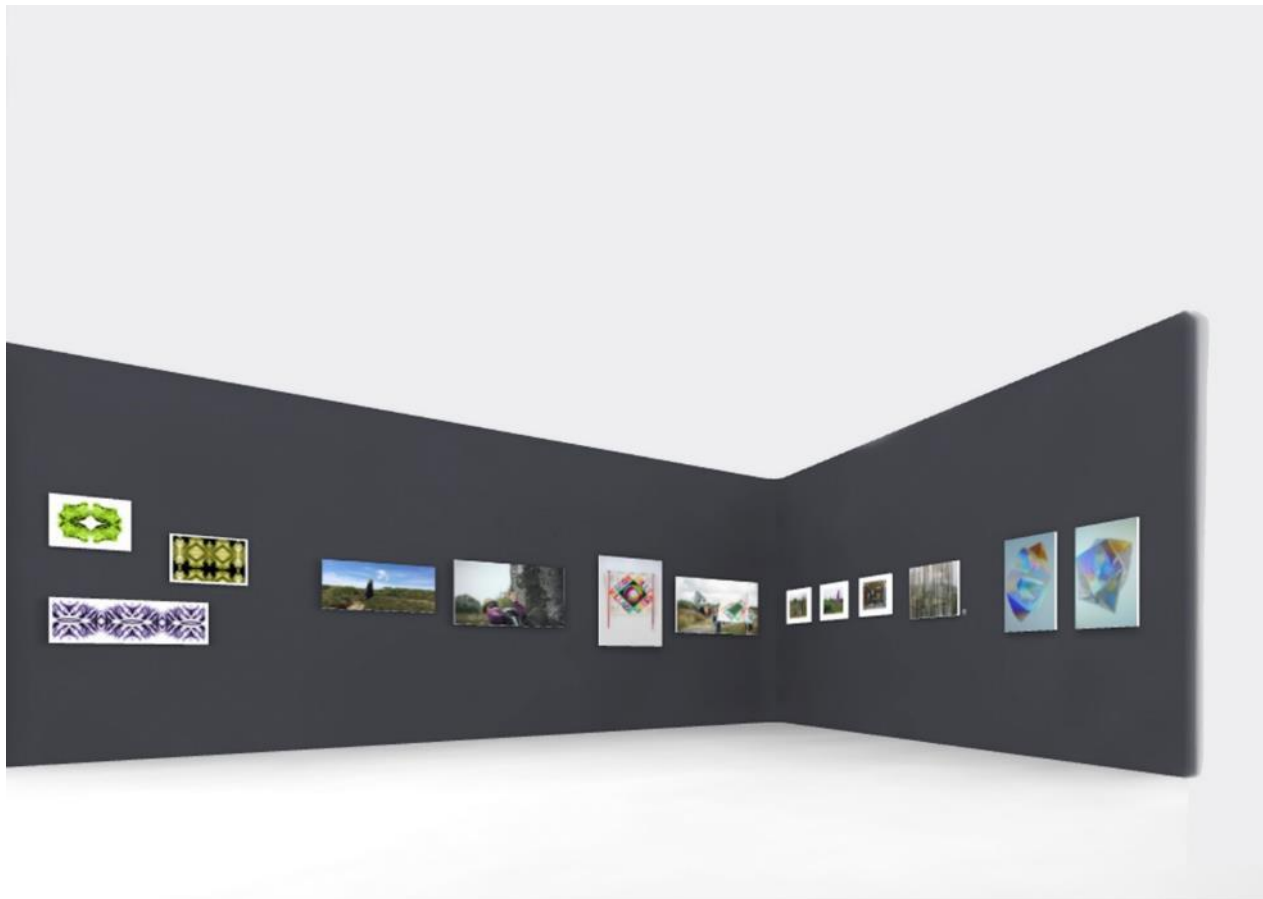




# Arts and Culture Annual Report 2020 – 2021

# A review of the work of Arts and Culture

August 2020 - July 2021



*Image: Detail from Catalyst, an online exhibition showcasing a selection of works from Creative Exchange, which is an ongoing programme of collaborations between artists and researchers at the Environment and Sustainability Institute, Penryn Campus, Cornwall.*

# 2020 – 2021 Snapshot

16	Number of teaching sessions we contributed to
22	Number of external partners we worked with.
56	Number of artists we worked with
73	Number of events
3,702	Number of attendees at events
46,731	Views of our website pages
1,036,436	Social media reach and impressions

# Introduction

‘Necessity is the mother of invention’ perhaps best captures the spirit Of 2020-21. Without knowing when the next lockdown might occur or for how long, forward planning entered the realms of speculative fiction as each project had not only Plans A and B, but C through F as well.

To navigate these unknowns, we had to take our own advice and get creative. Events were postponed, rethought, and presented in digital formats. Geographical barriers were removed and we worked remotely with artists in Europe and North America. Across the cultural and education sectors, new ways of working were being trialled and we collaborated with many of our peers, championing their creativity and resourcefulness too.

deralt is wonderful to share so many positive stories about creativity, and it is also vital to acknowledge the many hardships that our communities have faced during this period - the arts have provided crucial social and emotional connections throughout the pandemic, a time when many artists saw their incomes evaporate overnight. When we speak about the importance of mental health and well-being, that applies to cultural producers and consumers alike.

This report aims to capture the breadth and variety of projects that we have either led or supported over the past year. We have grouped activity under our strategic objectives and provided bite-sized summaries. In most instances, further details are on our website.



Image: detail of an illustration for the Exchange Symposium by Laura Miles-Boardman. Find out more on page 26.

# Contents

## **Creative Development**

Working with artists and researchers

Page 6

## **Partnership & Collaborations**

Responding to climate, social justice and well-being challenges

Page 18

## **Student Experience**

Supporting and promoting student creativity

Page 29

## **Fine Art Collection**

Caring for our cultural assets

Page 35

## **Thank you**

Acknowledging the support we've had over the year

Page 36

## **The Team**

Page 37



Image: a still from Happy Endings. Part of the Sex and Nature Salon programme devised by Siân Docksey and Dr Ina Linge as part of the Creative Fellowship. See Page 8 for more.

# Creative Development

Working with artists and researchers.

The programmes summarised in this section address the following Arts and Culture objectives:

- Foster creative approaches to interdisciplinarity in research
- Enhance training, development and networks with the cultural sector
- Champion public engagement with creativity at the University

Creative Fellowship	Page 7
Arts Commissions	Page 14
ESI Creative Exchange	Page 15
Creative Dialogues	Page 16
Critical Friends Network	Page 17

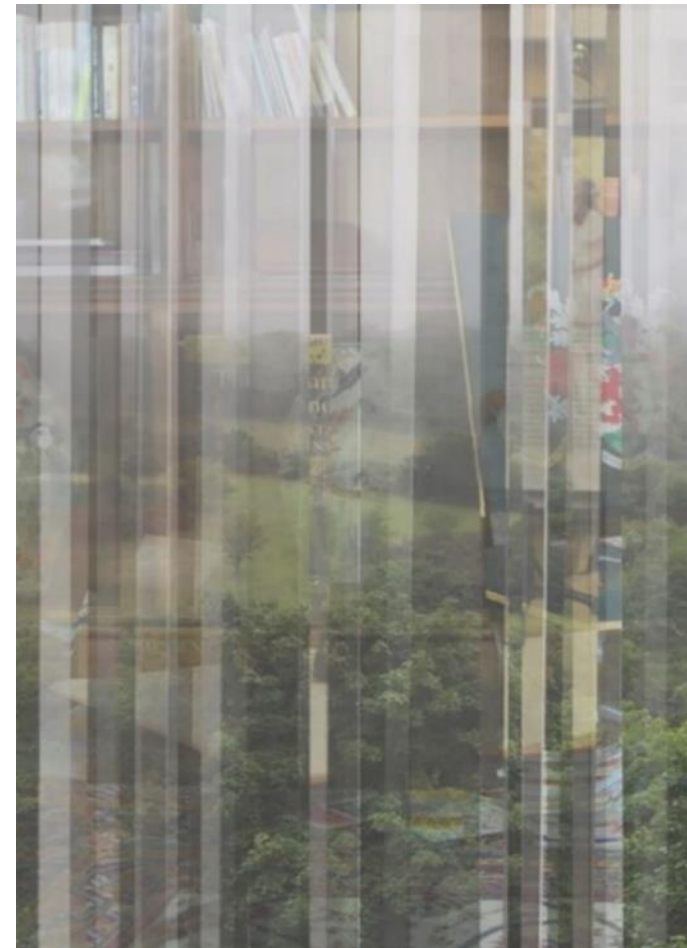


Image: Towards Field Station (Catalyst Remix)  
by Bram Thomas Arnold – part of the EST  
Creative Exchange online

Image ©Bram Thomas Arnold

# Creative Fellowship

Short-term placements that bring creative practitioners into research settings and encourage new conversations across disciplines.

There are three Creative Fellowships each year, selected following an open call. They are hosted by an interdisciplinary research group, and spend 4-5 weeks in research and development before delivering dissemination events for a range of audiences.

Due to Covid-19, most aspects of this year's Creative Fellowships took place online, including recruitment, building of relationships between creative practitioners and their academic hosts, networking and the majority of artistic outputs.

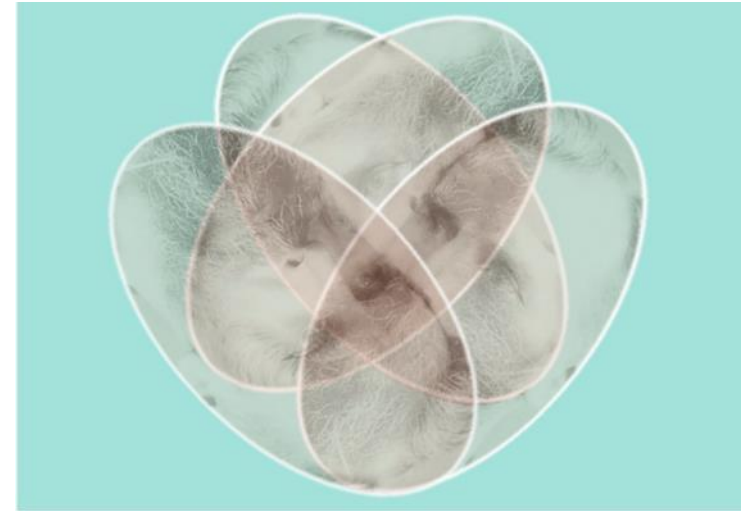


Image: *Gut.place.belief.interact* (Thought experiment for Creative Fellowship in the form of a Venn diagram, using a portrait of John Venn). ©Steven Ryder/artNucleus.

# The Politics of Sexual Nature

**Creative Fellow:** Sian Docksey, Comedian and Writer

**Host:** Dr Ina Linge, Modern Languages and Cultures (German), Co-Director, Sexual Knowledge Unit, with researchers at the Sexual Knowledge Unit

This productive collaboration centred on Dr Linge's research, exploring the way in which concepts of nature are used to inform, shape, ground and justify forms of sexual knowledge.

Siân and Ina devised three online *Sex and Nature Salons*, with a clear format and LGBTQIA+-supportive ethos, in which academics and comedians came together to explore an aspect of sex and nature with a public audience.

Siân and Ina have since created a *Sex and Nature Salon* website to share the format with other academics, with some seed-funding from Arts and Culture.



<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/the-politics-of-sexual-nature>

Photograph: Siân Docksey & Dr Ina Linge ©Steven Haywood



*“The creative fellowship set the foundation for a long-term collaboration and a new online delivery format.*

*I am so grateful for all that Sian has taught me about the importance of comedy. Exploring the role of comedy as criticism and a form of wellbeing is now a firm part of my future academic research.”*

Dr Ina Linge, Modern Languages and Cultures (German), Co-Director, Sexual Knowledge Unit

# The Playful University

Creative Fellow: Andy Field, Artist, Writer and Curator

Hosts: Dr Maarten Koeners, College of Medicine Health  
Dr Steph Comley, Technology Enhanced Learning

*The Playful University*, an Education Incubator project led by Dr Maarten Koeners, aims to share and develop playful academic practice.

During his Creative Fellowship Andy created rogue slides, to be randomly inserted into lectures. He and Maarten recorded a podcast Lectures for Nobody, exploring the complexity of delivering and receiving online teaching during Covid.

This podcast led to three performances of the pre-recorded Lecture for Nobody, written by Andy, for an audience of just one student, whose notes are the sole documentation of the event.



Photograph: Andy Field ©Steven Haywood

*“The encounters with Andy were always very enjoyable and meaningful and always created new ideas, many of which I could implement straight away in my academic practice.”*

Dr Maarten Koeners, College of Medicine and Health

# Antimicrobial Resistance Network

Creative Fellow: Simon Ryder, Investigative Artist

Hosts: Dr Kelly Thornber, Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health and Department of Biosciences, with University of Exeter Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Network.

Simon interviewed many AMR researchers and became fascinated with the nature of the academic network itself. How do these individuals, holding expertise across a range of disciplines, work together on the common purpose of addressing anti-microbial resistance?

His project, titled *Babel Mind*, is about different forms of digital mapping and visualising of a network of people.

His time was spent developing this concept, and he was successfully awarded an Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice grant to take *Babel Mind* further.



Photograph: Simon Ryder ©Steven Haywood

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/antimicrobial-resistance-network>

*“I enjoyed hearing about Simon's work, and seeing the enthusiasm of the network for engaging with him.”*

Dr Kelly Thornber, Wellcome centre for Cultures and  
Environments of Health and Department of Bioscience

# ‘Here’s to Thee’ Arts Commission

*Here's to Thee*, by artist Simon Pope, is co-commissioned with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery (RAMM). Simon is exploring the microbiopolitics of cider-making to discover more about the fascinating world of microbiomes and how we are all connected with the environment.

Simon has been working remotely from Toronto, creating a website, posters, and videos to document ideas in development.

In 2021-22, we will run a series of regional-based programmes at RAMM, Gray's Cider Farm and CAST, when Simon returns to the UK (Covid-19 restrictions willing).

Simon is working with a number of collaborators, including musician Jim Causley, ceramicist Abigail North, photographer Robert Darch, film-maker Bevis Bowden as well as University of Exeter academic Dr Harry West, from the Centre for Rural Policy Research, and Professor Dan Bebber, Department of Biosciences.



Photograph: ©Robert Darch

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/arts-commission/heres-to-thee>

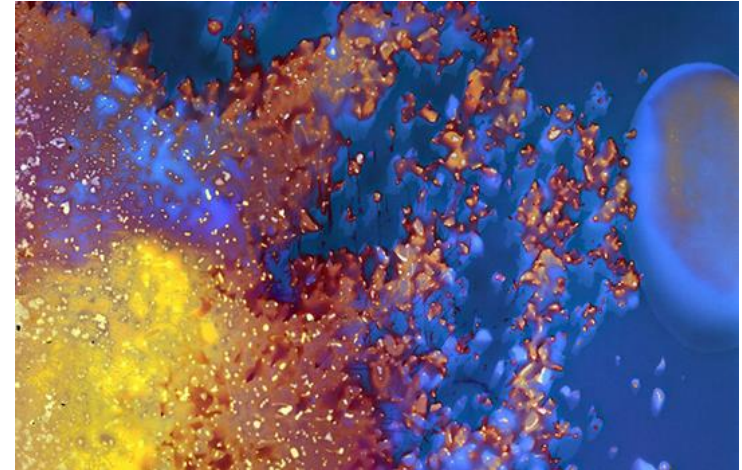
# ESI Creative Exchange

The *ESI Creative Exchange* is a programme that brings researchers from the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) in Penryn and artists together to explore questions related to climate change, ecology and the environment, generating opportunities for collaborative learning and public engagement.

Whilst the physical gallery was closed due to the pandemic, Arts and Culture teamed up with the ESI and curator Claire English to create a stunning virtual exhibition called *Catalyst*, featuring artwork from twelve ESI Creative Exchange collaborations going back to the programme's inception in 2012.

In the first twelve weeks of the exhibition, blog posts were published on the Arts and Culture website, exploring the work of the twelve participating artists and revisiting the collaborations they forged with researchers.

<https://artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/4839861/catalyst>



Photograph: *Detail of Harena Now #1* by Josie Purcell, featured in *Catalyst* exhibition.  
©Josie Purcell

# Creative Dialogues

This year *Creative Dialogues* moved online, which had the advantage of attracting an international audience for this series of in-conversation events, hosted by the College of Humanities.

We were delighted to welcome two esteemed guests - actor, comedian, writer and polymath Stephen Fry, in January 2021, and filmmaker, screenwriter, and former actress Amma Assante in May 2021.

Stephen Fry provided many entertaining anecdotes and thoughtful reflections, as he took the online audience through his varied career.

Amma Asante described her journey from child actor to screenwriter and director in rich detail and talked about her love of telling stories and challenging audiences through film-making work.

Arts and Culture supported the planning and publicising of both events. Recordings from both talks can be viewed on the Arts and Culture website.



Image: Amma Assante, during her online Creative Dialogue

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-dialogue>

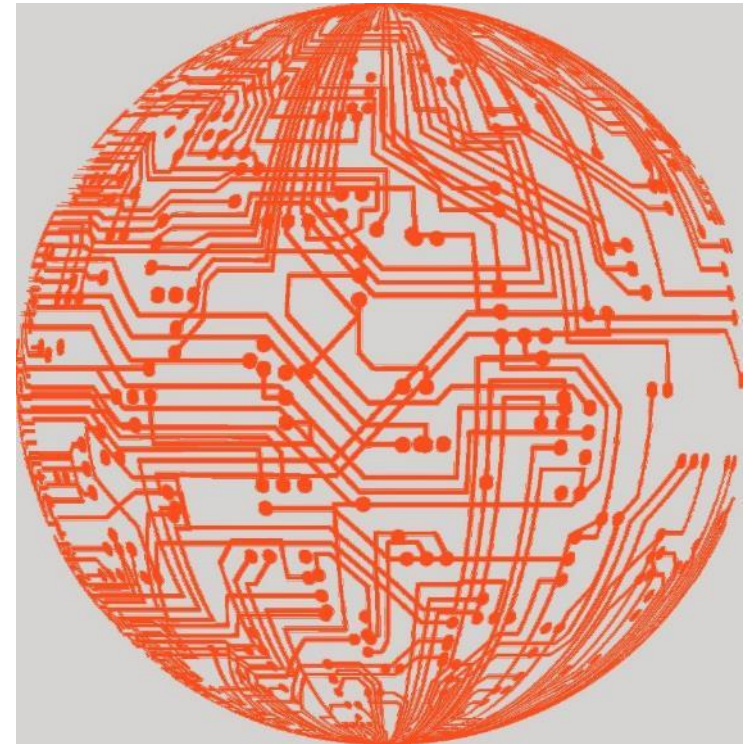


# Critical Friends Network

In 2019, the Critical Friends Network for Arts and Culture was established as a means of connecting staff across colleges and disciplines, bringing together anyone interested in the creative process and interdisciplinary practice. This serves a dual purpose - building a community of common interest, and providing insights and feedback to improve the Arts and Culture offer.

In 2020, we moved this group online and brought the Devon and Cornwall networks together. We ran termly sessions, where 2-3 speakers shared brief summaries of their creative work, we updated everyone on recent Arts and Culture activity, and then provided relevant discussion prompts for breakout rooms.

With almost 100 members and attendance at 30-40 per session, the network continues to grow and is open to all staff. It is a friendly and informal space where creativity is celebrated and the phrase "I had no idea this was happening" is often heard.



# Partnerships & Collaborations

Responding to climate, social justice and well-being challenges.

The programmes summarised in this section address the following Arts and Culture objectives:

- Enhance training, development and networks with the cultural sector
- Champion public engagement with creativity at the University

Creative Cabin, Thelma Hulbert Gallery	Page 19
Black History Month	Page 20
The Hexagon Video Series	Page 21
Diasporic Poetry Readings in Cornwall	Page 22
Centre for Medical Mycology	Page 23
Trade & Exchange - International Women's Day Talk	Page 24
G7 and Green Futures – Nurturing Hope through Poetry	Page 25
Exchange Symposium	Page 26
Unhoming Pedagogies: Precarity	Page 27
Arts, Culture and Environment in Cornwall	Page 28



Image: Beautiful Leaved Plants. E.J.Lowe. (1872).  
Illustrated by Alexander F Lydon, Benjamin Fawcett.

Reproduced with permission from the Devon & Exeter Institution

# Creative Cabin, Thelma Hulbert Gallery

In August 2020, Honiton's Thelma Hulbert Gallery (THG) launched Creative Cabin, a mobile art studio that travels across East Devon, promoting climate awareness and hosting workshops for both the public and community partners.

Arts and Culture partnered with THG to *create Climate+ Culture 2020*. The programme format was reshaped due to Covid-19 using Creative Cabin.

Over the Summer, 12 events were run for 232 people, including a talk by Turner-prize winning artist, Richard Long, linked to the gallery's ARTIST ROOMS Richard Long exhibition, for which Arts and Culture was a partner.

ARTIST ROOMS touring programme is delivered by the National Galleries of Scotland and Tate in partnership with Ferens Art Gallery through 2020 supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, by Art Fund, and by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.



Image: Richard Long gives a talk from Creative Cabin

Photograph ©Simon Tutty



# Black History Month

In October 2020, Arts and Culture contributed to the university's Black History Month campaign by arranging a blog and social media series celebrating Black writers, publishers, journalists and theatre practitioners - the resulting collection offers something new and engaging for all audiences.

We would like to thank the blog authors for their fantastic contributions - Lecturer in Drama Alix Harris, Imagining Futures's Project Manager Tina Verhaeghe, Lecturer in Global and World Literatures Dr Kate Wallis, and PhD candidates Zakiya McKenzie and Idris Hamza Yana.

The series is available on the Arts and Culture website and has been added to the University of Exeter's Teacher Resources webpages that support outreach to secondary schools.

To date, the blog series has been viewed 1772 times.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/%20news/black-history-month-blog-series>

**FOR THE PURCHASE  
or  
SALE OF PROPERTIES  
in SOUTH LONDON**

WRITE, PHONE or CALL  
**INWOOD  
& SON LTD**  
230 Stockwell Road  
S.W.9.  
(Opposite Odeon 'Artists' Cinema)  
Tel: Brixton 1786313

Offices Open 9 till 6 daily  
including Saturday  
Over 25 years Service to  
Satisfied Homeowners  
No Preliminary Fees  
to Purchasers

No Sale — No Charge  
Excellent Mortgage Facilities  
available

**Deportation for  
Jobless  
West Indians?**

**WIDE** discussion continues about Coloured Immigrants in Britain. This discussion came to a climax when, last year the colour-bar Commonwealth Immigration Bill was passed by the Parliament.

The Tories and fascists who were daily campaigning for this measure then used the argument that coloured immigrants were "stealing Britain". Today, voters are again being heard saying restriction of coloured immigrants.

Recently a local newspaper went so far as to suggest that unemployed immigrants be deported or be financially supported by their governments.

Commenting on the recent Government proposals for higher National Insurance benefits and war pensions and after weeping a few crocodile tears for those overseas increases for pensioners, widowed mothers, and old age and what it termed "the less protected sections of our society," it continued:

"With regard to the increase of ten shillings weekly to be paid in respect of standard rates of unemployment and sickness benefit, one can only hope that there will be some sort of assurance that with some 300,000 unemployed in this country at the moment, some of the thousands of immigrants who appear almost daily at our employment exchanges or the offices of the National Assistance Board will either be returned to their countries or substantially supported financially by their respective governments. Heaven knows this country has enough burdens to bear without being asked to support thousands of immigrants, their numerous progeny and their grandmothers too!" (St. Francis Chronicle, Editorial "What We Think" February 22, 1963.)

As coloured Commonwealth citizens we have come to expect such

(Continued on page 4)

**WEST INDIAN GAZETTE**  
*And Afro-Asian Caribbean News*

VOL. 3, No. 5, APRIL, 1963 Price 6d. 230 Brixton Road, London, S.W.9. Phone BR1 1754

**Barbados Votes for "Little 8"**

**Eastern Caribbean Union Moves Ahead**

THE Barbados House of Assembly in Bridgetown last month voted unanimously in approval of the entry of Barbados into the proposed Federation of the Eastern Caribbean.

The members would be the "Little 8": British West Indies—Barbados, Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Earlier, according to an announcement from the Colonial Office, it was learned that the month of June has been set aside for the holding of independence talks between the "Little 8" Ministers and Her Majesty's Government.

(For more news of "Little 8," see pages 6 and 7.)

**WHERE FRIENDSHIP IS BEING FORGED . . .**



(Students from Africa, Asia and Latin America in Physics Laboratory at Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow (See pages 4 & 5))

**SOVIETS TO BUY B.G. RICE**

THE Soviet Union has agreed to buy 7,700 tons of rice from British Guiana for 2,300,000 British West Indian dollars (about £482,000) according to an announcement from Georgetown last month.

Shipment was scheduled to begin in late February or early March. The amount paid by the Soviet Government is based on the price paid by Cuba.

One of B.G.'s largest rice customers, from whom it was anticipated would take 25,000 bulk tons of rice in Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago, however, has renounced through its London High Commission that it will no longer buy B.G. rice, since the price B.G. needs (and can now get) at other than Commonwealth prices, cannot be met by them. Efforts were being made by the Trinidad and Tobago Government to purchase the rice it needs from Britain.

The Soviet Union's purchase of Guiana's rice marks the second European Socialist country to purchase B.G. rice. Earlier Czechoslovakia reached agreement with the British Guianese to purchase its rice, one of the country's largest exports.

Dr. W. E. B. DUBOIS, noted American Negro historian and scholar, was awarded the honorary doctor's degree by Ghana University on his 95th birthday.

A celebration meeting for Dr. Dubois' birthday was held at Ghana University last month attended by scientists, scholars and other prominent figures and foreign dignitaries.

Dr. Dubois recently assumed Ghanaian nationality. He has been residing in Ghana since 1960 heading the work of compiling an Encyclopedia Africana.

**UK West Indians Set to Welcome Cricketers**

**WEST INDIANS** in the U.K. and their many fans are all set to welcome the West Indies cricket team.

With 17 players, a manager and assistant manager, the famous team leaves Jamaica on their ninth tour of England on March 28. The tour will last six months.

**WORRELL TO CAPTAIN TEAM**

Frank Worrell, known as a great sportsman for his "beauty of stroke" and one of the world's leading cricketers ever, will be leading the West Indies team in his third series and his second overseas. Since taking over the job of captaincy the West Indies team has made tremendous strides towards emerging as world beaters.

The West Indies team lost 1-2 only to Australia in 1960-61 in a series which indicated a Test tie, that is acclaimed as the series that saved Test cricket.

The West Indies in their 5-0 win over India 1961-62 became, with England and Australia, the only countries to achieve this feat.

The touring party will include legspinner Alfred Valentine, who made the 1959 tour and together with Worrell will be on their third visit to England on a West Indian team.

(Continued on back page)

**Ask your Grocer for ENCONA**

(West Indian Hot Pepper Sauce)  
Ground and Whole Hot Peppers  
All Trade Enquiries  
Enco Products (London) Ltd.  
12-16 Nishley Road, London, N.19.  
ARCWay 2727-5751

*Buying or Selling a House?*

**CONSULT**

**W. K. LAWTON & CO.**

384 LEE HIGH ROAD, LONDON, S.E.12

Telephone: LEE 4545/6 9919

Open seven days a week.

Mortgages arranged on all types of property

ADVICE FREELY GIVEN

Image reproduced by kind permission of London Borough of Lambeth, Archives Department

# The Hexagon Video Series

In January 2021, *The Hexagon* was launched. This video series was devised and created by Dr Ellen Wiles, Lecturer in Creative Writing. In each of the 12 films, Ellen interviewed a colleague from the university and/or the creative industries, who share five arts and culture lockdown tips. Ellen provided a sixth suggestion, forming the 'hexagon' of the title.

With a variety of voices and interests in the mix, this collection offered respite from the pandemic and a chance to discover a new book, a new author, or a new simple pleasure (such as jigsaws).

The whole series can be viewed on the Arts and Culture website. To date, it has been viewed 2,975 times.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/news/the-hexagon-video-series>



# Diasporic Poetry

## Readings in Cornwall

In February 2021, internationally renowned artist, writer, performer and researcher, J. R. Carpenter, gave an online reading and Q&A, offering insights into her practice - a seamless melding of performance, poetry and digital media that addresses colonialism and environmental crisis.

Carpenter has been experimenting with digital technologies for over a decade, creating a form of poetry that was shown to its strengths with the online format

The event was part of an annual series devised by Dr Natalie Pollard, Senior Lecturer in Modernist and Contemporary Literature, and Academic Director for Arts and Culture, Cornwall. It was hosted in collaboration with Falmouth Art Gallery and supported by Arts and Culture.



Image: *The Gathering Cloud* by JR Carpenter

Image ©JR Carpenter



# Centre for Medical Mycology

Throughout the year, we were fortunate to work closely with the Medical Research Council Centre for Medical Mycology (MRC CMM), sharing a common interest in interdisciplinary creative practices. Mycology is an area of urgent medical need, with more than 1.5 million deaths worldwide each year from fungal infections. Find out more about their research at [www.thefungalthreat.com](http://www.thefungalthreat.com)

In March 2021, the MRC CMM launched an Embedded Residency, Hidden Kingdom, inspired by our Creative Fellowships. Selected artist Leonie Hampton collaborated with researchers to create a film about the microbiome, the community of microbes including fungi that live in and on us.

In June 2021, MRC CMM launched a new fungicast series on their website. The first interview, What do dinosaurs, Alexander the Great, and Napoleon have in common? was hosted by Sarah Campbell, Associate Director for Arts and Culture, with Professor Neil Gow, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact and Professor of Microbiology, and Merlin Sheldrake, biologist and author of *Entangled Life*.



Image: Fungus *Aspergillus versicolor*, an eye, and throat irritant

# Trade & Exchange International Women's Day Talk

In March 2021, for International Women's Day we hosted an online talk between two Devon- based artists and two University of Exeter academics. Naomi Hart and Emma Molony were selected for the Arts Commission,

*Trade and Exchange* to create temporary, site-specific artworks in empty retail units in Exeter, part of the Covid-19 Recovery Plan, *Building Exeter Back Better*. Emma focused on introduced plant species and the Exeter Veitch Nursery; Naomi explored shells and bivalves, the river Exe and trade links. The artists were joined by Dr Ceri Lewis, Associate Professor, Marine Biology, and Dr Rebecca Lovell, Research Fellow, European Centre for Environment and Human Health, who spoke about their relevant research in the natural and social sciences.

The lead partner for *Trade and Exchange* is Exeter Culture and is generously funded by the *Liveable Exeter* Programme, managed by Exeter City Council, and the Next Chapter project at the Devon and Exeter Institution, funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Arts and Culture co-devised *Trade and Exchange* and supported its delivery as part of the project team.

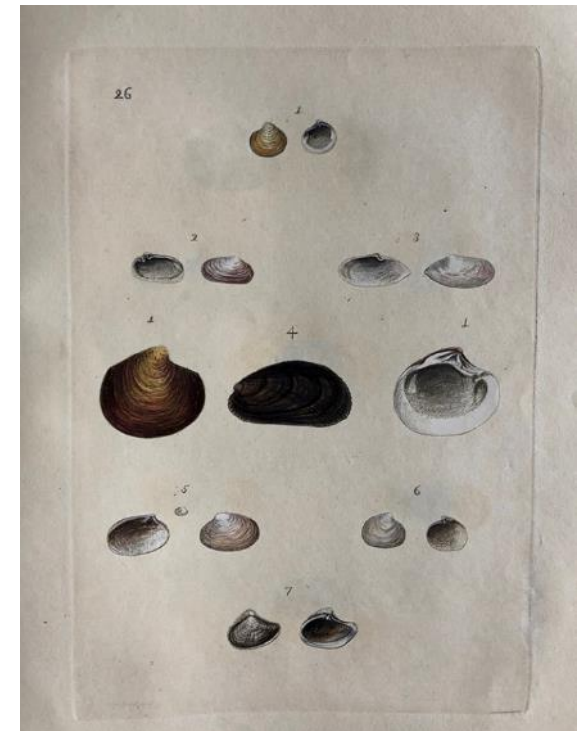


Image: Illustration by Eizabeth D'Orville, in *Testacea Britannica: a Natural History of British Shells, Marine, Land, and Fresh-water*, George Montagu (1803). Reproduced with permission of the Devon and Exeter Institution.

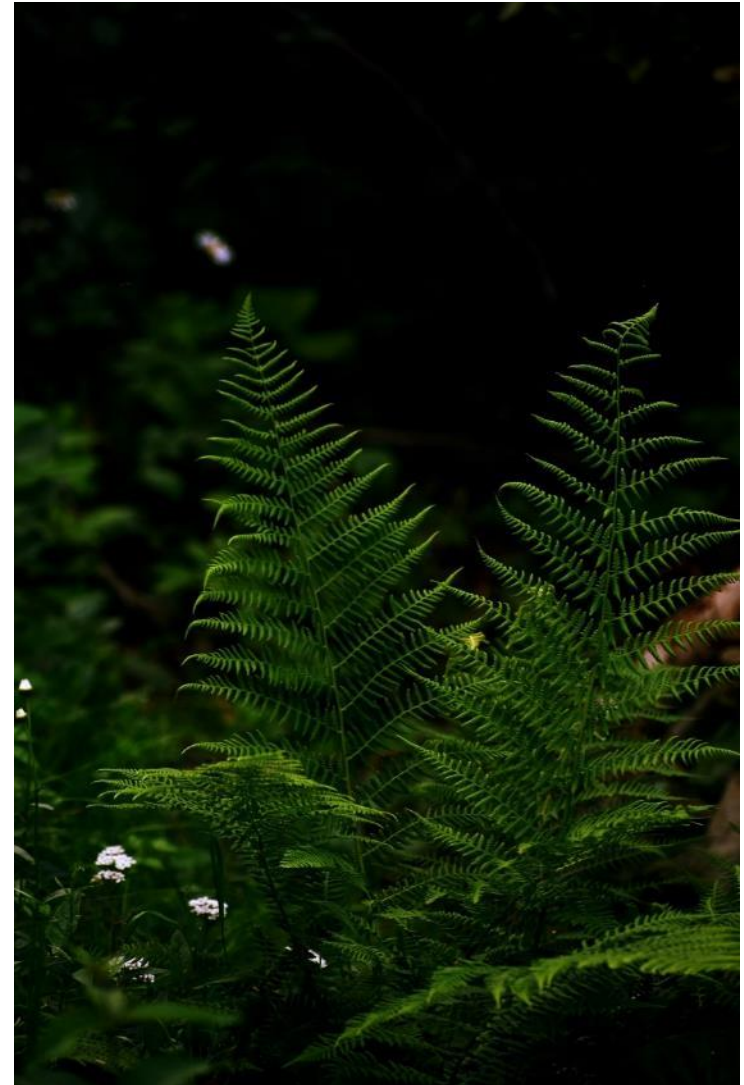


# G7 and Green Futures Nurturing Hope through Poetry

In June 2021, Cornwall hosted the international summit G7. In parallel, the University of Exeter ran Green Futures, a two-day conference sharing contemporary climate research. Arts and Culture collaborated with the College of Medicine and Health, *Riptide Journal*, the Met Office, and Exeter Culture, on an accompanying poetry resource for the conference, where a collection of poems by new and established voices was screened before each presentation.

The poems highlighted links between the climate crisis and human health and testified to our shared mission - to forge exciting collaborations using poetry to announce key environmental change and health messages.

The slides, Nurturing Hope through Poetry, can be viewed here:  
<https://greenfutures.exeter.ac.uk/article/nurturing-hope-through-poetry/>



# Exchange Symposium

In July 2021, Arts and Culture co-hosted our second *Exchange Symposium* in partnership with Public Engagement with Research and devised with staff from the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, Event Exeter and Agile Rabbit.

The purpose of this three-day online event was to celebrate, question and discuss the mutual benefits that come from communities and researchers working together. Researchers inside universities are working on large and complex real-world challenges across all aspects of life. Communities outside universities have lived experience of these challenges, as well as expertise, skills and insights that can shine new light on thorny problems. Combined, amazing work can happen.

Each day was themed - we launched with Climate and Environment on day one, then Health and Wellbeing on day two, and Process (or How We Do It) on day three.

A total of 13 sessions were delivered, with an attendance of 281.



Illustration by Laura Miles-Boardman

©Laura Miles-Broadman

# Unhoming Pedagogies: Precarity

In July 2021, the second issue of *Unhoming Pedagogies*, a digital magazine created by the Humanities department at the University of Exeter's Penryn campus and supported by Arts and Culture, was published. Under the banner of Precarity, it brings together students' and teachers' stories about transformational, uncertain and vulnerable experiences of contemporary Higher Education.

*Unhoming Pedagogies* editor, Natalie Pollard, states: "Whilst precariousness is bound up with a sense of general human vulnerability, precarity speaks to the uneven distribution of this vulnerability in relation to privilege. Precarity - a 'politically induced condition' of material and psychological insecurity - is often particularly mapped by hierarchies of gender, race, class and sexuality, nationality and regionality, caring responsibilities, ability and age."



# Arts, Culture and Environment in Cornwall

In July 2021, a panel of four University of Exeter staff and fellows explored projects and research areas relating to arts, culture, creativity, wellbeing, science, technology, climate and environment. The event showcased the nature of interdisciplinary working at the University's Cornwall campuses in a way that provokes playful, dynamic and ongoing interactions.

Many thanks to the speakers: Victoria Tischler, Associate Professor in Public Health, Sustainability and Environment, European Centre for Environment and Human Health, Dr Aimee Le, writer, director, performer and Associate Lecturer in Creative Writing, Claire English, Cornwall based arts consultant, and Dr Elze Hesse, Research Fellow, ESI.

This event was hosted by the Environment and Sustainability Institute, Humanities Penryn and Arts and Culture.



Image: Ceramics created by Fleur Winter as part of an interdisciplinary project in Cornwall with Dr Elze Hesse, Research Fellow, ESI.

©Stephen Hodge

# Student Experience

Supporting and promoting student creativity.

The activities summarised in this section address the following Arts and Culture objectives:

- Promote creativity as vital to holistic student experience
- Support creativity in teaching

Student Placement                      Page 30

Student-led Programming            Page 31

Student-led Research                Page 32

Festival of Discovery                Page 33

Creativity in Teaching              Page 34

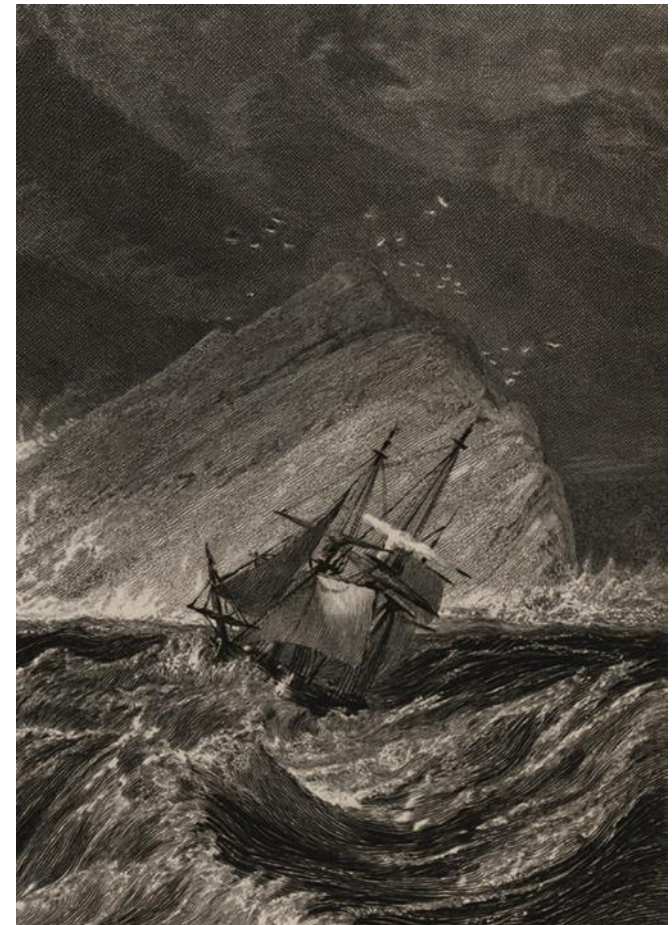


Image: The Mew Stone Drawn. Drawn by J.M.W Turner, engraved by William Cooke 1816. University of Exeter Fine Art Collection



# Student Placement – Gemma Lucas

In April 2021, Gemma Lucas joined us for a six-month South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP) student placement.

She is an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded Human Geography PhD student, based in the University's Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health. Her research explores how yoga impacts on people's gendered understandings of, and relationships with, their bodies.

Gemma worked as part of our team, supporting programme planning, delivery and evaluation. She initiated a new Arts Commission, bringing together artists Cinna Solar and Bee Watson, and wrote regular blogs for the Arts and Culture website.

In July 2021, Gemma co-devised a session at the Standon Calling Festival, part of a broader programme by Agile Rabbit. Gemma presented her research into shame and yoga alongside yoga teacher Nikkie Huddart



Photograph: ©Gemma Lucas

# Student-led Programming

The Students' Union (Cornwall) and Students' Guild (Devon) at the University of Exeter support hundreds of societies, providing creative opportunities across a range of artforms such as drama, music, photography, and dance.

For Freshers' Week 2020, we ran a series of 'Meet the Society' blogposts and continued to promote student-led productions and projects throughout the year on our website, social media, and e-newsletter.

We also shared the work of other student groups, such as the Student Media Team, who provide real-world design briefs in the creative industries and

Creative Switch, who showcase the creative talents and experiences of BIPOC students at the University.

To help orientate and welcome new students, we led on the creation of a new 'arts, culture and creativity' page on the main University of Exeter website: [www.exeter.ac.uk/study/life/culture/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/life/culture/)



Image: Still from Theatre with Teeth's online production of *Hair*, written and directed by Leila Lockley.

# Student-led Research

Arts and Culture manages the university's Fine Art Collection, and we are keen to raise its profile for research and teaching. The Collection holds over 2,000 treasures, including a series of early 19th century engravings after JMW Turner's scenes of Devon and Cornwall.

These engravings were the prompt for first-year Art History and Visual Culture (AHVC) students, who researched, wrote and curated content for an online exhibition. The students had advice and guidance from the Arts and Culture team, and they also received a lecture by Turner expert Professor Sam Smiles. The exhibition was launched on the Arts and Culture website in May 2021 and received 625 views up to the end of July. This pilot has led to plans for a similar collaboration in 2021 -22.

<https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/news/online-exhibition-turners-travels>

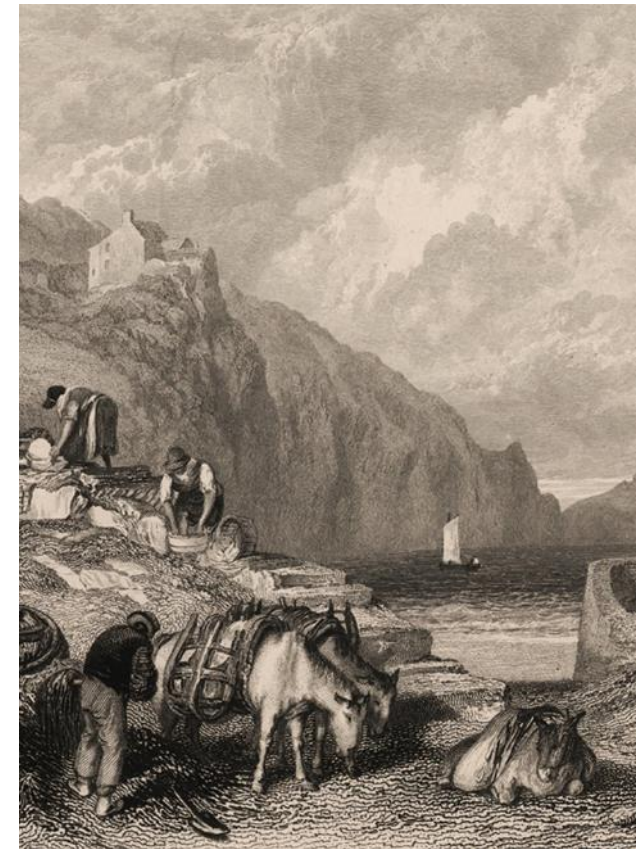


Image: Section of Combe Martin, Devonshire. Engraving after JMW Turner 1825. University of Exeter Fine Art Collection



# Festival of Discovery

Over two weeks in May and June 2021, the University ran an inaugural *Festival of Discovery* for students. This was an opportunity to explore the campuses and try out something new, with literally hundreds of events to choose from.

Arts and Culture collaborated with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) to create three half-day, drop-in workshops. Artist Fliss Shillingford, inspired by RAMM's exhibitions and collections, created a botanical-themed session, where students could decorate a plant pot to take away (plant included). The University's Grounds Team kindly provided an array of live plants to provide extra inspiration.

The purpose of these sessions was enjoyment, offering a chance to make something as a small respite from the pressures of study. We also wanted to let more students know about RAMM, an incredible cultural resource on their doorstep. 65 students took part.



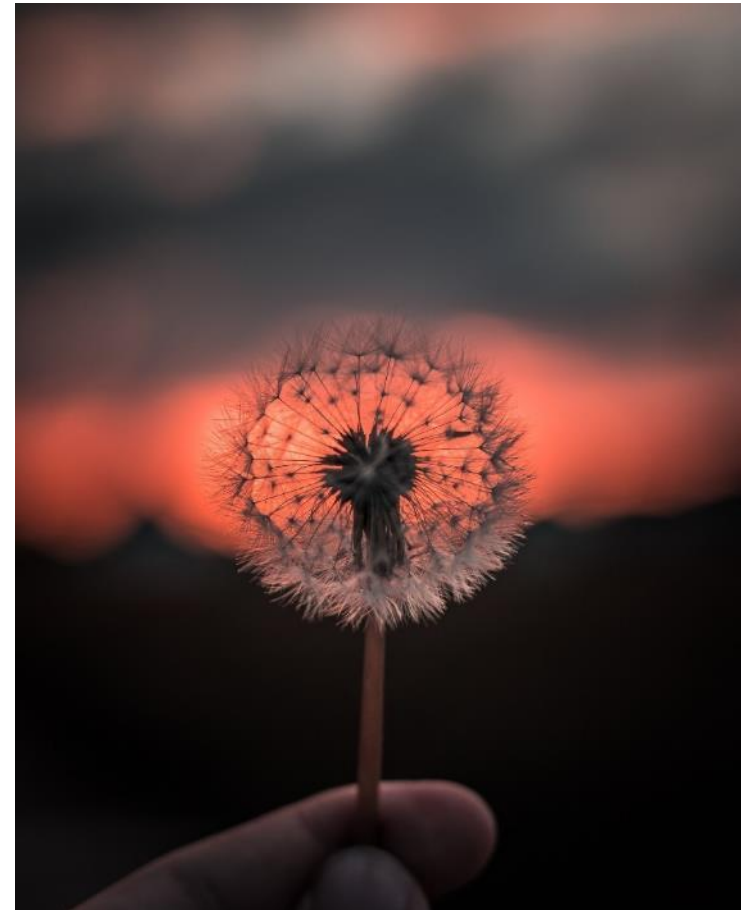
Photo: Felicity Shillingford

# Creativity in Teaching

Where do ideas come from? How can I find better solutions to design challenges? What will help me tap into my creativity more effectively?

These queries have relevance for staff and students alike. Over the past year, we've led ideas generation and design thinking sessions, both live and pre-recorded, for modules in Nursing, Business, Cultural Geography and Medical Humanities as well as providing an ideas generation workshop for new teaching staff as part of their Academic Professional Programme. We also support students' career development, running a session on working in galleries for the 'Pathways to Arts, Culture and Heritage' training programme.

In June 2021, we supported the Graduate School of Education's 'Creativity in 21st Century Education: where, how and what next?' event, hosted by the British Educational Research Association (BERA).



# Fine Art Collection

Caring for our cultural assets.

In February 2021 a new Collection Development Policy was published for the fine art collection. This will enable a more focused approach to acquisitions and management of the collection.

We have shone a spotlight on individual works in the collection through a series of monthly blog posts on the Arts and Culture website. Spanning oil paintings, illustrations and sculptures, each article encourages a closer look and consideration of the original.

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, we have continued to focus on care of the fine art collection, with the organisation of a clean and wax of the Barbara Hepworth sculpture Figure for Landscape.



Image: The Mangolds by Harold Harvey, 1904, from the University of Exeter's fine art collection

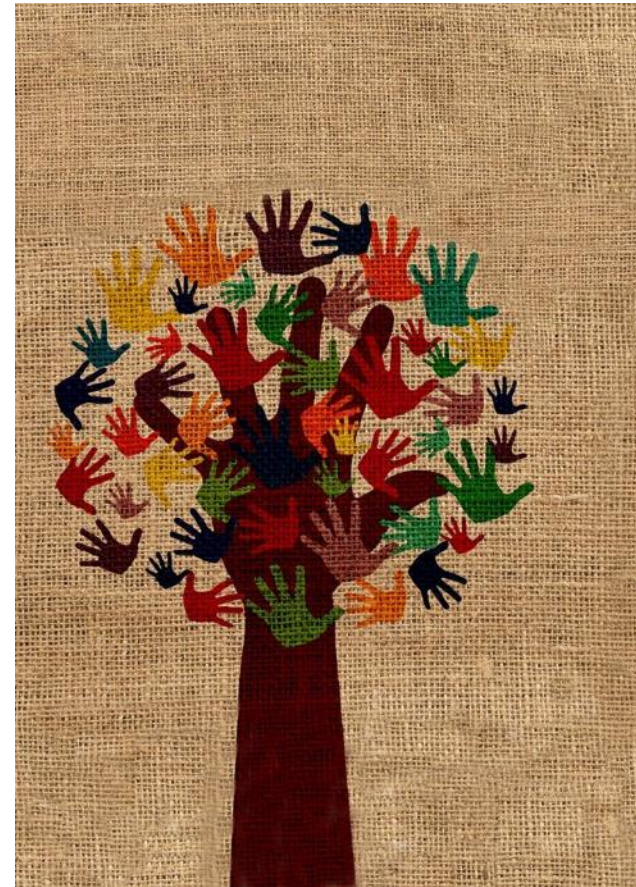


# Thank You

We would like to thank the reporting, funding and advisory groups that continue to offer fantastic support and guidance: Arts and Culture Steering Groups; Arts and Culture Assurance Group; Arts Commission Advisory Group; Capital Investment Group; and the Senior Management Team of the College of Humanities.

Many thanks also to the academic and professional services staff, students, and project partners who have continued to say 'yes' to working together and finding ways to keep collaborating through the flux of an ongoing pandemic.

The Directors would especially like to thank the wonderful Arts and Culture team for their inspiration, initiative and graft. The report is testament to their great work.



# The Team

**Sarah Campbell**

Associate Director for Arts and Culture

**Naome Glanville**

Arts and Culture Co-ordinator

**Gemma Lucas**

Arts and Culture PhD Student Placement

**Stephen Hodge**

Academic Director for Arts and Culture

**Caitlin DeSilvey**

Deputy Academic Director for Arts and Culture (Cornwall)

**Natalie Pollard**

Acting Deputy Academic Director for Arts and Culture (Cornwall)



# Arts and Culture

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

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

 @artsandculturex

 /ArtsAndCultureExeter

 @artsandcultureex



**ARTS  
AND  
CULTURE**