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ONCA
ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

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Annual Report

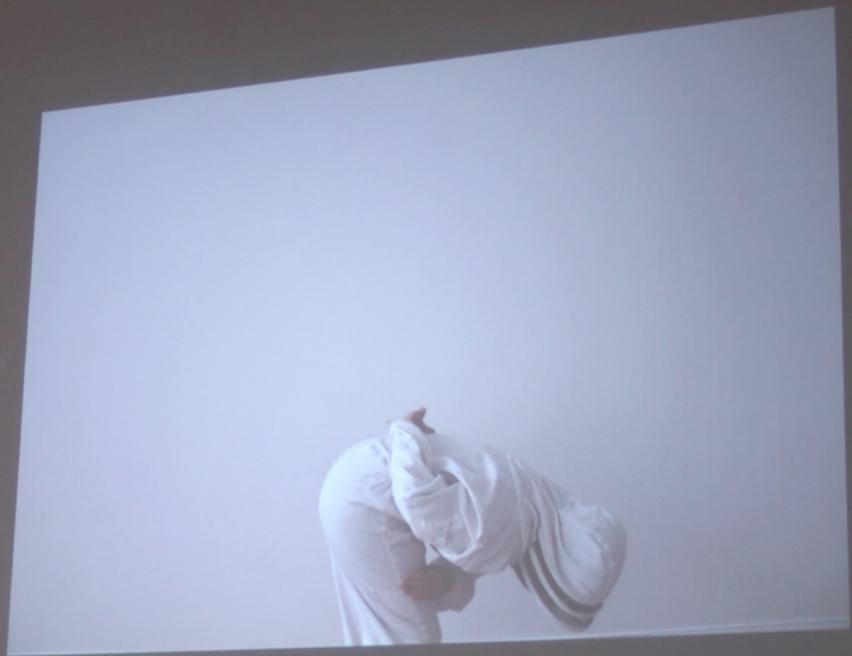
2015/16

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About O N C A

O N C A is a combined arts venue in the UK whose primary focus is on ecology: raising a deeper awareness within the community of environmental and social change.

From our gallery space in Brighton, we curate and support a wide range of arts events and activities, all of which respond in some way to environmental change or pressing social issues.

Since November 2012, our programme of exhibitions and outreach has engaged artists, scientists and the general public in vibrant discourse about the environment.

O N C A is a constantly evolving vehicle for reaching out to new diverse audiences, creating links with local community action groups and co-operatives, and capturing the imaginations of passers by, people local to the region and beyond.

O N C A believes that the arts are capable of catalysing dramatic shifts within society. Our mission is to inspire positive action in response to current cultural and environmental urgencies, through creativity, courage, collaboration, playfulness, learning and impact.

Trustees Report

O N C A is a vibrant emerging organisation. As an arts commissioner, it believes in galvanising the creation of a critical mass of work that responds to environmental change. It is passionate about helping to create cohesive communities, in Brighton and beyond, and believes that art has a key role to play as we move towards more sustainable ways of living.

Arts Council England-supported project ‘Navigating Change’ has enabled O N C A to develop its vision of interdisciplinary arts practice, whilst providing a hub for the arts and ecology community in the city and beyond, and building a viable business model for the gallery and its work. O N C A has a real opportunity to become sustainable, whilst also continuing to deliver an innovative and thought-provoking programme built around strategic partnerships and artistic quality.

It will also build upon its commitment to inclusivity, and test new supportive ways of helping propagate work including residencies, mentoring and outreach with harder-to-reach groups (including SEN and BME), plus researching the delivery of a cohesive volunteering programme. O N C A is also aiming towards becoming a model for environmental/financial sustainability, ensuring that all processes are green and well communicated for the benefit of ourselves, and others.



Small text on a shelf, possibly a label or notice.

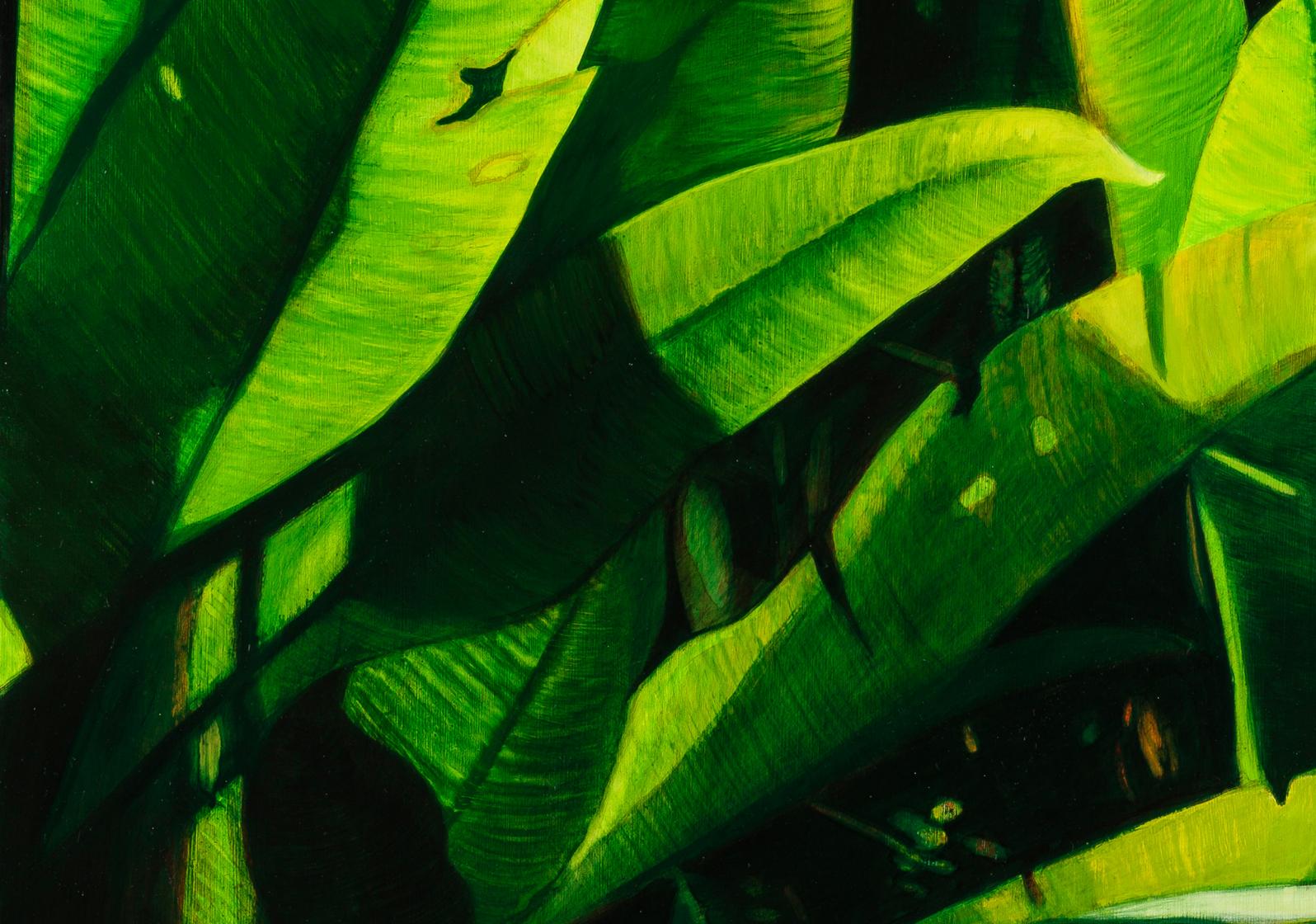


Charity Objectives

The objects of the charity are:

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

O N C A believes that the arts are capable of catalysing dramatic shifts within society. Our mission is to inspire positive action in response to current cultural and environmental urgencies, through creativity, courage, collaboration, playfulness, learning and impact. We curate and support a wide range of arts events and activities, all of which respond in some way to environmental change or pressing social issues. We do this from our gallery space in Brighton. Upstairs at O N C A, we run a community workspace for artists, charities and businesses working towards positive change in society. O N C A is a combined arts venue in the UK whose primary focus is on ecology: raising a deeper awareness within the community of environmental and social change.





KIMBERLEYS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
JUNE 14TH
2016

LINCOLN
MONTANA
USA
JULY 13TH
2016

DARK
MOUNTAIN
SALT
2016

ACE: Navigating Change

In 2015 O N C A was awarded £75,000 from the Arts Council England for a two year participatory arts programme, entitled Navigating Change.

Navigating Change was an innovative, interdisciplinary programme about how society and culture are being called to respond to environmental change. Our creative programme has been structured to cultivate understanding and resilience within our target audiences, and research how these tools can be best delivered in the future.

Between July 2015 and July 2017 we will deliver eleven projects, underneath the title 'Navigating Change', dealing with a variety of interrelated themes including soil, food and plastics. The programme has been curated to include prominent and emerging artists, who are either already working with ecology/sustainability, or who are passionate about exploration/communication.

“Navigating Change explores how we – as a society, and as a community of artists and arts organisations – can cultivate biodiversity, social inclusion and personal and institutional resilience, as we navigate through this time of unprecedented ecological change,” says O N C A Director Laura Coleman.

Financial Overview

Fundraising grants for this period:

Arts Council England, Navigating Change (payment 2/3) : £30,000.00

Santander/ SEDA University of Sussex Internship - £3,000.00

SPRU (Science Policy Research Unit) University of Sussex - £2,500.00

MAP Foundation - £17,236.69

Seedbed/ Upstream Ideas - £5,000.00

Clore Poetry & Literature Award - £7,615.00

Brighton Digital Festival - £500.00

Income and endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2016	Total 2015
Donations and legacies	£1,948.00	£17,237.00	£19,185.00	£6,114.00
Charitable Activities	£71,932.00	£51,915.00	£123,847.00	£68,167.00
Other income	£328.00	-	£328.00	£48.00
Total Income	£74,208.00	£69,152.00	£143,360.00	£74,329.00

Expenditure on:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2016	Total 2015
Charitable Activities	£67,652.00	£56,286.00	£123,938.00	£58,976.00

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2016	Total 2015
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds	£6,556.00	£12,866.00	£19,422.00	£15,353.00
Fund balances as of 1 Oct 2015	£5,750.00	£38,443.00	£44,193.00	£28,840.00
Fund balances as of 30 Sept 2016	£12,306.00	£51,309.00	£63,615.00	£44,193.00

The Team

The team is led by Laura Coleman who founded the O N C A Trust and Gallery in 2012, and Persephone Pearl, who has been involved with O N C A since its inception.

Working with Persephone and Laura are the core team of staff, Lu-Lu Evans (Operations Manager), Alice Clayton (Gallery Co-ordinator), Carrina Gaffney (Fundraiser) and Ruth Dudman (Fundraiser). We have been exceptionally lucky to work with some extremely passionate and committed volunteers and interns including: Aurelie Dumouchel, Cecile Vignial, Sophie Wolfson and James Cole.

The Board of Trustees includes Dr Julie Doyle, reader in Media Studies at the University of Brighton and expert in climate change communication; Dr Eva Coleman, Director of Brighton Therapy Centre; Helena Joyce, a creative industries development specialist, Dr John Coleman, Professor at Oxford University; Michelle Westbury, Chartered Accountant, specialising in audit work for charities; Chloe Barker, PR specialist and Donna Vose, contract and policy specialist.

Honorary Patrons include Green MP Caroline Lucas, writers Robert MacFarlane and Ali Smith, illustrator John Vernon Lord and artist Chris Drury.





Internships and Volunteers

Since opening in 2012, we've been amazed at the range of skills and support people have brought to us. Our interns and volunteers enable us to continue providing great, inclusive exhibitions and projects for everyone to enjoy.

Our community of volunteers grows year on year, but we always have an open door for anyone wishing to get involved with O N C A. We recognise that time is precious, and in exchange for the gift of people's time, we provide valuable experiences, a sense of community and support for people to grow and learn in ways that matter to them.

We host regular drop-ins and socials for people to find out more about what volunteering with O N C A involves, meet the O N C A team and hear from our current volunteers.

Volunteering opportunities include: Installing and taking down exhibitions, event support, writing for the blog, beach cleans, gallery maintenance, research tasks, workshop and outreach assistance, invigilation, front of house duties and gardening.

Upstairs at O N C A

Above the gallery, we run a community workspace for artists, charities and businesses working towards positive change in society. Upstairs at O N C A has a threefold focus: knowledge sharing, sustainable business development and creative co-working.

In 2015-16 we welcomed new members including Long Run Works, GFE South, Tom McNally and Creative Bloom alongside our existing members Sarah Edmonds, Ernest Journal, Articulate and What You Sow.

We saw new faces and returning ones in our meeting room including Release Counselling for Women, Farm Africa, Cafédirect, Brighton Festival, Brighton Permaculture Trust and many more.

“We really enjoyed using the O N C A meeting room to host our international team last month - our colleagues from Kenya were especially excited by the room being named for Wangari Maathai! It was a real pleasure to find a like-minded organisation offering a well resourced space full of character and charm. We would highly recommend O N C A to anyone looking for an inspiring meeting space.”

Sam Webb (Cafédirect Producers' Foundation)





2015-16 Highlights

FutureCoast Brighton/FutureCoast Youth

ReDiscover: Rewilding Sussex

Festival of Climate Ideas/ Remembrance for Lost Species (Ongoing)

This is Change

Nesting – A Sense of Home

Blackbirds Film Festival 2016

Trash or Treasure

EARTH

FutureGazers

Brighton Digital Festival (DRHA Commission)

FutureCoast Brighton/FutureCoast Youth

September - December 2015

Partner: University of Brighton

As part of a global digital storytelling project about the effects of climate change, O N C A and University of Brighton Media Researchers ran innovative projects that asked participants to imagine a range of possible futures through play, working with Dorothy Stringer pupils aged 12-13. O N C A also collaborated with the ARTS Project– an EU initiative hosted by SPRU at University of Sussex – on FutureRoots, capturing voicemails from people running extraordinary grassroots projects in Brighton. Inspired by Ken Eklund’s FutureCoast game, O N C A created the FutureBooth where players record their own ‘voicemails from the future’. The FutureBooth is a specially modified phone booth situated in the gallery, and has already travelled to the Quarterhouse arts venue in Folkestone.

Phone 07940 954541 to leave a message....

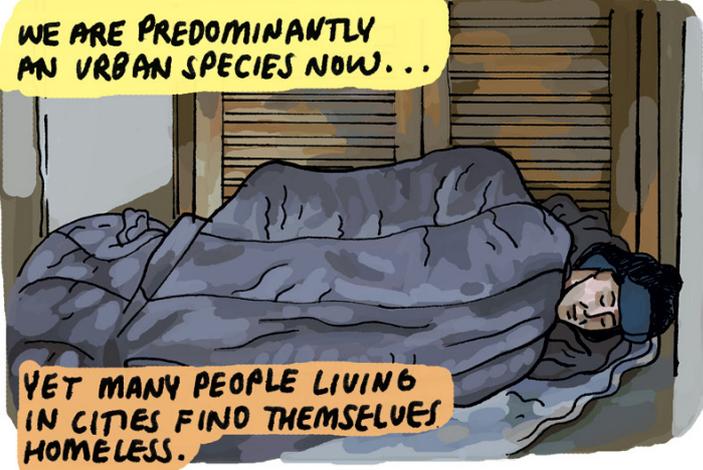




COULD WE PROVIDE
NATURAL SHELTERS, WATER
& FOOD IN PARKS FOR
ALL PEOPLE?



CAVES WERE OUR HOMES,
WE FED & WATERED
OURSELVES FROM THE
LAND.



WE ARE PREDOMINANTLY
AN URBAN SPECIES NOW...

YET MANY PEOPLE LIVING
IN CITIES FIND THEMSELVES
HOMELESS.

ReDiscover: ReWilding Sussex

30th September - 17th October 2015

Visitors: 444

Project partners: UoB

An innovative collaboration to re-discover nature in the Valley Gardens and Brighton & Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere. Rewilding Sussex is a Brighton-based community group of people who believe more nature is a big part of the solution to some of society's big challenges, from physical and mental well-being to air quality and flooding.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Brighton.

Rewilding Sussex brought together ecology and design students from local universities to co-create new solutions to bring more nature into our parks, inspire people to get outside more regularly and to teach people about nature.

O N C A hosted a 3-week exhibition of the designs the students created, celebrating the work of local students and re-imagining urban environments.

Festival of Climate Ideas / Lost Species Day

30th November – 6th December 2015

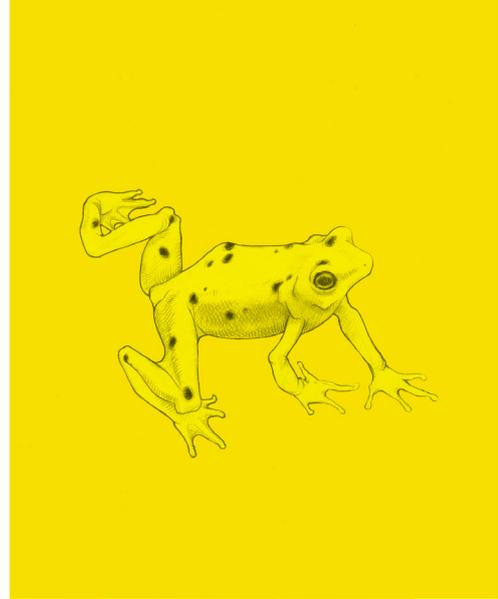
Visitors: 309

To capture, explore and respond to COP21 in Paris, O N C A ran a week-long series of events, workshops, talks, film screenings and installations. Every morning kicked off with a Climate Café, with live links to Paris and a video installation. Talks included Time to Ride/Brighton CAN in conversation with Howard Johns, a Thrivability workshop with Bridget McKenzie, and a collaborative futures workshop with Ben and Annabelle MacFadyen. The Festival of Climate Ideas was part of Coming of Age, a UK-wide programme of events and exhibitions by artists and arts organisations responding to the climate change discussions that took place in Paris in December 2015.

We also hosted schools workshops, drop-in community events and a commission for Remembrance Day for Lost Species - the Bell for Lost Species, made by Ore & Ingot Foundry.

FESTIVAL OF CLIMATE IDEAS





This is Change

10th – 24th December 2015

Visitors: 357

Project partners: UoB

This is Change was an exhibition of artwork on paper, exploring how we – as artists, art producers and consumers – can be agents of change. Artists were invited to donate an artwork with a view to raising awareness of and funds for O N C A's work: inspiring creativity and positive action in the face of environmental change. The launch opened with a conversation between acclaimed writer Ali Smith and Donna Close of the University of Brighton.

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O N C A CHRISTMAS WINDOW 2015

By University of Brighton Fine Art & Critical Practice Students

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Nesting - A Sense of Home

6th - 23rd January 2016

Visitors: 909

Project partners: ACE, O N C A, St Peter's Church

What does 'home' mean? How do we 'nest' and what happens when our ability to nest is compromised?

Environmental artist Jill Parsons explored these questions in her exhibition Nesting, working with those in temporary or impermanent accommodation, travellers and the homeless. Together, they created a forest of fragile ceramic nests - each nest was made by a different participant. During this process, they shared their stories which have been used to create a soundtrack for the exhibition, weaving together tales of home: homes lost, homes loved and homes created from nothing. Meanwhile, in the main gallery space, artist Ellen Mulcrone working primarily with willow and found objects from around Brighton, wove together a human-sized nest-like space for people to enter and contemplate the concept of home.

Nesting was the Guardian Guide's Exhibition Pick of the Week – Saturday 16th January.

Blackbirds Film Festival

29th-30th January 2016

Visitors: 184

After the success of the Festival in 2015, Blackbirds continues to develop with the key question: what is true diversity? We aim to reach wider audiences and provide a space for people from all backgrounds to share films, ideas and experiences. The Blackbirds journey began in 2014 inspired by the late Adrienne Campbell 1960-2012, scientist, writer, mother, pioneer, ecologist, activist.

Blackbirds 2016 was a great grassroots success, with accessibility at its core. We reached a significant Deaf audience for the first time, which has gone on to profoundly inform our policies and practices on inclusion.



The **ONCA** *Gallery*

14

One Network for Conservation and the Arts



TRASH OR TREASURE? | THE UNTANGLED PROJECT

PHILIP COLE | NICK SAVAGE | WORLD CETACEAN ALLIANCE

MONDAY 15 - SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY



Trash or Treasure

16th – 23rd February 2016

Visitors: 136

A week of activities for half term and Brighton Science Festival, Trash or Treasure hosted a range of family friendly arts and science activities in the gallery, culminating in a citizen science beach clean. Artists Phil Cole and Nick Sayers and the World Cetacean Alliance held the gallery space whilst activities explored microbeads with scientist and eXpedition-er Stephanie Wright, homemade plastic free cosmetics with Carrina Gaffney and turning Trash to Treasure with Phil Cole.



EARTH

11th March – 3rd April 2016

Visitors: 814

Project partner: ACE

O N C A's highlight exhibition for Navigating Change was EARTH. Here, Chris Drury and Daro Montag collaborated on a unique show exploring themes such as the endurance and survival of organisms in hostile environments, and mushrooms as a metaphor for life, death and regeneration. The exhibition featured Drury's works alongside thought-provoking sculptural pieces and textural prints using soil as pigment.

Montag brought the 'RANE-CHAR' project to O N C A – here, biochar is produced and distributed as a means of raising awareness of, and mitigating, the processes of climate change and biodiversity loss. His 'Herd (not seen)' installation created a contemplative space in the basement gallery.

Events including a 'Meet the Artists' evening, a talk from John Cooper, Keeper of Natural Sciences at Brighton's Booth Museum, and eARTHbodyment with performer Bronwyn Preece ran throughout the show.

FUTURE GAZERS

What will Brighton be like in fifty years?

BY
PATCH

50 YEARS
7-29



WHAT WILL BRIGHTON BE LIKE IN 50 YEARS?
7-29
11-12

14
ONCA CENTRE FOR ARTS AND ECOLOGY

FIND
5
BUGS!!!





A clock face with Roman numerals, mounted on a yellow arch. The hands are black and the numbers are black on a white background.

DUKE & YORKS



FutureGazers

7th – 29th May 2016

Visitors: 1195

Partner: Brighton Festival

A continuation of FutureCoast and FutureCoast Youth, O N C A collaborated with Brighton Festival 2016 for an imaginative child-led project considering what Brighton will be like in 50 years time. O N C A worked with Patcham Juniors Year 4 pupils for 3 months to create a dynamic, vibrant and positive glimpse into the future. Workshops ran every Sunday throughout May, and included Magical Wishing Wands, writing Future Diaries with New Writing South, and Voicemails from the Future with B.Fest.

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Free
candy flowers
for every one

I would like to see...

looker

a solar panel
roof for the school
flying
car



Eva



1990
100
BIRTH



Place, Ecology & The Digital

2nd – 11th September 2016

Visitors:

Partner: Brighton Digital Festival, DRHA

Watch Sound Hear Light Play was an interactive installation by Jack Wates and Thomas Blackburn. The installation explored the relationship between sound, light and movement in a space composed from a grid of vertical strings. Conceived as a kind of musical instrument, the public were invited to play the strings to create sound and influence lighting in the gallery.

hurl outward at a certain pace by Jane Frances Dunlop was presented in two installations: a multi-channel sound and video installation at O N C A, and online at hurloutward.com. Using livestreaming and video chat feedback loops, [hurl outward at a certain pace](http://hurloutward.com) documents how a physical site (the gallery) can be made to fold back on itself again and again in digital space, mapping how place is performed in a digital ecology.



Michele Angelo Petrone Foundation

In 2014 we started working with the Michele Angelo Petrone (MAP) Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support, Wellcome Images and the Brighton Therapy Centre. We collaborated to bring about two ground-breaking exhibitions entitled A Cancer Landscape in 2015 and 2016. We also hosted a series of art workshops for people living with or affected by cancer.

Subsequent to this collaboration, the MAP Foundation merged with O N C A and gifted us their collection of works by inspirational artist and MAP founder the late Michele Angelo Petrone. O N C A has since then expanded our mandate to take on MAP's objective of using art to explore long-term illness. We are particularly interested in exploring the links between environmental and human health.

Michele Petrone was a professional artist. 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.

Michele Angelo Petrone (21 May 1963 – 16 May 2007)





Anarchy in the Organism

Artista: Umberto Boccioni
Anno: 1910
Materiale: olio su tela
Dimensioni: 100x100 cm
Luogo: Museo d'Arte Moderna
Città: Roma



MAP: A Cancer Landscape

7th-9th July 2016

Thursday 7th July, 6-8pm: Anarchy in the Organism with Simeon Nelson

What is the role of art in holistic support for people affected by, and living with, cancer?

To mark the opening of the new Macmillan Horizon Centre in Brighton, O N C A hosted an evening of art and conversation about the role of creativity in holistic support for people affected by, and living with, cancer. Internationally acclaimed artist Simeon Nelson opened the evening with a discussion of his recent work *Anarchy in the Organism*. Simeon questions contemporary attitudes to cancer and mortality: is cancer an aberration, or is it an embedded aspect of being a complex organism? Simeon Nelson is a sculptor, new media and interdisciplinary artist interested in convergences between science, religion and art, complexity theory and relationships between art, architecture urban sites and the natural world.

Works by Michele Angelo Petrone were exhibited in the gallery from 7-9th July.



Looking Ahead

2016-17 is full of exciting new partnerships, exhibitions and projects.

Highlights include:

Brighton Photo Fringe - New Partnership

Do You Speak Seagull? - Group Exhibition & fundraising auction with RSPB and artist Matt Sewell

Blackbirds Film Festival - Inclusive Programming for Deaf Audiences

Rebrand - Designers Studio Makgill will create a new brand identity, website, online shop and retrospective exhibition

Brighton Festival & Brighton Fringe - ongoing partnership

SWAY - community project exploring bird and human migration

Eye2Eye - ACE funded installation by Deaf artist & BSL Interpreter