AiR 2019
artist in residence

Creative Communities: Artist In Residence Programme

This is a new citywide project for Glasgow, funded by Glasgow City Council and managed by Glasgow Life, commissioning 23 artists and placing them in the 23 wards of Scotland’s largest city.

Street level Photoworks were delighted to involved in Phase 1 of this project. We aim to share local stories, celebrate place and support peoples creative expression through photography in it’s broadest sense.

We collaborated with Ilisa Stack, who spent 3 months working across the ward connecting with different people to co-design the second phase of the residency activity.

Traces : A Portrait of a Community

Starting with a mapping exercise, Ilisa Stack began making links with existing groups in Shettleston, and engaging the community with a range of activity: creative photography workshops with young people through schools and youth groups, and pop-ups at a local Tesco and Shettleston Library, where passers-by could compare photos of Shettleston past and present, pose for free portraits and make badges. These were all ways of drawing people into conversations about what they feel their community needs. Presented here is an over view of some of that activity.
Mount Vernon
Primary school
Art - what is it good for?

“Recent studies have shown that mental health amongst young people is on the increase and cases in primary aged children are becoming increasingly common. We believe the Arts can provide children with a vital creative outlet to express and make sense of their emotions, in particular when they might not always have the words to describe what they’re feeling. The creative process can help children work through their problems and find ways of coping. For many children the arts can also be an area where they thrive, offering a sense of progression, achievement and pride in a world that is often very focused on Literacy and Numeracy.”

Depute Head, Mount Vernon Primary

I took this pic of Taylor because I think it is very unique and her hair makes a pop! The orange and the rose really matches together and that’s why I chose Taylor 💞
Now that we have discussed composition, let’s see what you can come up with!
Take the things that we have spoke about today and create your own picture by drawing a scene within the grid below using a technique that we have discussed.
Bring this back next week (Friday 17th) and share your creative creation with us.
I chose this picture because I like the background. I used full frame. I also like this picture as it's not blurry at all. The background is.

I like this picture because it try to make a remake of the guy on the horse and I have a cone in his head. He is outside of a museum of modern art. This is a portrait of Quincy.
“The workshops led by Ilisa Stark have been a great success. Pupils from our P6/5 class have had a flavour of photography; exploring composition, rules of thirds and the use of light and shade. The workshops were well pitched and really allowed the pupils to explore and experiment; a perfect combination for building intrigue and inspiring young minds.”
I liked putting the object in the rule of thirds and showing the background.
"I loved working at the school. The children really absorbed information and enjoyed creating images, expressing their concepts in such creative ways with the camera."

Ilisa Stack
Community Pop Up’s

Tesco Shettleston: the stores community champion, Luzier Jeffry supported Iliasa Stack & Rachel Mimiec in delivering a POP UP photo event in the store. The POP UP involved Past and Present photo displays, questionnaires, photo-card giveaways and a photo studio spot offering free portraits. People were consulted in relation to:

“What does your community need? How could an artist residency contribute?

For many of the people that spoke to us time was an issue in relation to participating in arts/ cultural activities. A combination of work, family and caring roles meant time was limited. This reflects the reality for many people of over working due to low pay and not having time or energy to take part in community events. People mentioned zero hour contracts and weekly changing shift patterns made committing to regular arts activity hard for many people.

Everyone we spoke to had an interest in local heritage and we discovered many photo enthusiasts!
There were a lot of discussions around the changes in the local area and the need to make sure that young people are aware of the local heritage and that the current process of change is documented and recorded in some way. People thought an artist residency would be ideal way of approaching this.

People were concerned about local play spaces for children and how to gain back pride in the area. They wanted to see cleaner streets, improved parks for families and children.

Combating loneliness in the elderly was also identified as something an artist residency could positively contribute to.
Shettleston Library

Shettleston Library: is a real community hub within the area, nestled between Shettleston and Tollcross. We ran our second POP UP event here and a big thank you to the library staff for their support.

And thanks to everyone that came along, bought in some fantastic old photos and shared stories with us.
Bernard O’hara was born in Shettleston in 1933 and started work as a young man in the co-op, which is where he met his wife-to-be Betty. Bernard got his driving licence and started driving the milk lorry, then later the bread lorrys before finally settling with a security company until he retired.

“We try to get out as much as we can but we get a bit lazy because once we got a car we didn’t do much walking! We used to have a wee mini and 50p of petrol would take us to Helensburgh.”
Bernard O’Hara

“Life passes by so quickly, you are there and then you are here sort of thing, it has all changed.” Betty O’hara

Betty O’hara started working in the co-op in Shettleston when she was 15. She worked until she married Bernard and then left to start her family. After the birth of her daughter she returned to work in 1973 to work in schools as an auxiliary until she retired in 1997.
McVities Biscuit Factory

The factory is located in Tollcross and is one of the biggest employers in the east end of Glasgow.

The site was formerly the Victoria Biscuit works and taken over by McVitie & Price.

McVitie’s is owned by United Biscuits and is the most successful biscuit manufacturor in the UK.

They produce chocolate digestives, Hobnobs and Rich Tea (ranked the three favourite biscuits to dunk into tea), and Jaffa Cakes (the best selling cake in the UK).
This group of ex workers from the Tollcross based biscuit factory formed in 1982 and have been meeting regularly each week for their tea and coffee mornings as well as to play a few games of bingo with each other ever since.

The factory has played a huge part in Glasgow’s social history and provided employment for hundreds of workers over the decades. The group’s numbers have sadly dwindled and on the 29th of May 2019 the ladies of the United Biscuit club meet for the final time.

The ladies have seen the McVities biscuit factory change hands in their work history. From McFarlane Lang in 1925, to United biscuits in 1948, the ladies still prefer to use the brand household name of McVities for the factory.
“I know that I like leading lines and now when I see them I take photos of them. I actually know words about photography now other than, I took this. I really want a career in it.” Cody Reilley.

“My favourite part of photography was learning how angles and lighting can add significance to a picture.” Catlin Henderson.
“I enjoyed doing something that was not only fun and creative but I have never actually experienced before; because it got me to think which one is the most colourful, most expressive, you know like most vibrant, what contrasts, what’s brighter or darker.” Arron
Carmyle Youth Group
Ladies
Gents
Childrens
Haberdashery
Ilisa Stack - Lead Artist
Iseult Timmermans - SLP Collaborations Co-ordinator
Rachel Mimiec - project support

Workshop assistants:
Angela Allison, Emma Newcombe & Cara Dickson

Thanks to the project staff at Glasgow Life and everyone that got involved.

Street Level are committed to using photography as a tool for social engagement, personal empowerment and celebration of place. Through a varied programme of creative learning and sharing opportunities we enable people to explore local heritage, celebrate individuality and connect to shared concerns.