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MAP

ART

SOCIAL

An in-depth study of 5 art commissions from 3 perspectives.

socialartmap.org.uk

Money Making Machine & Other Useful Contraptions

Emily Druiff Peckham Platform

2012 Emily Druiff (Director at Peckham Platform) meets Helen Shearn (Head of Arts Strategy at South London & Maudsley) via Mark Crawley (Director of Outreach at University of the Arts London).

Mark agrees to financially support a commission linking arts and mental health.

Helen links Emily to Dy Carsen (Manager at Three Cs Crossway's Day Care Centre Peckham); they agree to work together.

Emily meets Errol Francis (Director of Anxiety Festival) and Barbara Rodriguez (visual Arts Curator, Anxiety Festival). They include the commission in the pan London Anxiety Festival 2014.

Emily, Dy and Barbara write the project brief and invite 3 artists to respond.

Selection panel (Anxiety, Three Cs, Peckham Platform). Three artists invited to pitch, none selected.

Brief amended to integrate social enterprise, Kathrin Böhm invited to make proposal and meet the group, this was taken forward.

Gallery being used as a resource by mental health service users, Peckham Platform want to engage more.

2013 Peckham Platform gain charitable status as a National Portfolio Organisation from Arts Council England independent from its founding institution, University of the Arts London.

Emily Druiff integrates arts and mental health objectives into 3 yr business plan with support from Richard Watts (Founding Chair at Peckham Platform).

Autumn 2013–Spring 2014 Kathrin Böhm's contract starts and starts weekly workshops at Three Cs.

Dec 2013 Dy Carsen leaves her role at Three Cs.

May–Jul 2014 Exhibition duration 10 weeks with a record 4,000 visitors.

The exhibition was an interactive format and helped attract new gallery visitors.

Inclusion in Anxiety programme increases audiences from mental health sector.

Kathrin Böhm

2012 Kathrin Böhm makes a proposal titled Money Making Machine & Other Useful Contraptions which included references to the needs of Three C's to become more enterprising in light of financial climate.

2013 Kathrin delivers weekly sessions to 'design a useful machine for living' outside the 'art class' environment at Three Cs. Broad group of participants sign up. The group makes a visit to exhibition of contraptions in Greenwich. Workshops continue past agreed point in order to develop ideas further.

2014 Kathrin wants exhibition to be a production space for visitors like an extension of workshops and considered as social enterprise. Exhibition includes: Tim Hunkin machines; seed bomb making; Three Cs shop; Three Cs café; papier-mâché plate making, paintings and spin painting. Following on from this project Kathrin goes on to work on the International Village Shop and set up Movement Company Deals & Drinks.

Liz Moreland

2013 'Kathrin asked us what machines would we invent to make our lives perfect.' 'We designed a machine to make money, coins and notes; did spin paintings.' 'You treated us like adults', 'we did not feel patronised'. Sharon (member of staff from Three Cs) wanted to test social enterprise café as part of exhibition.

2014 Participants Richard, Walter and Liz regularly use the gallery space during the exhibition as a social space and to make things. Liz does a pop up cafe every weekend called the Queen of Cakes as part of the exhibition using the Three Cs kitchen. There were discussions of this continuing. 'What was the connection between mental health and the exhibition?', 'Should the exhibition have said mental health exhibition outside?', 'Mental health not signposted, but that meant no stigma'.

Money Distribution Machine & Other Useful Contraptions

Interactive installation at Peckham Platform resulting from workshops with people living with learning disabilities and mental health challenges at Three Cs, Rye Lane.

Commissioner:
Peckham Platform

Mapped by:
Emily Druiff (Executive Director, Peckham Platform)
Kathrin Böhm (artist)
Alison Love (Three Cs, Head of Inclusion)
Liz Moreland (service user at Three C's, cake-maker, participant)

www.peckhamplatform.com

This is for you

A public performance on the pavements of Archway about being seen. One dancer and one local were watched by one audience member at a time through a shop window.

Commissioners:
Islington Council with AIR, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London

Mapped by:
Tilly Fowler (Creative Producer, AIR); and Anna Hart (Organiser, AIR)
Anna MacDonald (artist)
Richard Thomas (Thomas Brothers Ironmongers, Archway)

www.airstudio.org

Between You and Me / The Present Tense

A play and film by Edward Thomasson made with non-professional performers from East London.

Commissioners:
Chisenhale Gallery and Create

Mapped by:
Hadrian Garrard (Director, Create)
Laura Wilson (Offsite and Education Curator, Chisenhale Gallery)
Edward Thomasson (artist)
Amy Bentley (volunteer performer)

www.chisenhale.org.uk

This Used to be Fields

A mural exploring a history of the Becontree Estate in Dagenham.

Commissioners:
Create and Creative Barking & Dagenham

Mapped by:
Razia Begum (Producer, Create London); and Marijke Steedman (Curator, Create)
Chad McCall (artist)
Matt Benjamin (local historian, participant)
Biniam Ghide (mural artist, participant)

www.createlondon.org

Werker 10 – Community Darkroom

Workshops, collective educational activities and installation on photography and labour with Werker Magazine and Justice for Domestic Workers.

Commissioner:
The Showroom (Communal Knowledge)

Mapped by:
Louise Shelley (Collaborative Projects Curator, The Showroom)
Roger Delfos and Marc Roig Blesa (Werker Magazine, artists)
Marissa Begonia (Justice for Domestic Workers, collaborators)

www.theshowroom.org

Introduction to Social Art Map

This Social Art Map is intended as a starting point or resource for people interested in social art practice, including those engaged in producing, commissioning, curating, collaborating and participating. By using the contested term 'social art' we refer to contexts where artists work with people in the co-creation of a public outcome.

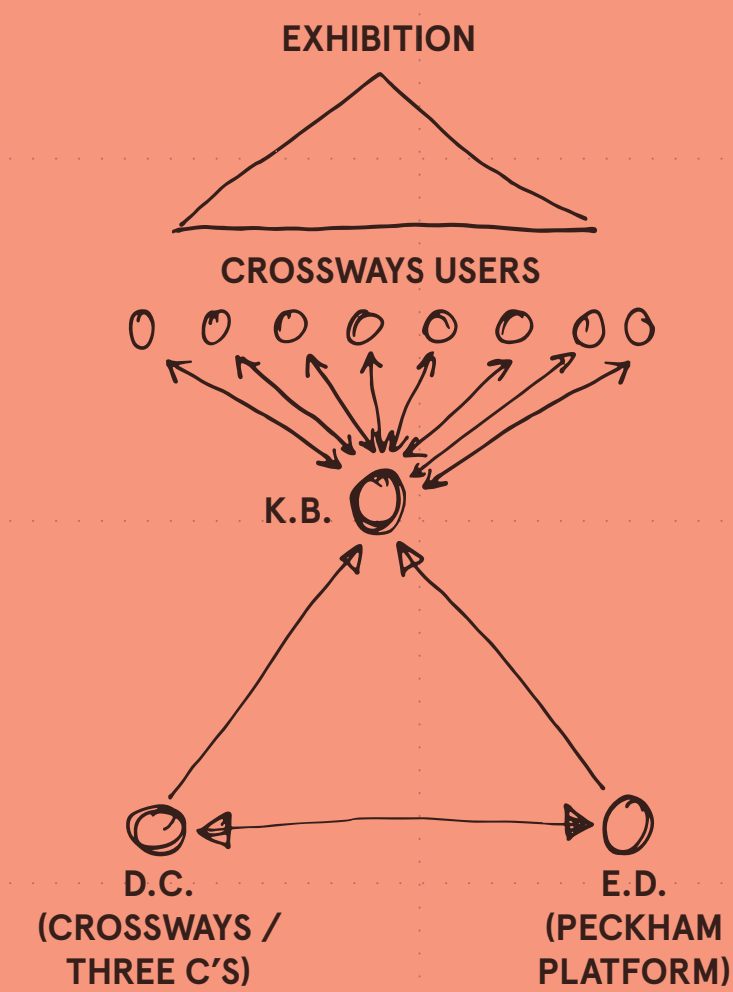
This mini-resource focuses on five commissioned projects that took place in London within the field of social art practice in the last five years. By mapping the project's timelines we aim not to present a model of best practice, rather a range of portraits that provide windows into the different processes, hurdles, motivations and experiences of artists, commissioners/ curators/ producers and locals/ participants/ collaborators involved. Through this six month piece of research these labels were contested, as were the terms 'social art' and 'socially engaged art'. Rather than foreground these terms, we have therefore referred to the names of the people and the capacity in which they were involved with these processes. To avoid flattening out the complexities and nuances of the projects or squeezing them uncomfortably into a neat definition of social art, we have tried to maintain the detail, keeping the seemingly mundane aspects alongside crucial moments of decision-making. With this in mind, we hope to reflect the vital complexity of the processes involved and avoid one dominant version of events being told.

Emily Druiff (Peckham Platform) and Sophie Hope (Birkbeck, University of London) came together, supported by funding from Creativeworks London, to do this mapping of commissioning processes in order to understand better these often hidden procedures. Over several meetings we made collective timelines of each project with the artist(s), commissioner/producer/curator(s) and local/participant/collaborator(s).

We hope you will use this document and the network of people that emerge from it, to inform your work, challenge assumptions and invite further critical conversations with practitioners, collaborators, researchers and educators.

To get in touch, order more maps or find out more, go to: www.socialartmap.org.uk

Emily Druiff and Sophie Hope
July 2015



Reflections on Mapping Social Art Projects

These reflections are based on the recorded discussions we had as we mapped the timelines of each of the invited projects on long rolls of paper. Looking over these maps and listening to the audio, I clustered words, drew diagrams and scribbled connections in an attempt to identify the thoughts and ideas that emerged from the different perspectives.

The diagrams illustrated on this map are from my own interpretations of the relationships between the people, actions and outcomes of each of the projects. Others may draw different formations of arrows and spots to illustrate their story of the process.

Common to all five projects is an arts organisation supporting a paid artist(s) working with other people in a process of making something together. Throughout each project there are a lot of meetings - in person, via Skype, in groups, one-to-one, constructive, heated, informal and formal. All of this time spent talking becomes part of the process of building chains of trust that seem necessary for anything to happen.

The subjects being explored are diverse: domestic space, the street, local histories, amateur theatre groups, mental health; resulting in a play, a mural, a performance, an exhibition and a set

of campaigning tools. The physical aspects of production come through in the mechanics of making and material touch of practice as people apply and share their expertise in the process. The role of amateur and professional collide, sometimes switching, providing new perspectives.

The projects vary in length, between 3 and 18 months, often stretching beyond initial timeframes. Most of the artists (apart from Werker, who were invited directly) respond to a brief, written between an arts organisation and another partner or funder. While this sounds like a formal process, there often exist points of contact, shared interests and common ground between the artist and arts organisation which continue to emerge throughout the process. In all cases, the projects stem from the artists' existing practices and ideas and the commission becomes a platform for them to develop the work in a new way and in a different context.

There are inherent (healthy) contradictions in the processes being described, for example, between holding the uncertainty and being clear; between nothing being prescribed and having a clear goal. There is also a sense of push and pull between working to a brief and having an intuitive, responsive approach.

The artists here are being employed by public bodies (e.g. a council, community group or gallery) to make something with or for other people. These are people who use, or could use, a certain space such as a local archive or community centre or who share a common interest or concern such as acting or justice for domestic workers. The artists then design tools or a mural, create a space for people to invent machines, create scores for local performances or form an amateur theatre group. These are made for, with and amongst the artist, arts organiser and selected or self-selected volunteers. The wall, the street, the window, the community centre and/or the gallery become meeting points where production, rehearsal, making and experimenting takes place. In a few cases, making decisions in public and/or making the process and practice visible is important, but not always.

An approach an artist brings with them might be something new to people, offer an alternative view, a different way of doing things. It might take the form of a script, a template, a score, an invitation to invent, or could be in the shape of a question. This leads on to looking in different, forgotten places, disrupting dominant narratives or putting something unexpected on a pedestal for a moment. It might involve a process of abstraction, juxtaposition or intervention in a familiar place to get us to look again.

It is not as simple as employing artists to provide services or frameworks for the engagement and entertainment of others. These encounters are often worked on, edited, choreographed, curated and/or directed in order to produce public, artistic manifestations that feed into the artists' own professional development and portfolio of work, weaving back in to their ever evolving practices.

The projects are labour-intensive, often stretching budgets, and timescales to make things happen. The invisible administrative work of logistics necessary for these projects to take place happens behind the scenes by assistants, arts organisers and others. There is emotional labour that goes into this process of making something happen, such as dedication, commitment, generosity, persistence, enthusiasm and patience. These emotions are not flowing in one direction, they criss-cross, infect, deplete and move along.

The conditions in which art is made are often hidden, so as to foreground the artwork itself. Maybe the glorious final outcomes of these messy processes should be left to stand for themselves, without us dredging up their back stories. Not all art is treated with the same magnifying glass. However, I feel an urge to keep poking my head behind the curtain, to check the scaffolding, to see who, what, why and how it is being propped up. This is how all things should be treated, in my view, not just publicly funded projects.

Through this investigation, we are making visible the processes so as to understand them better collectively, to counter-act the drive to compete and instead be open to the potential for

radical solidarity and sharing amongst peers. The stresses and strains public sector organisations are under as they are forced to restructure or close, is reflected in the experiences of people here. There are different pressures, approaches and concerns over how to secure and allocate funding, for example: who gets paid and for what, when various expertise are acknowledged as being necessary for a project to happen. The funding used in these various projects is complex, sometimes with conflicting agendas. While the arts organisation and artist might be able to hold open a space for uncertainty, to what extent is this uncertainty valued by the funders?

The mechanics of the processes mapped out in these timelines are complex and multi-layered; there is no simple way through, no step-by-step account or formula for best practice that can be drawn from all of this. There are multiple layers of timelines for each event, we have only collated three strata out of hundreds that exist for each project. In this process of selecting and editing voices are left out.

Endings and aftercare are a feature of the timelines. It is like an endlessly flowing river, as one of the contributors puts it. This sense of things not having a neat end is shared amongst others, but there is also a sense of the need for end points, or at least a question of how to deal with them, as individuals move on and partner organisations close.

The need for links of solidarity between those who remain standing in the current economic and political context seems urgent and necessary. Sharing resources, ideas and tactics whilst retaining eclectic approaches and inherent contradictions seems necessary if we are to help each other hold on to spaces of uncertainty whilst continuing to make things happen.

Sophie Hope.

Anna Hart & Tilly Fowler
AIR

2007 AIR was founded in Archway at the Byam Shaw School of Art, part of Central Saint Martins, UAL, asking 'What happens when we stay?'

2012 AIR commissioned by Islington Council to produce A Million Minutes. Open calls to musicians, dancers and fine artists.

Aug 2012 223 applications received for 'Windows One' commission.

Selection by Anna, Tilly and Pete Courtie (Islington Council). Long, extensive, difficult but constructive discussions. Outlaw words including 'stories'.

Artists using this as testing ground for developing a public practice. 'Understanding where the work is potentially opening up and whether we can support that process.'

Anna Macdonald is one of ten selected for interview and seven commissioned. 'There is an enquiry, relevance, honesty. Felt like she was asking something slightly different.'

Nov 2012 Secure the shop space used for the Windows programme.

Oct 2012-Apr 2013 Conversations between AIR and Anna M. via skype about 'being seen'. This is formative to a strong working relationship.

AIR are interested in the position of skill and expertise of local people who live or work in the area, and in artists being present in a place.

Apr 2013 Anna M.'s first visit to Archway. 'She was touching the pavement. The material touch of a practice is so important.'

Jun 2013 Anna M. and seven other dancers travel from Manchester and stay in Gill Clarke's house for ten intense days: rehearsal for six and perform for four.

'There's a certain kind of questioning that only comes when you start making the work.'

The 'local' would ask the 'watcher' how they want the performance to end (given two choices), allowing them to feel they have some control over how it ended.

2014 AIR move to the new Central Saint Martins site in King's Cross, bringing their approach to staying developed in Archway, and asking 'what happens when we know our neighbours?'

Anna Macdonald

2010-2013 Anna's practice seeks direct forms of communication; starts to develop a one to one piece working through windows.

Aug 2012 Sees commission advertised about a piece called 'Windows' and applies. It has more local engagement than she is used to. Spends a lot of time on Google maps, looking at the roads and the place.

Apr 2013 First visit to Archway. 'Anna H. sits in the shop and I dance in the street.' Call-out to get involved, asking 'do you feel seen?' but gets nothing back.

Space and freedom to do something unknown. 'AIR held that uncertainty. You can't develop it if you need to fix on the form immediately.'

May 2013 Day of talking to people about being seen. 'People willing to talk but not be in an artwork. AIR take me to contacts they already have, one of whom is Richard Thomas.'

Jun 2013 Anna M. decides to dance in the piece (rather than act as host): shifts from the visual to the kinesthetic; felt embedded, responsive. 'Getting to know what can take our weight and how we can move with it.'

The audience becomes a performer. 'People are willing to step forward if you don't hassle them. If you're able to step in and out then you're more likely to step in.'

They work with each 'local' separately - 'show them the work, they sit and experience it, we talk through their score, we have a run through'.

The street is the rehearsal space. 'Making the work in public. Moving, resting the body - all of that was seen.'

'Logistically it nearly killed me, but conceptually it was fine.' At the end of the performance, the 'watcher' goes for a cup of tea and writes an immediate response. This feels more like an aftercare process, than evaluation.

2014 Editing two versions of the film documentation. Writes for AIR publication and contributes a piece to AIR's Everything Must Go exhibition in Thomas Brothers shop.

Richard Thomas
Thomas Brothers

1921-2014 Richard Thomas is one of the Thomas Brothers, a family run ironmongers in Archway that served many Byam Shaw art students and staff.

'Working things out together, you weren't just selling something... If I could give the young artists small inputs of ideas and things, even if it's just drilling a hole... I've contributed in some small way.'

May 2013 Richard meets Anna M. He proposes to set up his key cutting machine (belonged to his grandfather) on the street as part of the performance. Working in the shop, 'you're in a little box, as though you're on stage and you're performing... Thought it would be nice to not take things for granted for once and just go outside, look at different things and open my mind to what else there is out there'.

Jun 2013 'It was a special day; something happened that day in Archway, don't know what it was. A window of opportunity for me personally.'

'I stepped into this creative aura to leave something with you all, albeit a small key.'

26 Apr-May 2014 Thomas Brothers shop was the venue for Everything Must Go.

12 Jun 2014 'Came to a sad end when we were closing down.' Thomas Brothers hand back keys and close business.

Between You And Me / The Present Tense

Laura Wilson & Hadrian Garrard
Create

2009 Hadrian (Director, Create) meets Polly Staple (Director, Chisenhale Gallery) and they talk about the possibility of working together in the future.

2010 Chisenhale Gallery's Offsite programme starts. Funds from local authority and Arts Council (via Create) rather than project specific funding.

Mar 2012 Conversations continue between Chisenhale Gallery and Create, they want to do something long-term post Olympics. Create wants to support and fund Chisenhale Gallery to work outside the gallery with new audiences.

Jun 2012 They propose an 18-month residency with a public outcome as part of Chisenhale's Offsite programme. Funds from local authority and Arts Council (via Create) rather than project specific funding. Chisenhale Gallery and Create work closely together to write a brief and discuss a long list and short list of artists to invite to make a proposal.

Feb-Jul 2013 The group meet 6 times, once a month to workshop/rehearse. Process of active storytelling. There is time in between meetings to slowly mould the script in response to what happens in the workshops/rehearsals. 'We were all working towards the same goal. We expected quite a lot from people's involvement - dedication, a lot to learn - the group run like a theatre group working towards a performance.'

18 Oct 2012 5 artists are interviewed and Edward Thomasson is selected.

Nov 2012 Residency artist is announced. Thomasson's proposal is to form an actors group comprised of local people through an open call. He would work with the group to develop a play and a film.

Jan 2013 Open call for people who are interested in performing and working on a long-term project with Thomasson. Posters circulated locally to recruit volunteers. Two audition days followed by monthly workshops with those selected. Create's involvement is light touch during the production phase. Edward works closely with Laura Wilson (Offsite and Education Curator, Chisenhale Gallery) throughout, with regular monthly contact points.

Mid Apr 2013 Create publicise their summer events and include Edward's play as part of their programme.

Jul 2013 3 performances of 'Between You And Me' at Glass House Community Centre as part of Chisenhale's Offsite programme.

Oct 2013-Jun 2014 Second stage involves production of film with most of the actors group. Edward consulted them at stages regarding the script. Chisenhale and Create's curatorial teams work closely with Edward towards the production of the exhibition.

3 Jul-24 Aug 2014 Exhibition of final film at Chisenhale Gallery: 'The Present Tense'.

Edward Thomasson

Sep 2012 Invited to make a proposal in response to the brief to work with people local to the gallery in the context of east London after the Olympics.

Wanted to work with the model of an amateur theatre company for some time so proposed this. 'There wasn't a lot of shoe-horning into a socially engaged construct'.

Jan 2013 Edward and Laura auditioned 25 volunteers, approx. half are selected.

Feb 2013 Edward writes the script and songs. Soosan Lolovar composes the music.

Feb-Jul 2013 The group meet 6 times, once a month to workshop/rehearse. Process of active storytelling.

There is time in between meetings to slowly mould the script in response to what happens in the workshops/rehearsals. 'We were all working towards the same goal. We expected quite a lot from people's involvement - dedication, a lot to learn - the group run like a theatre group working towards a performance.'

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Oct 2013-June 2014 The production of the film involves less group activity. Edward feels a different set of pressures because the work it is going to be presented as an exhibition in the gallery.

Also worked with professional paid actors for the film.

Aug 2014 'The film marked the end of a way of working and the play marked the beginning of another way of working. I'm writing another play at the moment.'

Amy Bentley

Jan 2013 Amy, a performing arts student, responds to an open call after seeing a poster in a window. 'It was something new, quite enticing, it didn't give too much away'. Amy had not been to Chisenhale Gallery before.

Feb-Jul 2013 'Soosan gave us confidence to be comfortable with the sounds we were making and sing together... It really unified us. Our tap dancing teacher was into improvising and we weren't at that stage of confidence to want to do that.'

Oct 2013 Feedback on film script during meeting.

Jan 2014 Rehearsal for film with music.

Mar 2014 Filming. 'It was different from the first stage - with the second part, it was directed on the day by Edward.'

Aug 2014 Kept in touch with Edward and since worked with other artists.

Marijke Steedman & Razia Begum
Create

Oct 2015 Historypin and Create develop a project about the Becontree Estate, once the largest municipal housing estate in the world, built by the London County Council in the interwar period in Essex countryside, now the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Mar 2014 On Marijke's first day at Create she delivers a presentation about the history of murals in London to an interview panel from Creative Barking and Dagenham (CBD). CBD and the Arts Council (via the Barbican) fund the project.

Apr 2014 Publicly owned mural site selected at local museum and archive, Valence House, in a park with fishing and sport enthusiasts, young people and dog walkers.

May 2014 Razia starts to support Marijke on the project with hands on stuff like wall rendering, health and safety etc.

3 Jul 2014 3 artists shortlisted. They make presentations to a selection panel of 15 Dagenham residents. Intense day with interesting conversations. They appoint Chad McCail.

Mid Jul-Mid Aug 2014 Chad chooses to work in Becontree in a studio in Valence House. He immerses himself in local gossip and rumour to shape mural content.

'Knowing what the final outcome of the project was going to be ie. a mural, cleared up so much awkwardness when communicating with people locally because it was obvious what needed to be done; it cleared the decks for talking about ideas, meaning, history, politics, relationships... Processes of making art can be democratising.'

23 Oct 2014 Mural completed two days before launch. Morale is pretty high.

Mid Aug-Oct 2014 Production of the mural. Launch moved from Sept to Oct as more time is needed. Barking and Dagenham Council are very supportive.

25 Oct 2014 Launch of mural. There is talk about making mural tea towels and postcards. The Council will be responsible for future upkeep of the mural. Create hand over conservation instructions.

Chad McCail

May 2014 Gets an email from Marijke inviting him to make a mural.

Always wanted to do a mural and keen to make work in public domain, outside the gallery ('It's a class-ridden set up!': 'I'm a populist, making work for a wider audience.' Orders books about the history of the area.

4 Jul 2014 Presents to selection panel with a proposal to do a timeline along a street.

14 Jul 2014 Moves from Scotland to the area and stays until mural is finished. Spends the whole time meeting with people locally in studio at Valence House. Steve Rolling from Historypin helps set up meetings with local groups.

Begins to pick particular incidents to represent periods on the timeline. Drawing mural in studio while people offer stories about what happened; 'It's very organic, informal, easy and relaxed.'

'I was definitely working to a brief - it was a design job... It was being commissioned by Create, but also the people of Becontree themselves. Onus on me was to listen to what people were saying and respond to what they really wanted.'

Mid Aug 2014 Rough colour guide and a complete drawing scanned into the computer but problems with transferring to larger scale. Council architects department helped out by printing out the whole thing full size.

Mid Aug-Oct 2014 Started painting. 'We were quite desperate because time was short.'

23 Oct 2014 Mural completed two days before launch. Morale is pretty high.

Matt Benjamin & Biniam Ghide

Jun 2014 Matt, a history student and local resident, meets Historypin at an event and is invited by Create to sit on the selection panel for the mural. For his dissertation he wrote about the early history of the Becontree Estate. 'I always thought art was elitist - that people like me couldn't engage with it.'

Mid Jul-Mid Aug 2014 Matt helps Chad use the archive and map history of Becontree.

Mid Aug 2014 Biniam is introduced to Chad and the project through Creative Barking and Dagenham as part of their Cultural Connectors. Biniam is an experienced painter from Eritrea living in the area. He was paid as a professional artist to help make the mural. Matt and other volunteers from Valence House, including an 83 year old woman, come down every day and give up their time, braving all weather conditions. 'We managed to power through.'

25 Oct 2014 'Incredible to see it in its full glory.'

This Used to be Fields

Werker 10 - Community Darkroom

Louise Shelley
The Showroom

2009 The Showroom moves to Edgware Road and their Communal Knowledge programme is developed with a focus on their neighbourhood.

Discussions evolve about domestic space as site for political questions such as personal struggles around the cuts, overcrowded homes, childcare issues.

2012 Tate Modern's Adult Learning department work with Unite and Justice for Domestic Workers (J4DW) on United Migrant Workers Education Project. Nora Razian (Tate Modern) introduces Louise Shelley to J4DW who then get involved with a project with artist Andrea Francke around issues of childcare and invisibility in summer 2012.

12 Sep-27 Oct 2012 Grand Domestic Revolution Goes On (GDR) project with CASCO Office for Art, Design and Theory in Utrecht, the Netherlands comes to The Showroom.

28 Oct 2012 ASK!, a group of cultural workers allied with domestic workers in the Netherlands (which Werker Magazine are a part of), are invited by The Showroom to do a reverse graffiti action with J4DW as part of their campaign to restore visas for domestic workers.

24 Feb 2013 Werker do a Bilderkritik workshop with J4DW at The Showroom collectively analyse photographs.

21 Apr 2013 Work Like This: A public discussion around precarious labour, visibility and domestic work off-site at Tate Modern. J4DW and Werker both contribute to the event.

12 Jul-17 Aug 2013 Communal Knowledge's summer exhibition Ricardo Basbaum re-projecting (London) part of which J4DW do a public event on 28 July 2013.

2 Oct-30 Nov 2013 Artist Ciara Philips works with J4DW at The Showroom.

Jan-Jun 2014 Using funding from Mondrian, Paul Hamlyn and Esmée Fairbairn Foundations Werker and J4DW do 4 workshops together and make 2 visits to May Day Rooms to visit the Wages for Housework archive and do a workshop in Stockholm.

9 Jul-16 Aug 2014 Werker and J4DW use the gallery for 6 weeks for public presentation and production of campaign materials, including 9 new posters.

21 Jul 2014 Is This Working? Public discussion event with Werker and J4DW.

Aug 2014 Louise joins Development Group for J4DW. 'We learn so much from collaborating with J4DW, it exposes blind spots we haven't quite acknowledged in our thinking.'

Marissa Begonia
Justice for Domestic Workers (J4DW)

2009 J4DW established as a self-help grass-roots organisation made up of multi-national migrant Domestic Workers in the UK. 'Collective work with artists has helped us to grow - to discover and explore.' Funding is a big problem - 'we do feel that whoever we work with it is never acknowledged and that we need some money to run things.'

Oct 2013 J4DW present at the City of Women festival in Slovenia, part of the ongoing GDR project between The Showroom and CASCO.

Jan-Jun 2014 40-60 members of J4DW attend the workshops. They take photographs of themselves at work for the Living Archive. 'We don't look at the things around the house, for us it's just part of our work, daily living. We also need to value that, for others to value us... It should begin within us.'

'We only have Sundays off work when we have language or IT classes, arts and other training courses, plus we have to campaign and run the organisation.'

'Whoever we work with, they have to have the patience to understand the vulnerability of the domestic worker. Werker - they totally understand the domestic worker - the respect is there, the appreciation is there.'

The visits to the Wages for Housework archives 'was for us to learn what was the campaign before; the situation before and now'.

16 Jun 2014 Rally outside Houses of Parliament to restore domestic workers' rights using the banner from the Ciara Phillips workshops and the Werker Living Archive.

2014 Exhibit in Tate Modern as part of Home Workers. J4DW now have regular Sunday meetings at the May Day Rooms and are registered as an education provider.

2015 Banners from The Showroom included in protest. 'It's like an endlessly flowing river.'

Marc Roig Blesa & Rogier Delfos
Werker Magazine

2011 Werker Magazine Issue 3 started, using amateur photography to document work at home to bring to attention and question the invisibility of domestic space. Developed Bilderkritik (image critique) workshops to analyse the images with groups.

2012 Werker is part of the GDR both through developing Werker Magazine Issue 5 and ASK! Through that group they started to collaborate with domestic workers and the union of cleaners in Amsterdam. 'We were already dealing with these issues... it became natural to continue together and learn from each other.'

24 Feb 2013 Bilderkritik workshop.

Jan-Jun 2014 J4DW realised a need to archive their campaign activities. The Living Archive is a tool for workers to develop new forms of activist photography. 'It became an honest collaboration... We were reading together complex theoretical texts... Everything was an opportunity for learning.'

'I have my doubts on the category of "social art" - As an artist I work with other workers. We are building networks of solidarity and we are sharing ideas and self-organising.'

Mar 2015 Format Photo Festival in Derby (J4DW are also involved).

Jul 2015 Exhibition in Madrid at Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo using similar methodologies.

2016 Third issue of Photography / Politics series will be published with The Showroom and J4DW.

'The work that we've done already will always be taken to the next point. We don't consider we are making an artwork that is closed and finished.'

