



**ARTS  
AND  
CULTURE**

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

**Creative  
Review  
2023-2024**

**2023-2024  
Snapshot**

**52,000**

website page  
views

**8,000**

active  
engagements  
on social media

**2,000**

monthly  
e-newsletter  
subscribers

**1,804**

attendees and  
participants

**70**

events and  
teaching  
sessions

**52**

creative  
collaborators and  
external partners

**46**

countries viewed  
our online  
exhibitions

# Introduction

Creativity can be found absolutely everywhere at the University of Exeter. In Arts and Culture, we help tell the stories of the creative work of staff and students across our campuses, and we hope this annual review captures some of the brilliance, energy, and excitement that we've experienced.

As you will see in the following pages, creativity takes many forms. Frustratingly, it is commonly understood as the preserve of the art world, but at its heart, creativity is about generating new ideas, and then putting them into the world to test their value. It takes discipline, persistence and grit to take an idea from that first flash of inspiration to a fully-fledged thing. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, and such a risky high-wire act requires encouragement and community. We aim to provide that through our Arts and Culture networks and programmes, bringing people together to be creative and, on a good day, change lives for the better.

Please take a moment to stop and celebrate the vibrant creative work of the University over this past year. We look forward to seeing what amazing creativity awaits us in the year ahead.



**Image:** Digital Humanities display in Queen's building, Streatham Campus. Photograph © Steven Haywood

**Find out more at:** <https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/news/discover-more-about-the-fascinating-work-of-the-digital-humanities-team-in-a>

# Contents

Supporting Interdisciplinary Collaborations	6
Enhancing Student Experience	18
Strengthening Knowledge Exchange	26
Fostering Civic Engagement	34
Building Creative Confidence	43



**Image:** Poster from the *Tender Acts* Arts Commission, Penryn Campus. Read more on page 35. Artwork by Georgia Gendall, photograph by Field Notes. © Field Notes

**Find out more at:** <https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/arts-commission/tender-acts>

# Contributing to the University's Strategy 2030

In this review, we show how our projects and activities contribute to the University of Exeter's Strategy 2030.

We do this visually through icons you will find at the foot of the page for each project or activity. These icons represent the three elements in the Strategy's vision as follows:



Lead meaningful action against the climate emergency and ecological crisis.



Make key breakthroughs to transform human health and wellbeing.



Lead the progress towards creating a fair, socially just and inclusive society.

[Find out more about the University of Exeter's Strategy 2030 here.](#)

# Arts and Culture Approaches

Arts and Culture has its own strategy, 2022-27, and we also show how our activity delivers against our strategic objectives. In summary, our key approaches are:

## 1. Learning and development

We will devise and support creative collaborations, bringing together staff, students and creative practitioners to encourage new ways of working, responding to Strategy 2030 themes of climate and environment, health and well-being, and social justice. We will support teaching and training that develops knowledge and skills in creative processes.

## 2. Promoting and championing

We will build a concentrated narrative for creative practice at the University through our tailored marketing and communications. We will tell the story of creative work at the University through events and activities, such as performances, screenings, workshops and festivals.

## 3. Networking and brokering

We will provide a combination of advice, brokering and signposting for our target audiences, both holding space for new creative networks and contributing to existing networks. We will create and support systems and resources that enhance community-building and cross-disciplinary collaborations.

[Read the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-27 here](#)

# SUPPORTING INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS



**Image:** Patch in Progress from *The Art of Fiction: Women's Writing and the Decorative Arts*. Read about the project on page 11. Photograph: Alex Gushurst-Moore/Dr Patricia Zakreski.

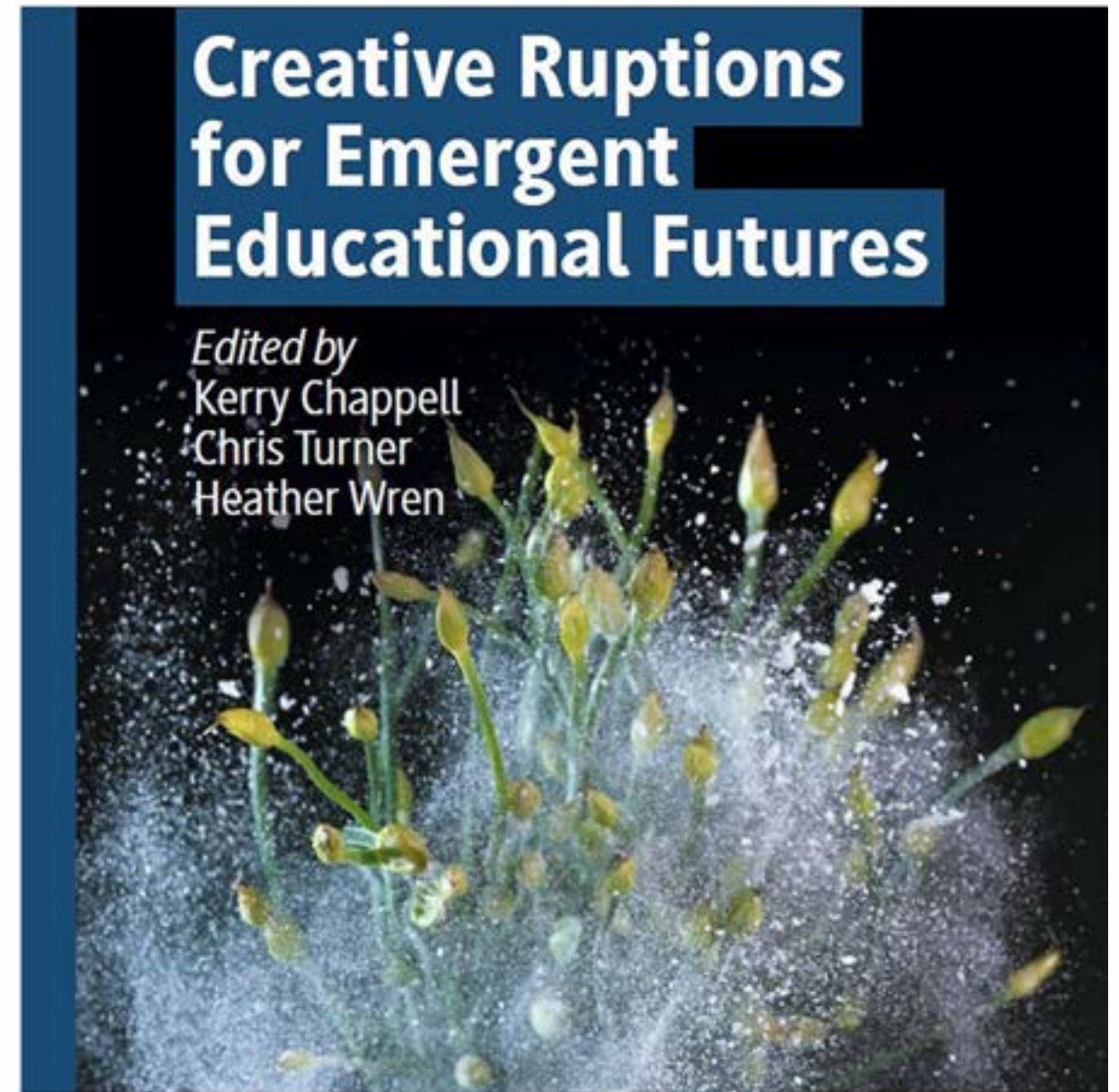
Alumni updates:

# *Creative Ruptions,* Book Chapter

River Jean Nash was an Arts and Culture Creative Fellow in 2021/22, working in collaboration with Professor Sarah Dyer, Director of the University of Exeter Education Incubator. In 2022, Sarah Campbell, Associate Director for Arts and Culture, invited River and Sarah to co-author a chapter for a new publication, devised and edited by School of Education colleagues, Dr Kerry Chappell, Dr Christopher Turner and Heather Wren.

The book, *Creative Ruptions for Emergent Educational Futures*, was published in 2024. Our chapter, *Care as Resistance within Educational Practice*, explores the relationships between care, creativity and learning in higher education, picking up themes from River's Creative Fellowship. Contributing to this open access publication enabled us to draw out theoretical underpinnings of Creative Fellowships, and share River and Sarah's work with a much broader, global audience.

[Read the chapter here.](#)



**Image:** Design for the front cover of *Creative Ruptions for Emergent Educational Futures*. Courtesy Dr Kerry Chappell.

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Promoting and championing

Alumni updates:

# AHRC Catalyst funding awarded

Comedian Siân Docksey was an Arts and Culture Creative Fellow in 2020/21, working with Dr Ina Linge, who researches Queer German Studies at Exeter. During the Creative Fellowship, they programmed three *Sex and Nature Salons*; online comedy nights bringing together academics and comedians to explore understandings of human sexuality.

The Creative Fellowship kickstarted a very fruitful, ongoing collaboration. Ina wrote about this in a chapter entitled *Gay Penguins and Happy Endlings: The Sex & Nature Salon* for the volume *Unserious Ecocriticism: Humor, Play & Environmental Destruction in Art & Visual Culture* (Amherst College Press, forthcoming), and in 2024, Ina was awarded an AHRC Catalyst grant of almost £300k (FEC) for *Queer Natures*, to continue her research into sexual knowledge production, with Siân as a contributing artist. In October 2024, Ina and Siân will be in Washington, USA, co-teaching a section on comedy and environment as part of an undergraduate degree in Art & Environmental Studies. The *Sex and Nature Salon* will be part of the assessment and final performance.

[Watch the original Sex and Nature Salons here.](#)



Image: Dr Ina Linge and Siân Docksey. Photograph © Ina Linge

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development



Alumni updates:

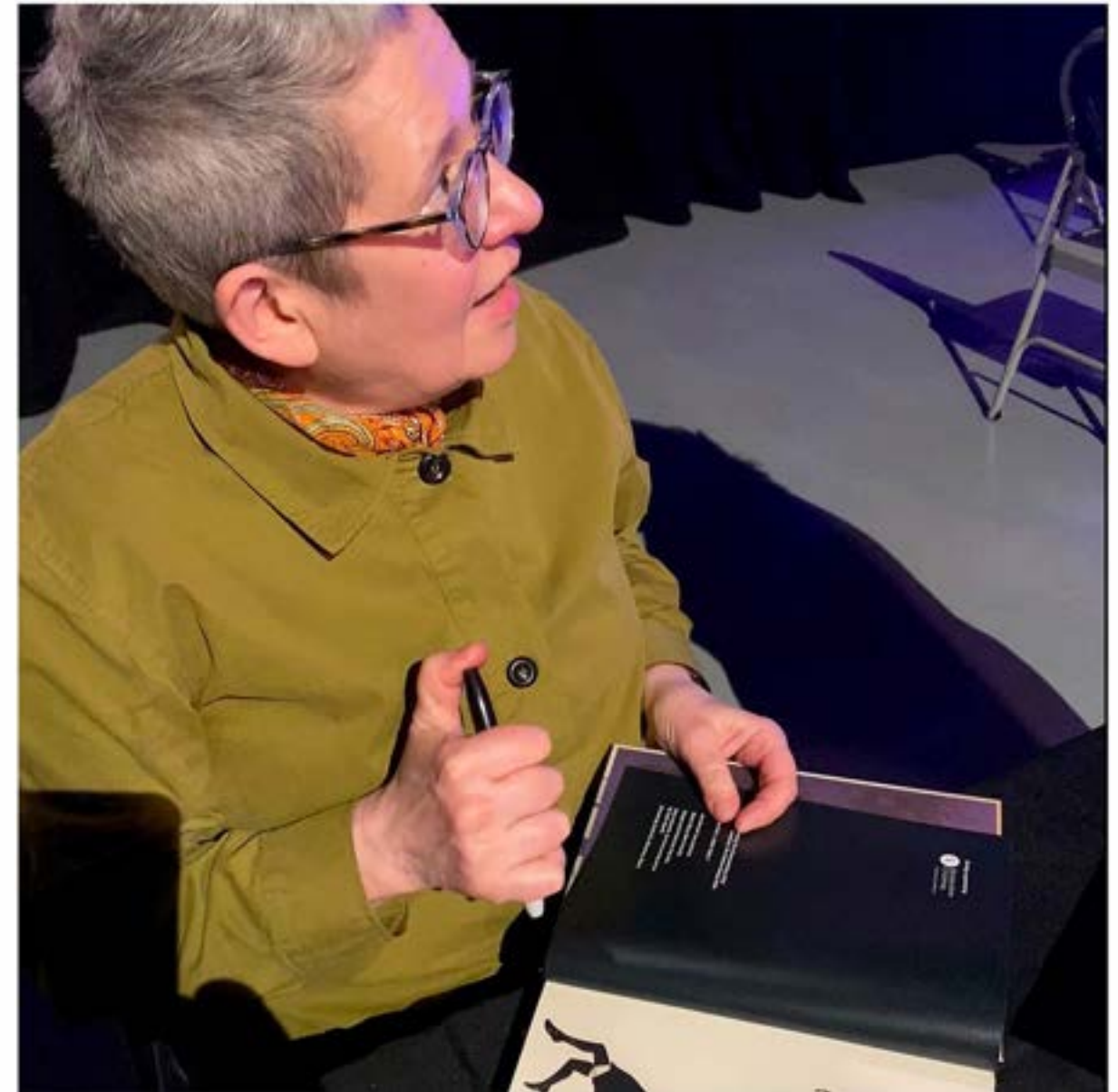
# Lea Anderson book launch

On 30 May a book launch and celebration was organised by Arts and Culture for renowned artistic director and choreographer Lea Anderson, who launched her beautifully illustrated new book marking the 40th birthday of her dance companies The Cholmondeleys and The Featherstonehaughs.

The event began with refreshments at the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, which in 2019-20 was the venue for Lea Anderson's Arts and Culture Creative Fellowship and included an opportunity to see artefacts in the museum that inspired Lea's recent work, *Zoetrope*.

This was followed by an 'in conversation' event between Lea Anderson and Professor John Plunkett, with whom Lea collaborated for her Creative Fellowship, during which they discussed Lea's distinguished career. The evening ended with the screening of a film of *Zoetrope* and a book signing by Lea.

[Watch a promotional film for \*Zoetrope\* here.](#)



**Image:** Lea Anderson signs a copy of her book, *Lea Anderson's The Cholmondeleys and The Featherstonehaughs - 40 Years of Style and Design*.

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Promoting and championing

## Alumni updates:

# *If Not Now*

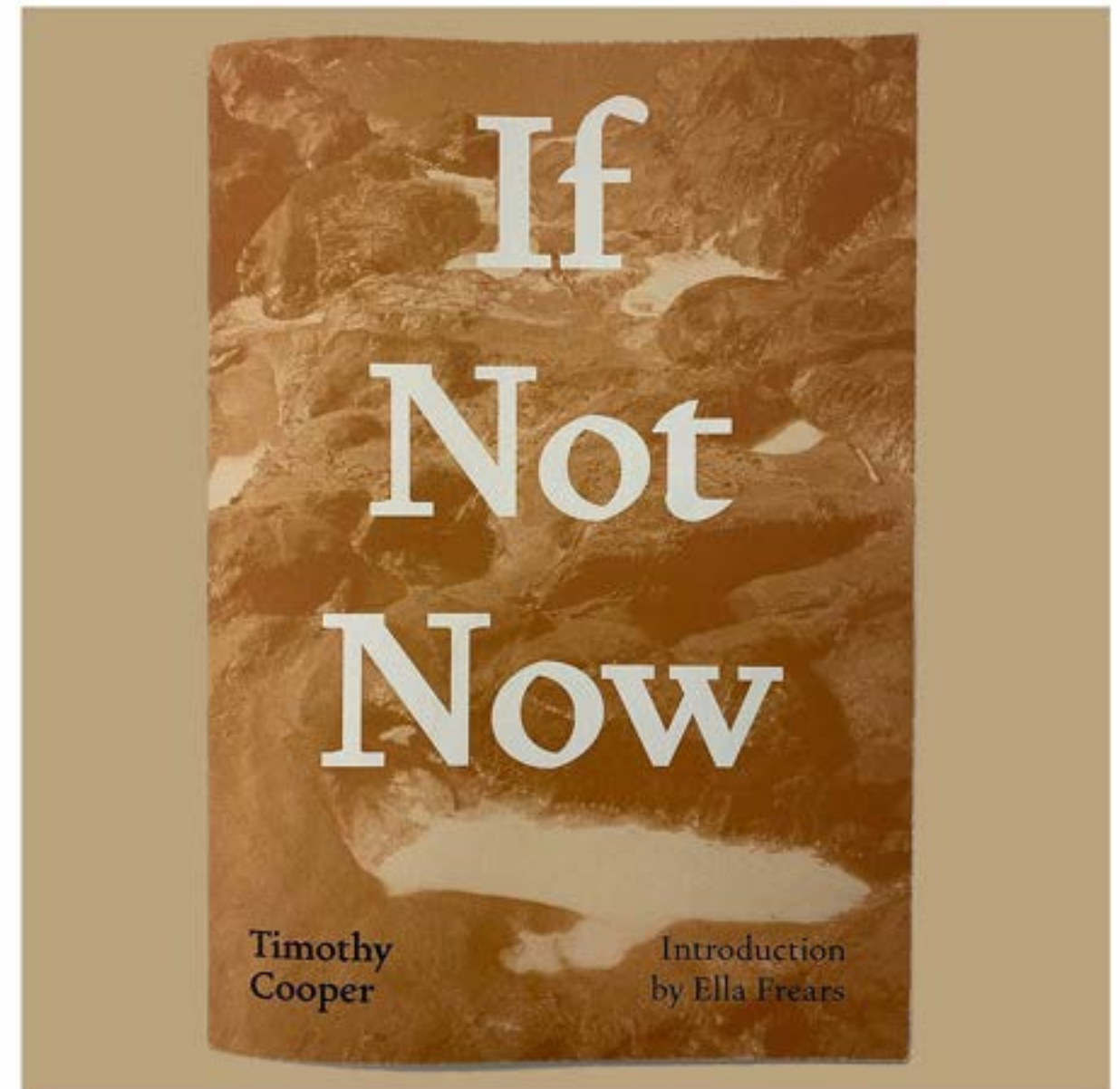
In 2022-23 poet Ella Frears undertook an Arts and Culture Creative Fellowship with historian Dr Tim Cooper of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) Cornwall.

The Fellowship allowed time for collaborative enquiry which inspired the publication of a collection of poetry in Spring 2024, *If Not Now*, written by Tim with an introduction by Ella.

The collection, published in the form of a zine, contains Tim's poetry (created from prompts given by Ella), thinking, and images that explore the climate crisis, mine shafts, oil spills, oral history and animal rehabilitation.

Designed by Theo Inglis, a limited edition of 100 copies of the collection was published.

[Find out about Ella's Arts and Culture Creative Fellowship here.](#)



**Image:** Front cover of *If Not Now* by Dr Tim Cooper, with introduction by Ella Frears. Designed by Theo Inglis and published by The University of Exeter.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Promoting and championing

# AHRC Fellowship awarded: *The Art of Fiction*

Arts and Culture offered in-kind support for Dr Tricia Zakreski's AHRC Research, Development and Engagement Fellowship application. The Fellowship runs September 2023 – March 2025.

The project, *The Art of Fiction: Women's Writing and the Decorative Arts*, is a partnership with Killerton House and MAKE Southwest, to explore how judgements of literary, aesthetic, and professional value affect women's creative identities.

In December 2023, we shared a callout for contributions to a collaboratively made work of art that explores stories about women's creative identities. Participants from around the world are invited to craft fabric patches that will be put together by artist Ruth Broadway into a single patchwork object.

[Find out more here.](#)



Image: Patch in Progress Photograph: © Alex Gushurst-Moore/Dr Patricia Zakreski.

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Promoting and championing

# AHRC Follow-On grant awarded: *Beyond Culture Box*

Arts and Culture partnered with Arts for Dementia, the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, Culture&, NAPA (National Activity Providers Association), and the University of Surrey in support of an AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) Follow-On Impact and engagement grant to continue the work of *Culture Box*, a Covid lockdown initiative led by Professor Victoria Tischler, to commission artist-generated activity boxes delivered to care homes (when almost all activities, visits and outings had come to a halt).

The scheme was incredibly successful, and this inspired the post-Covid project, *Beyond Culture Box*, supported by Chloe Asker (who recently completed her PhD at the university). This iteration involved workshops with the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, working with adults with dementia, and a final display of documentation, handling objects and culture boxes at Positive Light Projects, which launched 17 January 2024. We were thrilled to be part of a project that combined arts, health and research so meaningfully, and celebrated creativity as essential to quality of life.

[Find out more here.](#)



**Image:** Detail of sensory handling objects, used for evaluation discussions and reflections with participants, created by artist Hat Porter, 2023.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

## Acclaimed artist visits Exeter:

# Naiza Khan

In partnership with Professor Amina Yaqin, the Societies and Culture Institute and Exeter Centre for South Asia, Arts and Culture co-hosted artist, Naiza Khan, during her research trip to Exeter in May.

As well as meeting with a number of cultural and heritage organisations in the city, Naiza gave a captivating public lecture about her work, *Mapping Water*, and was pivotal in an academic panel discussion, *Creative Practice/Creative Research*, alongside Professor Amina Yaqin, Professor Ayesha Mukherjee, and Professor Laura Salisbury. The panel discussion was chaired by Sarah Campbell and looked at the role of the arts and artists in contemporary academic research cultures.

Interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity are becoming increasingly favoured modes of research but are not without their challenges – Naiza's visit was a valuable opportunity to explore these questions with peers, and lay foundations for future working.

[Find out more here.](#)

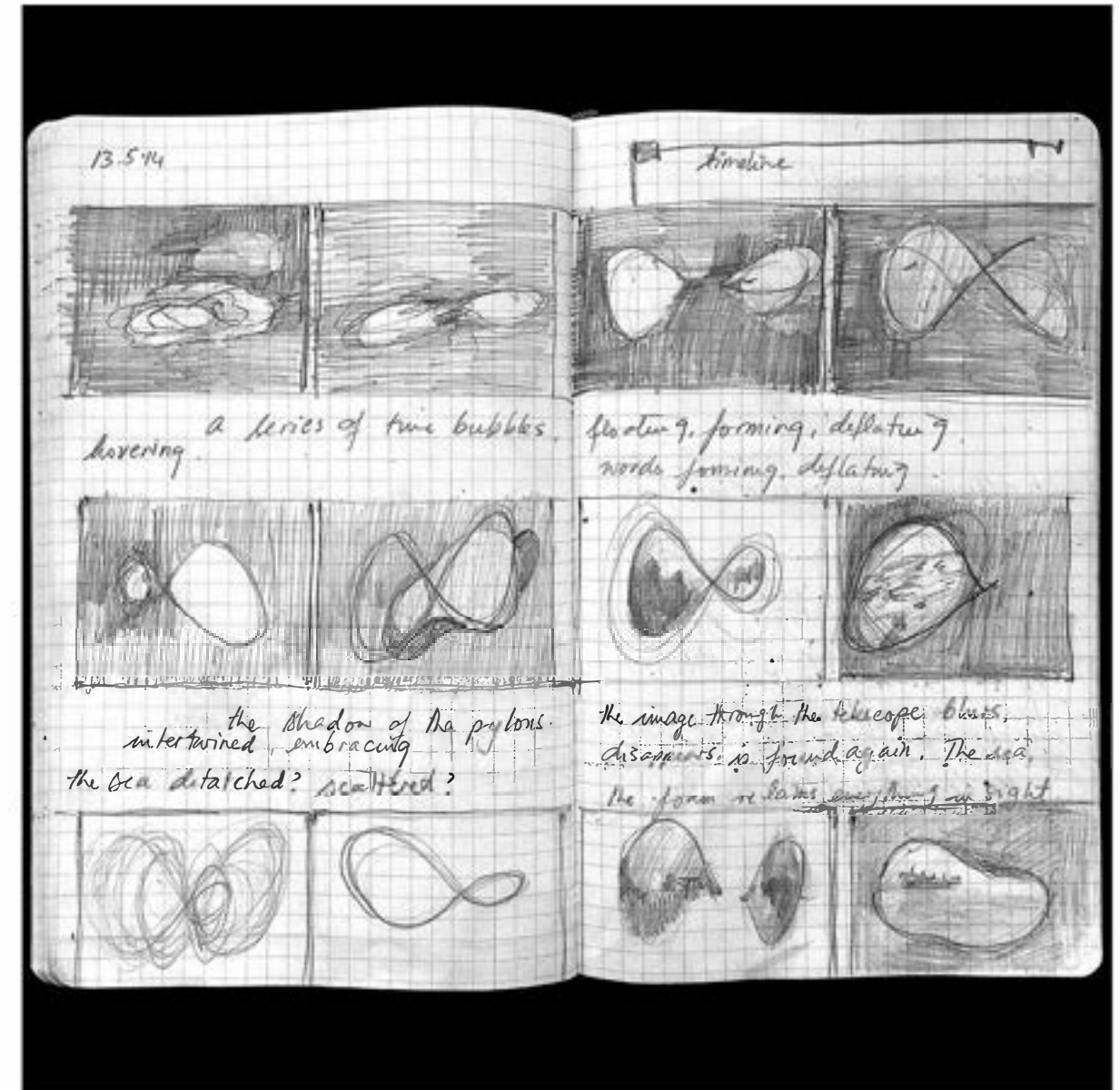


Image: Drawing towards a moving image by Naiza Khan. Photograph © Naiza Khan

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

## Penryn exhibition: *learn from a bird*

From 9 to 27 July 2024, *learn from a bird* showcased creative collaborations between artists, researchers, students and staff from the Universities of Exeter and Falmouth on Penryn Campus, supported by Arts and Culture Cornwall and partners. This ambitious series, managed by Dr Lucy Frears, Arts and Culture Programme Manager for Cornwall, was based in Gray's Wharf Gallery, Penryn, and featured a different exhibition each week, including:

**Mapping Emergence:** Film and photography emerging from an artistic (Falmouth) and scientific (Exeter) collaboration called FX Creative Exchange, exploring the world of social insects – in this case ants and bees. The project was used to test out ideas and as a stepping stone to an AHRC Curiosity Award application. [See a film about this exhibition here.](#)

**Movement is Natural:** An exhibition in a variety of mediums by artist Iman Dattoo challenging misconceptions about soil health in Cornwall's mining tips and pits. It used interviews with Exeter academics as a core inspiration and as part of the work. Funding collaborators included the Eden Project and Exeter Innovation. [See a film about this exhibition here.](#)

**FX Creative Together:** An exhibition of artworks by pairs of students - (one from Exeter and one from Falmouth University), created as part of FX Creative Together programmes in 2023 and 2024, funded by various faculties (see more on page 21). [Watch a film about the 2024 collaboration here.](#)

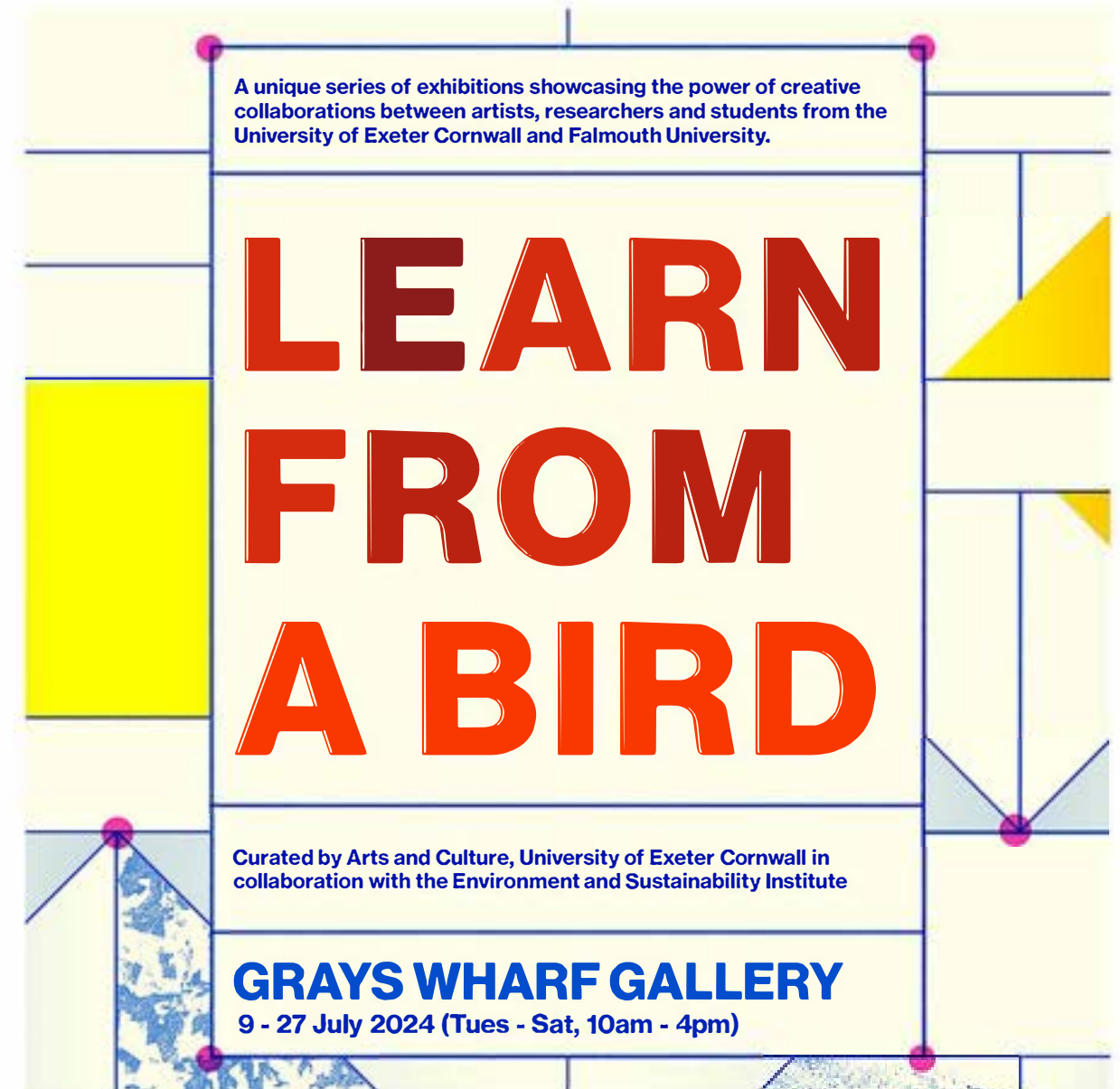


Image: Publicity for *learn from a bird*. © Phyllida Bluemel

Read more, and see images of the exhibition [here](#).

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Promoting and Championing  
Networking and brokering

# Displays in the Queen's Building

Arts and Culture programmed three exhibitions in the Queen's Building Display Space in 2023-24.

The work of the Digital Humanities Lab (DHLab) was showcased in Term 1. Using words and beautiful images of artworks and artefacts digitised by the DHLab, the exhibition demonstrated how their technology has enhanced research projects and improved visual access to items in the University's Special Collections and the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum.

In Term 2, the space featured a display of large photographic images created by the Centre for Medical Mycology (MRC CMM), entitled *The Hidden World of Killer Fungi*. It depicted deadly microscopic organisms, using cutting-edge imaging technologies used by researchers at the MRC CMM, and examples of the work of creative practitioners with whom the Centre has collaborated.

Term 3 saw a display of artworks by artist Helen Snell, artist in residence within the research project *Inequality, Identity and the Media in Brexit-Covid 19 Britain*, conducted by an interdisciplinary team of ethnographers, with the Principal Investigator being Professor Katharine Tyler. The exhibition, *Red Amber Green Britain*, showcased Helen's artistic responses to the team's research findings and methodologies including drawings and designs for GIF animations.



**Image:** One of the displays in *Red Amber Green Britain* by artist Helen Snell. on display in the Queen's Building in Term 3. Photo: © Stephen Haywood.

## University Strategy 2030 Vision:



## Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Promoting and championing

# Exeter hosts European Research Network

In May, Associate Professor Kerry Chappell, School of Education, hosted delegates from across Europe for a seminar as part of the *Road STEAMER* research project, which aims to develop a STEAM roadmap for science education in Horizon Europe. STEAM is a popular acronym that integrates the (A)rts into (S)cience, (T)echnology, (E)ngineering and (M)aths education.

Kerry invited Arts and Culture to contribute, to share examples of STEAM in action at the University. We programmed a showcase of seven films, all available on our website, that promote STEAM collaborations through our Creative Fellowships and Arts Commissions. Delegates were free to drop in and out of the screenings (many stayed to the end) and had a handout summarising project details for follow up.



Image: European Research Network seminar.

## University Strategy 2030 Vision:



## Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering  
Promoting and championing



# FX Creative Exchange 2024

The *FX Creative Exchange (FXCE)* programme supports collaborations between early career and emerging researchers from the University of Exeter, Cornwall and Falmouth University.

Co-funded between Exeter's Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI), Falmouth University, and Exeter Arts and Culture, the *FXCE* in 2023-24 saw a collaborative project between Madeline R. Young-Touré from Camborne School of Mines (UoE) and artist and photographer Guy Martin, a lecturer on Falmouth University's Marine and Natural History Photography course. They investigated the use of photographic historical archives to visually explore how colonial-era mining in Africa has impacted landscapes, human relationships, Indigenous communities, their traditions, and ways of life which has resulted in two spin-off projects and exhibitions.

[Find out more about the collaboration here.](#)

Lucy Frears, Arts and Culture Programme Manager, Cornwall, facilitated a series of *FXCE* drop-in sessions enabling researchers to connect with potential collaborators before the call out for the next round of applications.



**Image:** Madeline R. Young-Touré discusses her *FX Creative Exchange* project. Photograph © Lucy Frears.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering  
Promoting and championing

# ENHANCING STUDENT EXPERIENCE



**Image:** Participants of the *FX Creative Together* student programme at their exhibition at Grays Wharf Gallery, Penryn, part of the *learn from a bird* exhibition series in July 2024. Photograph © Sam Bestwick.

# Creativity and Student Experience Network

Launched in 2022/23, we continued our collaboration with the Creative Quadrant in the Business School, and co-hosted a series of networking events for staff and students who want to be more joined up in provision of creative activities with, by and for students. We ran six sessions - a mix of informal dialogues over lunch, and prototyping workshops to test new ideas.

In September, *Eat, Think, Play* offered crafting, table-tennis, and pizza to welcome students to the new academic year.

In February, colleagues Karen Kenny and Sue Prince ran a staff workshop examining future learning environment needs of students. The session was funded by an Education Incubator Discovery Grant.

In May, Emma Norman, Academic Skills and Student Engagement Officer, tested a new creative workshop, 'Gamifying your Services'.



Image: Participating in *Eat, Think, Play* in September 2023. Photograph © Sarah Campbell

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

# Dance workshop with Engineering students

Arts and Culture was invited by Professor Corrina Cory, Associate Professor, Engineering and Entrepreneurship, to create a new initiative to welcome first year Engineering students to their studies in October.

Inspired by a dance workshop that Corinna had experienced at d.school, Stanford University, we commissioned dance artist, Filipa Pereira-Stubbs, who collaborated with dancer Pip Jones, to design a two-hour, outdoor workshop on campus.

The goal was not to create dancers, but to encourage students to be playful with movement, to explore engineering concepts through embodiment, and above all to have fun and establish new social bonds that will help with future group work on the course.

We had a strong turnout of over 60 students and will be running the workshop again in 2024/45.



Image: Engineering dance workshop, October 2023. Film still © Jay Stone

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

# FX Creative Together 2024

In its second year, this unique knowledge and skills exchange programme, devised and led by Arts and Culture, celebrates and capitalises on the rich interdisciplinary environment of Penryn campus, bringing together University of Exeter and Falmouth University students for a 40-hour paid creative internship.

The four pairs of collaborators worked across disciplines: drawing with human sciences; dance with business, film (sound specialism) with zoology; and creative writing with marine biology.

Student Joseph Mathers was also recruited as a student supervisor intern - he was a 2023 collaborator so we took the opportunity to develop his skills further and let the interns benefit from his experience. Joseph supported Lucy Frears, the Cornwall Programme Manager, throughout *FX Creative Together* from initial workshops, the shared making, right through to the display and performance of the co-created work at Grays Wharf Gallery, Penryn, in July.

[Find out more here.](#)



**Image:** *FX Creative Together* student collaborators 2024. Top (left to right): Nao Szulc and Chloé Eathorne, Ben Pisacane and Catrin Dunn, Bottom (left to right) Sky Shah and Georgina Umney, Joern Aw and Isabella Field.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

## Arts, Culture & Heritage

# Professional Pathways

Run by the university's Career Zone, *Professional Pathways* is an annual internship programme and suite of sector-specific training courses open to all students. In June, Arts and Culture contributed an interactive session to the 'Arts, Culture and Heritage' pathway.

Drawing on her professional background, Sarah Campbell introduced the opportunities of a career in gallery education, and ran a short exercise for students to create their own audience-specific arts workshop, responding to just one painting.

In the public imagination, galleries are staffed solely by curators, which limits young people's understanding of viable career options.

The pathways programme is well-named, providing targeted guidance and practical work placements to diversify students' ambitions.



Image: Professional Pathways workshop with Sarah Campbell

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

# Student Presence on our Digital Platforms

In 2023-24 we offered several students the opportunity to write blogs for the Arts and Culture website and create social media content, giving them a platform to communicate their interests and activities to a wider audience.

Blogs were written by MA Curation students, describing their internships within arts organisations, and their experience of curating an art exhibition and in June 2024 they took over Arts and Culture's Instagram account to promote the multi-site contemporary art project they had curated, entitled *Foreign Bodies*.

In January 2024, filmmaker and University of Exeter MA student Alexandru Dragan wrote about his powerful and impactful new film series which explored the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers. [Read Alexandru's blog here.](#)

In February 2024 PhD candidate Shibani Das shared her story of the *Researchers' Wellbeing Through Art* project which she set up in 2022 with a fellow student. [Read Shibani's blog here.](#)

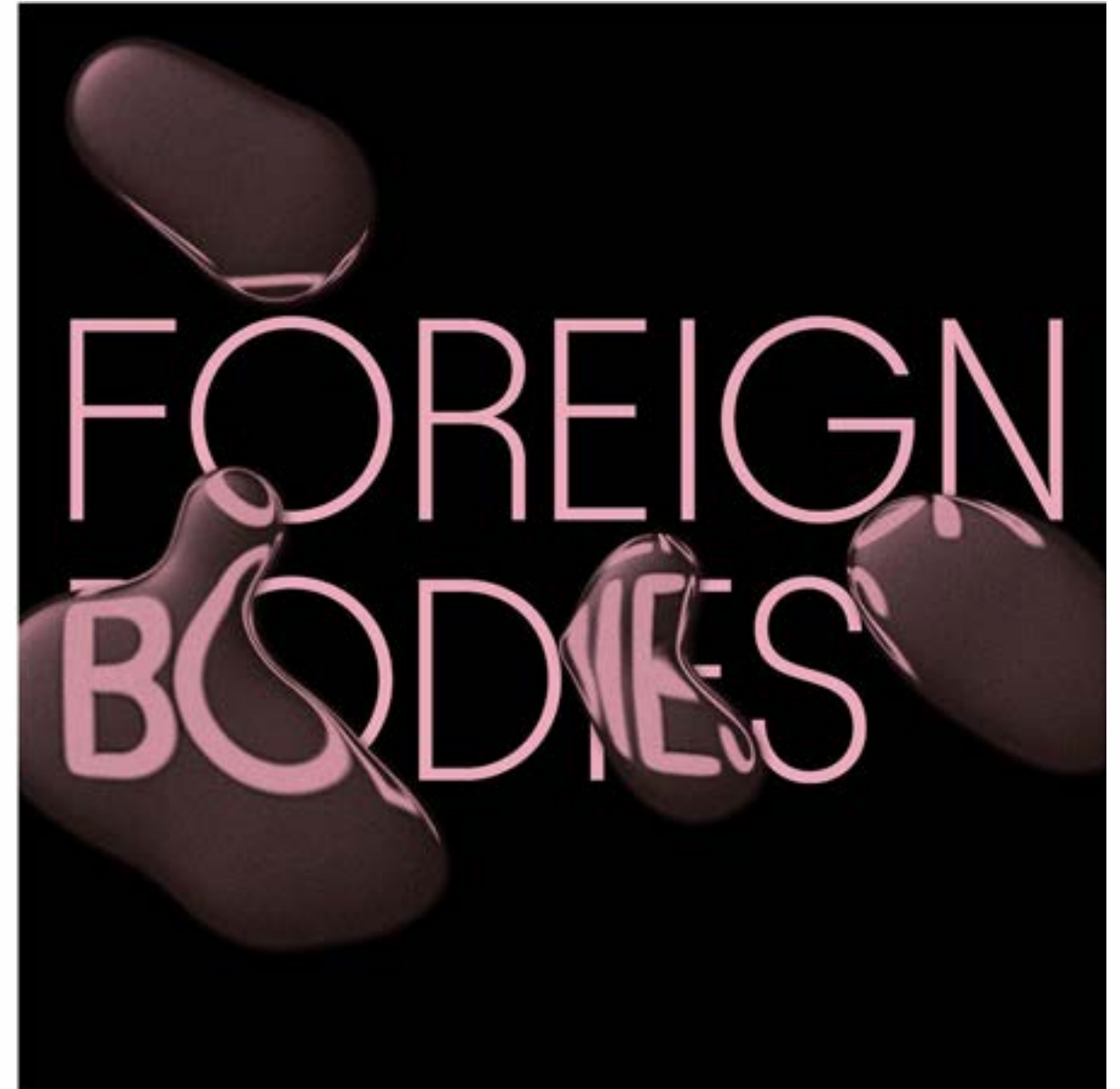


Image: Logo for *Foreign Bodies*, the MA Curation contemporary art project 2024.

## University Strategy 2030 Vision:



## Arts and Culture Themes:

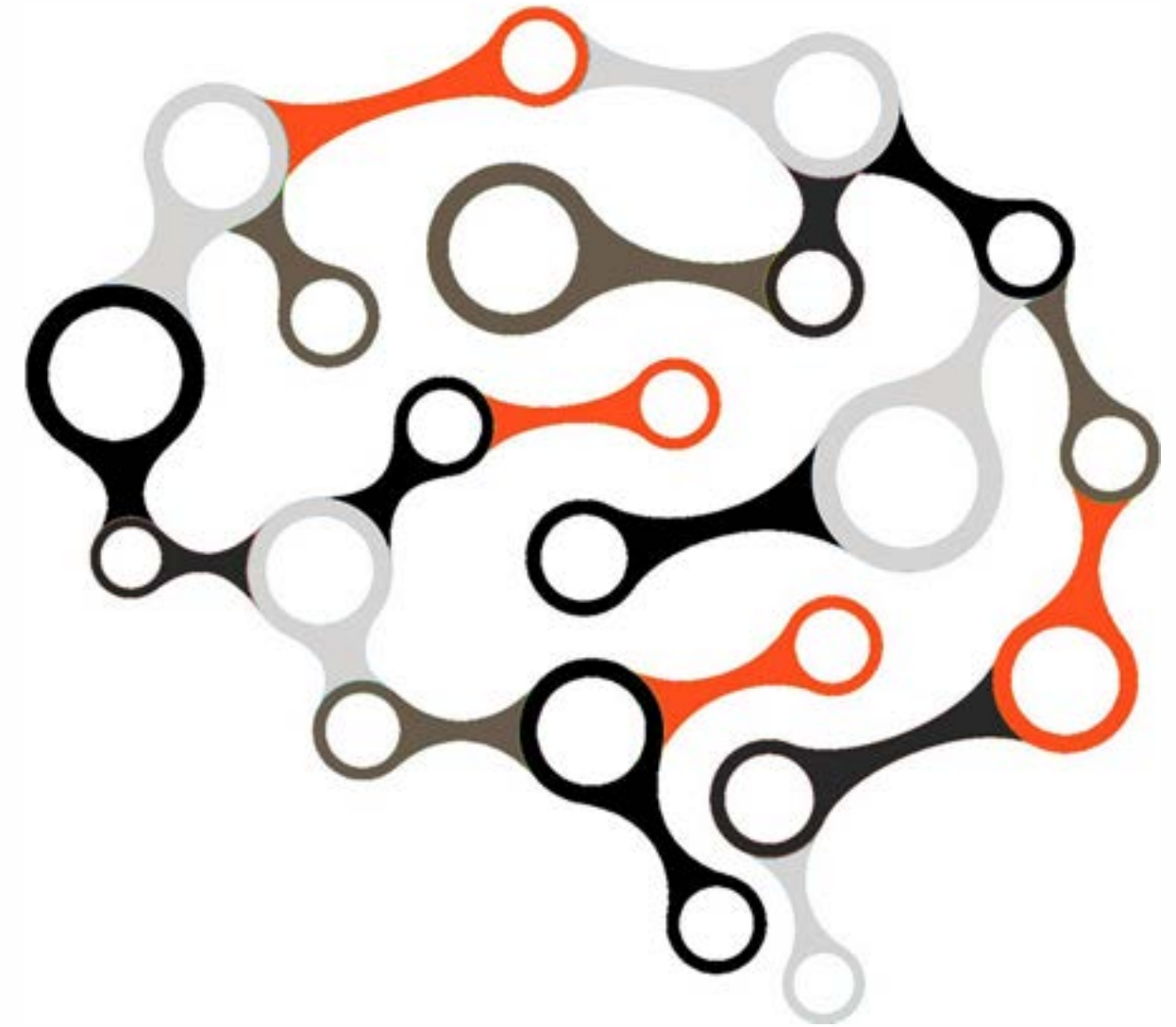
Learning and development  
Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# Teaching on Medical Humanities and Nursing modules

Arts and Culture have become a regular addition to the 4th year Medical Humanities module, led by Sarah Ashley and Luci Richards. This ground-breaking programme introduces medical students to a range of artforms to expand their worldviews and understanding of healthcare.

In September/December, Sarah Campbell presented a 90-minute session to over 150 students (total) at Streatham and Truro. The session included examples of arts and health collaborations and neuroscience that underpins creative mindset, and can aid problem-solving and design thinking techniques, to guide the students' art-making assignments.

The Academy of Nursing also supports the use of creative techniques in learning and engagement. Working with Leila Morgan, Sarah ran a 90-minute session for stage 2 students in December. Titled *Arts Skills for Nursing*, the session aimed to promote skills in observation, active listening, and empathy through creativity.



University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering



# Jazz Club with Students' Guild

Following on from *Musical Passage*, our Arts Commission for 2022/23, Arts and Culture brokered a new partnership between musician William Paley, Director of Exeter Big Band, and Johnny Hurst, Senior Music and Technical Co-ordinator in the Students' Guild.

Will established monthly jazz club workshops for students who have existing proficiency but are looking to further their skills. Sessions ran from October 2023 to May 2024 at Kay House on campus, a venue with dedicated rehearsal spaces.

The club had 11 attendees with a strong core of regulars; Will observed that the students, "took a lot of confidence from the concepts implemented in the workshops".



**Image:** Will Paley (far left) performing with students at The Box, Plymouth, as part of *Musical Passage*, 2023. Photograph © Steven Haywood.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

# STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



**Image:** Tsitsi Mareika Chirikure and Iman Dato, performing *Where do we go when we realise that we can't go back to nature?* with Ashish Ghadiali, at Roborough Studios, Streatham Campus. Dev. used by Radical Ecology as part of their *Invasion Ecology* programme with Southcombe Barn. Read more on page 31 Photograph: © Oxyte

# Creative Research Project with Natural England: *Leeside*

Professor John Wedgwood Clarke, Academic Director for Arts and Culture, initiated a new research project with Natural England. In Phase One (January-March 2024), we were awarded £41,000 to undertake a scoping project and options appraisal. Working with Sarah Campbell, we identified potential locations in Devon and Cornwall for an arts and culture-led exploration of the contemporary eco-cultural value of sites covered by Natural England's Protected Sites Strategy.

Phase Two funding, £147,000, was awarded in September 2024, and will see us deliver two large arts commissions, working with Challacombe Farm, Dartmoor, Devon, and the Camel Estuary, Cornwall. Each site will focus on a different artform – creative writing for Devon, and visual/performing arts for Cornwall. We will be recruiting a Project Manager (0.6) and Project Co-ordinator (0.4) to support the delivery of this research project, and we look forward to sharing our learning.



**Image:** Walmsley Reserve on the edge of the Camel Estuary      Photograph: Sarah Campbell

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Learning and development  
Promoting and championing

# Exeter Food Research Network

Arts and Culture is a member of the Exeter Food Stakeholder Working Group for Culture and Education, led by Prof. Harry West. We worked with Harry on the *Here's To Thee* Arts Commission (2020-22) and were thrilled to be invited to co-devise an online session for academics in the network. Titled *Collaborations between Food Researchers and the Arts: A Creative Appetiser*, we helped structure the session, which focussed on interdisciplinarity and embedding creative practice research processes, and provided a short overview of the creative networks available to support this work.

After this online session in December, one of the contributors, artist Hannah Mumby, ran a follow-up, in-person workshop in May for the researchers, making use of her *Co-Production Oracle*, a practical resource devised as part of a Global Systems Institute residency in 2022. The purpose of the Exeter Research Networks is to cultivate new communities across disciplinary boundaries, and creative workshops such as Hannah's are recognised as an effective means of establishing these new connections.



Image: Hannah Mumby and Professor Harry West

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development

# Community of Practice

Previously known as our 'Critical Friends Network', we have built a mailing list of over 120 staff who are interested in creative processes and wish to connect with colleagues in other departments. Guest speakers in Terms 1 and 2 included:

**Dr. Thomas O'Shea-Wheller**, ESI Research Fellow, took us through his FX Creative Exchange collaboration with Dr. Catarina Fontoura, Lecturer in Photography at Falmouth University.

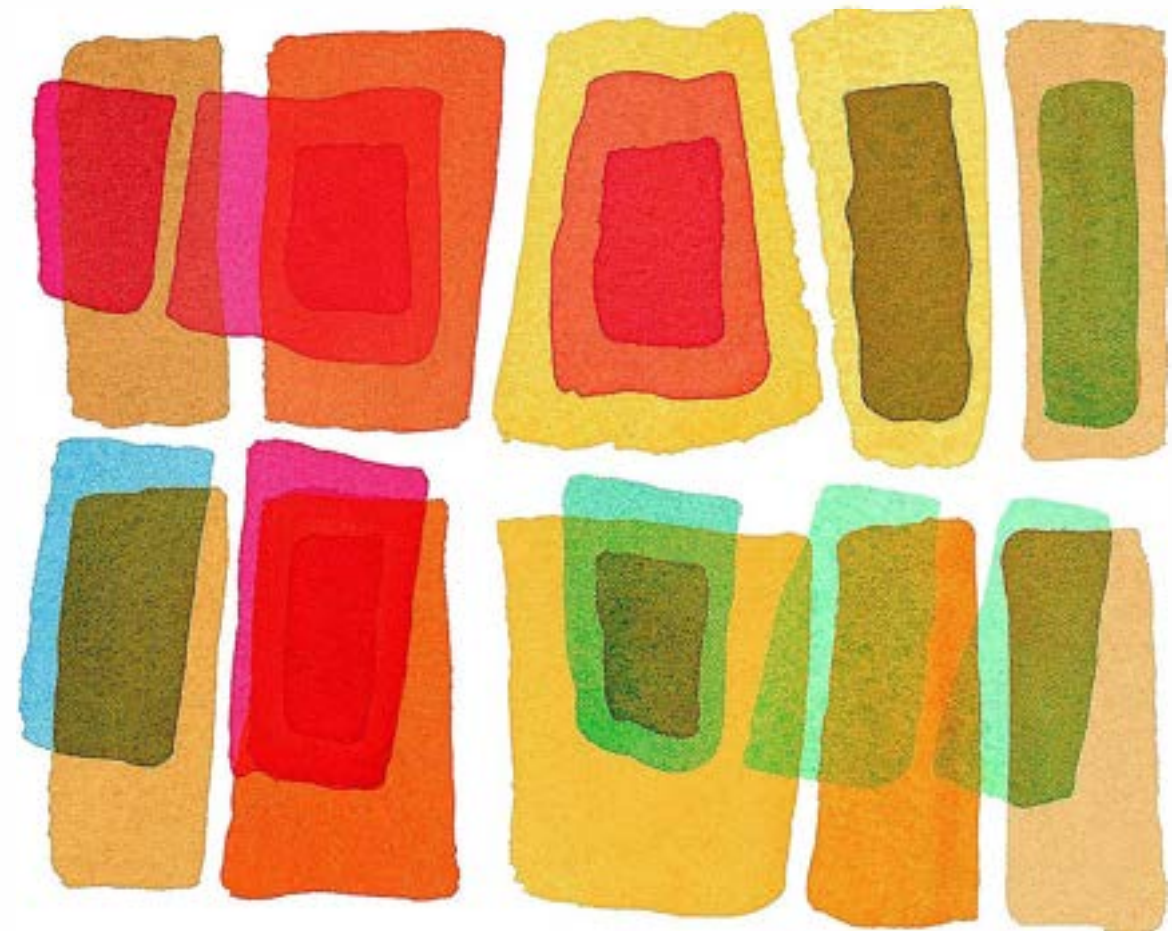
**Joe Holland**, Design Chapter Lead for the Digital Strategy team, talked about collaborative approaches to the delivery of the Digital Strategy.

**Fiona Rourke**, Technical Manager for Creative Quadrant (CQ), spoke about how she is applying her diverse creative skillset at the CQ.

**Dr. Andrea Wallace**, Associate Professor of Law, spoke about how the GLAM-E Lab supports cultural organisations to develop open access programmes.

**Prof. Stewart Barr**, Geography; Environment and Sustainability Group, spoke about creative methodologies in projects, focusing on climate change and sharing plans for a Centre for Health and Climate Change Solutions (CHeCCS).

**Dr. Polly Card**, visual researcher and producer who is collaborating with the Nurture-U research project, spoke about the Compassionate Campus films series she is making as part of the research process.



## University Strategy 2030 Vision:



## Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering  
Promoting and championing

# Touring exhibition: *Section 28 and its Afterlives*

This temporary display, curated by Helen Birkett, Chris Sandal-Wilson, and Hannah Young, marked the 20th anniversary of the repeal of homophobic legislation in England and Wales that prohibited the “promotion of homosexuality” as a “pretended family relationship” by schools and local authorities.

The display came from oral histories with LGBTQI+ communities in the South-West; it launched in the Forum on 13 November, and since then has toured to Positive Light Projects, Exmouth Library, Intercom Trust, Penryn Library, Exeter Pride, and more.

Arts and Culture provided advice on how to arrange a display in the Forum, and promoted the event through our communication channels. We also made introductions to EDI staff at Penryn for the show to continue its tour to Cornwall.



Image: *Section 28 and its Afterlives* on tour. Photograph: © Hannah Young



## Performance on Campus:

# *Invasion Ecology*

In June, Arts and Culture partnered with Radical Ecology and the Department of Communications, Drama and Film, to support a participatory performance, titled *Where do we go when we realise that we can't go back to nature?* The performance was part of *Invasion Ecology* - a season of contemporary land art presented by Radical Ecology and Southcombe Barn on Dartmoor and beyond.

Designed by Ashish Ghadiali, Iman Dato and Tsitsi Mareika Chirikure, the performance examined “how and why the language of native and invasive species in our gardens became so pervasive. In a time when global resistance to borders by humans, animals and plants is on the increase, we ask how far the language of nativism is distancing us from what is happening in our gardens. We question what an alternative vision - one that brings us closer to the truth of our planetary existence - might look like.”

Special thanks to Professor Cathy Turner, Drama, for creating such a thoughtful guestlist, and Jon Primrose for hosting the event at Roborough Studios.



**Image:** Tsitsi Mareika Chirikure and Iman Dato, performing *Where do we go when we realise that we can't go back to nature?* with Ashish Ghadiali, at Roborough Studios, Streatham Campus. Devised by Radical Ecology as part of their *Invasion Ecology* programme with Southcombe Barn. Photograph: © Oxyte

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# New Collaborations

Network-building is written into our strategy and part of our cultural DNA. We make countless introductions each year, and are always thrilled to know when an initial conversation has blossomed into a full-blown collaboration.

An introduction between photographer and filmmaker Léonie Hampton, and Professor Kerry Chappell, resulted in the film *Kinasphere*, funded by the university's Creativity and Emergent Educational Futures Network, the Graduate School of Education Director of Research's Discretionary Fund, and the Centre for Research in Writing. The film, which can be viewed [here](#) was made as part of a research paper, which can be read [here](#).

An introduction between ceramicist Jacob van der Beugel and academics in EGENIS, Centre for the Study of Life Sciences, has led, almost two years later, to an AHRC-funded film project, where Jacob has been invited to work with Prof. Sabina Leonelli, EGENIS, and Oliver Page of Backwards Roll Production. The film will explore data shadows, how “data is about to move around the world as ‘mutable mobiles’.”



**Image:** Film still from *Kinasphere* © Still Moving and Dance Lab. Léonie is a member of the Still Moving artist collective.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Networking and brokering



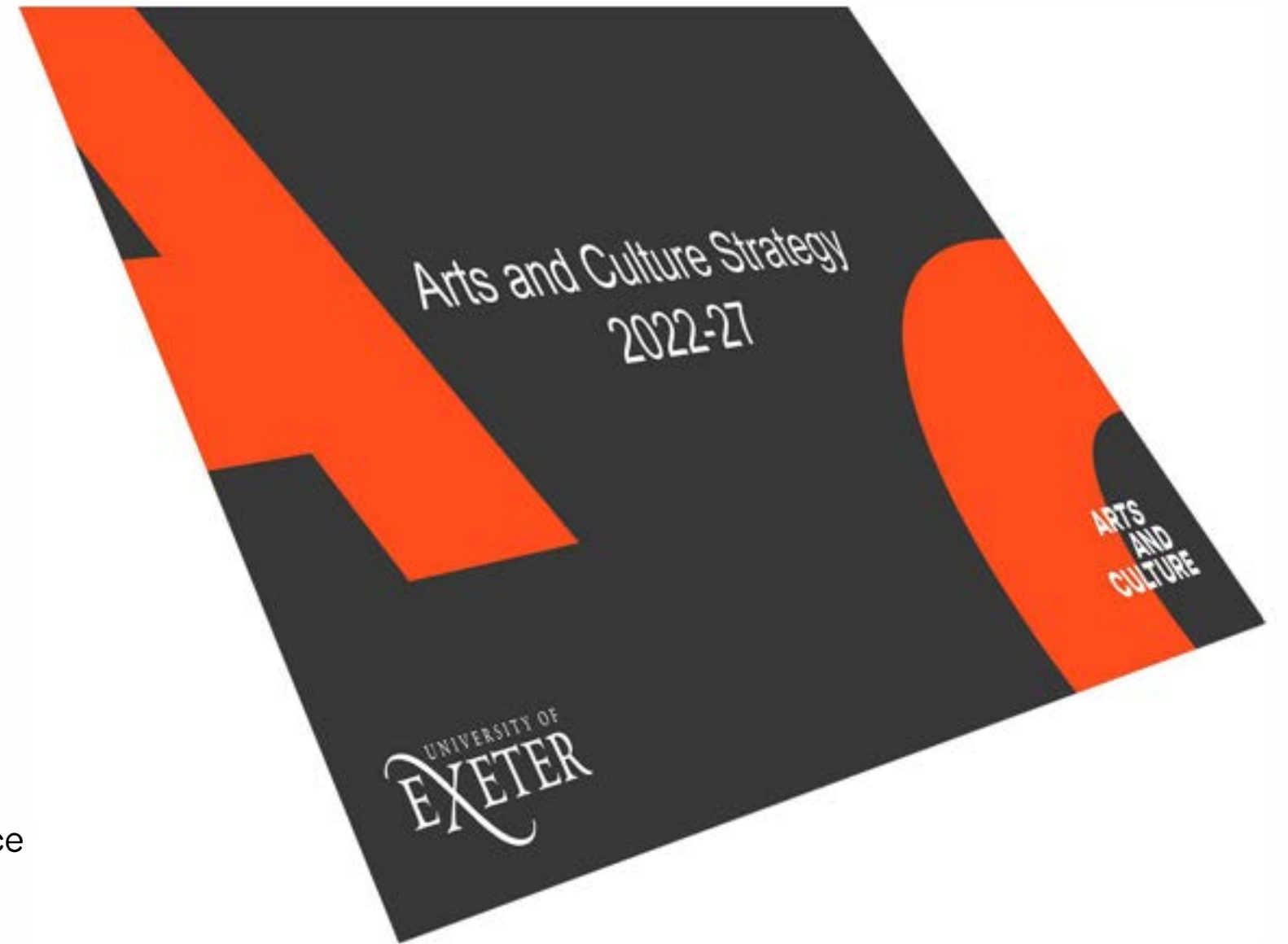
# Contributing to national cultural initiatives

While the focus of our work is the South West, it is also important that we contribute to sector-wide discussions shaping cultural provision in Higher Education Institutions across the UK. This raises the profile of our work and allows us to benchmark against peers.

In October, Sarah Campbell attended a workshop at Imperial College, London. Cultural practitioners from across the UK were invited to inform a new, interdisciplinary funding programme, responding to the challenges of greenhouse gas removal. Following this, Sarah was invited to lead a presentation for the CO2RE Future Leaders Network.

In November, Naome Glanville attended a national network event at the University of Warwick, whose focus was: “the intersection of our practice with wider cultural policies and agendas and to explore case studies of what innovative practice might look like.” Rosy Greenlees OBE, former Executive Director of the Crafts Council, presented on University Cultural Strategies, and our Arts and Culture Strategy was the first she showcased.

In December, we met with a representative from Central Saint Martin’s, University of the Arts, London, who was developing a new artist fellowship programme. Our Creative Fellowships programme was identified as a point of inspiration, alongside London and New York based initiatives.



## University Strategy 2030 Vision:



## Arts and Culture Themes:

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# FOSTERING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



# Arts Commission: *Tender Acts*

Artist Georgia Gendall and artist and creative producer Field Notes (Cat Bagg) were commissioned by Arts and Culture in early February to consider the theme of 'Civic Joy', with the aim of bringing together staff, students and artists at the University of Exeter's Penryn campus through a programme of creative activity that cultivates a sense of belonging.

They started their commission by inviting and instigating a series of 'Tender Acts' which invited curious exploration of the campus and encouraged exchange between people who might not otherwise meet. This included artwork that encouraged interaction, an invitation to submit a set of instructions for someone else to interpret and enact. Their 'Exchange Station' was wheeled out on campus on a regular basis to engage passing staff, students and visitors.

May 2024 saw a series of 'collective actions' with Cornwall-based artists. A sound-mapping workshop took place in April and three more artist-led workshops took place in May on Penryn Campus, including shanty re-writing and singing, movement using the campus landscape and paper pulping and making. The project will continue into 2024-5 leading to an event in March 2025.

[Find out more about the project here.](#)



**Image:** Participating in *Pulp*, the pulping and paper making 'Collective Action' run by artist Ben Sanderson as part of the Tender Acts arts commission. Photograph © Barbara Santi.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

# Creative Arc

Creative Arc is a strategic collaboration between the university and Exeter City Council to create a programme focusing on cultural innovation to shape place. It is led by the University's Exeter Innovation team, with Arts and Culture sitting on the Steering Group and joining the Commissions Fund Selection Panel, helping award a total of £80,000.

Successfully funded projects include:

- Almanac Theatre: *The Cultivate Sessions* at Wonford Community Centre
- Art Work Exeter: *River Radio*
- Bookbag: *Fore Street Stories*
- Exeter Northcott Theatre: *The Commotion Choir*
- Hannah Mumby & Hannah Hayes: *Flood Risk in Topsham*
- Lightbear Lane: *Proud to Be*
- Natalie McGrath: *Pink Plates & Shipwrecks*
- Positive Light Projects: *The Pelican Press*
- Scratchworks Theatre Company: *Women of Wonder, Greek Myths and Monsters*

This programme provides a vital flow of cultural funding to the city. The last commission round was oversubscribed at a ratio of 6:1, illustrating both the vibrant creative scene in the city and the need for continuing investment.

[Find out more here.](#)



Image: Scratchworks Theatre Company, supported by Creative Arc. Photograph: © Matt Austin

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# Constellation

*Constellation* was an experimental collaborative practice held jointly by Kate Jago and Julie McLaren in February-March 2024.

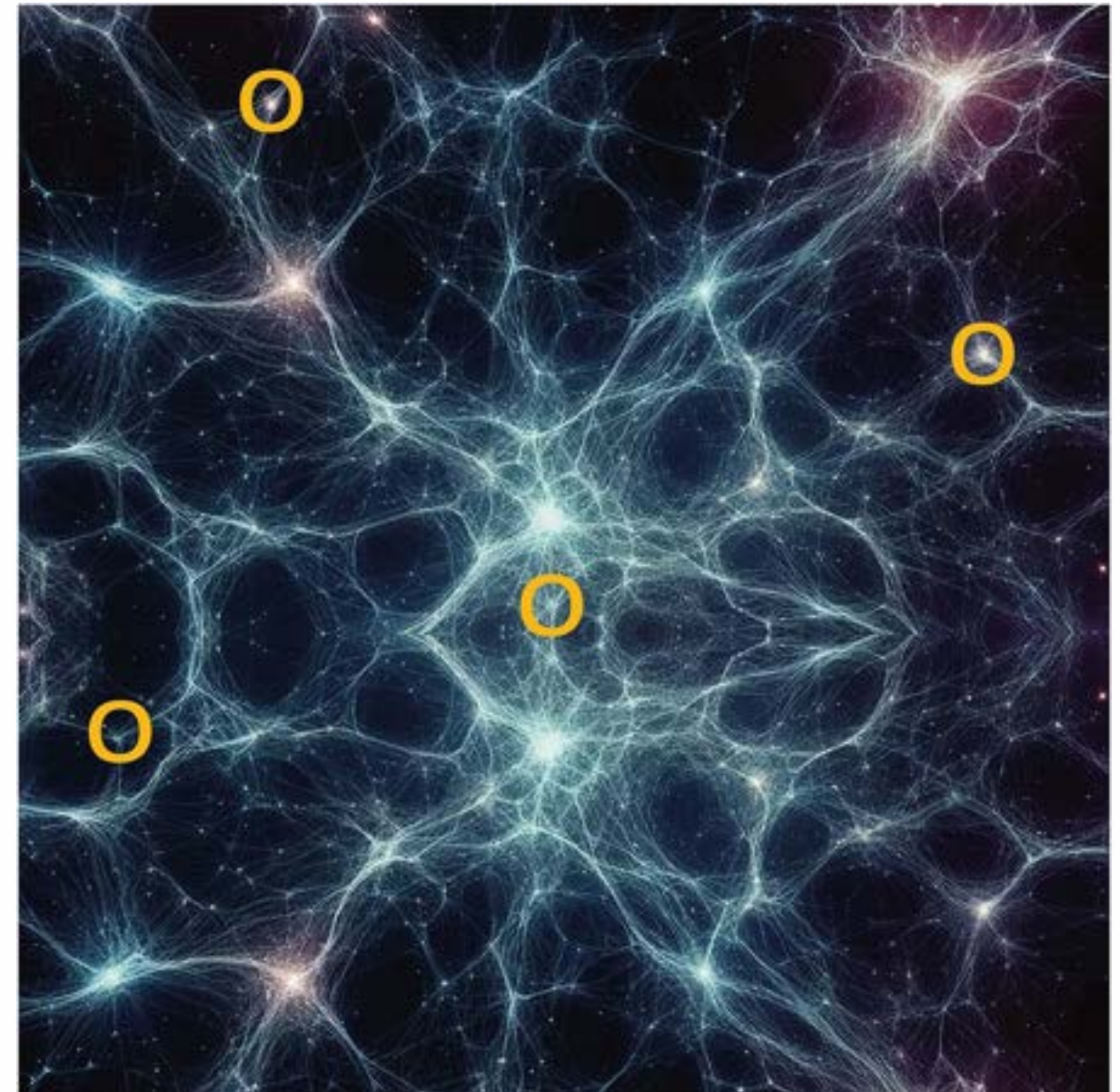
Beginning with research into the city's civic system, the practice convened and hosted a carefully designed cross-section of local stakeholders and more-than-human-voices, inviting the gathered to explore underlying patterns influencing local policy decisions and to reach into future possibilities.

The event generated collective insights and demonstrated an alternative process of way-finding across the broader city visioning by activating the powerful potential of cross-sector relationships in the Greater Exeter area.

In April, George Barron, Co-Creative Director of Positive Light Projects (PLP), was commissioned to design a letterpress poster for the Constellation series, and a follow-up print-making workshop was run. Both events were hosted at PLP.

This programme was run in partnership with Creative Arc.

[Find out more here.](#)



**Image:** Detail of project poster for *Constellation*, created by Kate Jago.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# Contributing to regional cultural initiatives

As members of the regional cultural community, we collaborate with our peers as often as possible.

In August 2023, we endorsed a tour, by Exeter Alumnae Beth Bowden and Susannah Bramwell, of their successful London production, *Right of Way*, to the South West. The bid was awarded and the show toured in March 2024. They provided a lovely [blogpost](#) about building professional theatre careers, and we promoted the tour.

In September 2023, we provided guidance on writing an artist's brief for a partnership between Forestry England and Age UK and promoted the callout to our network. The brief was to design and co-lead forest walks, inviting practitioners to bring their own disciplinary lens to the experience.

In February 2024, we spoke at the Arts and Culture East Devon District Forum to an audience of creative practitioners about our work and offered guidance to those interested in collaborating with us.

In March 2024, we contributed to a radio panel discussion as part of *Occupy the Airwaves*, an annual takeover day led by Dreadnought South West, which saw 24 hours of Phonic FM programming for and by women on International Women's Day.



**Image:** Sarah Campbell, Associate Director for Arts and Culture, takes part in Dreadnought South West's *Occupy the Airwaves* on International Womens' Day 2024. Photograph: © Aisling Magill

## University Strategy 2030 Vision:



## Arts and Culture Themes:

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# Loan of Artworks

We were delighted to collaborate with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, by lending three 19th century engravings after JMW Turner from the University's Fine Art Collection, for their exhibition *Turner in Barnstaple* which ran from 20 July until 12 October 2024.

Turner's father was born in South Molton in North Devon, and Turner returned to the area when an adult to make sketches in pencil and watercolour. Professional engravers were later employed to recreate the scenes in Turner's sketches.

The engravings lent by the University for the exhibition depicted Clovelly, Ilfracombe and Combe Martin in North Devon and Minehead with Dunster Castle in Somerset.

The exhibition welcomed over 19,000 visitors during its run, and photocopies of the engravings were also used as teaching resources for family and school learning activities.



**Image:** *Ilfracombe, North Devon*. After a sketch by JMW Turner. Engraved by WB Cooke, 1818. One of the artworks loaned to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

# The World Reimagined globe - Penryn Campus

The University was fortunate to be gifted two of *The World Reimagined* globes that explore the history, legacy and future of the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans. To celebrate the launch of the globe on the Penryn Campus, titled *A Dark Cloud*, by artist Caroline Daly, the Arts and Culture and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Cornwall teams and the staff BME Network created a community and artist-centred launch event.

A celebratory Caribbean food buffet was followed by film screenings of *To Whom Does This Belong?*, a powerful exploration of Black history in Cornwall's archives by Sandra Shakespeare, from Museum X, produced and edited by Ashton John and Caroline Deeds, and *The Thrice Burnt Archives of Unreliable Prophecies* (2021) by artist Maria Christoforidou. The filmmakers joined Abi Hutchinson from Black Voices Cornwall and researcher Madeline R. Young to discuss their work and the impacts of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in Cornwall and on themselves. Space was created afterwards for participants from the Global Majority to receive support around the themes that had been aired.

Arts and Culture and EDI Cornwall have plans to collaborate on further projects to fulfil Exeter's commitment to The World Reimagined.



**Image:** Artists and speakers at *The World Reimagined* launch on Penryn campus gather near the globe, titled *A Dark Cloud* created by Caroline Daly. From L to R: Caroline Deeds - filmmaker, artist and Falmouth University lecturer, Ashton John - producer and co-editor of the film *To Whom Does This Belong*, Abi Hutchinson - Arts, Culture and Heritage lead at Black Voices Cornwall, Sandra Shakespeare - Director of Museum X. Photograph © Sam Bestwick.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Learning and development  
Promoting and championing



# Sculpture Walk for the Visually Impaired

During the spring of 2024, Naome Glanville worked with the charity InFocus, which works with visually impaired young people, to develop an audio version of the Streatham Campus sculpture walk for the visually impaired.

Through visits from and collaboration with their expert staff we were able to identify the sculptures most accessible for the visually impaired, and prepare wording for two sets of audio guides – a sensory guide and a more detailed guide, for each sculpture.

Both sets of guides were recorded by Drama student Ella Petherick, who recorded her readings of the guides, using the facilities in the Digital Humanities Lab.

In Summer 2024, students from the InFocus charity came to experience the new sculpture walk. The guide for each sculpture can be accessed on the Arts and Culture website via a mobile phone or tablet.

[Access the new walk here.](#)

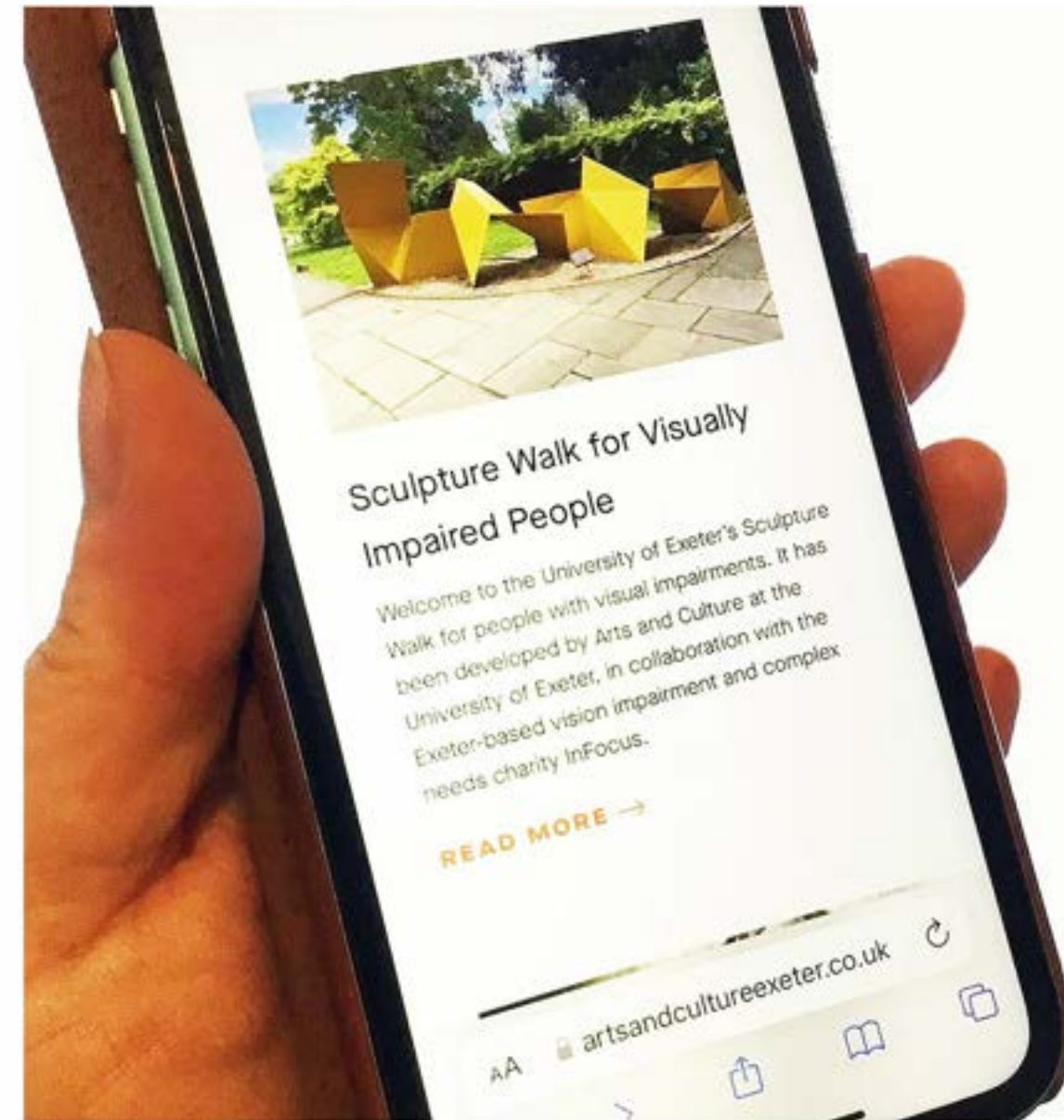


Image: The new sculpture walk for the visually impaired on a mobile phone.

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

Online exhibition:

# *Our Neurodivergent Experience: See into my World*

This project and exhibition was a University of Exeter Engaged Public Research funded collaboration between the **Esteem Team**, Devon County Council's **SEND participation team**, **Well Image CIC** and researchers at the University of Exeter; its aim to challenge negative beliefs about neurodiversity, and tackle the pervasive stigma and isolation among neurodivergent young people.

Supported by local creative arts professionals, neurodivergent young people worked with the project team to devise the theme, "What being neurodivergent means to me" and create an adaptable art session that enabled diverse neurodivergent young people to take part. Artworks created were showcased in an exhibition in June 2024 at Positive Light Projects. It featured contributions from young neurodivergent participants and members of the University of Exeter's Student Guild and Neurodivergent and Disabled Students' Society.

Arts and culture supported the initiative, by promoting the exhibition, giving guidance on planning the exhibition and posting an online version on the Arts and Culture website to reach a wider audience. [See the online exhibition here.](#)



Image: *Neurodivergence* by Ellis Lovett. © Ellis Lovett

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

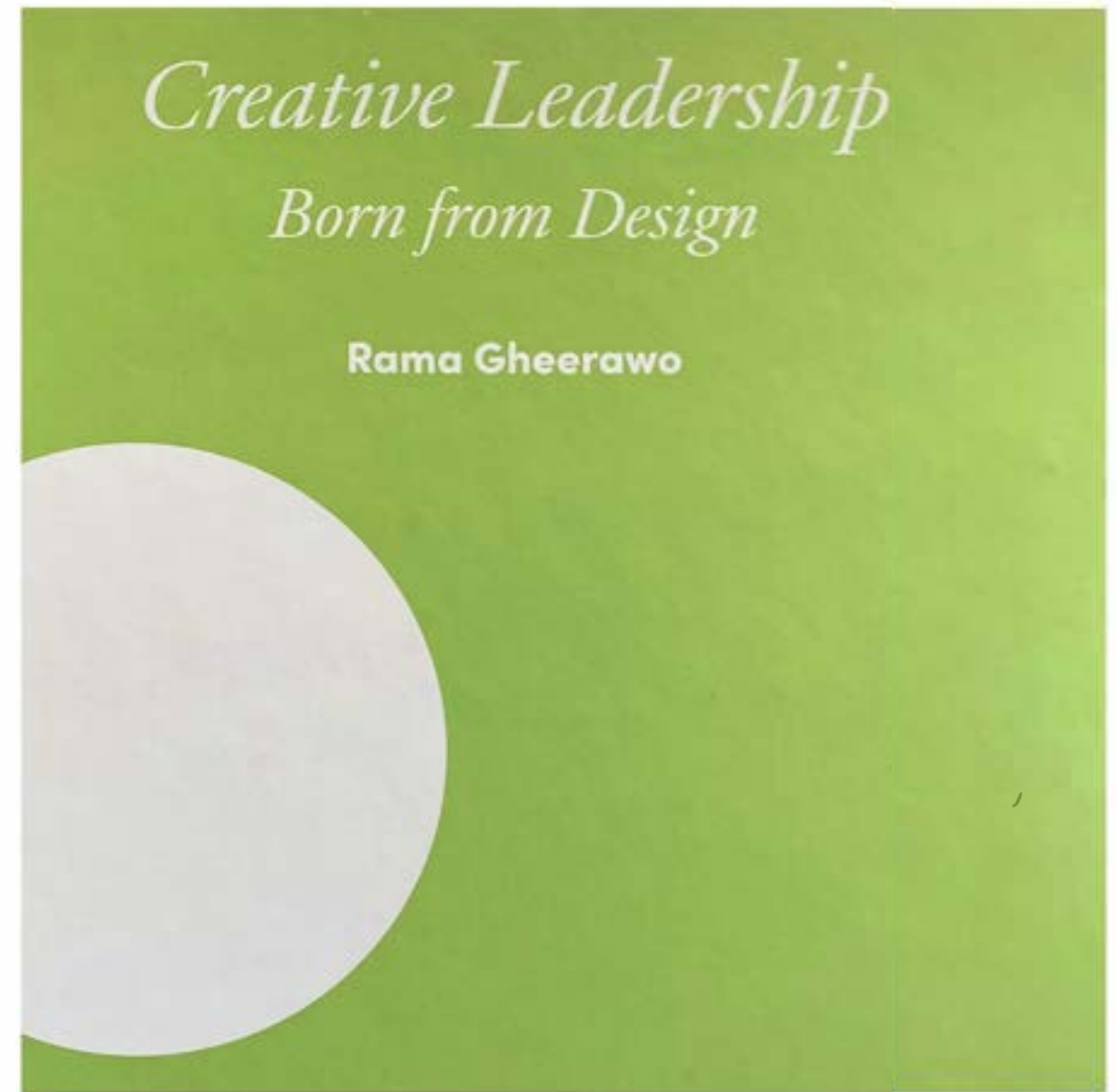
# **BUILDING CREATIVE CONFIDENCE**

# Creative Leadership Book Club

In October 2023, we launched a new Book Club in partnership with the EDI team and Exeter Education Incubator. This initiative grew out of the Creative Leadership training delivered by the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, Royal College of Art in 2022/23. We ran three drop-ins simultaneously (Penryn, Streatham and St Luke's) for staff and students to collect copies of Rama Gheerawo's book, *Creative Leadership, Born from Design*.

Over the year, we ran a further six hybrid sessions, with members from both Devon and Cornwall campuses. Attendance varied, from three to 26, and discussions were broad ranging, exploring many interrelated issues across leadership and creativity.

Students from two Education Incubator funded Anti-Racism/Gender Safety projects, Kuwasi and Cherry Project, were guests for our final session. The students brought to life many of the key principles of creative leadership – empathy, clarity and creativity being central.



**Image:** Detail from the front cover of the book *Creative Leadership, Born from Design* by Rama Gheerawo.

**University Strategy 2030 Vision:**



**Arts and Culture Themes:**

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# Co-Design for Real: what's really going on in good co-creation?

We invited Leon Cruickshank, Professor of Design and Creative Exchange and a founding member of Imagination Lancaster at Lancaster University, to run a half-day workshop in April for University of Exeter staff.

This interactive session introduced approaches to co-design to help individuals undertake their own co-production with more confidence and a greater likelihood of success. A copy of Leon's book, *Flourish by Design*, was shared afterwards as an on-going resource.

We are in on-going conversations about potential future collaborations with Leon and his team.



Image: Co-Design for Real workshop with Leon Cruickshank, University of Exeter, April 2024.

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Promoting and championing  
Networking and brokering

# *Using creative processes to stimulate and facilitate participatory research*

In June, we collaborated with Dr Catherine Broomfield, Research Associate at the Centre for Rural Policy Research, on the creation and delivery of a half-day workshop for HASS Early Career Researchers.

Well attended, the session was designed to inspire attendees with practical ideas and examples of how to use arts and digital technologies to create engaging and inclusive participatory research. Contributors included experts from within and beyond the university: Dr. Jenny Barke, HASS Faculty specialist in community engagement; Dr Polly Card, visual researcher and film producer; and Joumana Mourad, digital performance specialist and choreographer, (who received an Arts and Culture Urgency Arts Commission in 2018/19).

The workshop was funded by an Early Career Researcher Network Enhancement Award.



Image: Teamwork. Photograph © Polly Card

University Strategy 2030 Vision:



Arts and Culture Themes:

Learning and development  
Networking and brokering

# Thank you

Thank you very much to everyone who has supported our activities and programmes throughout 2023/24.

In February, we welcomed Lucy Frears, Arts and Culture Programme Manager for Cornwall, who is doing sterling work providing maternity cover for Annie Sheen, and in August we saw a changing of the guard, as Cerise Johnson Bird, Arts and Culture Administrator, moved on to new adventures (go well!) and we were joined by Gemma Stuart, HASS Faculty Administrator. Dr Sarah Bulmer, Academic Director for Arts and Culture, who was so fundamental in establishing the Creative Together student offer, stepped down as she was relocating from Cornwall, and Dr Tim Cooper has kindly picked up the mantle – thank you Sarah, and welcome Tim.

Thanks also to: Anna Gralia-Szucs, Assistant Management Accountant, who made sure we stayed in budget; Vanessa Otim, now a Researcher at Tate Britain alongside her on-going archive work with us; and Professor Adam Watt, who chairs our Steering Group and Assurance Group, and provides fantastic advocacy for Arts and Culture.

Special thanks to Naome Glanville, Arts and Culture Coordinator (who, alongside her many other talents, designed this report) and Anna Bunt, Arts and Culture Communications and Engagement Lead (who is the reason you know about what we do). These women are wonderful colleagues and make it all possible.



Image: Design for *Constellation* by George Barron April 2024 (See page 37). © George Barron


# Great ideas come from playing with possibilities.

[www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk](http://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk)

E: [artsandculture@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:artsandculture@exeter.ac.uk)

 /ArtsAndCultureExeter

 @artsandcultureex

 <https://uk.linkedin.com/company/arts-and-culture-university-of-exeter>



University  
*of* Exeter

**ARTS  
AND  
CULTURE**