



One Network for Conservation and the Arts

2013 - 2014 Annual Report



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What is ONCA?

Asking questions - Telling stories - Hosting conversations

ONE NETWORK FOR CONSERVATION AND THE ARTS

ONCA's mission is to inspire and foster a greater understanding of environmental change through art, education and creative practice.

ONCA: ONE NETWORK FOR CONSERVATION AND THE ARTS launched in November 2012 in Brighton, as the UK's only inner-city creative hub for asking questions, telling stories and hosting conversations about art & ecology.

The aims of The ONCA Trust:

- 1. To raise awareness of environmental and conservation issues through the arts.
- 2. To promote educational initiatives relating to art and conservation.
- 3. To raise funds to support conservation projects.

The aims of The ONCA Gallery:

- 1. To organise and curate contemporary art exhibitions themed around ecological concerns.
- 2. To run a programme of workshops – in the gallery, within schools and beyond. These are related to each project theme and include: Creative writing; Poetry; Storytelling; Doodling; Drawing; Land art; Sculpture; Outdoor and adventure; Music / DJ-ing; Film making.
- 3. To run a programme of performance, film, debate and discussion.
- 4. To open the space to independent artists and charities, offering consultancy and gallery hire, for exhibitions that fit within the aims of The ONCA Trust and Gallery.

INVITING PEOPLE TO SEE CHANGING ECOLOGIES IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Charity number 1150539

A foreword from the board

Letter from ONCA's trustees

The ONCA Trust and Gallery has been ambitious, innovative and a driving force for change in it's second year of existence nestled within Brighton's London Road area of the city.

ONCA's urban location is both a challenge and a gift in terms of finding ways to reach out to new audiences, creating links with local community action groups and co-operatives, and for capturing the imaginations of passers by, people local to the region and beyond.

Ground-breaking achievements for ONCA through 2013 - 2014 include the commissioning of nine new exhibitions, performances and artworks, two successful collaborations one with Happy Planet Doodlefest for Brighton Fringe and the second with artist collective Invisible Flock for Brighton Festival 2014. The ONCA team delivered part two of the arts council funded 'INorganic' artistic programme and developed a new grants for the arts funded programme for 2014 entitled 'Changing Habitats'. 'Changing Habitats' featured three gallery exhibitions, two of which were guest curated, on themes such as the creation and destruction of habitats and the concept of becoming animal: 100: A Making of Trees, Exile: A Living of Forest and To the Trees: A Changing of Home. The programme also represented ONCA's commitment to being a space for cross-disciplinary creative work and a hub for showcasing a range of artforms.

A series of creative writing workshops with local primary school, Carlton Hill and storytelling performances at ONCA and Stour Valley Arts in Kent were developed and delivered by Literary Coordinator Joanna Coleman. Performances featured ONCA's resident storyteller Abbie Palache. We laid the foundations for a new partnership with the University of Brighton, working in association with Alan Boldon on the 'Exile: Becoming Animal' Debate held at the Sallis Benney Theatre on 30 August 2014.

We delivered a series of ONCA Conversations in partnership with international charities Born Free Foundation and CIWY. ONCA's creative practitioner network expanded to include Guest Curators and artists Dan Howard-Birt of Stour Valley Arts and Rosemarie McGoldrick of The CASS School of Art.

Through ONCA's activities we donated to both Born Free Foundation to support their conservation work at Kahuzi Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to CIWY's rehabilitation of animals at Parque Ambue Ari.

We are very proud of our commitment to providing artists who are based locally, nationally and internationally with professional development and exposure for their work, including the work of local young people who exhibited alongside practicing artists in '100: A Making of Trees'.

We have expanded our support from influential thinkers and role models to include Robert MacFarlane and John Vernon Lord who join world-renowned land artist Chris Drury and Brighton & Hove's Green MP Caroline Lucas as ONCA Patrons. We also welcomed three highly skilled new Trustees to the Board: Helena Joyce, Chloe Barker and Donna Vose.

The ONCA Trust trustees 2013 - 2014

John Coleman, Jo Watters-Pawlowski, Diana Zajicek, Eva Coleman, Chris Hill, Michelle Westbury, Helena Joyce, Chloe Barker, Donna Vose.



Who we are

THE TEAM (current):

Laura Coleman - Founder and Director
Lauren Davies - Gallery Manager
Persephone Pearl - Creative Producer
Emma Pavans de Ceccatty - Gallery Assistant
Aurora Sciabarra - Volunteer
Sean Caves - Volunteer
Rhiannon Poole - Graphic Design Volunteer

THE TEAM (past helpers and volunteers):

Antonia McKenzie - Social Media Volunteer
Morgan Claverie - Window Display Designer Volunteer
Faye Carrick - Volunteer
Faye Bentley - Volunteer
Sara Shokry - Volunteer
Georgiana Ellis - Volunteer
Majken Disch - Volunteer
Fransesca Granger - Volunteer

THE TRUSTEES:

John Coleman
Jo Watters-Pawlowski
Chris Hill
Eva Coleman
Chloe Barker
Helena Joyce
Michelle Westbury

OUR PATRONS:

Chris Drury
Caroline Lucas
Robert Macfarlane
John Vernon Lord

OUR RESIDENTS:

Writer in Residence - Joanna Coleman
Performers in Residence - Feral Theatre
Storyteller in Residence - Abbie Palache



*The two Fayes helping us film our
kickstarter video in June 2014*



*Emma and Morgan
finishing up our Winter
Window Display*

What our patrons say



A NOTE FROM CHRIS DRURY:

'In an art world which is cynical and aloof, ONCA is a breath of fresh air. It is lively and alive. It cares about the world we live in and the way we lead our lives, it connects us to aspects of our lives we haven't considered. It acts as a hub connecting us to other disciplines and other ways of thinking. Art and Environment are not mutually exclusive because they are both connected to our deepest human emotions. So this small modest gallery is unique and deserving of our support.'

A NOTE FROM CAROLINE LUCAS:

'I'm very proud that Brighton is home to ONCA - a unique and inspiring gallery that acts both as a showcase for our relationship with the natural world, and as a spur to protecting and enhancing it. The arts have a vital role to play in encouraging more people to care for our environment, and to take action to defend it. At a time of increasing environmental destruction, we need to reach the hearts and minds of as many people as we can with a positive message that urgent change is possible and desirable. ONCA shows how that can be done - and offers a wonderfully creative space for exploration and reflection.'



What our patrons say

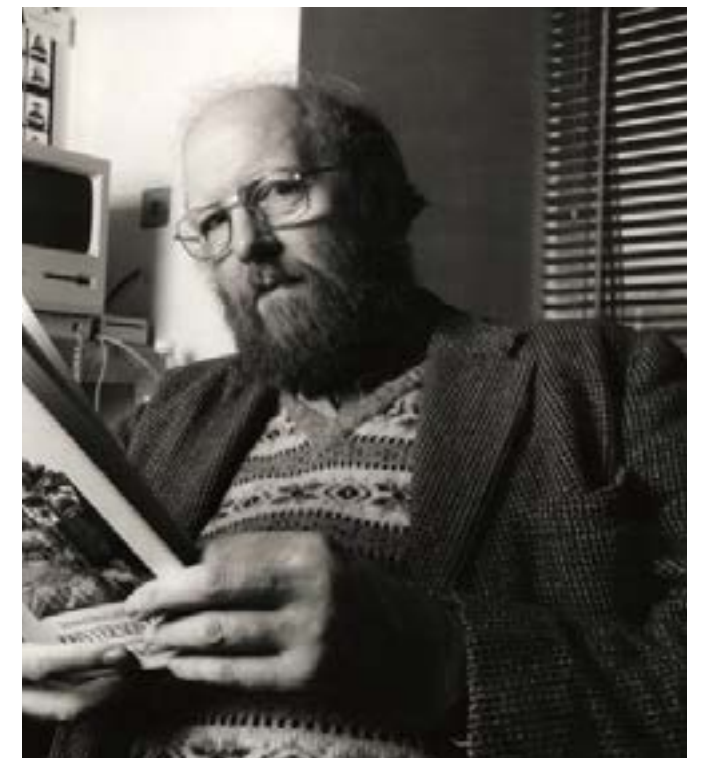


A NOTE FROM ROBERT MACFARLANE:

'ONCA is an inspiring organisation: passionate, energetic and agile. It brings together communities and creativity in open-hearted and mind-altering ways. The great American essayist and agrarianist, Wendell Berry, reminds us that technological fixes for global problems will only get us part of the way; cultural change is, eventually, far more powerful and far-reaching. But cultural change is also, of course, mysterious in its origins and unpredictable in its outcomes. Organisations such as ONCA help to stimulate and shape such change for the good: I am proud to be one of their patrons.'

A NOTE FROM JOHN VERNON LORD:

'I am honoured to be part of ONCA. Its aim in raising awareness of environmental and conservation issues is something that is not just worthy but is crucial for the world to sort out now. To do it through the arts is a wonderful way of alerting our consciousness to the important issues that affect the world we live in. (...) We depend on Nature's bountiful provision for our existence and there is little point in jeopardising its benefits for short-term gains without being sensitive to the possible consequences.'



Artists in residence

Writer in Residence



JOANNA COLEMAN - WRITER IN RESIDENCE

From November 2013 – November 2014 a number of literary and creative writing events were run at ONCA in coordination with its visual art exhibitions. In association with INorganic, a creative writing competition “A Waste of Space” was run. One of our most popular competitions yet, it culminated with a reading and performance evening that packed out the gallery around Full Circle’s green house. 10 local children and 10 adults performed, and awards were given for the winning entries by special guest judge Hugh Dunkerley. A writing workshop in December on plastic waste was also well attended. In association with our Whalefest exhibition, an ONCA stand at Brighton’s Whalefest resulted in a wonderful scroll of doodles and poetry. As a final INorganic activity we were delighted to team up with Ecotales’ Louise Purnell at the end of March– while hosting the giant plastic bird Stanleytross – to offer a Picturing Plastic poetry and illustration workshop that coordinated with their plastic pollution competition, and resulted in a rich array of creative pieces.

For our summer exhibition series “Changing Habitats”, in coordination with Stour Valley Arts and as part of “100”, Abbie Palache and myself provided a midsummer storytelling and poetry session on location at King’s Wood in Kent. Collaboration with Abbie continued into “Exile”, and on August 20th we presented “A Seeing of Forests: Becoming More than Human” – a poetry and storytelling performance and workshop which was described by attendees as “spell-binding”. Educational workshops and a debate made up of an academic symposium (What is the Role of Becoming Animal in Ecological Activity?) were also run during the duration of “Changing Habitats”. Particularly successful were those run with Carlton Hill primary school; three 90 minute sessions at each of our summer exhibitions: “100”, “Exile” and “To the Trees”. In this sense we very much fulfilled our aim of building local community connections.

In conclusion, it was a successful, diverse and exciting year for ONCA’s writing projects. Joanna has now stepped down from both posts to concentrate on her PhD and allow space for ONCA to develop relationships with – and residencies for – a wider range of writers, but is very happy to have developed ONCA’s writing projects and considers her time with ONCA a fruitful and deeply enriching one.



Artists in residence

Storyteller in Residence



ABBIE PALACHE - STORYTELLER IN RESIDENCE

In 2014, ONCA planted the first tree as part of the 100 trees project. As part of a morning ceremony of tree planting, music and celebration, I told the tale of the singing tree as a reminder that trees do not only give us oxygen, but peace and wellbeing. On the 21st June, as part of a collaboration, Joanna Coleman and myself produced a poetry-and-story-walk set within the beautiful open-air exhibition of land art in Kings Wood, Kent. We told the terrifying tale of Baba Yaga with the story of the Woodland King from Italy, finishing our journey with a Midsummer picnic in the yew tree walk, that was designed to frame the midsummer sun each year. The event was very well attended and the curator of Kings Wood commented: "We all loved having you in King's Wood, and were thrilled by the stories and their telling. I was completely flabbergasted by how quiet and enraptured your audience was. I remember saying to you before, that in the forest there is no telling how people will choose to behave, but you and Joanna had their full attention all the way. More power to you."

Later on in the summer, as part of Becoming Animal, Joanna and myself created a brand new piece of work, weaving together stories from ancient Siberia, Britain and Germany that spoke of transformation and relationship to forest. In the second half, the audience was invited to create and share their own responses to the art on the walls and the theme of the stories. We had an audience of approximately 37.

"The destiny of the world is determined less by the battles that are lost and won than by the stories it loves and believes in." Harold Goddard



Artists in residence

Performers in Residence



FERAL THEATRE :



Volunteer programme

Since it’s inception, ONCA has had a team of skilled and creative volunteers. While all the volunteers help run the gallery space, each has a unique skill and ability that they use to support ONCA’s mission. Whether it be as an invigilator, fundraiser, curator, event planner, or educator, the program allows each volunteer to gain experience, develop their skills, and make connections within the community. We believe that volunteers are invaluable to our success and we continue to seek the best and brightest in Brighton to join our team

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WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY :

“Volunteering at ONCA you really feel part of the team. Their eagerness for you to get involved and the trust they place in you makes it a great environment to be in.

The team at ONCA are very inclusive and open to all suggestions, meaning there is a wide variety of activities to dip into. By helping with gallery set ups/take downs, as well as invigilating I got the chance to meet with artists, other volunteers and the general public, which was a lovely chance to be able to connect with and built new relationships.

I mainly found out more about our environment and the issues surrounding it. This has caused me to be more aware of what effect we have on not just the earth but the creatures who live alongside us, something I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”
- Faye Bentley

“Volunteering with ONCA has been a great experience. It’s very gratifying being part of the overall ONCA mission and knowing that you are an integral part in achieving this.”
- Majken Disch

“ONCA is a socially conscious gallery and it is wonderful to be involved with such an inspiring space.”
- Francesca Granger

Volunteer programme

WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY :

“So far my experience of volunteering at ONCA has been absolutely positive. I had the opportunity to explore the relation between art and conservation (two themes really important to me since I want to integrate them in my career plan) and I also met really interesting people, both artists and other volunteers that I would like to keep in my social network.

Definitely being in contact with art is always very enriching as well as beautiful. The job of my dream consists of using art as a medium to rise awareness about social/environmental issues and ONCA represents a really good example to me. To be honest I might also think to reproduce what we do at ONCA in my home country.”
- Sara Shokry

“During this year I’ve seen, few exhibitions, as a visitor, with a fairly compelling and challenging content; perhaps, suitable to an adult audience. I attended to the show called “To the Tree” as a volunteer last October. I saw a wide range of audience coming in to see the show. Parents with their children came in too. I thought it saw a great opportunity for children to get engaged both with art and environmental issues.

I believe art can make visible what it cannot be seen or what it’s been forgotten. Being surrounded by an environment of images, adverts, consumer goods, we’ve learnt how easier is the practice of through-everything-away-and-replace-with-brand-new-things. I wanted to volunteer at the Onca because the Gallery offers a space where people can see the environment from the point of view of nature.”
- Aurora Sciabarra



INorganic: Full Circle

10th January - 9th February 2014

THE CONCEPT:

Beauty can be found in unexpected places; something that's been rejected, for example. By reinventing the unwanted ephemera from our lives we can give the things we throw away a new lease of life.

'Full Circle' was a playful and immersive installation artwork by Beccy McCray which simulated a snow drift and consisted of tens of thousands of 'hole punches' (the tiny, circular pieces of paper collected by hole punchers which are usually discarded). The installation was a reflection on consumption and the huge amount of waste generated over the festive season - and the impact this has on our environment.

To provoke a sense of shared responsibility many of the hole punches will be from used wrapping paper and old Christmas cards sourced from within the community. They will be collected at 'punch points' through various local organisations and businesses, and at 'punch party' workshops held in the gallery during the consumer-frenzied months of December and January. The workshops aim to promote the attachment of feelings of self-expressivity and excitement to sustainability and resourcefulness instead of waste.

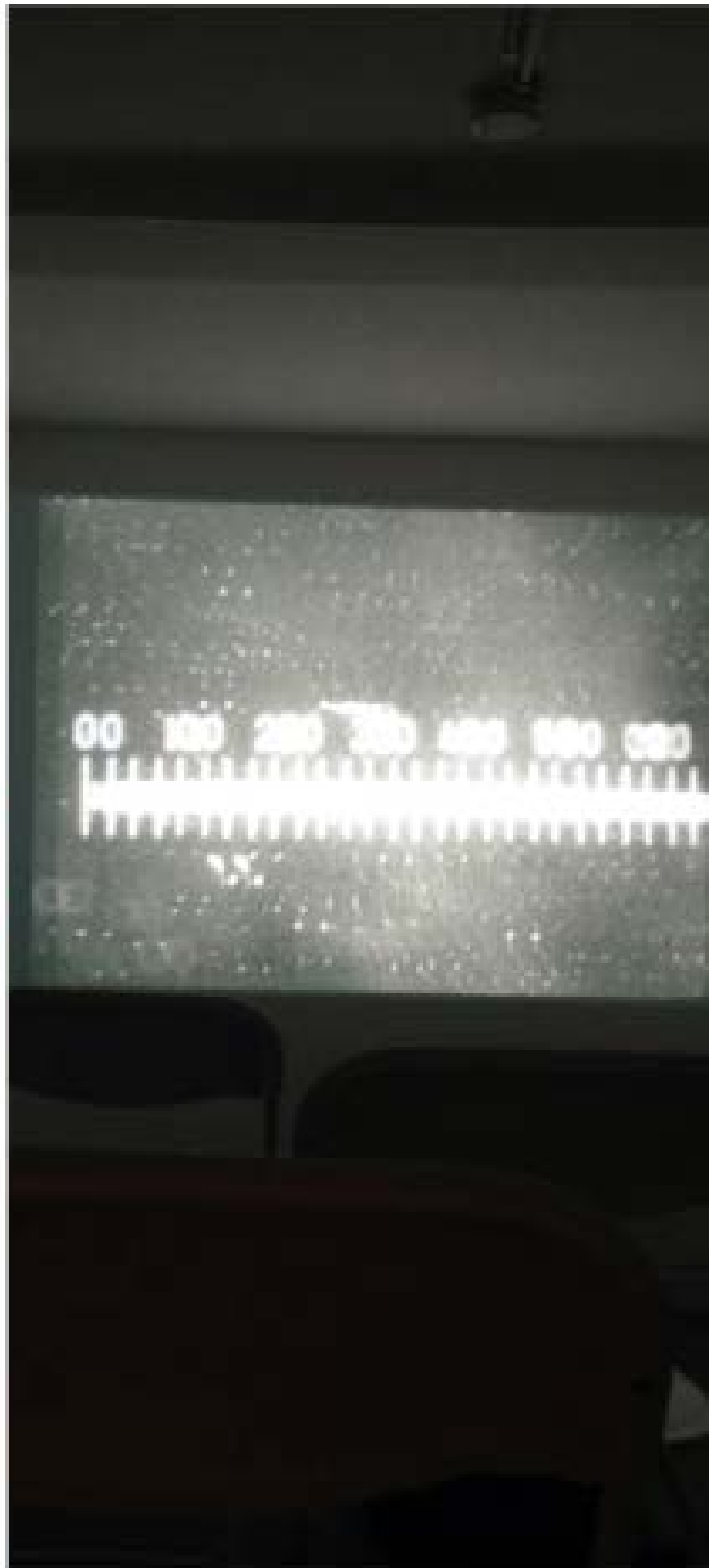
The whole project was documented on a blog and after the exhibition all of the punches that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill will be donated to a local recycling initiative; bringing the project and the lifecycle of the paper full circle.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Beccy McCray explores playful, socially engaged art and design using a multi-disciplinary approach in whatever realm necessary to create imaginative acts of resistance and more human moments in the world. Elevating the everyday and the things that really matter, she aims to break down boundaries between art, activism and everyday life. Her practice ultimately aims to spread a little joy and inspire positive change at a grass roots level, using creativity to communicate environmental and social ideals that go hand in hand. Recent projects and latest artworks have been commissioned by the Turner Contemporary, The Olympic Park Legacy Company, Barbican, The National Theatre, Secret Garden Party, and Create London. www.beccymccray.com www.crafternoonteaclub.com

SUPPORTING EVENTS:

08/02/14 Waste of Space - Evening of performance and waste poetry.
18/01/14,
25/01/14 Punch Party - Participatory hole punch workshops..



Partner Project: Brighton Science Festival, Microscopic Worlds

14th February - 21st February 2014

THE CONCEPT:

Welcoming two new artists to ONCA, we had hooked up with Brighton Science Festival for this partner project Microscopic Worlds. Visit the gallery to see 3D films, paintings, prints and sculptures – all about the world of microbiology and plankton.

Downstairs with Katie Goodwin

In our downstairs space, experience Small Wonders - a 3D abstract narrative short film by moving image artist Katie Goodwin. It follows microbiologist Terence Preston's 50 year scientific and personal journey discovering how single-celled organisms move at the air-water interface.

The film provides a rare and charming insight into this hidden amoebae world comparing their alien existence to our human experience. It uses a hypnotic 16mm film of an experiment shot through a microscope by Preston in 1972, combined with retro found cine footage of people interacting with water. Fragments of recorded conversations with the microbiologist, an enthusiastic storyteller, are blended with an abstract surround-sound audio track made in collaboration with sound designer Wayne Urquhart to create a meditation on science and time.

Upstairs with Iona Scott

Swimming with Plankton in 3D is an immersive underwater adventure into the microscopic world of plankton by Iona Scott, originally commissioned for Kew Gardens as a permanent exhibit in 2004.

Imagine you have been shrunk to the size of a pinhead and dropped into the sea, these are just a few of the millions of billions of creatures you would encounter drifting around you. Visually stunning and yet also capable of producing half of the oxygen on earth, these creatures play a crucial role in the Earth's ecosystem and our survival.





Partner Project: Whalefest

1st March - 16th March 2014

THE CONCEPT :

A cetacean-filled exhibition in association with WhaleFest, the world's largest festival about whales, dolphins and marine life.

WhaleFest is a not-for-profit event, which raises funds for the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA), the only global partnership of organisations working for whales and dolphins. With Jean-Michel Cousteau as Honorary President, the WCA has a focused strategy to end captive Killer Whale entertainment at marine parks, and to save threatened species – such as the world's last 50 Maui's dolphins in New Zealand.

THE ARTISTS:

Tom Ashworth – Paul Bartlett – Adam Binder – David Bennett – Sarah Booker – Keith Brockie – Anita Bruce – June Carey – John Davis – Phil Coles – Brin Edwards – Derek George – Madeline Goold – Katrina van Grouw – Kendra Haste – Martin Hayward-Harris – Paul Henery – Katie Henery Stuart Kuhn – Julian Meredith – Quanaq Palluq – Peter Partington – Charmian Pollok – Bruce Pearson – Viggo Ree – Darren Rees – Jessica Sarah Rinland – Chris Rose – Dafila Scott – Sonia Shomalzadeh – Charles Tunnicliffe – Michael Warren

GUEST CURATOR:

Darren Rees has been painting for over twenty years and he is one of our most decorated and highly respected wildlife artists. His first solo book *Bird Impressions* was published in 1993 to much critical acclaim. Darren is a knowledgeable naturalist and he acts as a guide for wildlife tours to several overseas destinations. He is also keen to promote the work of other painters of natural history and has penned many essays and a much praised series of profiles of wildlife artists. Sharing his enthusiasm for nature through pictures, words and tours has taken him around the globe.



InOrganic: Group Exhibition

21st March - 30th March 2014

THE CONCEPT :

Plastic is a part of our culture. We use it and we throw it away. And then it comes back. It is in the flow of the rivers, the swells of the ocean; it has been ingested into the food chain and released into the atmosphere. In many ways it has enhanced our lives and advanced our labours, but in the world's hidden places plastic is accumulating.

Main Gallery

Featuring the work of seven new artists to ONCA, all with new and unique views on plastic.

Andrew McNaughton – Steve McPherson – Jean Baynham – Angela McMahon – Jan Nowell – Lindsay Taylor – Mary Flynn

Downstairs: Children's Gallery

What creatures will be 'Fit to Survive' in a plastic-filled world? This film by Curious – www.placelessness.com – was originally commissioned to celebrate the anniversary of Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species'. It will play throughout the exhibition, and visitors asked to create their own gallery of ideas with the help of workshops run by professional doodler and award-winning filmmaker Roy Zoner.

In The Courtyard

Environmental arts organisation Ecotales and children from Stanley Primary School in Teddington bring Stanleytross the up-cycled albatross to ONCA. In order to highlight the plight of the albatross, who now have stomachs full of plastic, each child in Stanley school from reception to year six cut out one feather from a plastic milk bottle or black plastic container to create the sculpture. Its feet are made from plastic bags and its head was created by artist Michelle Reader using recycled plastic bottles and bottle tops.

Throughout the exhibition, we will hold Stanleytross children's writing and poetry workshops with ONCA's resident writer, Joanna Coleman. Some of the results will be published in a book compiled by Ecotales, with a foreword by David Attenborough.

SUPPORTING EVENTS:

22/03/14

Drop-in doodle workshop for all ages with Roy Zoner.

30/03/2014

Picturing Plastic – creative writing and illustration workshop with Joanna Coleman from ONCA and Louise Purnell from Ecotales.



Partner Project: Happy Planet Doodlefest

2nd May 2014 - 4th May 2014

THE CONCEPT :

Curated by Roy Peterson, Tamara Fletcher, and Mike Wolff, Happy Planet DoodleFest was a weekend long event as part of Brighton Festival Fringe exploring the theme of happiness via the art of doodling.

The exhibition broadly examined the intrinsic link between our emotional wellbeing, the natural environment and human behaviour. Themes such as giving, gratitude, togetherness, creativity, play and friendship were practiced and explored.

SUPPORTING EVENTS :

- 02/05/14 Happy Planet Doodles at Night - Learn the secrets of happiness through the power of doodling.
- 03/05/14 24 Hour Doodle Marathon - 24 hours of happiness, doodling, live music, wandering mimes, and sports celebrities in a doodle olympics.
As well as traditional mediums, the event embraced the digital: electronic displays featuring live drawing and opportunities for iPad doodling. Every space will be a canvas - from the gallery window to chalk doodles on the pavement outside.

Partner Project: Bring the Happy

10th May - 19th May 2014

THE CONCEPT :

Brighton Festival and Invisible Flock invited you to create a map of happiness in Brighton. This life-affirming project attempted to create a portrait of people's lives, taking happy memories from local residents and weaving them into a spectacular live event that celebrated the happiness of Brighton.

For ten days, the ONCA Gallery was transformed into a giant 3D map of Brighton on which you could plot your own happy memories. A first kiss, a longed-for baby, a chance encounter: where did it happen and how happy did it make you feel? As the people of Brighton marked their moments of happiness, we could all explore what had made people happy - and where.

SUPPORTING EVENTS :

- 23-25/05/14 Live Shows at the Old Market - With the outstanding six-piece band Hope & Social, the happy memories collected from Brighton and throughout the country will be shared in all their beautiful, tragic, ridiculous and occasionally mundane glory in Bring the Happy Live. Pitched somewhere, between a wedding and a wake, this performance is an extravagant event specially created to celebrate happiness and where we find it.



Partner Project: Lorenza Ippolito, Seed to Seed

3rd June - 15th June 2014

THE CONCEPT :

An exhibition of video and still photography by artist filmmaker Lorenza Ippolito.

Seed to Seed was an allegorical piece that explores the links between biodiversity, the seed and cultural diversity, identity and belonging, and what happens when globalisation impacts on them both.

Ippolito was inspired to make the piece during a research trip to Navdanya, a campaigning and educational organisation in Northern India. Whilst campaigning against multinational domination of food production, Navdanya works to preserve the traditional Indian culture of seed keeping – an ancient approach to safeguarding biodiversity, based on seed exchange amongst farmers.

Ippolito was struck by what she learned about the increasing pressure on subsistence farmers to substitute local, heritage seeds with genetically modified, branded seeds from multinational producers. Many of these farmers spiral into debt and suicide – unable to afford the pesticides and fertilisers these new seeds are so dependent on to thrive.

‘For me, the story of the seed keepers was symbolic of the impact of globalization, not only on biodiversity but on cultural diversity too. Every action has a reaction and I wanted to explore what happens when communities, such as the Indian diaspora, are displaced. How is a new sense of belonging created? How do they create new roots in new lands?’

Back home in the UK, Ippolito became fascinated with the spread of Indian communities throughout the world:

‘Generally, Indian cultures have struck an interesting balance between openness and integration and retaining their core identity too.

I wanted to find out how people from my local Indian community had achieved that balance, so by using the seed as a metaphor, I have drawn out ideas about heritage and social ecologies of place to create a piece that explores personal stories about making a home in a culture different from one’s own.’

Combining audio, stills photography and moving image, collected during Ippolito’s exploratory travels and conversations with Indian communities, Seed to Seed was a thought provoking and intimate portrayal of cultural displacement.

ABOUT THE ARTIST :

Lorenza Ippolito is an Italian artist based in Brighton at Blank Studios, whose interests pivot around ideas relating to identity, belonging and nostalgia. She works with still and moving images to create pieces that look at the everyday, the social and the political, whilst blurring the boundaries between fine art, photography and video.



100: A Making of Trees

Part of 'The 100 Project'

19th June - 6th July 2014

THE CONCEPT :

100: A Making of Trees was an exhibition and is an ongoing project, inspiring the local community to think about trees in new ways. 100 hours long, the exhibition consisted of 100 small artworks by artists and young people. We aim to plant 100 new trees in the London Road area of Brighton over the coming year.

100 artworks. 100 trees. 100 hours to make a difference.

With trees rapidly disappearing, what role can artists play in their survival?

This summer, ONCA will create two forests – an artistic forest in the gallery and a living one outside.

“Art can hugely impact how we view our surroundings. I think this exhibition is a fantastic opportunity for us to pause and reflect upon our city and our place in it – and to see it through other people’s eyes. How brilliant that, through this venture, we can also help physically plant new life into one of the busiest roads in Brighton, to be enjoyed for years to come.”

Caroline Lucas, ONCA Patron and MP for Brighton Pavilion

The exhibition, guest curated by Dan Howard-Birt Curator of artistic programmes at Stour Valley Arts, will feature 100 selected artworks by artists and young people, and will be open just 100 hours between 19 June and 6 July.

Through this 100 project, we aim to plant 100 trees along London Road in Brighton, to root a creatively inspired landscape in the local area. In order to do this, we need to raise £100 per tree. Can you help us?

You could sponsor a tree, whether as a business, school, local inhabitant or friend.

You could buy one of our artworks, each of which will be priced at £100. £50 will go to the artist and £50 will be put towards our tree planting scheme.

We would love for each tree to represent a partnership between an artist, the person buying an artwork and a local contributor. A trio of guardians helping to restore environmental degradation through art.

As well as featuring work by professional artists, some of the artworks will be created by school children from local schools including Dorothy-Stringer High School and Carlton Hill School, as well as youth groups in Brighton.

This project is in association with Earth Restoration Service (ERS), a registered charity that helps children in schools learn about the environment, planting trees and creating wild-flower meadows in order to restore their local degraded habitats.

SUPPORTING EVENTS :

21/06/14

Tree Planting Ceremony

The Living Forest: A Stour Valley Arts Storytelling Walk in King’s Wood



Exile: A Living of Forest

7th September - 14th September 2014

THE CONCEPT :

Exile: A Living of Forest was a multidisciplinary exhibition that asked us to enter the forest through animal eyes, and to value woodlands through paws, claws, furs and feathers. We are taught to set up strict boundaries between the human and animal world, but we ask – what would happen if we let these boundaries dissolve?

This was a group exhibition, guest curated by Rosemarie McGoldrick, of artists becoming animal to explore loss of home. How does it feel for an animal who lives in the forest when that forest is no longer safe? And can we discover the animal inside ourselves to imagine that exile?

Exile includes visual arts, films, workshops, performances, talks, puppetry and debates, as well as an interactive creative space in which every visitor will have the chance to explore their relationship with the animal other.

The exhibition is in partnership with the Born Free Foundation, an international wildlife charity working throughout the world to stop individual **wild animal suffering** and **protect threatened species in the wild**.

We have linked with their work at the Kahuzi Biega National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

THE ARTISTS:

Featuring the work of artists: Nicola McCartney, Chris Watson, Lorenzo M.Duran, Julie Dodd, Ines Querido, Bob and Roberta Smith, Darren Harvey-Regan, Rachel Mayeri, Tessa Farmer, Angela Bartram, Jacob Cartwright & Nick Jordan, Suky Best, Aurelia Mihai, Clara S Rueprich, Thomas Keyes, Susan Richardson, Sintija Vikmane, Perdita Sinclair, Penelope Oakley, John Mitchell, Jessie Jermyn, Holly Budge, Bridget McKenzie, Jennifer Hooper.

And performances by poet Joanna Coleman and storyteller Abbie Palache, Feral Theatre and TouchedTheatre.

SUPPORTING EVENTS :

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 14/08/14 | Encountering the Animal - An ONCA Conversation with Ian Remond OBE |
| 20/08/14 | A Seeing of Forests: Becoming More Than Human - A Storytelling Workshop and Performance |
| 23/08/14 | Freaks of Nature - Feral Theatre Live in ONCA's Window |
| 30/08/14 | |
| 13/09/14 | The Crow Who Fell In Love With the Moon by Touched Theatre - A gently interactive storytelling performance for everyone aged 6+ and their families. |
| 30/08/14 | Becoming-Animal Debate - What is the role of becoming-animal in promoting ecological activity? |



To The Trees: A Changing of Home

18th September - 12th October 2014

THE CONCEPT :

To The Trees: A Changing of Home is a solo exhibition by London based artist Jennifer Hooper based on her residency in the Bolivian rainforest.

The exhibition draws on ten years of thoughts and ideas that began when Hooper volunteered at the International NGO Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY) in 2004. The work is a culmination of a 9 week residency in the Bolivian Jungle when she returned as an artist, to CIWY in 2013.

Through painting, drawing and photography Hooper responds to the threats facing a unique area of forest, and the creatures depending upon its survival for their own. After being in close proximity to the rescued animals at CIWY Hooper gained a unique insight into the consequences of habitat degradation and the wildlife trade in Bolivia. This work is an aesthetic and philosophical response to our changing relationship to the natural world; through which we are presented with an intimate portrait of these wild creatures and their fragile home.

‘...After about a month I couldn’t remember what was so great about the adornments of modern life, running hot water, electricity, internet, cold drinks and supermarkets; because all seemed incomparable to the uniqueness of this way of life, to feel and know that you are part of something exceptional and far greater than yourself. And to have the privilege to live every day under the shelter of the forest, in the company of these exquisite animals and the passionate people that care for them.’

ABOUT THE ARTIST :

Jennifer Hooper is a London based visual artist. She studied painting and photography at Camberwell College of Art and Anatomy at UCL. She has exhibited internationally and travels regularly in an exploratory way, which informs her practice. Over the last couple of years through specific collaborative exhibitions and projects Hooper has endeavoured to highlight and respond to environmental concerns commenting upon our relationship to the natural world and our place within it.

‘I often work from the collected animal; drawn from the past, and live and dead animal display, these images have a profundity that resonates at an unconscious level.’

SUPPORTING EVENTS :

02/10/2014 An ONCA Conversation: Art in the Trees - Featuring artist Jennifer Hooper, ONCA Founder Laura Coleman and CIWY Head of International Relations Jonathan Cassidy. The discussion focused on animal encounters in the jungle, and explored the links between art and conservation, survival and friendship.



Partner Project: Jellytastic

15th October - 20th October 2014

THE CONCEPT :

Artist, Trudi Lloyd Williams, has spent hundreds of hours sculpting jellyfish out of recycled plastic bottles. The resulting pieces are beautiful and delicate, just like the actual jellyfish which visit our shores each summer.

This exhibition highlights the wonderful marine life found in our seas and is a culmination of many months of work engaging people with a Jellytastic world.

The exhibition also highlights the incredible quantity of plastic bottles we use in our daily lives, so many of which we could quite easily do without. The masses of plastic bottles which are used in this exhibition were collected by school children and the public over last summer. The public have also been contributing to the project by reporting jellyfish sightings and making their own jellyfish sculptures.

Jellytastic is a joint project between artist, Trudi Lloyd Williams, Sussex Wildlife Trust and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Aquarium Ltd, and the New Forest National Park Authority.

SUPPORTING EVENTS :

18/09/14 Jellyfish Sculpture Workshop
19/09/14



Expeditions: eXXpedition

eXXpedition is an all female voyage and long-term engagement programme that explores the unseen chemicals inside ourselves and inside our seas. Throughout a series of expeditions, groups of women will sail across the world's oceans raising awareness of toxic pollution. The mission is to start a dialogue about the plastics, chemicals, endocrine disruptors and carcinogens that are in our personal and global environments, and explore how these may cause disease, in particular working with evidence that links these chemicals with the rise in breast cancer rates. ONCA Director, Laura Coleman, took part in the first flagship eXXpedition in November 2014.

Scientists estimate that everyone alive today carries at least 700 contaminants within our bodies, most of which have not been well studied. Wherever you live in the world, you have been exposed to a cocktail of chemicals. All women on eXXpedition in November had their blood serum sampled for contamination. This is known as a body burden analysis, to assess personal exposure to toxic substances. This analysis was conducted by Dr Anna Karmann, forming part of a database collected for the UN Safe Planet campaign.

We engaged audiences of young women in these scientific narratives, through the personal stories of the women involved, and related this to the consumer choices we make, and the long-term health impacts of these choices on ourselves and our environment. By working with high-profile, cutting-edge and inspiring female role models, we found through a series of talks, workshops, discussion groups and exhibitions, new ways to engage women aged 13-30 in these essential, under-researched and under-talked about issues.

The long-term change we strove to achieve was to inspire women to value themselves and their environment through the choices they make and the products they chose. We aimed to make audiences aware of the links between chemical pollutants, buried within our daily environment, and rising rates of illnesses such as breast cancer. By establishing groups of female role models, we provided young women with the opportunity to learn about and discover these issues, thus working towards a sustained and long-term change in widespread attitudes towards the female body and the health of our planet.



Expeditions: Whale and Dolphin Research Expedition

Launched on 4th July 2014, ONCA's first sailing expedition was in partnership with Pangaea Explorations, bringing artists and researchers into the field to discover the wilderness. This project took four emerging artists 1,250 sea miles across the Northern Atlantic, on the lookout for great whales and dolphins in order to incorporate sightings into OBIS database.

The crew on board Sea Dragon sailed between Iceland and Sweden with a stopover in Faroes Islands. Over a total of 1,250 sea miles across the Northern Atlantic, we were on the lookout for great whales and dolphins to incorporate the information gathered to OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System) database. An area so seldom visited by scientists, it is of an enormous importance to document these sightings.

The skipper was Rodrigo Olsen. Born in Mexico, Olson has spent his life sailing the oceans of the world in search of some of the planet's most elusive whale species. He has a degree in Oceanography and was Captain of the famous research vessel 'Odyssey' which spent five years studying marine mammals around the globe. He has covered almost 300,000 nautical miles on sailing boats. A highly experienced diver, his ability to free-dive to great depths has resulted in some fantastic footage of his interaction with many species.

Laura Coleman, Director of ONCA, was also be on board. *As artistic facilitator, my goal was to ensure that the artists were provided with opportunities to create, explore and discover new ways to develop their creative practice. I am interested in how art and science can work together, disseminating and discussing the changes that are occurring in our environment. For me, this expedition was an exciting opportunity to document these interactions first hand. In addition, as someone who is happiest by the sea, immersed in the living world, this was a totally life-changing experience!*



Looking forwards

ONCA in 2015

“ONCA has gone from strength to strength this year, backed by the support of partners and the wider community. We successfully raised £15,000 through crowdfunding website Kickstarter, and this enabled us to continue running our rich programme of exhibitions and events. I couldn’t be prouder of what we have achieved, and I look forward to seeing how ONCA moves forward into the future. We are determined for ONCA to become a permanent feature in Brighton life, plus continuing to look outwards to see how we can work with global partners to deliver ONCA’s mission.”

Laura Coleman, ONCA Director

ONCA has developed an 18 month plan from 2015 onwards with the curational theme of ‘Navigating Change’.

Human culture is at a tipping point. Through ONCA’s Navigating Change programme we intend to research how artists and arts organisations can play an essential role in navigating through environmental change, with an emphasis on the city, at a time when urban residents now outnumber rural ones.

The programme features:

- Residencies
- Conversations
- Exhibitions
- Activities & Events
- Professional development programme

Looking forwards

ONCA in 2015

Exhibitions :

Partner Exhibition with the Wellcome Trust, Sussex Community NHS, Brighton Science Festival, MAP Foundationm We Are Macmillan Cancer Support and Brighton Therapy Centre, ‘Cancer Landscape’ featuring Michele Angelo Petrone 16th-28th Febrary 2015

Group exhibition ‘Whalesfest 2015’ with Katie Henery, Helen Cann, Stuart Kuhn, Jonathan Hyde, 9th to 15th of March 2015 to coincide with Whalefest 2015 14th & 15th of March.

Sarah Wood ‘artist archive’ for Brighton Festival 2015

Solo Show of Chris Drury’s EARTH Jun/July 2015

Rewilding Sussex curated group show July/ August 2015

Partner exhibition with Oxford based art and science organisation Pale Blue Dot “Lost & Found laboratories” Aug/ Sept 2015

Solo Show James Eddy’s Ancestors November 2015

Limited Edition Print show Winter 2015

Centre for Climate Change Therapy March 2016 part of SICK! Festival

Maria Arceo and eXXpedition (sculptural window installation out of plastic collected from beach cleans plus a documentary film screening and research findings) March 2016 to coincide with Whalefest Weekend 12 & 13 March.

Activities and Events :

Blackbird eco-film festival Jan 2016; Remembrance Day for Lost Species November 2015 & 2016; Doodlefest on tour and doodle workshops; Elders and disappearing stories oral history project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund with storyteller Abbie Palache and Feral Theatre maker Persephone Pearl; cosmetic making workshops for teens as part eXXpedition related show on toxics and marine pollution.

Wider Programme Activities :

- Art therapy workshops for people affected by Cancer May - August 2015
- Partnership with Dorothy Stringer School & BlockBuilders 2015

Partner Project: Cancer Landscape

16th February - 28th February 2015

THE CONCEPT :

A Cancer Landscape is a collaborative exhibition, led by Sussex Community NHS Trust, presenting emotional cancer images that depict the paintings of artist Michele Angelo Petrone alongside physical, bio medical, diagnostic images from the Wellcome Medical Photographic Library. Also featured within the exhibition are the personal artworks of people affected by cancer, created during a series of workshops held at ONCA in 2014.

This ground breaking exhibition, evolving over two weeks from 16th to 28th February 2015, explores cancer as both a physical reality and an emotional journey. Full colour prints of actual cancer cells are exhibited alongside vivid artistic representations of emotional responses. You are invited to come to the exhibition where you will have an opportunity to contribute to this living landscape as it transforms the gallery. Included within the exhibition programme will be resources and current information on early symptom recognition and cancer screening programmes.

ABOUT THE ARTIST :

Michele Petrone was a professional artist born to Italian parents in Kingston-on-Thames. He studied at Wimbledon College of Art, at The Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design and at Chelsea College of Art.

Petrone exhibited at the Royal Academy of Art and at London's South Bank. His work is included in the BP Young Europeans Collection in Brussels and in public and private collections across the world. He received a Medal of Distinction from the Glogow Museum in Poland. In 2004 he won the Blair Sadler Award from the Society for the Arts in Healthcare in Washington DC for his ground-breaking work with people affected by cancer.

SUPPORTING EVENTS :

27/10/14, 10/11/14, 24/11/14, 08/12/14

Cancer Landscape Workshops - A series of art workshops to explore and express one's cancer experience



Whalefest 2015: Group Exhibition

9th - 15th March 2015

THE CONCEPT :

From the 9th to the 15th of March ONCA will be hosting an exhibition featuring four artists, Katie Henery, Helen Cann, Stuart Kuhn, and Jonathan Hyde, in response to WhaleFest, the world's largest festival about whales, dolphins and marine life.

In the summer of 2014, these four artists became part of the crew of Sea Dragon, a 22 metre steel sailing boat that journeyed 1300 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from Reykjavik in Iceland to Gothenberg in Sweden. Working with marine biologists, scientists, documentary film makers and an old Icelandic sea captain, they spent their time on board searching the cold waters for whales and dolphins. As part of Whalefest, this exhibition is their final destination point. Installation, photography, film, drawing and mapping tell a sea saga of elusive whales, hunters, saltwater and a coming together of art and science.

ABOUT WHALEFEST :

WhaleFest is a not-for-profit event, which raises funds for the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA), the only global partnership of organisations working for whales and dolphins. With Jean-Michel Cousteau as Honorary President, the WCA has a focused strategy to end captive Killer Whale entertainment at marine parks, and to save threatened species - such as the world's last 50 Maui's dolphins in New Zealand.



Comments

From our wonderful gallery visitors

"So much fun whilst also delivering an important message about waste. Great way of communicating the issues of plastic in the environment."

"We loved it - the children made waste angels and we were excited by the contrast between the fun upstairs and the quiet snowball downstairs."

"What a beautiful exhibition. I've stayed here for ages and feel a sense of calmness - some wonderful work. I never knew whales were so amazing!"

"What started as a shop window curiosity developed into an afternoon of waste filled fun. Chatting to Becky about the philosophy behind the project was really interesting and I look forward to carrying on the punches cycle!"

"Inspirational for James; therapeutic for Hugo; lots of fun for Mum and Dad."

"I particularly like the fossils of the Anthropocene, even more so because I recently learnt that word from an article by George Monbiot! And the arrangements of bits of found plastic by Steve McPherson are very satisfying. A very interesting show, I love the reuse of found materials and it's nice to think the artists might have tidied up a bit while creating the work!"

"Thank you! Fantastic Idea! The kids were very happy to have their work involved in helping their planet."

"A beautiful exhibiton, very uplifting and inspiring! I would love to get involved for future exhibitons!"

"First time in the gallery, will be back for more; brilliant theme. Great gallery!"

"This exhibition is fabulous - wonderful news to hear about the Tree Planting - Brighton needs more trees! Really interesting work! Well done."

"Really powerful and moving images making their point beautifully - a well constructed exhibiton."

A huge ONCA thank you to everyone who has continually supported us for two years!

