

emotive

public statements out of private matters

EMOTIVE COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION

From Tuesday 8th February 2022
to Sunday 13th February 2022
Free admission with booking

THE REGENCY TOWN HOUSE

13 Brunswick Square
Brighton/Hove BN3 1EH
t: 01273 206306 www.rth.org.uk



alice cathcart | anni axworthy | ellen higgins
erin keen | eva thompson | jiating yang
julia kwinto | jo pinto | gary kaye | josie taylor
lois a pawson | maria scard | stephen anderson

This multi-disciplinary exhibition shows the work of thirteen artists and designers, whose story telling has led them to explore their individual subjects with an emotive response. Each artist has chosen the medium with which to best tell their story; some are incomplete with more to add, and some of the stories will never reach a conclusion. What the artists have in common is that their narratives draw upon private matters which are shared as public statements.

The collective of artists and designers, some recent University of Brighton MA graduates, others, current students, have allowed their individual journeys to lead them to unpredictable discoveries and the exhibition has many themes, but they are all connected by the urge to provoke conversation about emotive topics.

The process / act of exploring individual themes has led each artist to experiment with a range of media and contexts, each searching for a way to ask meaningful questions and hopefully, to answer them. In doing so, the artists hope to open dialogue on universal issues and bring this into the public realm.

PUBLIC OPENING HOURS

11:00 to 19:00

Wednesday 9th February
Thursday 10th February
Friday 11th February
Saturday 12th February

11:00 to 18:00

Sunday 13th February

COVID Safety Measures & Prior Booking Requirements Apply



Free booking in advance via Eventbrite
emotive-collective.eventbrite.co.uk/



[@emotivecollective](https://www.instagram.com/emotivecollective)



[@weareemotive](https://www.facebook.com/weareemotive)

alice cathcart

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Alice Cathcart is a London based illustrator. Her gouache paintings on paper are imbued with allusions to surrealist painting, the Romantic Sublime and historical botanical illustration.

DUSTWORLD

Dustwold is an illustrated children's book exploring 'Plant Blindness', a phenomenon first identified in 1999 by botanists James H. Wandersee and Elisabeth E. Schussler. The story examines the idea of the human/plant encounter, and how human beings perceive and experience the botanical world, and vice versa. Through the use of specific visual devices within an image she attempts to disrupt our anthropocentric gaze, changing the way we see plants and our relationship with them.

anni axworthy

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Anni Axworthy is a children's book illustrator and a multidisciplinary artist working on commissioned work and self-exploratory projects. After relocating from France to the UK, she gained an MA in Sequential design/illustration at Brighton University.

DEPARTURES

The series of textile work is inspired by poems written by the artist describing time spent together and apart from her mother and her final departure with Alzheimer's disease. Using fabric and stitching as a medium represents a shift in her working practice; influenced by memories of her Mum whose creative hands were seldom still and the traditions of fabric and embroidery to tell women's stories over the centuries. Working with textiles is slow, mediative, it gives time for reflection, to immerse oneself in the work. Axworthy uses her unique life experiences to tell a universal story, it describes the bond between parent and child despite distances and time spent apart.

ellen higgins

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Ellen Higgins is a graphic designer. She's alumni of the University of the Arts London, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Brighton University, where she gained a Foundation Degree, a BA in Graphic Communication and a MA in Art and Design by Independent Project. In-between studies she has continuously worked on commissions within the UK as well as travelling to New Delhi, India, for an internship.

LOVE & LOSS

Driven by a personal and fundamental urge inspired by her grief, Ellen sheds light on bereavement and the journey to healing after devastating loss. Grief is an emotion that unfortunately is inevitable, yet in modern culture, there is a lack of visual representation surrounding the topic. The premise of this project is to reconsider the role between graphic designers and the need for social change; concerning the suppressed and emotive subject of grief. The aim is to curate a space that invites open, honest and raw emotional conversations about grief - from participants. Grief is the terrible reminder of the depth of love, and like love, grief is non-negotiable. Ellen's grief is personal, yet the essence of grief is universal.



erin keen

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Erin Keen is a freelance illustrator living and working in Brighton. Her commercial work ranges from children's illustrations, to book covers and often explores the relationship we have with objects and spaces.

MAKING SPACE

The body of work made during her MA explores how we arrange our objects within a space. Initially investigating other people's personal spaces, the lockdown and isolation period imposed forced restrictions upon her work. She started to document the small world available to her using photographs, painting, sculpture and digital drawing. Having struggled to articulate why she found how space is arranged so interesting, Erin utilised her creative practice. As someone with a very chaotic mind, she found 'tidying away' her research into imagined rooms enabled her to understand clearer; therefore, providing her with a sense of calmness. She likes to play with scale, making tiny objects and then drawing them into imagined spaces; this bases the environments in reality and gives them a familiarity, yet also creates a surreal almost uncanny feel.'



eva thompson

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Eva Thompson is an editorial designer and artist. Her experience in publishing and visual arts inspired her to create a 'comfort place' where she could merge a visceral passion for architecture and the paper object, otherwise known as a book.

ARCHI / FOLD

Her personal and professional approach to design is inspired by Bauhaus and its powerful simplicity in seeing objects and buildings around us. The book as a form of art is key for the exploration of educational methods and a launchpad to understand the origin of the design. The ongoing project exhibited here is the development of that exploration. Starting from a multi-layered learning game: 'The School inside the book', through observation of design under different lenses and contexts (i.e. fashion), the current journey highlights the 'architecture' of the book in terms of its material, personality and form, and its potential as a pedagogical tool.



jiating yang

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Jiating Yang is an artist working in multiple areas, such as graphic design, illustration, animation and digital media. She likes to work with bright colours to create a fantasy world for the viewer and to explore subtle inner feelings.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

This project is inspired by imaginary and irrational feelings. It consists of three virtual installations with juxtapositions of seaside scenes in Brighton where the artist has lived and studied for a year during the pandemic. They offer an immersive experience that explores the boundary between reality and dreams. These mirrors, with ever-changing colours, are lenses to a subconscious world where we think we know things before we understand them. Planets move in orbit. Water vaporizes. The tide goes in and out. This infinity of movement reveals the most intricate and beautiful rules of our world.

 **julia kwinto** @critical_diary_jk

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Julia Kwinto is an interdisciplinary artist, writer and designer, with over two decades of experience. She expresses ideas of self and belonging, through visual narrative, storytelling and illustration. Whilst her passion for design guides all her creative explorations. Julia's recent work reflects upon personal and inherited trauma, as well as the historic, political and cultural displacement.

PATTERNS OF MEMORY

Patterns of Memory focuses on the universal issues of personal and inherited trauma. Through the act of painting and storytelling, Julia created a narrative that questions the meaning of memory and inheritance and its emotional and psychological effects on the human mind and body. Julia's paintings and stories unpack her personal memories of growing up in communist Poland while inviting the audience to examine their own inheritance. The stories that emerge create patterns that bring new meaning to the understanding of the present moment. Patterns of Memory, an illustrated book of twenty-four stories, is the culmination of Julia's most recent research and is currently awaiting publishing.

 **jo pinto** @_jopinto_

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Jo Pinto is a Portuguese illustrator and animator based in Brighton, UK. Her passion for visual storytelling takes shape in illustrations, as well as short comics and animated films.

A LOAKER'S TALE

A Loaker's Tale is a children's picture book that encourages the readers to take a step back from systemised thinking and keep asking questions. It's an effort to nurture lateral thinking and communication in children aged 7-9yo, as well as in the adults that read this story with them.

 **gary kaye** @critical_diary_jk

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Gary Kaye has worked as an illustrator for more than 30 years, largely in the fashion industry, where the depiction of the clothed figure, for a commercial outcome has been the major focus. He has taught a number of fashion design courses and currently teaches at the University of Brighton.

UNTITLED

His current work focuses on approaches to drawing which use abstraction as a way of exploring ideas intuitively rather than with a prescribed outcome. Drawings are layered on top of each other in mixed media revealing figurative elements in non-specific ways.



 @josiefoxdot

josiefoxdot@hotmail.com

Josie Taylor is currently an MA Sequential Design student at Brighton University after successfully completing an MA in Photography in 2017, and an MA in Fine Art in 2019. Originally from Yorkshire, she has lived in London, Italy, and now Brighton. Josie has exhibited in London, Oxford, Yorkshire, and Italy. She volunteers regularly at the Foundling Museum, London.

ABSENCE AND PRESENCE

Josie's work involves the deconstruction and reconstruction of photographic images; aiming to transform, abstract, contradict and question the interpretation of the presented images by utilizing various formats which have an impact on how the viewer engages with the work. 'Absence and Presence', her current project uses found photographs abstracting and re-presenting memories of friends and family that have moved on; forgotten or lost who are absent but present. This is linked to original research of the 'Hidden Mothers' collection of Linda Fregni Nagler's photography shown at the Venice Biennale, and her work at the Foundling Museum which is ongoing.



 @loispawson

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Lois A Pawson is an illustrator and designer, based in Sussex. Her internationally focussed commercial art practice is inspired by antiquities, ancient crafts in a modern world context, and pop surrealism. Her methods include ink, oil, gouache, natural pigment, metal-point, gilding, model-making, textiles, digital illustration, stopmotion and frame-by-frame animation.

FATE AND FATALISM

A re-visualisation of poetry attributed to "astronomer poet of Persia" Omar Khayyam (1048-1131), from the 1859 English translation by Edward FitzGerald. These four-line Rubaiyat poems reflect on universal aspects of human existence - life, death and facing one's fate. At their emotive core runs the humanistic message to seize the day and enjoy life - because life can be all too short. Readers can interpret these poems in different ways, and this project is a work of personal expression, underpinned by expansive research and participation in international symposiums, over thirty virtual tours of Iran, and 'method illustration' experiments with ancient Persian crafts.



 @mariascard

mariascard.com

Maria Scard has been a professional photographer for over 15 years, her passion for photography has taken her to many places, from the slums in Mumbai to the catwalks in Dubai. Commissioned by local charities and businesses, she has previously exhibited at the Brighton Dome, Brighton Station and as part of the Brighton Fringe.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, EXPLORING THIN PLACES AND LIMINAL SPACES

Maria travelled to 'Thin Places', a Celtic term for locations where it is believed that the veil between the physical and the spiritual is almost transparent. On this journey she often found herself in liminal spaces, 'liminal' comes from the Latin 'limen', meaning threshold, e.g. where the sky meets the sea. Working with a camera with minimal postproduction, she aims to give us a glimpse of what she found there. As she waited, watched and recorded, it was as though each place offered her up some kind of gift. A glimmer of light, a whisper, a fragility, a strength, a power, a presence and often a peace.



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Stephen Anderson worked as a design professional for many years where his projects received press coverage in journals, books and awards. In addition, he has co-authored books on design. He currently divides his time between his MA studies, as a Senior Lecturer in Interior Architecture & Design at the University of Portsmouth, and consultancy projects.

RE ORDER

His research is based around buildings and structures of the mid 20th century which are used to create reflected and projected forms. Light and shadow are used to mediate these and are captured through photography and photograms. The processes are employed as a filter through which reality is distorted and abstracted. This creates representations that investigate the representation and order of the original forms to take on different characteristics or meanings. He employs a range of methods of generation including drawing with ink, tape, tone and constructing simple models with the final outputs creating limited series of screen-prints.



COVID Safety Measures & Prior Booking Requirements

To ensure that the Emotive Collective Exhibition environment is as safe as possible, the following measures are in place:

- To book, register for your free ticket online in advance at eventbrite
- Prior booking requirements help in managing safe visitor capacity levels during the exhibition
- When you arrive, enter your details in the visitor book or register your visit with NHS Test and Trace by scanning the QR code in the lobby
- Visitors are required to wear protective face masks to keep visitors and hosts safe. We can provide spare face masks on request - ask on arrival
- When moving around the venue, observe the social distancing signage and maintain a safe distance from others
- There will be a one-way system in place
- Use the hand sanitizer available in key locations
- If you or a member of your household have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms within the past 14 days, do not visit the exhibition