



Artcore
Gallery



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

KUNSTRAUM
hase29



BUILDING BRIDGES



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BUILDING BRIDGES EXHIBITION

August 2023



Artcore

Artcore is an international centre for contemporary art and creativity based in Derby, UK and home to Artcore Gallery, studios and workspaces as well as a shop and café. 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 believe that contemporary art and creativity are central to the development of people and places.

Over 25 years we have developed links all over the world, building a global creative community that helps us support aspiring artists in the contemporary art world.





Building Bridges Residency: Fostering Intercultural Connection and Artistic Expression

The Building Bridges Residency marks a significant partnership between Artcore Gallery in Derby and Kunstraum Hase29 in Osnabrück, an endeavor aimed at nurturing intercultural exchange and artistic collaboration. Osnabrück, a city with a rich trade history and strategic location in central Europe, stands twinned with Derby, a connection celebrated by naming the heart of downtown Derby as Osnabrück Square. This initiative, which holds immense importance in fostering understanding, empathy, and goodwill between communities, brings together artists from both cities to embark on a transformative journey of creative exploration.

In May of this year, two Derby artists, Caroline Ainsworth and Martin Hyde, embarked on an inspiring artistic residency in Osnabrück, Germany. Their week-long immersion in the city allowed them to delve into its culture, history, and artistic landscape, creating works of art that intimately reflect their personal experiences and emotional connections to Osnabrück.

For Martin Hyde, this artistic journey was a profound exploration of mental health challenges and the process of stepping out of one's comfort zone. Through his large abstract paintings and innovative use of soft textiles, Martin conveyed the complexity of emotions he encountered during this transformative experience, encouraging viewers to embrace new horizons and find comfort amidst the unfamiliar.

Caroline Ainsworth's artistic response focused on the essence of belonging and the search for a sense of home. Having led a nomadic existence, she sought to resonate with places, cultures, and people to find her place in the world. By visually cataloging familiar objects and relationships, Caroline delved into her core, offering viewers a thought-provoking experience that prompts us to contemplate what makes us feel a sense of belonging and how this perception varies among individuals.



The residency coincided with Osnabruck's vibrant Maiwoche festival, providing the artists with an enriching experience of the city's cultural aspects.

Moreover, the Building Bridges Residency is not limited to a one-sided exchange. It also involves artists from Osnabruck, Eva Grüter, and Vivian Blum, who are set to join the exhibition in Derby, presenting a powerful performance art that explores connection, personal boundaries, and energy exchange. Through wordless interactions and shedding everyday items, Eva and Vivian use their bodies as a medium to communicate and build bridges between identities, epitomizing the essence of the residency.

The impact of this intercultural exchange extends beyond the realm of artistic expression. It allows both cities to establish stronger bonds, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among their artistic communities. By bridging cultural differences through art, the Building Bridges Residency becomes a testament to the power of creativity in transcending barriers and promoting mutual understanding.

A huge thanks to our partner gallery, Hase29 in Osnabruck for all their support. We hope that such connections are stepping stone for further global artistic expression and exposure.

Zahir Shaikh

*Artistic Director
Artcore*



meet · the · artist

· Caroline Ainsworth



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th . Martin Hyde . Vivian Blum . Eva Gruter .



Martin Hyde is a contemporary artist based in Wirksworth, Derbyshire. He paints expressive abstract paintings usually using acrylic on canvas. Through his paintings, he reflects on his life as a person living with depression, those around him and his place in the world.

The primary themes of his work deal with feelings of isolation, belonging, identity, self-worth, contentment, and love. He attempts to balance some of the sadness and melancholy found in his work with an optimism and hope for the future. His work also deals with the fragility of wellness and the recurring emotional journey to maintain this. Martin describes his life as very much like a waveform, for every high, there is the impending low which can lead to anxiety even when life is good.

Through his paintings, he wants to bring a better understanding and acceptance of the issues surrounding depression, and the difficulties for those who love them, based on his own experiences.



Caroline Ainsworth's is a multidisciplinary artist, currently based in Derby. Coming from a nomadic existence; Ainsowrth has lived in different countries and in different areas of the world since she was a child.

Her focus is in the familiarity of everyday items and relationships that resonate within the core. She visually catalogues the sources that build an identity, reproducing and replicating them as a method of connecting with them and getting to know them better in an attempt to better understand the self.

Through her work she explores themes of belonging, diving into the questions that rise in he rmind. What makes us feel like we belong? Where do we belong? Does it have to be a physical place or can it reside within an emotional construct? Why haven't we evolved past this kind of need for comfort? Why, in our contemporary world of constant accessibility to each other through social media, do we still feel isolation and loneliness? Ultimately, is our sense of belonging brought on by nostalgia for a life that never even existed and does it still count as an authentic experience?



Eva Grüter is an artist from Osnabrück, Germany, who bases her art on her surroundings and the experiences she makes. By intertwining her life with her imagination, she creates intimate pieces that help her reflect on and process the events that shape her day.

Her art covers a wide range of techniques, including mainly charcoal drawings, paintings, serigraphy prints and also performances. Within each medium, she approaches different kinds of themes and topics, constructing disparate expressions of her own reality. Thus, she finds an output for a diverse variety of input that she gathers throughout her day-to-day life.



Vivian Blum's is a multi-media artist whose recent focus has been on a self-portrait work series exploring mental health and emotions, offering a therapeutic outlet through painting. Working with acrylic paint on canvases, she creates expressive self-portraits, capturing her feelings and perception of the world in personalized snapshots. Beyond self-portraits, Vivian enjoys painting her surroundings, including nature, buildings, and people, infusing her art with genuine emotions and keen observations. Engaging viewers is integral to her artistic approach, and she achieves this through sculptures that invite touch and wear, providing a deeper connection with her art and fostering a meaningful experience for the audience.



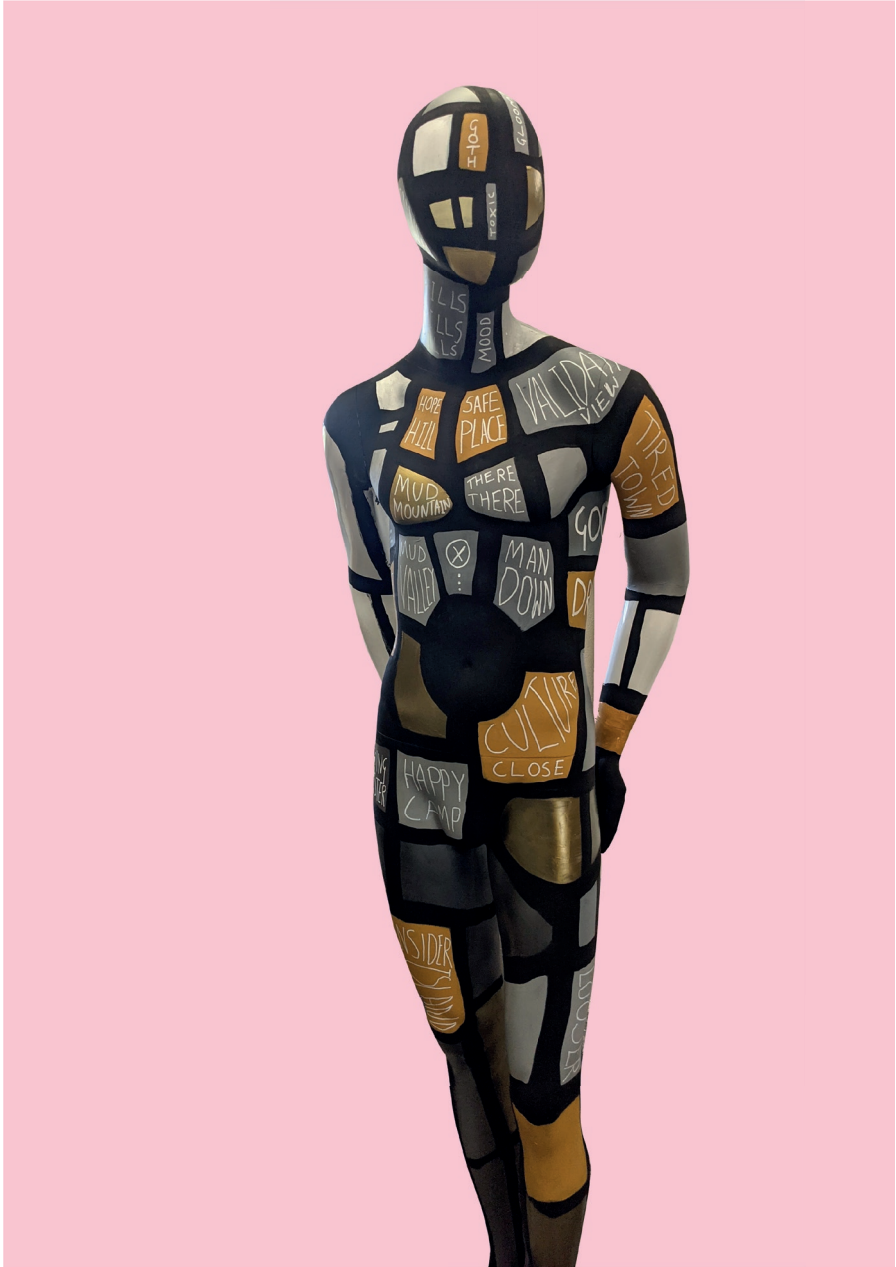
MARTIN

H Y D E

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I created these art pieces in reaction to my artist residency in Germany. They explore being taken out of your comfort zone when you have issues with your mental health. They also explore extending beyond your perceived limitations and new horizons.

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The large abstract paintings use a combination of gestures, colours and symbolism, developed in Hyde's previous work were painted instinctively in response to the complex emotions experienced during the residency in Germany.





“

In the past I have predominantly been a painter, but in these works I have explored new materials. I was very drawn to soft textiles perhaps because of the cushioning they provide or perhaps as my mental health has improved my own edges have become softer. I combined quilting and pillows with my canvas paintings.

”







“

I would like to thank my fellow artist, Caroline, who was great fun, supportive and inspiring. I also enjoyed creating some pieces together with her.

Germany was a great experience, which helped me grow as a person and an artist, so a big thanks to Artcore and Hase29.

I hope you enjoy the work and it inspires you to new experiences outside your comfort zone.

”

Martin D Hyde - Artist



THE W

AMAZ

BURNI



IRON ZONES ING



AINSWORTH





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The residency to Osnabruck was a catalyst in making new work and growing the connection between two creative hubs. It wasn't long before noticing that the sanctuary of my temporary home was a place to ponder on not only what makes the twinned cities belong to each other but also what things I associate with make me feel at home when far away from my physical home. Sometimes the things that present themselves are intriguing and unexpected, like flagstones, beaded necklaces and a big pile of dirt, others less so like familiar bird song, trees and the camaraderie felt in a friendly greeting. The resulting pieces are an ethnographic collection of memories, conversations, preferences and perceptions of the internal baggage that we take with us when we travel.

”





Ainsworth's process involved gathering information in a collection of photographs, frottage imagery and imprints in raw clay from around Derby and its twin, Osnabruck. The visual language of the streets informed what she wanted to capture and record as a direct connection with both places.

The internal narrative of past memories and experiences becoming entangled with the new adventure whilst learning how to traverse an unfamiliar culture.





Ainsworth used observations and information collected through making to transcribe her experience into artist books which was later used as references for further work





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Collaborating with fellow artist, Martin Hyde to make work that reflected on the trip and also combine our two practices, we used the experience as a way to look at the city through the artist's eyes. Colours, textures, sounds, patterns, symbols, contrasts, comparisons; recording fragments in time and place, bringing them together in a giant patchwork of tangible narrative. The stories translated and stored in the visceral materials of ceramic and canvas.



VIVIAN

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Lately, I was working on a "selfportrait work series". The series is about mental health, feelings and letting those feelings out. Most of the time it is hard to capture emotions through words, so I paint them. It is actually really theraputic and I feel better afterwards.

I also like to paint my surroundings, such as nature, buildings or people. Essential for that kind of work are feelings, but mainly my preception. I concentrate on the feelings that I have in that moment and how I am precieving the world. It is like taking a personalised picture. But I also like taking actual pictures of the world. I worked on a project in which I asked myself: "Is everybody like their room?". So I startet to take a lot of pictueres, pictures of the person, the room and the person in their room. I made it seperatly so viewers can answer the question themselves.

I like to cooperate the viewers in my art, to break up the boundaries between looking at art and expierecing it. That is why I really like to make sculptures that you can touch or wear. So the viewers have a different acces to the object, rather than just seeing it. It is a way of connecting with people through the artpiece.

And I also want to connect with people from all around the globe. That is why I am very exited to come to the Derby and meet people there to interact with them through art.

”







EVA

G R U T E R





“

When I'm out in public, I like to collect impressions and scenes from my everyday-life. Sketching people and my surroundings in my sketchbook functions as a little camera and diary in one. In these drawings, I often start with a shape that I see and then follow along with what my mind adds to it. The results are often collage-like drawings that are the product of different people in different places at different times.

”





“ My art mostly consists of drawings, mainly done with charcoal as it provides me with a variety of ways to use it, such as to make flat or thin strokes. Last year I worked on a charcoal series dealing with the way garments and fabrics crease, fold and make forms or shapes on and around the human body. For this series, the process of building up a drawing - layering strokes of charcoal and rubber above one another - was of much importance as it was the key point that made it possible for me to interact with the fabric.



PERFORMANCE PIECE

04/08/23

18:00 (bst)

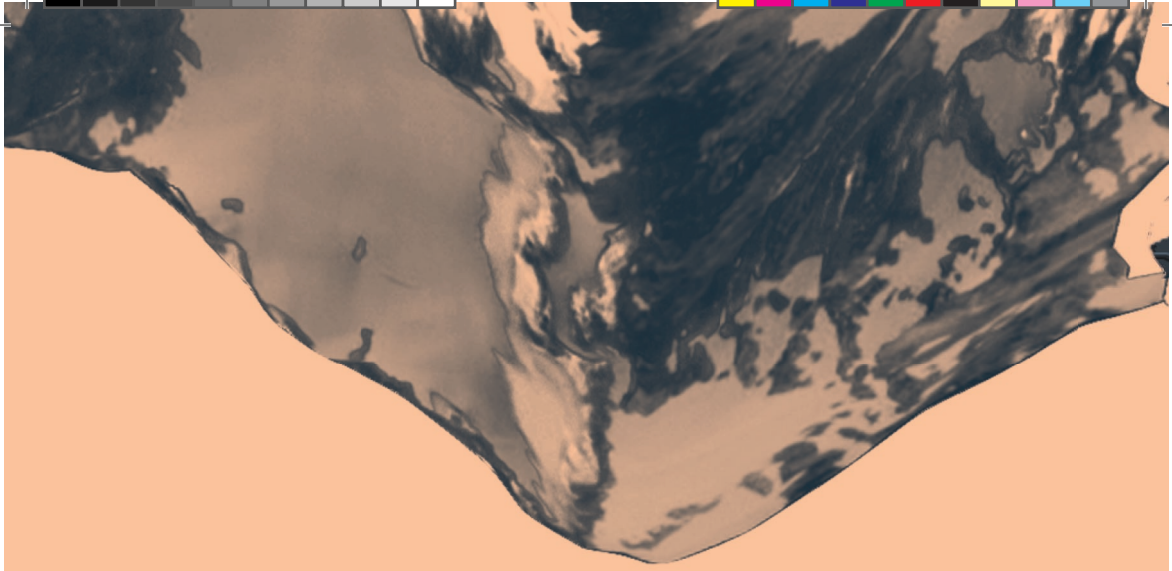
Vivian Blum and Eva Gruter, Osnabruck artists in residence, will be conducting a performance art piece during the Building Bridges exhibiton launch at the Artcore Gallery.



The performance deals with connecting with oneself and others, challenging personal and interpersonal interactions. In addition, exploring one's own and other's boundaries is key to the performance. Finding one's energy in the room by trying to feel the presence of the other person and interacting with them. This interaction takes place not thorough words but through an exchange of energy.

By getting rid of everyday items such as shoes and clothes, it allows the performers to arrive inside the space they are performing in. The bodies function as a medium through which the identities can communicate with their surroundings and each other.

The space is shaped by the audience, the performers and their interactions within this place. This leads to a uniqueness of the performance, as all those factors are variable.



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