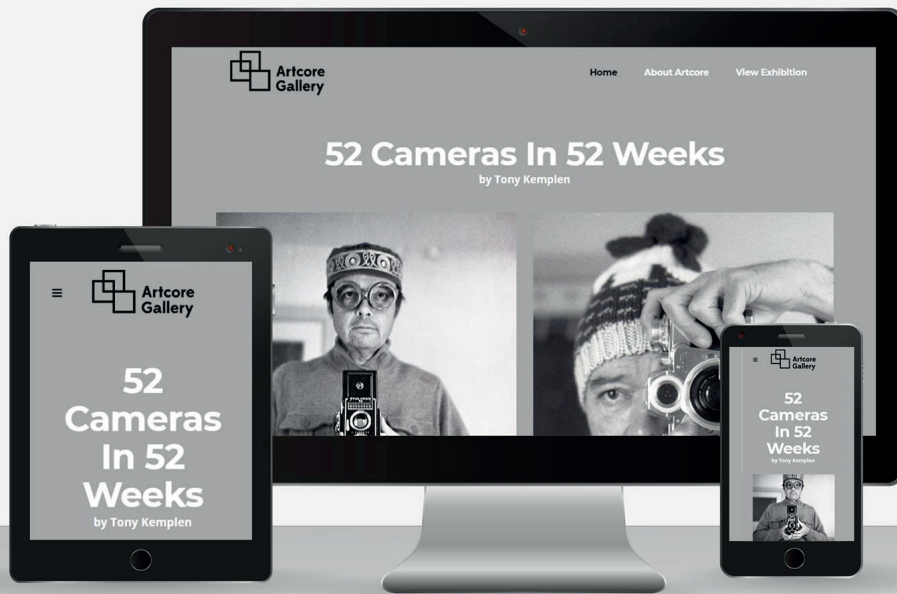
VALUES

They endeavour to actively support and manage young talent by offering a platform of practice and opportunities for personal and career development. It gives skilled individuals, who may not currently be in employment, education or training to build their professional portfolio.

PARTNERSHIP WITH ARTCORE

They work predominantly with Artcore, supporting their wellbeing, education, community and contemporary art programmes. Their core values are integrity without compromise, delighting customers, building on its people, innovation, adding value, caring and giving back. This aligns with Artcore's values and make it a positive partnership.







Artcore

**Artcore
Gallery**

Head Office: 3 Charnwood Street, Derby - DE1 2GT
 Artcore Gallery: 8 Albert Street, Osnabruck Square, Derby - DE1 2DS
 Tel: +44 (0) 1332 384561
 Email: info@artcoreuk.com
 Website: www.artcoreuk.com www.artcoregallery.org.uk

Facebook: [/ArtcoreUK](https://www.facebook.com/ArtcoreUK)
 Twitter: [@ArtcoreEngland](https://twitter.com/ArtcoreEngland)
 Instagram: [/artcoreuk](https://www.instagram.com/artcoreuk)
 LinkedIn: [artcore_uk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/artcore_uk)

Facebook: [/ArtcoreGallery7](https://www.facebook.com/ArtcoreGallery7)
 Twitter: [@ArtcoreGallery7](https://twitter.com/ArtcoreGallery7)
 Instagram: [/ArtcoreGallery](https://www.instagram.com/ArtcoreGallery)

Facebook: [/ArtcoreShopandCafe](https://www.facebook.com/ArtcoreShopandCafe)
 Instagram: [/Artcore_shop_and_cafe](https://www.instagram.com/Artcore_shop_and_cafe)

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