

CATALYST AT SCHOOL

Catalyst Arts Outreach Programme

July 2019–March 2020

CATALYST AT SCHOOL

Creative Kidz
Belfast Metropolitan College
Fane Street Primary School

St. Clare's Primary School
St Mary's Primary School
Storehouse

Paddy Bloomer
Eleni Kolliopoulou
Jonny McEwen

Clare McQuillan
Robin Price



CATALYST AT SCHOOL 2019/20

As part of Catalyst Arts' Outreach Programme 2019/20, *Catalyst at School* invited six community and school groups from Belfast to take part in a series of creative workshops. Each workshop was based around one of Catalyst Arts' major gallery exhibitions and aimed to provide access to contemporary art in exciting and engaging ways.

We were delighted to work with groups from Storehouse, Creative Kidz, St Mary's Primary School, Belfast Metropolitan College, Fane Street Primary School and St. Clare's Primary School. Throughout the programme, the different groups were encouraged to engage directly with the gallery as a place of experimentation and learning, and find new ways of expressing themselves through creativity.

Catalyst Arts worked alongside professional artists and youth educator Hannah Walsh to facilitate these workshops. Hannah Walsh is a Belfast-based visual artist and passionate teacher. She has worked with numerous community groups and schools, using art as a medium for conversation and change. The selected artists included Jonny McEwen, Eleni Kolliopoulou, Robin Price, Paddy Bloomer and Clare McQuillan. Each artist delivered a workshop based around their own practice, introducing the groups to a wide range of disciplines including: drawing, performance art, photography, sculpture and foraging. The participants were given the opportunity to experiment with new materials and technologies to produce experimental works of art in response to the exhibitions. Together we made drawings with light, performance art from recycled clothes, generated electricity from potatoes, drew using sound and ate edible plants in the local park.

We would like to thank all of those involved in making *Catalyst at School* a success. Without their dedication, engagement, and creativity this project would not have been possible.

This project was kindly supported by ACNI and Halifax Foundation.

SELECTED FEEDBACK

During the Catalyst Arts' Outreach Programme 2019/20, I had the privilege of welcoming many new faces into Catalyst Arts. Most of the participants in the Outreach Programme had never had the opportunity to visit a contemporary art gallery before. Many special memories were formed here - through viewing and engaging with innovative artworks during the workshops, individuals were liberated to explore the exhibitions in the intimate space of Catalyst, and to respond openly, creatively and confidently. It was a joy to connect people from all backgrounds, as well as the visual arts, and to inspire them in their own artistic pursuits.
- Hannah Walsh, *Youth Educator*

We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Catalyst. The children were fascinated by the fact that food could be used as a source to generate electricity. So proud of the characters we made that we even had to showcase them in assembly. A really worthwhile project for us. As you know I especially love our kids to meet people out of their normal walk of life. They were fascinated by all the pieces especially the table, and to have an artist there to chat about the thinking and creative process. How lucky were we?
- Kim Brown, *Fane Street Primary School*

CATALYST ARTS

Catalyst Arts is an artist-led organisation based in Belfast. Established in 1993 it has built a reputation as an innovative and experimental space for contemporary art, through its gallery programme, public projects, artists' commissions and pioneering Live Art Biennale. Catalyst Arts is run by a board of co-directors, voluntarily in two year cycles. Our mission is to promote the production of works by emerging, mid-career and established artists through the provision of resources, exhibitions, residencies and events.

www.catalystarts.org.uk



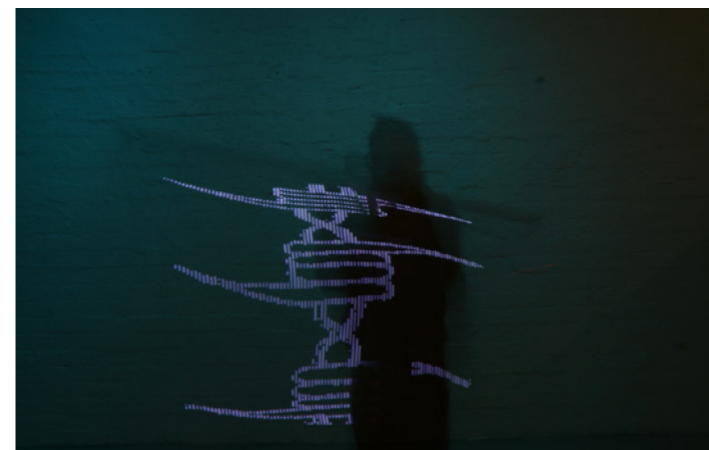
Paddy Bloomer and Fane Street Primary School



Jonny McEwen and Creative Kidz



Clare McQuillan and St. Clare's Primary School



Robin Price and Belfast Metropolitan College



Jonny McEwen and Creative Kidz



Eleni Kolliopoulou and St. Mary's Primary School