



ONLINE ART WORKSHOPS MARCH/APRIL 2021

DOROTHY PARKES CENTRE
&
BEARWOOD COMMUNITY HUB CIC

About the Online Art Workshops:

March/ April
2021

Why:

- Covid-19 Lockdown 3 UK
- To combat social isolation through creative workshops
- Improve confidence and self-esteem
- Bringing people together - from all different backgrounds and ages. Everyone is welcome!
- Introduce local people to new neighbours to build and to maintain relationships



Who:

- Smethwick and Bearwood residents
- Original application stated that we would recruit 30 participants, we recruited 24 and in total there were 35 participants including children and participants who joined us on more than one session (24 participants submitted anonymous feedback)
- Supported by Robert Bruce (Dorothy Parkes Centre), Sally Taylor (Bearwood Community Hub CIC) and Renata Salazar Lasocki (Bearwood Community Hub CIC)

“Helping to provide a little fun and variety to activities- during what is a very challenging time for most.” -anon feedback

What:

The workshops changed from the original brief of piloting short art-based music therapy, to piloting Online Art Workshops delivered in collaboration with the Bearwood Community Hub CIC. This change was due to the new lockdown restrictions enforced in the UK at the beginning of 2021. The workshops were designed to support local artists and showcase different art practices, which in turn would expose people to a variety of art forms - to be able to offer ‘something for everyone’. Both Dorothy Parkes Centre and the Bearwood Community Hub believe in supporting and working with other local organisations to support the local community. The Bearwood Community Hub has been successfully delivering projects online and had wanted to run a pilot of art workshops online. It therefore made sense to work together on this project.

Materials were provided for participants for 2 out of 5 of the sessions and the two sessions where materials were not provided, the artists tried to design something that would still be accessible. Both the Dorothy Parkes Centre and the Bearwood Community CIC were prepared to provide pencils, pens and printing for the participants that might not have access to them. Dorothy Parkes Centre provided the print outs for Workshop 2, as the artist had put together a really good handout for the session.

Online Art Workshops Impact:

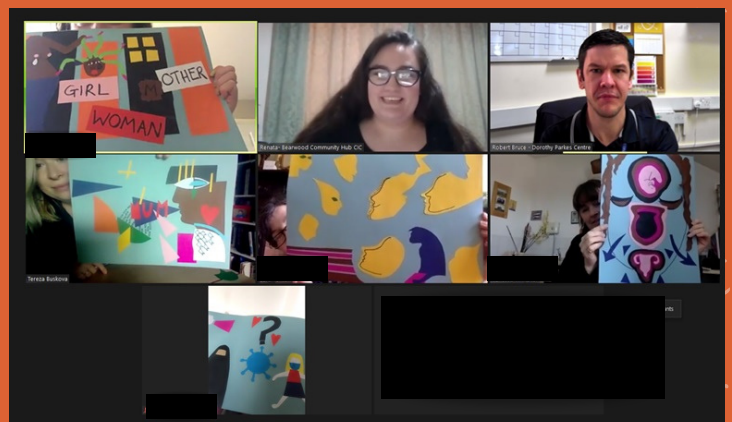
"It felt really great to exercise some creativity and take time for myself! The workshop leader, Tereza, was knowledgeable but didn't try to direct us too much. She gave us space to do our own thing."
-anon feedback

"Brings joy, hope, stimulation & sociability after a year of Lockdown frustrations. I loved learning a new way into making art & really enjoyed the discussions & conversations that happened too."
- anon feedback

Workshop 1:
11th May, 2021.
11am-12.15pm
With Tereza Buskova:

- 5 participants, all women
- The group made an A3 paper collage piece and developed an understanding of using other artists work to help pursue a personal style

"helped me feel connected meeting new people and sharing a creative process"
-anon feedback



“it gave us something fun to do as a family and a great talking point for our future walks too”

- anon feedback

“It was nice to do something different and spending time doing an activity together with my daughter was nice. It was also relaxing and a great distraction from work.”

- anon feedback

Workshop 2: 18th March, 2021. 6pm-7.15pm Intro to street art with Roots

- 6 adults (5 women & 1 man) and 3 children
- A4 or A5 drawing of a rabbit in a street art style and the different drawing stages to develop a character

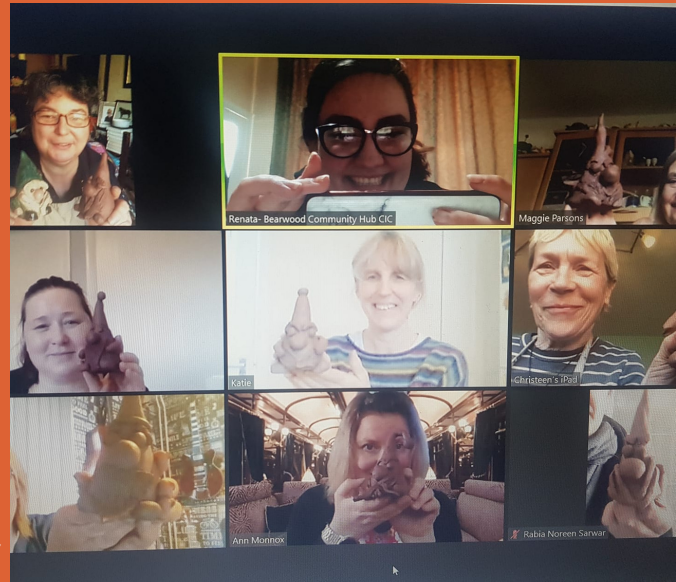


“Took my mind off the day and gave me such a lovely insight into street art. It inspired me to do more art and think big.”

- anon feedback

Workshop 3: 25th March, 2021. 12.30pm-1.45pm: Making a clay gnome with Rachel Jennings

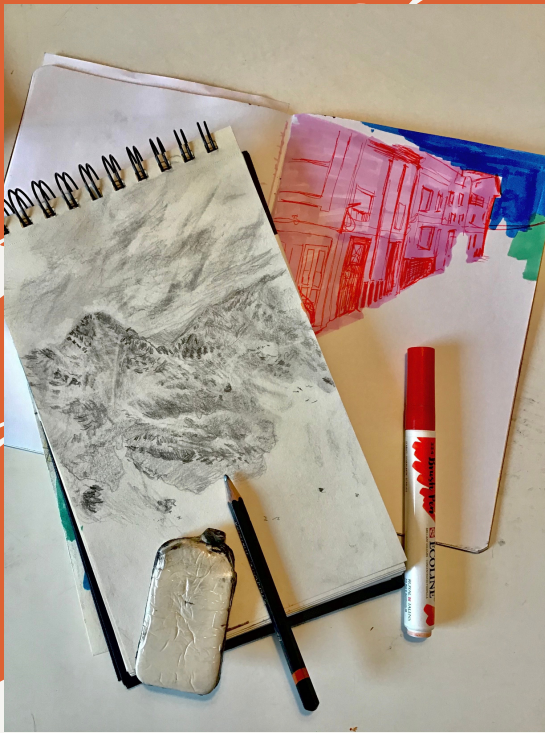
- 7 participants all women
- Small clay gnome and learnt all the basic clay work techniques needed to make other characters and shapes



***“So much difference, it was nice to have a little light hearted hour with some giggles too!! “
-anon feedback***

***“It made a huge difference. It was so lovely to do something together with people and chat and no one was made to feel they were doing it wrong. Everyone was very accepting”
-anon feedback***

“I had been looking forward to the session all week, and it proved to be more fun than I could have imagined. A friendly group of people, brilliant teacher and it didn't matter how the Clay Gnome turned out it was a really fun, relaxed session. After the session had finished and I made a coffee and looked at my “master peace” I was actually laughing out loud at my end result. It really did brighten up my day and I have made a special memory of a fun afternoon. Thank you. “ - anon feedback

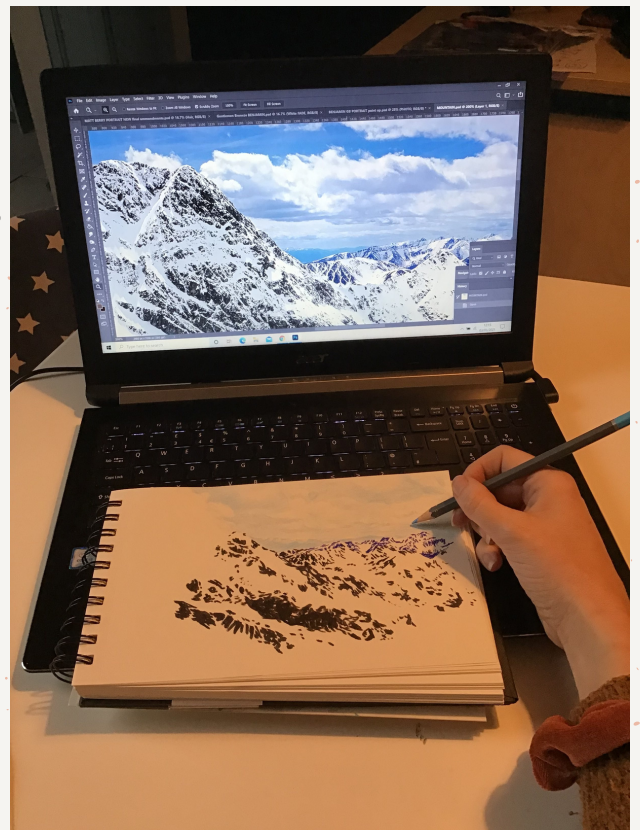


"I felt really positive and inspired afterwards. It was useful to share resources with other people and it was great to take some time out for myself." - anon feedback

"It boosted my confidence and improved my mood"
-anon feedback

Workshop 4: 1st April, 2021. 11am- 12.15pm: Drawing skills - digital nomads with Geronimo

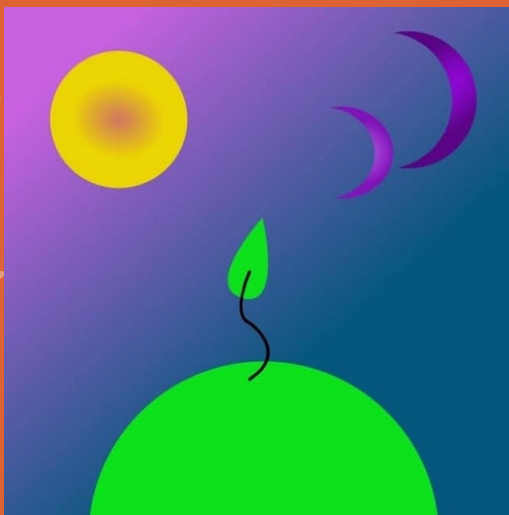
- 8 participants all women



**Workshop 5:
8th April, 2021.
11am-12.15pm:
Intro to vector
graphics - digital
art with
Magda Iris**

- 4 women and 2 children
- Learning basic vector graphic techniques from using basic circle shapes to making graphics to choosing colouring in

"I've wanted to learn about digital art for so long but have just been too afraid to start!" - anon feedback



"It was really nice to meet other Bearwood locals and learn from a local artist!" - anon feedback

*"Aware of something I did not know before. Brilliant!"
- anon feedback*

"Helping to provide a little fun and variety to activities- during what is a very challenging time for most."

- anon feedback

"creativity and inclusion. I hope my role has brought a positive influence. Also for the hub to be working with a professional artist of Central & Eastern European origin. "

-anon feedback

"As a former Community Development Officer I have shared my thoughts and expressed where things work and don't work. Our ethos in the community is very similar."

-anon feedback

Artists:

- 5 local artists (all women)
- One artist made contacts with two new organisations, one of which has given her another source of income.
- Two artists made contact with another organisation and are in contact with them to run more workshops
- Another artist will be running workshops through Trade School Online

Bearwood Community Hub & **DOROTHYPARKES Community Centre**

Online Art Classes:

Join us for our online art classes for Bearwood & Smethwick locals!
Every Thursday for 5 weeks we will be hosting an art class with a different artist - you can book up to 2 free sessions!
For most sessions materials will be provided by us and for others you will be making use of what you have at home!

Workshop 1: 11th March, 2021. 11am-12.15pm
'Collage Making' with Tereza Buskova

Workshop 2: 18th March, 2021. 6pm-7.15pm
'Intro to Street Art' with Roots

Workshop 3: 25th March, 2021. 12.30pm-1.45pm
'Making a Clay Gnome' with Rachel Jennings

Workshop 4: 1st April, 2021. 11am-12.15pm
'Digital Nomads- Drawing Skills' with Geronimo

Workshop 5: 8th April, 2021. 11am-12.15pm
'Digital Art - Intro to Vector Graphics' with Magda Iris

To book your free sessions
email: renata@bearwood.cc


THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND **SCVO** connecting, enabling, transforming **Sandwell** **VISION 2030** FOR LEVER FOR HAYFIELD

"A relaxing hour of drawing, learning new skills and meeting like minded people online. It reaffirms their collaborative vision, bringing together a safe, online community space."

- anon feedback

Budget:

The £500 grant was spent on facilitator fees. The total cost of this was £570, working out at an average of £114 per session. DPC and BCH both gave in kind contributions via staff time. Robert (DPC) & Renata (BCH) held various planning meetings via Zoom and time was spent promoting the workshops on our respective websites and social media platforms. Robert & Renata also gave up time to deliver kits out to participants.



Renata spent approximately 33 hours on the project. This included making social media assets and sharing online, adding participants to the list, relationship building with participants, setting up zoom meetings, artist recruitment, supporting the artists to develop their sessions, delivering materials to the participants and collaborating with Robert.

If we were to do this project again, on a larger scale, we would ensure that full cost recovery was built into the budget.

*"More of these during the evening so they're accessible for families. Art opportunities such as a graffiti wall to practise other skills we can't do at home"
- anon feedback*

Key Learnings:

- It is important to highlight that most of the participants were women. Lockdown and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have disproportionately affected women, with the most affected industries being dominated by women. The feedback collected has reflected that the Online Art Workshops have had a positive impact on the women that joined us.
- DPC and BCH found that we can work really well together to deliver projects (this was put together in under two weeks and delivered alongside existing large workloads).
- DPC and BCH we were able to introduce participants to each other; continue to promote each other's work to new people and to expand the support network throughout our local community.
- We need to be able to offer more art workshops, 10 out of 24 participants who sent feedback through specifically asked for more sessions.
- Mixed methods approach: The same session can be run one morning and one evening. This would help us to reach more people and we would be responding to feedback we have received. When Covid-19 restrictions allow we want to continue to offer online sessions as well as in person sessions.
- Improve marketing through consultation with marketing/ social media specialists & further promote the quality of the artists work.
- Continue to work together and set up a 'bigger and better' programmes.
- We know it is possible to deliver successful online art workshops and make them fairly accessible, though it is important to acknowledge that there is a digital poverty gap and on this occasion we were only able to receive participants with access to online devices.



**Bearwood
Community
Hub**