

RIVA Report December 2017



RIVA Report December 2017

The purpose of this document is to report on CGP London's 2017 RIVA-funded activities. RIVA supports CGP London for a three-year grant, with £15,000 for work realised in 2017. This funding has allowed CGP London to develop the learning programme significantly, through funding the Public Engagement Manager's time and the delivery of artist-led workshops. These have enabled the furthering of relationships with local families established during this year in addition to forming new mixed groups. Having a member of staff who is dedicated to local work has had a great impact on CGP London's presence and input into the area, and CGP aims to become a significant player in the Rotherhithe ward, building up a strong network of local organisations doing similar work.

In addition, we have recruited five new Artist Associates and two new Learning assistants through open call and direct invitation, to widen our pool of practitioners and allow us to work with great artists with different skills and interests on our programme. It is our hope that the RIVA workshops also further the artist associates' practice and process of making, and we contribute to building up their development in a meaningful way.

During 2017, we delivered a series of fun and educational artist-led workshops in May, July and October that formed part of the gallery's public programme. These were led by different Artist Associates invited to respond to our exhibition programme and develop enjoyable and inspiring activities for local families. Our drop-in sessions are very popular with young families in the area, as the format allows flexibility and a scenario where they might enjoy a day in the park that includes a CGP London workshop.



Marks in the Park workshop, May 2017.

The following workshops took place this year:

Marks in the Park // 31 May – 2 June

Artist Associate Alexa Lowe led three days of exciting drawing and printing workshops to create imaginary gardens. The theme really appealed to children's' imagination and sense of play. Using Sarah Pickston's *Other Stories* exhibition as a basis to draw from, the park theme was an ideal place to examine her paintings and their expressive colourful mark making using different techniques that are easy to recreate at home such as celery flower stamps.



Feet, Ears, Eyes, Hands & Elbows too! // 26-28 July

During the summer holidays, local families and young children were invited to join Alexa Lowe in a series of craft-making workshops to create felt masks, hands and feet. This was a great way to have a conversation about bodies and self-portraiture, while examining Jonathan Baldock's incredible installation *There's No Place Like Home* in Dilston Grove. Families also worked together to contribute their work to a collaborative felt banner. The workshops responded to some of the materials and themes in Jonathan Baldock's show in a playful way – Baldock's use of felt, sewing, and his interest in the body- and allowed children to sew using pipe cleaners and wool among other techniques.



Drawing as Performance // 6 October

As part of the Big Draw Festival and during Peter Liversidge's *As Sculpture* exhibition, artist Caroline Wendling led a wonderful workshop on alternative drawing, exploring the idea of drawing with our body. Open to families and adults, people were invited to move through the park, thinking about line tracing, space and choreography. They created proposal-led walks and drew these using collected items from the park and engaging performatively with the outside space. One proposal made by a 5 year-old boy and his mother was: " We collect leaves, explore them with the magnifying glass and we will decorate them. We might build a nest for the fox".



Mobile Variety Club // 26 & 27 October

Polly Brannan's Mobile Variety Club saw families from the local area interpret Peter Liversidge's proposals from his show *As Sculpture*, through drawing, sculpture, prop-making, comedy and performance. These action-packed and fun workshops were devised using children's ideas as starting points for a narrative, which were then embedded into story-boards and later performed in front of an audience. Children and carers worked together to perform their stories, using the props they had made, and Polly Brannan breathed comedy and light-heartedness into the performances.



All these projects have activated playful and experimental approaches to art engagement. This has included games, choreography, role-play and more 'traditional' art techniques such as drawing, painting or sewing. It has involved children thinking about their own experiences and neighbourhood, meeting people within the locality, and also reflecting on their own personal archives and how these connect to others. Above all, it has provided an enjoyable platform for families to come together, meet and enjoy first-class workshops led by talented contemporary artists.

We have included some feedback from individuals who have attended workshops this year:

"Fantastic experience! I would definitely recommend it to our friends. Thank you for the mood! It was a pleasure! Me and my child enjoyed!"

"It was lovely. The kids got stuck in and my son who thought he did not like art, ended up loving it"

"Great day - not to be missed!"

"Great workshop. The children really enjoyed it and had a great time. Very interactive with lots of open ended involvement for children and parents. Great learning opportunities"

"Thank you. This was a fabulous workshop. My little girl was fully engaged and had loads of fun."

"The Team (Alexa & Julia) who welcomed us and showed us around - excellent!"

Statistical analysis of users

Total participants at workshops: 349
Age range: 2-11 years, plus adults
Total number of workshops: 16