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O N C A ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

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ABOUT O N C A & TRUSTEES' REPORT

Objectives and aims

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 is a combined arts venue in central Brighton. Since November 2012, our programme of exhibitions and outreach has engaged artists, scientists and the general public in a wide range of activities. Our work bridges social and environmental justice issues with creativity. We promote positive change by facilitating inclusive spaces for creative learning, artist support, story-sharing and community solidarity.

At the O N C A gallery we work with artists, educators and organisations to co-deliver exhibitions, events and workshops that explore social and environmental issues. The O N C A Barge at Brighton Marina is a community centred learning space that supports artist development and offers a programme of creative activities in East Brighton.



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



THE TEAM

The team is led by O N C A's co-directors Persephone Pearl and Amie Rai. Alongside the co-directors is a core team of staff: Lu-Lu Evans (Business & Operations Manager), Lydia Heath (Gallery Manager), Susuana Amoah (Gallery Supervisor), Izzy Pearce (Barge Manager), Nadia Buyse (Community Artist) and Sally Bournier (Community Artist). In addition to the core team, O N C A is lucky to be supported by a passionate and committed group of volunteers and interns.

The team is aided by a Board of Trustees which includes: Laura Coleman (Founder and Chair); Dr Julie Doyle, Reader in Media Studies at Brighton University and expert in climate change communication; Dr Eva Coleman, Director of The Phoenix Therapy Practice; Michelle Westbury, Chartered Accountant, specialising in audit work for charities; ecological artist and director Clare Whistler.

Honorary Patrons include Green MP Caroline Lucas, writers Robert MacFarlane and Ali Smith and artists Joshua Virasami, Beverly Naidus and Chris Drury.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

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. Project support from partners such as Arts Council England and Action for Deafness continue to help O N C A to develop its vision of interdisciplinary arts practice and its commitment to inclusivity, and to offer supportive ways of helping propagate work - e.g. residencies, mentoring and outreach with groups experiencing marginalisation (including Deaf and BME).

Income and endowments from:	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Donations and legacies	£67,182	£ -	£67,182.	£4,122
Charitable activities	£37,416	£ 65,299	£102,715	£154,571
Other income	£35,666	£ -	£35,666	£3,651
Total income	£140,264	£65,299	£205,563	£162,344
Expenditure on:	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Charitable activities	£80,837	£80,816	£161,653	£173,521

WASH
YOUR
HANDS



COVID-19

In line with government advice and in order to protect the health and wellbeing of our staff and visitors during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the O N C A Gallery and O N C A Barge closed in March 2020.

In May 2020 the team came back to work part-time (all from home) in order to develop and expand our programme of online events and projects. We felt the best ways to use our resources were: to explore ways to use O N C A's digital platforms to continue our work alongside the people and communities we work with; to develop ways to share artwork using our gallery window space; to support 'closed door' activities such as artist residencies at our venues.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all our funders, supporters and members who have supported us generously and made O N C A's survival possible during the COVID-19 pandemic - in particular, Arts Council England, Brighton & Hove City Council and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.



O N C A Projects 2019-20

Nature 2020 Launch, January 2019

2020 marked the end of the UN Decade on Biodiversity, and was an opportunity to reflect on the state of wildlife and conservation both globally and locally. The Nature2020 programme aimed to raise awareness of – and connect people to – the environment we live and work in.

The launch day started with an early morning bird watch at Woods Mill, headquarters of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, followed by a Healthwalk along the Undercliff Path, observing bird and plant species that make their home on the chalk cliffs and reef, a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). The day was rounded off by a special launch event on the O N C A Barge, opened by the Deputy Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Alan Robins, and featuring speeches by local MPs Caroline Lucas and Lloyd Russell-Moyle.

After much preparatory work by the Nature2020 partnership led by O N C A, and a brilliant start, it was very sad that the Nature2020 programme was thwarted by Covid-19.



O N C A Projects 2019-20

EMERGE - NHS Wellbeing Project

Since 2018, O N C A has been working locally with NHS staff at BSUH Trust through the Emerge project, offering a creative wellbeing programme at Royal Sussex County and Princess Royal Hospitals.

Emerge is part of CONNECT, a creative wellbeing project for staff affected by the transition into the new 3Ts buildings at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The project aimed to: improve the morale of the BSUH staff engaged in the programme; support them as they went through a process of transition from the old hospital to the new; create something for the new building that would benefit the staff.



Sue

Stacey

Trudie

Nicky

Jo S

Jo

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2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

Atmospheres Of Violence

Generations (Lost Species Day 2019)

Cthuluscene

Shining A Light On Extinction

Loud + Clear

FIGURATIONS

Extracting Us (Online Exhibition)

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Atmospheres Of Violence: November 2019



111 visitors

Artist names: Various

Exhibition Dates: 5 - 7 November 2019

Across the world over the last 15 years, more than 1500 people have been killed because they took action to defend their lands, forests, rivers and environment. Thousands more face criminalisation, threats, vilification and 'slow violence' – loss of the lands and conditions that they need to exist. Their stories are diverse. Some defenders choose to take on a life of activism, while others are forced into a desperate situation where they are fighting for their survival. Some are professionals, such as lawyers and journalists. Some are farmers, peasants, fishers, or forest peoples. This exhibition of work from Cambodia, Brazil and Bangladesh invites us to understand and explore these struggles. A collaboration between O N C A, Not 1 More, University of Sussex & the Atmospheres of Violence research partnership, and the Democracy Center. Panel discussion chaired by Mads Ryle, Democracy Center. Panelists:

- Dr Mary Menton (Atmospheres of Violence lead researcher)
- Rumana Hashem (Warwick University, Phulbari Solidarity Group)
- Fran Lambrick (Not 1 More)
- Sebastian Ordoñez Muñoz (War on Want, Jaguar Despierta)
- Video interventions from environmental defenders San Mala (Cambodia) and Claudelice Silva Dos Santos (Brazil)



Generations, RDLS: November - December 2019



716 visitors

Artist name: Deru Anding

Exhibition Dates: 20 November - 20 December 2019

For O N C A's Lost Species Day 2019 exhibition, indigenous artist Deru Anding showcased an inspiring series of large panoramic drawings in which he encapsulates and remembers his natural environment and community for present and future generations. Curated by O N C A's Susuana Amoah with a programme of events and talks co-hosted by Brighton Youth Strike 4 Climate, this exhibition raised awareness of protests against ongoing tropical deforestation and aimed to encourage wider solidarity with indigenous communities.



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Cthuluscene: January - February 2020



319 visitors

Artist name: David Blandy & Claire Barrett

Exhibition Dates: 23 January - 15 February 2020

Cthuluscene brought together a group of works made by Blandy & Barrett that address the climate crisis and our collective future, through a close examination of nature. Their finely crafted films use essayist voiceover, folk tales and poetry to create a meditation on the history of scientific inquiry and the parallel evolution of ideas, and what we do now that the paradigms of the post-industrial world are breaking down.

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SUN BEAR



BORNEAN ORANGUTAN



CRESTED COCKATOO

Shining A Light On Extinction: February 2020



418 visitors

Artist name: Under The Skin

Exhibition Dates: 19 - 26 February 2020

Brothers Ed & James Harrison, founders of creative entity 'Under The Skin', brought their first solo exhibition to Brighton to shine a light on some of the world's most endangered species and the efforts being made to rescue them. Their 'Under the Skin' prints are hand-crafted pieces of art with a powerful underlying message: under UV light, the phosphorescent skeleton of each animal is exposed, a reminder of all that remains when a species falls into the darkness of extinction.

This hugely popular exhibition was accompanied by a week of screen-printing workshops for children and families.



Loud + Clear: February - March 2020



209 visitors

Artist names: Various

Exhibition Dates: 29 February - 7 March 2020

'There is a fine line between tokenisation and representation, and within the culture industries that line is blurry. But let's not focus on industry. Let's focus on labour and the women and non binary artists working on the axis of music and visual art to dismantle expectations and to create their own communities, histories and means of production.' Loud + Clear was curated by Nadia Buyse, O N C A's researcher in residence and subsequently our Community Artist. Nadia is an artist, musician, curator and theorist who has been in over 37 bands and has collaborated with many artists and musicians in various capacities.

FIGURATIVES



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FIGURATIONS: March 2020



188 visitors

Artist names: Various

Exhibition Dates: 10 - 14 March 2020

FIGURATIONS brings together the works of four artists, all having in common an embodied approach to the expression of queer existence in contemporary image culture. Featuring work by Elija Grybe, Chris Daubaras, Oscar Cheung and Maria Unger, FIGURATIONS explores representation, queer agency and identity through a series of artistic externalisations that arrives at an overarching theme of 'body'. Curated by An Nguyen and Ella Winning.

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Extracting Us (Online): August - September 2020

Artist names: Various

Exhibition Dates: 3 August - 25 September 2020

This ambitious online exhibition and conversation brought together creative contributions exploring different experiences of extractivism around the world, and responses to these contributions from artist and activists, such as the Women and Mining Network in Asia (WAMA) and the Wellbeing, Ecology, Gender and cOmmunity research (WEGO) networks.

The contributions from artists-activists-scholars include works from extractivist contexts in Indonesia, Ireland, France, UK, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Brazil, Ecuador, Trinidad, Senegal, Zambia and Tajikistan. View Extracting Us at <https://extractingus.org/>

A Space To.....

What this community space is for:

- Conversations with neighbors
- Skill sharing / idea sharing
- Being Creative
- Stretching out
-
-

Notice Board

Events, invites, offers go

What Do
YOU WANT
on the
Barge?

Do you have
a SKILL / Activity
to share?

Lead a session/workshop
On the lower deck

O N C A Barge Activity Highlights 2019-20

COMMUNITY MORNINGS

In November 2019 we hosted our first community morning on the Barge. In the weeks that followed, we had regular engagement and support from the local community.

We created a welcoming space for people to make their own - offering a place for families and older people living in Whitehawk and at the Marina to come together - countering social isolation and fostering a supportive and collaborative network.

We invited the community to participate in conversations about their needs for the space, and we endeavour to provide a place for these ideas to grow and develop.

Each week, a space has been dedicated to a skill sharing session run by a member of the local community. Activities to date have included yoga, drop-in art workshops, an informal pitta bread making cookery class and a sea shanty singing session.



O N C A Barge Activity Highlights 2019-20

AUTUMN/ WINTER 2019-2020

O N C A KIDS - ART & SCIENCE CLUB

This two day half term workshop was a collaboration between O N C A and local sculptor/ multi-media artist Jeanne Blissett Robertson. Participants explored themes of biodiversity and renewable energy through a mix of scientific enquiry, collaborative process and arts practice. They created their own chalk reef ecosystem on the lower deck using clay and found materials.

O N C A KIDS - LASER CUT JEWELLERY WORKSHOP

Local maker Rebecca Tucknott hosted a creative workshop for children on the ONCA Barge. Participants created a variety of laser cut designs, making bold and brilliant pendants and badges to take home.

O N C A KIDS - VALENTINE'S MOSAIC WORKSHOP

Mosaic artist Caroline Budden hosted a fun morning making Valentine-inspired heart mosaics. In this workshop, participants learned how to design and create a personalised mosaic made from reclaimed materials.

Make a list of sadness in your life

Make a list of things
put in vessel

Make a list of things and people to
put in vessel
burn

Make a list of things and people to forgive
put in vessel
burn

Make a list of sadness in your life
put in vessel
burn

Ma
put
burn

r life

O N C A Barge Residencies 2019-20

Barge Artist in Residence - Jodie Cavalier, February 2019

Jodie is interested in the power of rituals learned and practiced growing up Mexican-American in the Mojave Desert in California. Jodie's cultural identity and the desert landscape inform the work Jodie makes, although they surface slowly and subtly. Recently, Jodie has been developing strategies for collaborative storytelling in the studio by experimenting with audio recording, printing, and objects working together to further her ideas around oral and practice based traditions within a contemporary art context.

Whilst aboard the O N C A Barge, Jodie experimented with amplifying and distorting text pieces by reading and manipulating the sound live. The texts are now included in a poetry chapbook published through the Independent Publishing Resource Center in Portland, Oregon. Alongside this dedicated work, Jodie created a new project - 'Collected Brighton Trash (ongoing)' and opened up her studio to the local community. The project was an immersive experience that transformed the lower deck with video, sound and mobiles made up of collected and found materials.



O N C A Barge - Looking Ahead...

DRESSCUE

From October 2020, we will host a number of workshops and develop an online bank of resources aiming to bring together creative practice, sustainable approaches and agency for social change. Facilitated by our community artist Sally Bournier, Dresscue encourages everyone, no matter what their previous sewing experience, to come together and:

- Meet new people in a supportive and creative environment
- Participate in creative activity as a tool for self-nurture, personal expression and improved wellbeing
- Learn new skills and share their own knowledge
- and experience through informal learning
- Extend the life cycles of clothing through making, mending and up-cycling
- Make clothes that are more interesting, more beautiful, more fitting and more functional than fast fashion offers
- Make clothes that empower and celebrate all bodies
- Mobilise against fast fashion through collaboration



O N C A Barge - Looking Ahead...

CURIOSITY CLUB

O N C A will continue to deliver a three year partnership project with Trust for Developing Communities.

With children in the lead, we're working to develop a programme of exciting, engaging and inclusive science activities to create change for young people experiencing disadvantage in East Brighton.

Working together to explore and address issues they care about, linking personal empowerment with solutions to real world problems, we use the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Brighton's UNESCO Biosphere status as catalysts for engagement with environmental and social justice issues.

The project will end with a final exhibition of the young people's projects hosted on the O N C A Barge.

