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## In/Visible

In/Visible is an art exhibition organised by a group of Leeds-based artists from the Collective art space in Armley. Established by The Highrise Project in October 2021, as part of Leeds 2023's My World, My City, My Neighbourhood programme, the Collective art space aims to provide local people with opportunities to develop their skills in creating and exhibiting art.

The exhibition features a diverse group of creatives, each offering a unique perspective on the world around us. Although the artists have been creating artwork for extended periods of time behind closed doors, for some, this exhibition is their first public display. Rather than presenting a cohesive theme, the exhibition serves as a platform for the artists to share their stories of artistic development.

The artists draw their inspiration from personal and universal themes, including climate change, faith, heritage, motherhood, and mental health. The exhibition encompasses a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, textiles, video, animation and performance, embracing traditional techniques alongside digital tools.

Through this exhibition, we acknowledge the dedication and talent of all the artists we have worked with over the last four years, celebrating their creativity and their role in building a more inclusive arts community in Leeds.

With heartfelt thanks to the In/Visible artists: Gareth Savage Art, M Best, John O'Connor, Guillermo Davis, Nicola Garvey, Faiza Ghanay, Joanna Jowett, Diane Ketteringham, Chris, Geraldine Montgomerie, Frances-Ann Norton, Lydia Rain, Symon Ramsey, Nelson Rodriguez, Dawn, Andy Young, Jo & Co, and Frank Ziko.

Thank you also to John O'Connor for the cover and exhibition leaflet design, Eva for her amazing work in producing the social media posts and artist videos, Archive for the kind use of their venue, Armley Community Hub and Library for providing a warm space for us to work from, and lastly, Leeds Inspired, Leeds Community Foundation and 100% Digital Leeds, without whose support and funding this project would not have been possible









Gareth Savage, under the alias Sareth Gavage, creates bold, intricate semi-realistic worlds focusing on patterns, shapes and details. Exploring Psychedelic worlds and landscapes through innovative colours and flows taking you on a unique and explorative journey. With each repeated viewing, previously unseen elements are revealed.

Sareth's goal is to capture beauty and push the boundaries of colour and form. The delicate lines are created in a meditative flow state and often seek to create this experience for his audience. Occasionally, his works can also be more brash and daring, highlighting the darker side of inner and outer worlds.

### **Sareth Gavage Art**

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Jo & Co studied at Leeds College of Art in 1995 and graduated with a BA (Hons) Fine Art from the University of Central Lancashire in 2000. They were diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder in 2017.

**Jo & Co**

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[@jo\\_and\\_co](#)

Their multifaceted and multidisciplinary approach has seen them accumulate a varied skill set, including but not limited to, sewing, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, and painting. Most of their personalities enjoy being creative, and a selection of them are represented in the exhibition.

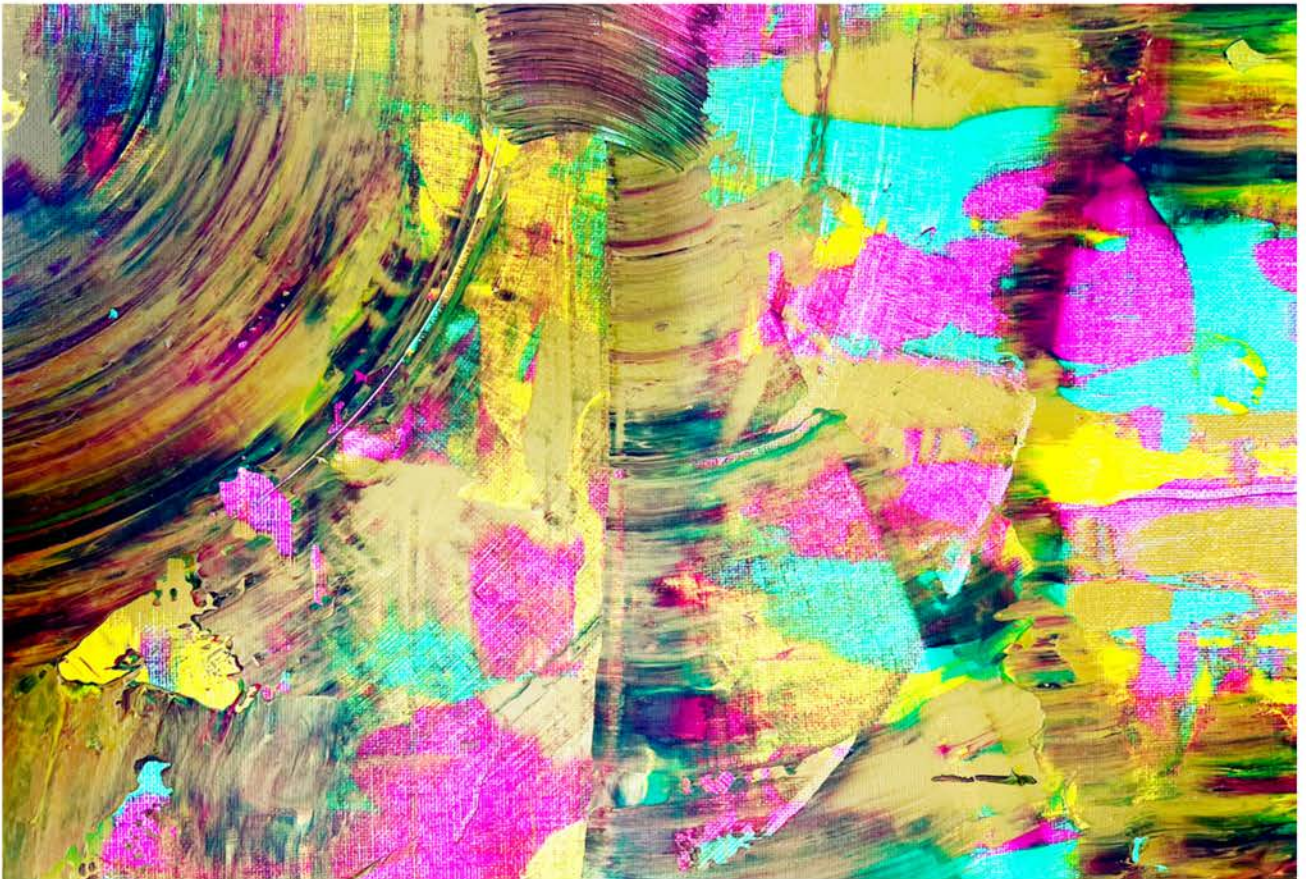
Influences include the Young British Artists, Feminism, and Outsider Art. Early experiences of the collections in Leeds' galleries and libraries have left a lasting impression and love of form and materials. They now find themselves sitting in the liminal space between art and craft. While they are keen to give room to all their personalities to express themselves, their traumatic personal experiences are not the focus in a public forum.

They have a playful approach and when the younger personalities are not playing with 'stuff', they enjoy researching family history, music of most genres, and looking on the bright side of life. They live in Leeds, with a rescue house cat called Pickles, who thinks she's half-human, half parrot.













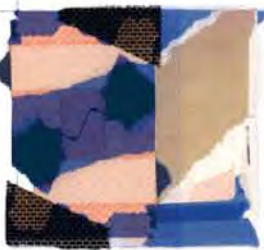
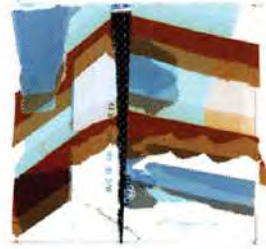
M Best, a new artist, finds purpose and artistic inspiration in supporting his friend and fellow artist, Symon. With a keen interest in popular culture and a preference for traditional art, M Best creates to both contribute to Symon's artistic endeavours and nurture his own mental wellbeing.

## **M Best**

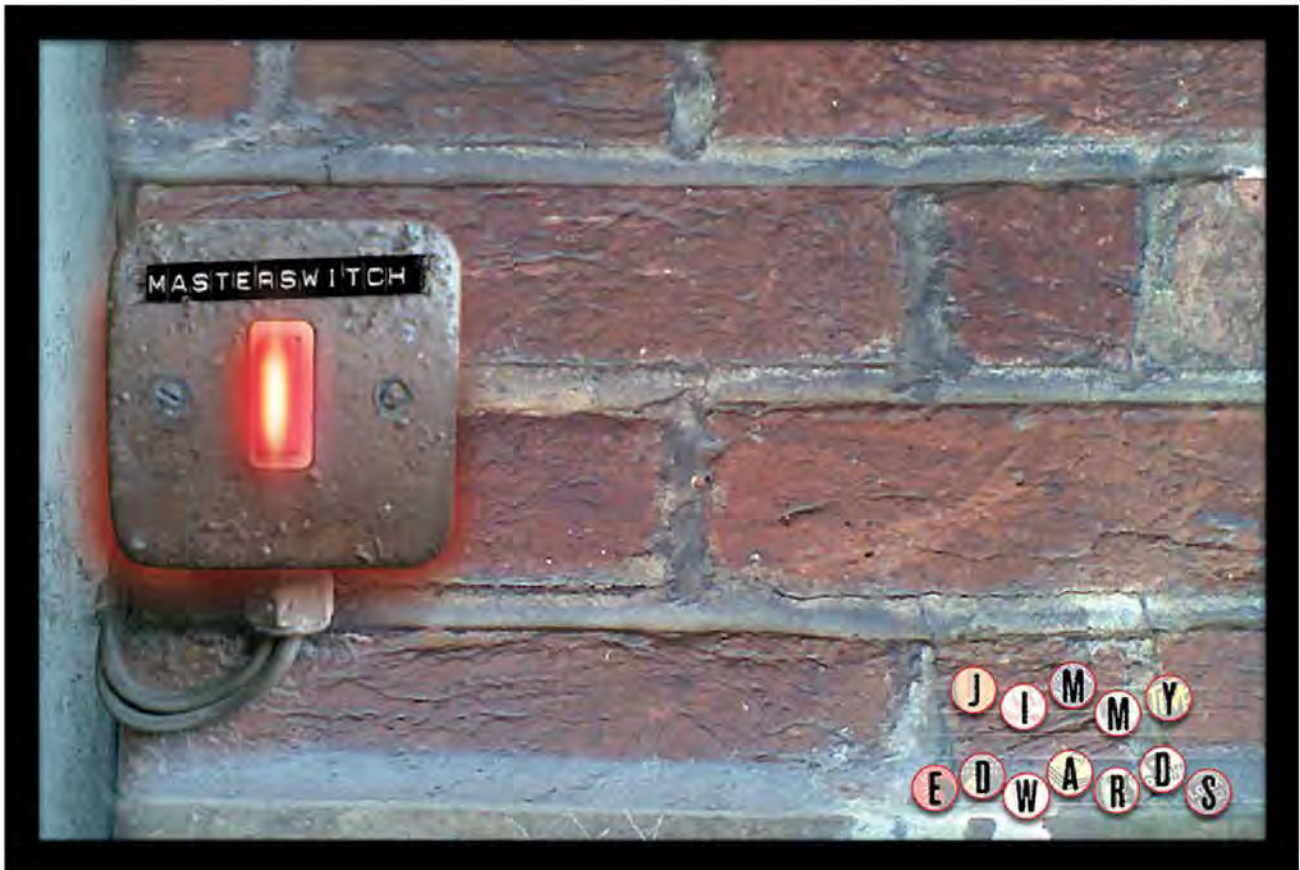
Drawing upon images from the past and embracing traditional art forms, M Best weaves intricate compositions that evoke a sense of nostalgia and contemporary relevance.

Michael, alongside other artists, Symon, Chris, and Andy belong to an Art group that meets regularly at Armley Community Hub. This peer-led group supports men's mental health through the creation of art.









For the past two years, John has attempted to revive his self-employed role as a graphic artist, working primarily with paint, drawing and collage. However, he has struggled to convert support of his artwork into a viable business.

In 2021, his father passed away, having suffered from the Alzheimer's form of dementia. John had been his father's primary carer for a number of years. In 2018, as a respite from his caring role, he created at least one drawing outdoors every day for 365 days, in Leeds city centre. He attracted significant interest and enthusiasm from passers-by, which was both rewarding and encouraging. Drawing in a public space breaks down barriers; there is a natural curiosity as people witness the creative process unfold. What began as a form of creative therapy turned into a project that connected with the city's diverse community.

John has a life-long love of making art. His artwork has featured in a small number of local publications and exhibitions. In/visible features a series of collages he created during lockdown, taking inspiration from the multi-storey tower blocks of LS9, where he lives.

**John O'Connor**

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Guillermo Davis is an animator. He was born in Guantanamo, Cuba, but has been based in Armley, West Leeds since 2012, and has a small studio there. He uses a variety of animation techniques and he also loves photography and drawing. He has an Animation BA (Hons) from The Northern Film School, Leeds Beckett University.

**Guillermo Davis**  
[elijawo@hotmail.com](mailto:elijawo@hotmail.com)

He often works with Leeds musician, Sue Miller. They both love Cuban music. Her band's music features in Guillermo's animation, 'Charanga Time'. Last summer he was also an animator working with other artists on a Leeds 2023 community project for My World, My City, My Neighbourhood. The animations 'Things I know to be true 1' and 'Armley Allotment Life' were part of that project.

Before he began animating, he worked as a dancer and choreographer for many years, on the stage and in Carnival. This previous work is explored in the animation, 'No no no, I am looking back'.













Nicola Garvey graduated from Leeds Arts University with a first-class BA (hons) degree in Fine Art, during the summer of 2021.

Her sculptural practice explores and promotes beauty in the unlikely and is influenced by the dichotomy between comfort and restriction, childhood memories, the everyday, and exposing misappropriation of power.

'Untitled 2022', a dolls house, standing at 227cm tall and deliberately beyond reach, was selected for the Sunnybank, Farsley's 'Ones to Watch' in 2022.

Her work is often a metaphor for so many interpretations. Garvey is mindful not to impose her own explanations, preferring instead that the viewer is involved in forming their own understanding.

Her work is sincere without being overcomplicated; it is genuine; gritty; and relatable; it is humble yet powerful and is an expansion of previous works made throughout her studies where her sculptures emerged as anthropomorphic 'beings' suggestive of a distorted reality.

Material interests incorporate found or acquired objects that have a previous history and speak of a previous life, whilst considering economic and environmental concerns.

Her work is influenced by Louise Bourgeois, Mona Hatoum, Laure Prouvost, and Phyllida Barlow, for their expression, choice of materials and scale of structure, she is also lured by the 'unreal' found in 1970's children's TV programs and Edward Lear's poetry of fantastical ballads, for its magical quality and offer of escapism.

She is currently exploring and developing traditional skills by combining weaving with ceramics, into expressive contemporary art, which alludes to climate and political concerns.



**Nicola Garvey**

**[@garvey\\_66](#)**









Faiza Ghanay is a Leeds-based artist and whose work reflects her personal history and Libyan heritage. Through simple abstract paintings and drawings, she uses colour to convey themes of peace, humanity, love, and unity.

Her work explores her own lived experiences and emotions. Faiza has exhibited her work in Benghazi, Libya and took part in the Harehills Culture Exhibition as part of Leeds 2023.

**Faiza Ghanay**  
**Faiza Ghanay Art**  
**@faizaghanay**









As a writer and artist, Joanna's work explores the detail of personal and local experiences and aims to question the power dynamics between the written and the visual, the published / unpublished, heard / unheard, and the edges of what is public / private.

Through prints, photography and writing, she is currently exploring the extremes of both joy and grief experienced as a mother in her artwork.

These new cyanotype prints and photographs explore the soft and vulnerable parts of being human. She enjoys bringing both her creative writing and photography together through sun printing - using the cyanotype process, as well as digitally manipulating her one off prints to give works and images a further lease of life.

Printing in this way is immediate and reflects the seasons, the ephemerality of emotional states and the rich and wonderful history of cyanotype. By printing natural found materials alongside photographs of the moments and details she notices in family life, she feels as if she is putting her whole self on the page.



**Joanna Jowett**  
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You are Welcome!!!

Diane Ketteringham is an interactive installation artist, exploring cultural and emotional landscapes. In many of her installations she is one of the interactive parts, inviting you to delve into different aspects of your history or yourself. In this show she is launching her new installation - 'You are Welcome!!!' linked to her Facebook page.

Sit down with her for a while and explore. Or take up the invitation to post on the You are Welcome!!! page above. And find out more about her work on her website.

**Diane Ketteringham**

[www.dianeketteringham.art](http://www.dianeketteringham.art)

[@youarewelcomeweareone](https://www.facebook.com/youarewelcomeweareone)





## Chris

In Chris's artistic journey, drawing landscapes becomes a peaceful and calming escape from negative thoughts. It brings him comfort and helps him focus on positive aspects. But Chris's art goes beyond peaceful scenes.

His artworks tackle themes that highlight issues affecting men's mental health. Through his drawings, he addresses the pressures men face, especially in complex personal situations, such as the challenges some fathers face in maintaining healthy relationships with their children after difficult separations.

Chris's drawings bring attention to the difficulties faced within these societal structures, which can make an already tough situation even harder. Through his art, he aims to start conversations about these systems and questions whether they truly protect everyone's well-being.

By exploring these subjects, Chris intends to raise awareness, and to promote a better understanding of the unique struggles men go through. His art serves as a catalyst for positive change and contributes to the healing process.







Geraldine aims to draw every day. Sometimes she sews instead. She draws the people and things around her, takes inspiration from other artists, and from photographs. Podcasts also fuel her curiosity. Sometimes she draws on bus tickets, envelopes, whatever is around her, but she usually draws on paper and card where she can.

A few years ago she went to a podcast festival called 'Content is Queen' and met part of the team behind the Dead Ladies Show Podcast... She began to listen regularly and was puzzling on inspiration for drawing something bigger than her portable sketchbooks allow... when she came across an episode about Angela Carter.

Geraldine had read her books and short stories but realised she didn't really know anything about Angela. As she listened and read and looked at pictures she felt she would like to draw her. Angela has her own story and Geraldine recommends you find out more yourself! Scan the QR code to listen.

Although black and white portraits of the people that interest her has been something she has been consistently making for about 10 years, she is becoming more and more fascinated by patterns. Perhaps you can see this in her sketchbook drawings.

**Geraldine  
Montgomerie**  
Twitter: ArtHealthWY



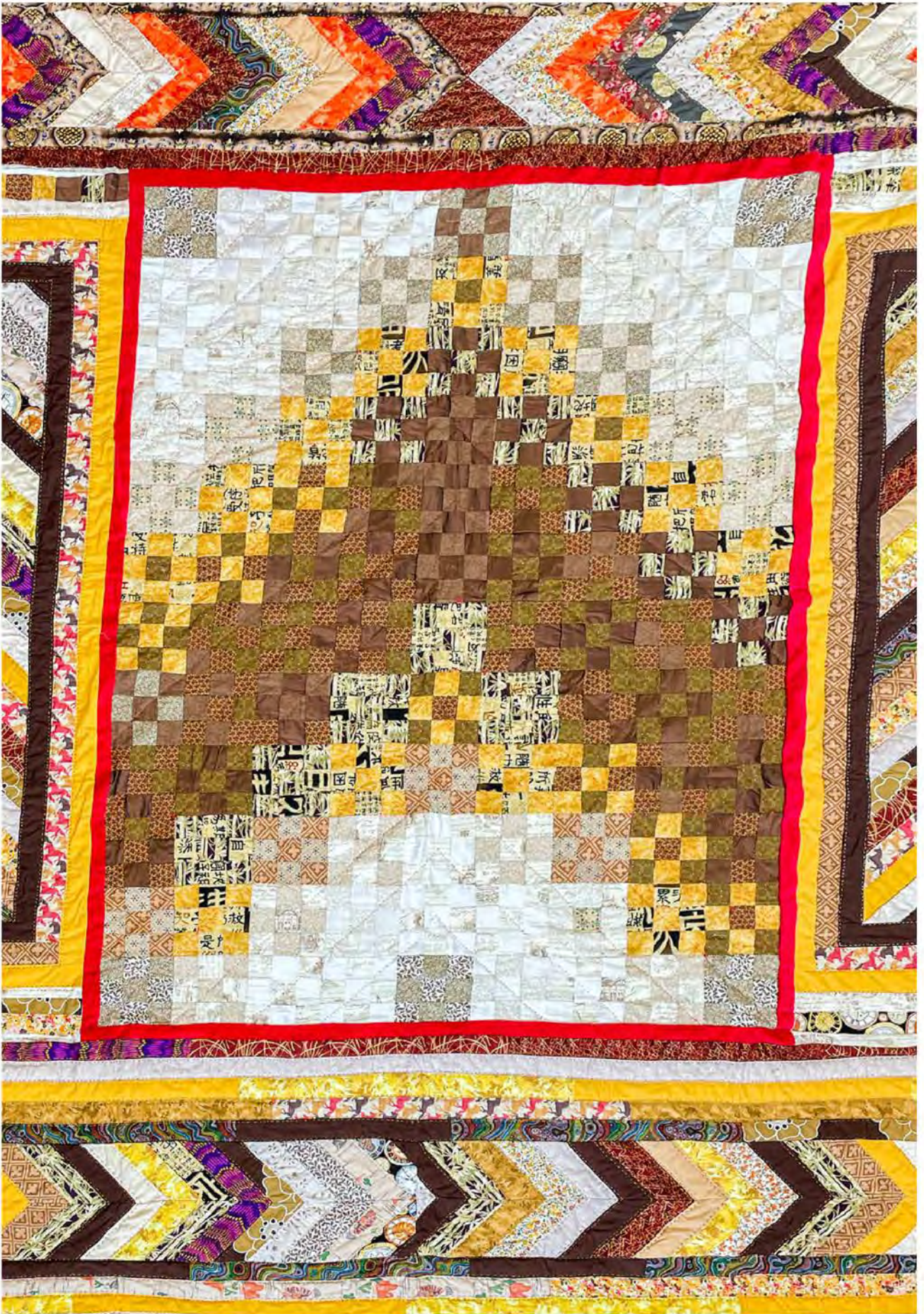
Listen Here















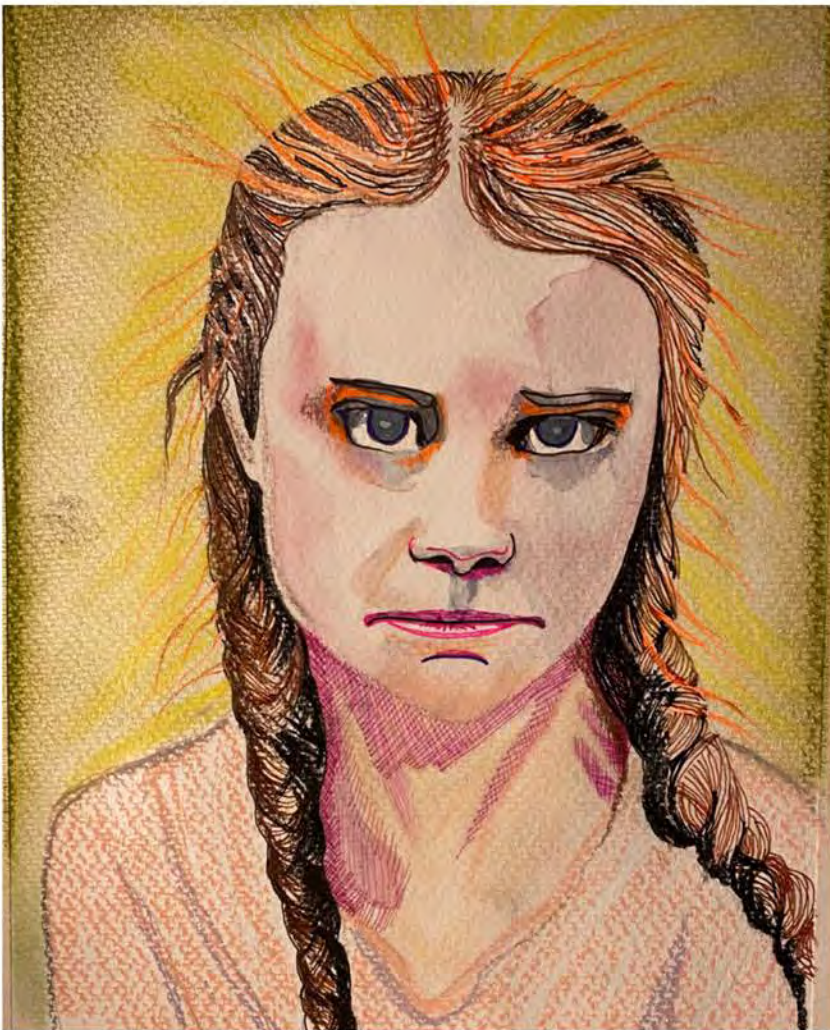
Frances-Ann Norton has been a contemporary artist and educator for thirty years. She works in a range of mediums, including textiles, ceramics and painting. She trained at Leeds, Stoke on Trent and Cardiff. She made her first quilt at the age of 14 after having watched *Little House on the Prairie* and *the Railway Children* and imagining she was a Victorian child! Laura Ashley was big in the 1980s and was another influence, along with searching the fabric shops in Kirkgate Market.

In her 20s, she lived in North Carolina working for a potter and they often went to craft shows selling pots. At the shows there were also lots of beautiful quilts. She read as many books as she could on how to make quilts, such as *5,500 Quilt blocks patterns* by Maggie Malone and *The Essential Sampler Quilt Book* by Lynne Edwards.

Her latest quilt is comprised of chevron patterns in brown and cream. Frances-Ann designed the pattern with her mother, but unfortunately she passed away before they began to sew the quilt. She put the work away for a few years but when her brother got married during lockdown, she repurposed it as a Wedding Quilt to commemorate and celebrate their marriage. In this way, the quilt represents a form of resurrection and transformation where her mother and her work lives on.

**Frances-Ann Norton**  
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As a neurodivergent visual artist in Leeds, Lydia's art is a way to express and communicate her unique perspective of the world around her. She often finds herself drawn to the peacefulness of solitude and the beauty found in natural landscapes, embracing darkness and light, and this is reflected in her art.

She began painting in 2021. Her work is highly intuitive and spontaneous, with an emphasis on mood, texture and colour. She enjoys experimenting with different media, from paint to collage to digital, allowing the dynamics of the materials to guide her in the creative process.

In her landscape art, she aims to capture the essence and mood of the natural world, a memory or impression rather than a realistic representation. She is fascinated by the patterns, shapes, and colours found in nature, and often incorporates these elements into her work. In addition to creating art, she is passionate about using her artistic skills to promote inclusivity and acceptance. She believes that art can serve as a powerful tool to bridge the gap between different ways of thinking and understanding the world.

**Lydia Rain**

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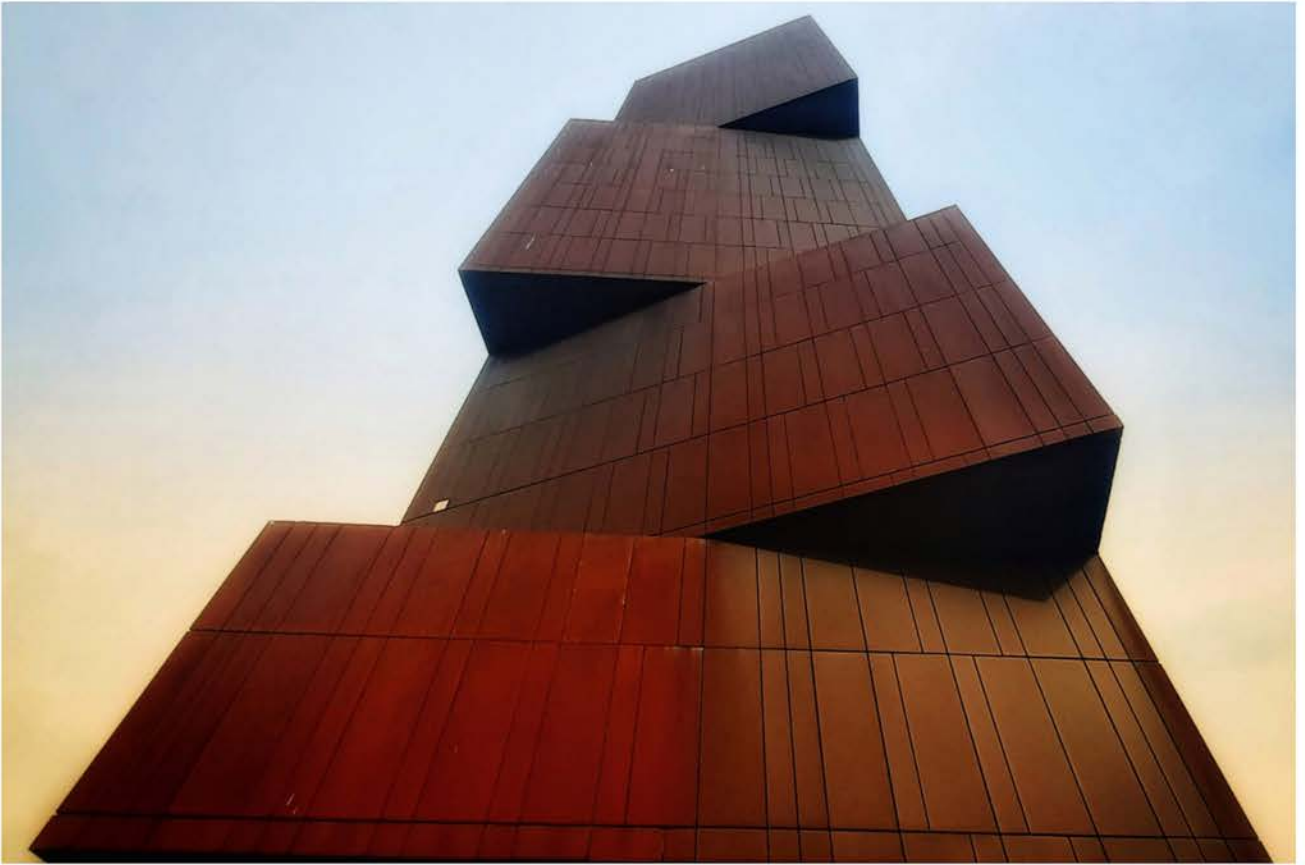
Symon Ramsay uses digital art as a medium to convey emotions and thoughts that are difficult to express in other ways. His work is a response to a life-changing accident he experienced in 1978 and explores the repercussions of this event on his mental health.

Working in technology is a new experience for him, especially as an older artist. Being neurodivergent, Harvey uses art as a tool for communication, as opposed to the written word. The significance of his work lies in its ability to provide release for his inner thoughts and to soothe his thought patterns. He also finds inspiration in his relationship with his granddaughter and the skills they develop while creating art together.

**Symon Ramsay**  
[@harvey6feet6ins](https://www.instagram.com/harvey6feet6ins)











Nelson Rodriguez, a self-taught photographer and filmmaker from El Salvador, has spent the last five years living in the United Kingdom, honing his craft and capturing the essence of everyday life through his photography and filmmaking.

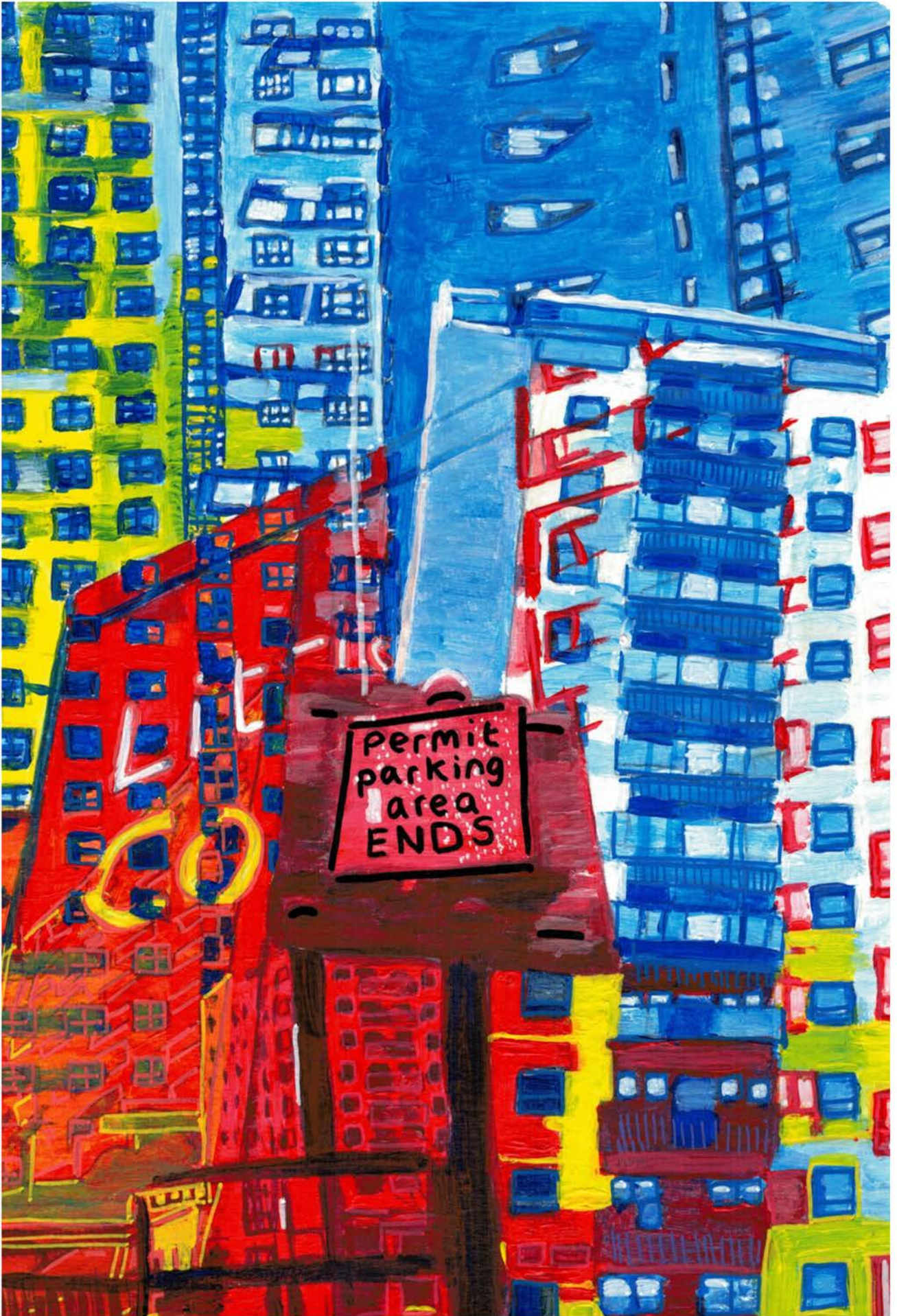
Influenced by the works of Julio López Fdz, a renowned photographer and filmmaker from his homeland, Nelson's work revolves around street photography, portraits, and architecture. His chosen mediums aim to communicate the stories and emotions that permeate the spaces we inhabit.

Nelson has collaborated with Leeds City College and local charities, utilising his filmmaking skills to shed light on social issues. Notably, he has produced films for Refugee Week in 2022 and 2023, providing a platform for the often-overlooked narratives of those who have undertaken extraordinary journeys in search of hope and belonging.

It was in workshops with The Highrise project, where Nelson began the adventure of photography in the United Kingdom. In addition, he belongs to the ESOL Photography Club at Enfield Centre led by Jennie Cole, English teacher and administrator of the club's website. He considers her one of the key people in his career as a photographer and filmmaker in recent years.

**Nelson Rodriguez**  
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Dawn Smallwood has been practicing art for most of her life, but it was the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 that reignited her passion. Determined to become the best artist she can be, she uses her art to convey messages and emotions about the world she lives in, always seeking the positive in the negative and vice versa. Working in primarily acrylic and gouache alongside explorations in multimedia, photography and collage.

Dawn's artistic journey is driven by a desire to become a full-time artist, and is currently planning her next self-published art zine. She aspires to share her work with a wider audience and continue growing as an artist.

## **DAWN SMALLWOOD**

**[Dawn S Art](#)**

**[@artwithdawns](#)**





Andy Young's artistic journey embodies resilience and self-discovery. From his beginnings in Mechanical Engineering to navigating mental health challenges, Andy's exploration of various fields along with support from organisations such as Leeds Mind, have shaped his artistic path. He works with charcoal and pencils, exploring art as an organic process.

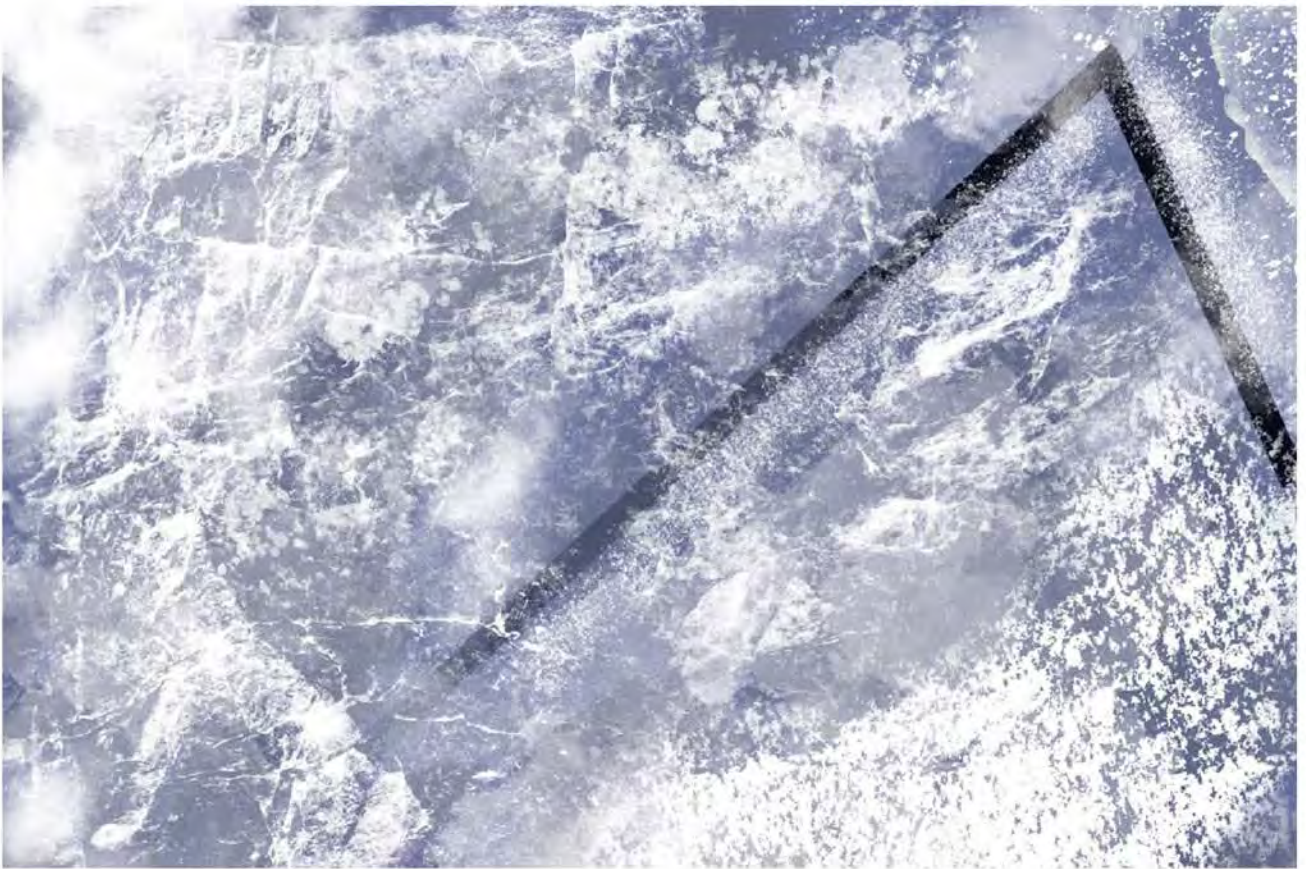
## **Andy Young**

Through the Highrise Project, his abstract artwork, with vibrant colours, textures, and unconventional forms, captivates viewers and invites contemplation. Despite limited formal training, Andy's work reflects his personal growth as an artist. Andy is now looking to begin working in oil and acrylic to explore texture and colour.

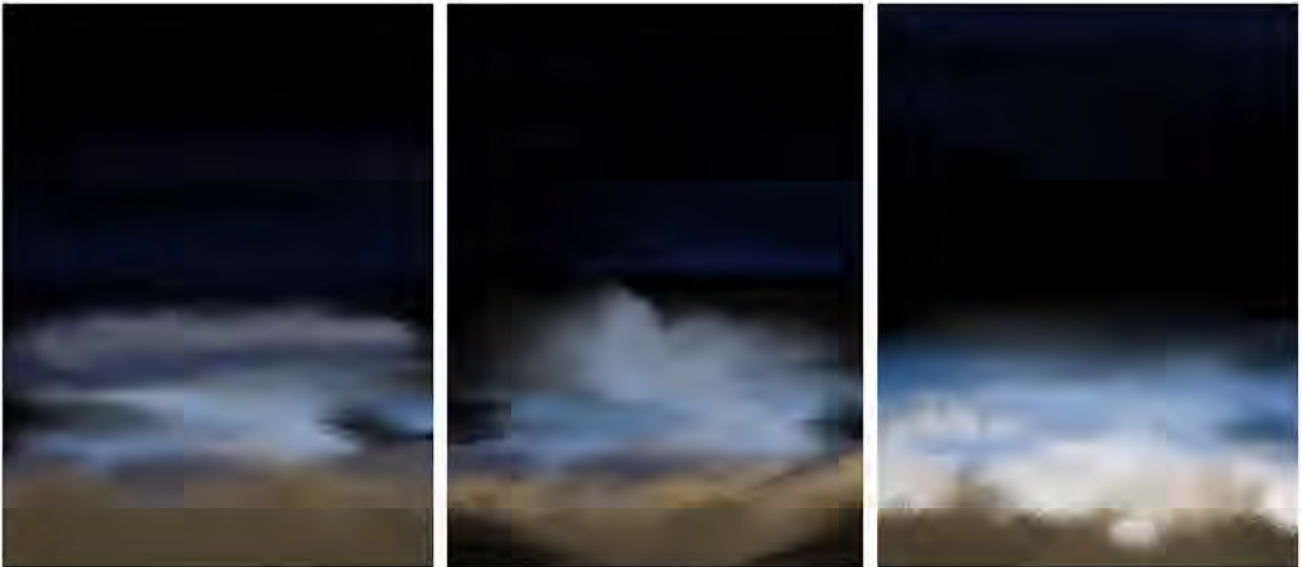












Frank Ziko is a concert pianist and music educator based in Leeds, UK. He has a great interest in the relationship between visual arts and music. The connection through the principles of structure, space, rhythm / movement, colour / sound, awareness and alertness, can be applied through both art forms, as they have historically existed in correlation with one another. Frank enjoys working with traditional painting techniques but also uses digital tools to create his artwork, following the example of musical instruments, their evolution, and the possibilities with every new technological development.

Improvisation is the key ingredient of the first artwork. One can sit at the piano and without any pre-conceived ideas play a note or a chord, and let the music itself dictate what will happen next. This image is based on the same practice, letting the hand and the imagination do the work, and merely observing how everything unfolds.

The inspiration for the second artwork has been a musical piece by the composer Franz Liszt titled "Chasse-Neige" (a favourite concert performance piece of Frank). The image of tall mountains is minimalistic and the overall atmosphere is captured through abstract textures and colours.

In the triptych, the beach at night and the eerie silence evoke a sense of awe. The occasional waves interrupt the calmness, forcing us to listen and appreciate every little detail of the sound, as well as to realise the incredible power of silence.

**Frank Ziko**

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