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Annual Report

2016/17

About O N C A	2	Upstairs at O N C A	11
Trustees Report	3	O N C A Rebrand	14
Charity Objectives	6	2016/17 Highlights	18
Financial Overview	7	Green Curtain Award	45
The Team	9	Looking Ahead	50

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PERSPECTIVES 2012-2017



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About O N C A

Creating space for change.

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.

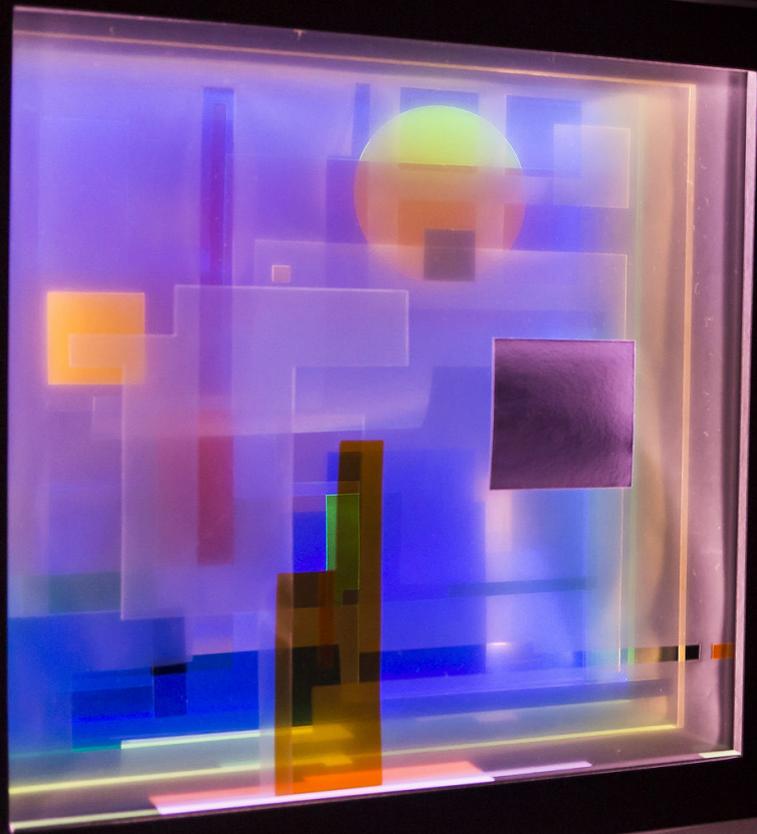
O N C A believes that the arts are capable of catalysing dramatic shifts within society. Our mission is to inspire positive action in response to current cultural and environmental urgencies, through creativity, courage, collaboration, playfulness, learning and impact.

Trustees Report

O N C A is a much-loved organisation, which after five years has become an important part of the cultural landscape of Brighton. We continually strive to support the creation of new work that takes on environmental and social challenges and supports wellbeing in Brighton and beyond. We believe that art has a key role to play in the move to just, environmentally sustainable and healthy communities.

Arts Council England support in 2015-17 enabled O N C A to develop its vision of interdisciplinary arts practice, whilst providing a hub for the arts/ecology community in the city and beyond, and building a viable business model for the gallery and its work. O N C A is working hard to become financially 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 BAME), and continuing to develop cohesive volunteering and internship programmes.





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.

Financial Overview

Fundraising grants for this period:

Arts Council England: £7,500.00

The Evens Foundation: £8,624.00

National Citizen Service: £400.00

LUSH Funding: £2,000.00

The Goodall Foundation: £2,710.00

Action for Deafness: £4,350.00

University of Sussex (FGS Summer Internship): £7,000.00

Chalk Cliff Trust: £1,500.00

Sussex Cancer Fund: £1,011.00

Sussex Community Foundation:
£4,400.00

Income and endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
Donations and legacies	£2,777.00	-	£2,777.00	£19,185.00
Charitable Activities	£72,703.00	£39,495.00	£112,198.00	£123,847.00
Other income	£2,082.00	-	£2,082.00	£328.00
Total Income	£77,562.00	£39,495.00	£117,057.00	£143,360.00

Expenditure on:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
Charitable Activities	£48,009.00	£78,362.00	£123,371.00	£123,938.00

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds	£29,553.00	-£38,867.00	-£9,314.00	£19,422.00
Fund balances as of 1 Oct 2016	£12,306.00	£51,309.00	£63,615.00	£44,193.00
Fund balances as of 30 Sept 2017	£41,859.00	£12,442.00	£54,301.00	£63,615.00

The Team

The team is led by Laura Coleman and Persephone Pearl. Alongside the Directors is a core team of staff, Lu-Lu Evans (Business & Operations Manager), Lydia Heath (Gallery Manager), Ellie Liddell-Crewe (Art & Outreach Officer). We have been exceptionally lucky to work with some extremely passionate and committed volunteers and interns including: James Cole, Charlotte Grob, Georgia Grace and Olivia Lanham.

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 and Michelle Westbury, Chartered Accountant, specialising in audit work for charities.

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

MEPHITIC AIR

Tobias Revell & Wesley Goatley

September 16th - October 1st
Brooklyn Digital Festival 2017



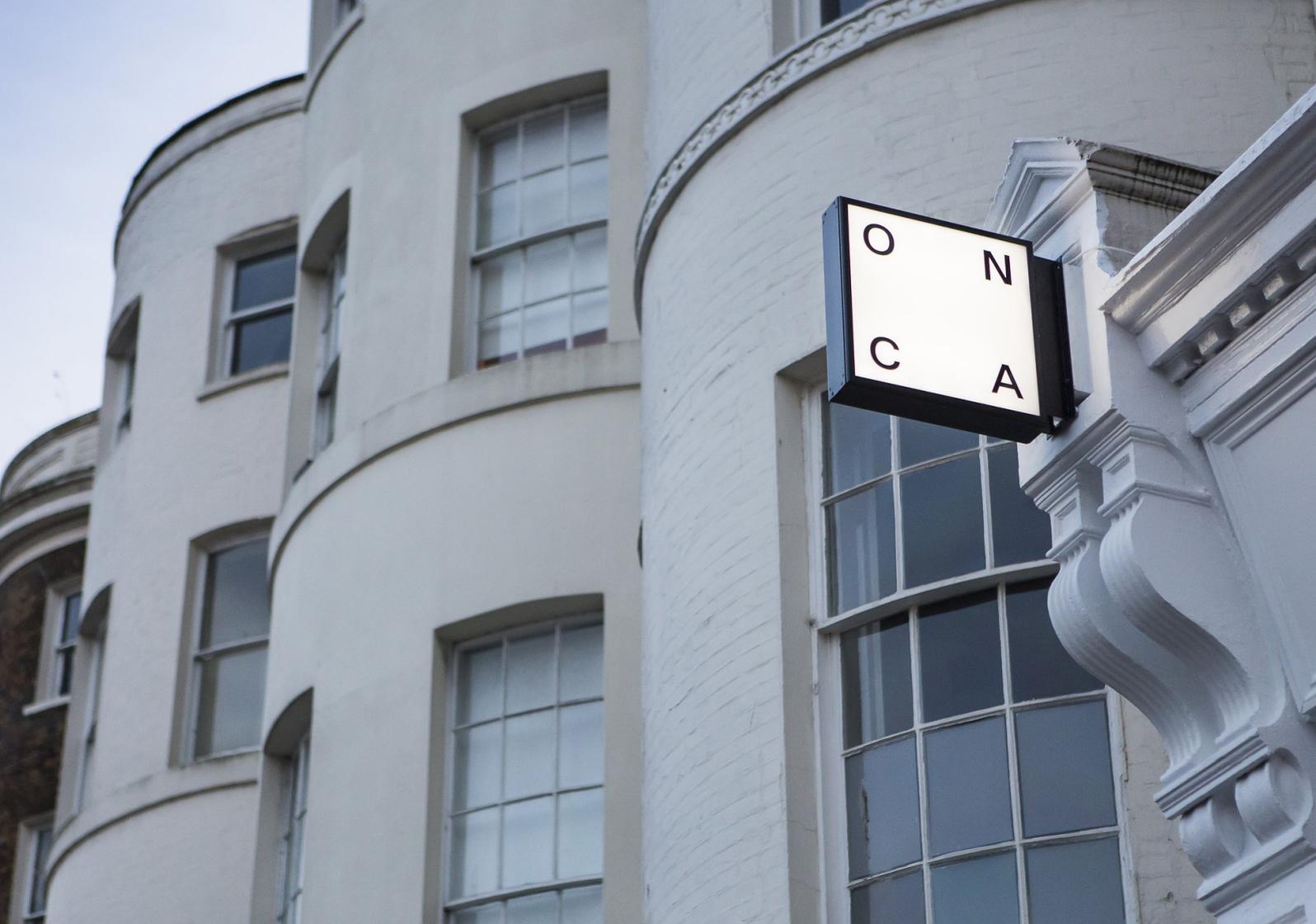
#BOF17
GALLERY OPEN
'MEPHITIC AIR'
FREE EXHIBITION
ALL WELCOME
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Upstairs at O N C A

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 2016-17 we welcomed new members including Nepcon, Maddy Ryle, Joe Minihane and School of the Wild.

“Deciding to invest in desk space at O N C A has been a great move, getting me out of the isolation of working from home, putting me in touch with lots of interesting people and projects and creating access to some nice resources. I also love that the money I invest in it also goes to supporting an organisation doing incredible work whose principles I really admire.” Maddy Ryle.



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O N C A Rebrand

In January 2016 we started working with Hamish Makgill and his studio in Brighton to come up with a new identity, website and gallery frontage for O N C A.

Studio Makgill designed a new logo, font, signage and brand identity to help improve our visual presence both online and physically. The basis for the design was clear and minimal - providing space for the variety of exhibitions and events that take place in the gallery and upstairs, but always framed by O N C A's brand. Hence the four letters in the corners framing the space.

Part of the challenge with developing our audiences has been maintaining a strong and visible identity as an organisation, when the exhibitions in the gallery change so often and vary so dramatically in terms of content. Our new branding will ensure that whatever takes place in our spaces people will know that O N C A is behind them and supports a plethora of artists and organisations to showcase their work.





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SHREVE
MONTANA
USA
JUNE 13TH
2016

LINCOLN
MONTANA
USA
JUNE 13TH
2016

KIMBERLEYS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
JUNE 14TH
2016

2016-17 Highlights

Brighton Photo Fringe

Do You Speak Seagull?

Dream Your School

Perspectives 2012-2017

SWAY

Brighton Festival - Vincent Dance Theatre

Brighton Fringe - The Life & Death of Puppet King Richard II

Eye2Eye

The Family As A Space for Gender Transition

The Place of Art?

Brighton Digital Festival, Mephitic Air (Wes Goatley & Tobias Revell)

Early Warning Signs - Ellie Harrison

Brighton Photo Fringe

1st - 30th October 2016

Visitors: 1887

Partner: MAP6, Hemera Collective & Legacy Film

Brighton Photo Fringe (BPF) is a collaborative platform providing essential professional development opportunities and peer-support for emerging lens-based artists. MAP6 presented a body of work exploring the shifting concept of what defines modern Europe - journeyed to the country currently recognised as the 'official' centre of Europe, Lithuania, to meet some of the newest Europeans. Hemera curated an exhibition that brought together artists, film-makers, composers and academics who use research-led practice to interrogate the different modes of sharing and interpreting information and ideas relating to public space. Legacy Film showcased work made in response to 'Wheel N Come Again' a dynamic programme funded by Film Hub SE, presenting perspectives from the African and Caribbean diaspora across Brighton and Hastings.



Do You Speak Seagull?

22nd November - 10th December 2016

Visitors: 586

Partners: Matt Sewell & RSPB

For the weeks around Remembrance Day for Lost Species 2016, O N C A hosted an exploration of communication and translation between species and languages. What can we learn about ourselves as humans and as creatures by paying attention to the voices of others? The exhibition featured work by Elisabeth Pellathy, Zoomorphic & Felix Prater.

Alongside the exhibition we worked with Illustrator Matt Sewell and the RSPB, holding a fundraising auction both for O N C A and the RSPB's Gull Bunting Project. Matt Sewell invited his artist friends to each customise a small wooden bird which were then auctioned off online.

DO YOU SPEAK SEAGULL?

For the weeks around Remembrance Day for Lost Species 2016, ONCA explores and celebrates communication and translation between species and languages.

What can we learn about ourselves as humans and as creatures by paying attention to the voices of others - the lost, the marginal, the dispossessed?





Dream Your School

27th February 2017

Participants: 150

Partners: Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, University of Sussex, Centre for Self Managed Learning, St Luke's, Dharma School, Evens Foundation

Dream Your School was a co-created day to imagine the future of learning. Supported by an experienced team of facilitators, a diverse mix of young people and adults spent the day sharing tools for learning and creativity, and generating new ideas for educational policy and practice. This intergenerational, interdisciplinary event was targeted at: learners aged 9 and up, students and emerging educators, professional educators and people working in education policy, people working with young people, parents, and anyone passionate or curious about good practice in learning and education.

SWAY

10th - 23rd April 2017

Visitors: 510

Partners: RSPB, The Hummingbird Project, Old Tree Brewery

SWAY was a two week interactive exhibition exploring identity, migration and borders. Artist Solange Leon worked with O N C A and members of the public to create a large paper sculpture in the gallery that used animal migration to facilitate conversations about the current refugee crisis. There was also a large wall map that allowed visitors to trace thier own journeys and a new musical score composed by John Warburton that visitors could interact with. It was accompanied by a series of talks and workshops that unpacked some of the political, social and geographical factors that influence movement of people and animals across the globe. It engaged diverse audiences and successfully raised over £1000 through a crowdfunding campaign.



Perspectives 2012-2017

2nd - 9th March 2017

Visitors: 325

Partner: Studio Makgill

Perspectives was a retrospective exhibition to celebrate the launch of O N C A's new visual identity, branding and website developed in partnership with Studio Makgill. Featuring a small selection of some of the amazing artists O N C A has worked with since it began in 2012, the exhibition included work by: Jennifer Hooper, Chris Drury, Matt Sewell, Philip Cole, Liam Geary Baulch, Florence Boyd, Helen Cann, Tokini Fubara, Elisabeth Pellathy, Michele Angelo Petrone, Becky McCray, Ellie Harrison, Lydia Heath, Nick Hunt, Tina Jenner, Sarah Gittins, Felix Prater, Camps & Donglasan, Angela Bartram, David Ellington, Feral Theatre, Lilian Simonsson, Faunagraphic, Laurie Griffiths, Jonty Tacon, Ore & Ignor, Jill Parsons, Jack Wates, Leah Borromeo, Katharine Round & Jamie Pereira.

PERSPECTIVES

2012-2017





VIRGIN TERRITORY, Brighton Festival

10th - 21st May 2017

Visitors: 1471

Partner: Vincent Dance Theatre (VDT)

Exhilarating in its capture of movement, VIRGIN TERRITORY was a series of beautiful, disarming choreographic exchanges, performed on multiple screens, designed as a new way of sharing VDT's powerful work. This was a bold, immersive dance theatre experience that brought the audience closer to the action on screen and explores the impact that constantly performing for the camera has on our lives. With moving, resilient performances by young people at its core, VIRGIN TERRITORY elicits an emotional and discursive response, as we witness children playing in a hyper-sexualised adult online world. VIRGIN TERRITORY was originally developed as a piece of live dance theatre, the installation version was commissioned by Brighton Festival for the 2017 festival and has since gone on to tour in several other European countries.

The Life & Death of Puppet King Richard II, Brighton Fringe

5th - 27th May 2017

Visitors: 261

Partner: Bowerbird Theatre Prague

Gregory Gudgeon (The Lion King, Shakespeare's Globe, Complicité & RSC) and BowerBird Prague collaborated with O N C A in our intimate new space, The Cave, for Fringe 2017.

In this small scale production of Shakespeare's Richard II, Gudgeon and Lucas Augustine brought a cast of puppets gloriously to life to create a fast-paced, witty and intense story-telling experience. Some of the questions raised about this 'one-time golden boy' were: Did he go, or was he pushed? Who was pulling his strings? And if the king isn't in charge, then who is?

"The wit, energy and invention at play make this a hugely enjoyable and moving experience." fringereview.co.uk



Eye2Eye

3rd - 11th June 2017

Visitors: 207

Partner: Arts Council England

A collaborative visual arts project imagined by Omeima Mudawi-Rowlings and Miranda Ellis. Awarded an Arts Council England grant, this innovative exhibition explored the complex themes of deafness, deaf & hearing spaces, discrimination and ways of seeing and being. The work culminated in an immersive, thought provoking installation of new work expressed via the artists' media of choice – textiles for Omeima Mudawi-Rowlings, and fused/cast glass for Miranda Ellis.

The concept of deafness and deaf space is a unique aspect of the collaboration, connecting Omeima, herself a Deaf artist (and BSL user), and Miranda, a professional interpreter.

This exhibition helped deepen our understanding of Deaf Awareness and how to make O N C A a more Deaf accessible venue.





The Family As A Space for Gender Transition

15th - 20th August 2017

Visitors: 315

Partner: Olga Lidia Saavedra Montes de Oca

By reflecting on contemporary images of transgender individuals in relation to their family, Olga Lidia Saavedra Montes de Oca (aka Olisam) seeks to focus on those spaces where being a transgender person has been the principal factor in the fragmentation of the Cuban family. It is not primarily about being transgender or about sexuality, but about how the experience of gender transitioning affects everyone.

The exhibition showed colour photographs depicting the Cuban families whose stories are narrated in this collaborative research project. The work also included video installations, offering a space to glimpse and listen to different aspects of the participant families' dynamics.

The Place of Art?

7th - 10th September 2017

Visitors: 137

Partner: University of Brighton

An exhibition of architectural project work produced by Studio 14, a group of students from the BA (Hons) Architecture course at the University of Brighton.

This exhibition was part of O N C A's movement to initiate a larger, more inclusive, on-going public conversation with Brighton, about the place and purpose of art. A celebration and showcase of the project outcomes to date, The Place of Art marked part 1 in a continuing series of collaborations with Studio 14.

“In what form of place and space should, or could, art be held, staged or created, today, and specifically in Brighton? The project arises from observation that the City of Brighton is without a major venue for contemporary art. For a city that has a vibrant art based culture this is surprising. Our work responds to this situation in exploring different, diverse ways through which places of art might be evolved and established.”



Mephitic Air, Brighton Digital Festival

16th September - 1st October 2017

Visitors: 515

Partner: Brighton & Hove Buses & Brighton Digital Festival

For this year's Brighton Digital Festival, Creative Producer Laurence Hill and O N C A co-commissioned Wesley Goatley & Tobias Revell to produce Mephitic Air, a site specific installation which measured air quality outside of O N C A gallery on one of Brighton's busiest roads.

This work was originally made in consultation with the Environmental Research Group at King's College London, and shown at Somerset House, London as part of Utopia 2016, and the London Design Festival 2016.

MEPHITIC AIR

Tobias Revell & Wesley Goatley

September 16th - October 1st
Brighton Digital Festival 2017

ONCA
To hire our gallery, meeting room
or desk space please contact:
info@onca.org.uk / 01273 807100
onca.org.uk

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Graduate Monthly

Ongoing

As part of O N C A's artist support programme, we launched a monthly event for graduate artists in partnership with Lorna Ough, curator of *Maybe What Happens Now Is*, and recent Brighton University graduate (Critical Fine Art Practice).

The aim of these events is to create an informal peer led network offering emerging artists the support and resources necessary to continue developing their creative practices in Brighton. This can take the form of crits, reading groups, advice sessions, skill sharing and visiting speakers. Alongside the monthly meet-up there is also an online forum for sharing resources and continuing discussions.

Graduate Monthly is open to anyone currently based in Brighton and the surrounding areas that either graduated from a visual art course in the last 5 years. Artists who haven't undertaken formal academic training but are looking for support to develop their work and meet other like-minded creatives are also very welcome to attend.

PERSPECTIVES
2012-2017

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CHANGE

ONCA

Early Warning Signs - Ellie Harrison

Throughout 2017

Throughout 2017 we had the privilege of being a host venue for one of Ellie Harrison's Early Warning Signs. Every day, come rain or shine the rotating sign stood proudly outside the gallery window on the busy London Road advertising climate change to the hundreds of commuters, shoppers and tourists walking past - seamlessly blending in with the countless signs and billboards competing for our attention.

REDUCE / REUSE / RECYCLE YOUR ART:

Early Warning Signs is an ongoing project by British artist Ellie Harrison. Initiated at Two Degrees festival in 2011, the project aims to allow the four rotating 'climate change' signs she produced for the festival to continue to promote their cause long into the future. Each autumn, four new host venues are invited to 'adopt a sign', agreeing to keep it on public display for the following year.

Green Curtain Award

O N C A exists to encourage artists to explore important, difficult (and often unfashionable) themes, so this year, recognising that it was high time we opened this encouragement up to Fringe artists, we launched the Green Curtain Fringe award, which consisted of time and space in the gallery and on our online platforms. From the dozen or so inspiring and diverse shows that we went to see, we ended up with three outstanding finalists, and announced the winner at the Brighton Fringe Award ceremony on June 4th.

The Last Honey pot by Goya Arts: Goya Arts is a new company and The Last Honey pot is a brand new piece of ensemble physical theatre for children, whose subject is colony collapse disorder and the disappearance of bees worldwide. The Last Honey pot dances a difficult line between delight and gravity with delicacy and style. We were impressed by its playful, colourful style and messages about taking positive action in the face of long odds.

Planet Earth III by Luke Rollason: A great piece of improbably hilarious clowning which played to sold-out houses at the Warren. It takes as its premise the disappearance of almost all species on earth, with all that remains being a bored intern at the BBC playing with the archives of Sir David Attenborough's Planet Earth series. Luke Rollason conjures stampedes, food webs, the drama of the hunt, deforestation and seahorses, enchanting audiences to feel with and for the more-than-human world.

The Privileged by Jamal Harewood: A participatory experience which progresses as the audience responds to instructions issued by an absent authority. The premise is that we have come to petting zoo to have a close-up encounter with an apex predator: a polar bear. The instructions, which tell the audience how to treat the bear, become increasingly problematic and we soon realise that it's our own reactions that are the story. The Privileged forces audiences to confront serious questions including how we respond to authority, how we make decisions, and when entertainment becomes exploitation. It confronts head-on issues of Othering, control, and the violence of domestication.

We are honoured to offer the first O N C A Green Curtain award to Jamal Harewood.

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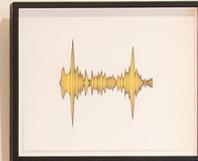
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We love *The Privileged* and thought it was brilliant to use the device of a displaced, captive polar bear – icon of human-caused climate change and disappearing wilderness – to bring to life very human problems that are hard to look at – racism, colonialism and the brutality humans inflict on each other, especially, and painfully, through inherited power structures and inequalities that brutalize black and brown people here, and all around the world.

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ONCA is an art gallery, co-working space and environmental charity. Through our programme of exhibitions and events we invite communities to take part in an ongoing exploration of how creativity can help us connect with each other and the world around us.



Looking Ahead

2017-18 is full of exciting new partnerships, exhibitions and projects.

Highlights include:

House Festival

FERMA: Francesca Moore

RDLS 2017: Pollinators

Florence Boyd

Holding Time: Lisa Creagh

The Selkie: Imogen Di Sapia

O N C A Open

The Long View

ACE: Visionary Fictions

Partnerships with: The Barge and The Goodall Foundation, Brighton Festival and Brighton Fringe