

A STAY-AT-HOME PHOTOGRAPHY PACK (ISSUE 2)

From Open Eye Gallery, part of
the Young at Art initiative.

OPEN
EYE
GALLERY

> YOUNG <
> AT ART <

We hope you are all okay, keeping well and safe at home at this time.

Our initial activity pack has proven really popular so we have produced a second set of creative photography activities to have a go at using any camera you can access — whether this is a digital camera, iPad or a smart phone or working with existing photographs.

For those of you on email you can share your images via liz@openeye.org.uk, or simply keep for yourself :)

There are 10 workshop tasks to take part in, maybe try one a week or more often if you feel like it.

Happy Snapping!

WORKSHOP TASK 1

Photos can create a 1000 words (or why not a short poem!)

An activity by Katherine Monaghan

This activity is about responding to text to help inspire your photography. What do the words make you think of, what can you picture in your mind as you read each line, how might this make an interesting photo or series of photographs?

Here is an example of a poem by Katherine's cousin Anna Haas and Katherine's response as a photograph.

**the field is bright shining in the sun
nature's wild colours demanding to be sketched
mum stops the car and we stop the seasons
to breath in and bite the bloom**

**but, as always, curiosity gets the better of us
incapable of being satisfied without detail
we walk closer
only to taste the acidity of deception
as the flowers distort in our mouths
plastic bags
mosaic of blue rubbish in nature's hometown**



WORKSHOP TASK 1

Now it is your turn. You could try responding to the *flowers* poem (above) like Katherine or why not try one of these two other poems from her cousin - *disco ball mind* and *the sky looks like music*.

Try taking three photos that represent or respond to that poem - in whatever way you feel, as specifically or loosely as you wish!

disco ball mind

some nights
your eyes are like two disco balls
mosaic of little square mirrors
reflect your hidden thoughts onto the walls

then all I need to do to understand you
is dance to the rhythm of your mind music
under your strobe lights of things hidden

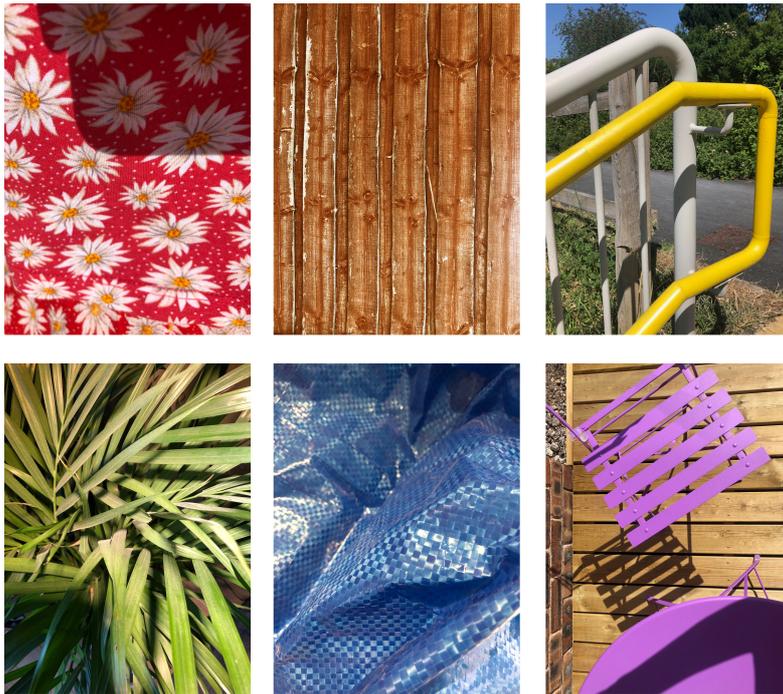
the sky looks like music

you said
and as I tried to understand what
you meant
I figured that that was the whole point
something so beautiful
cannot making any sense

WORKSHOP TASK 2

Finding a Photographic Rainbow

Whatever the weather, you can always find a rainbow of bright colours with your camera. Try and find objects around your house or garden which make up the colours of the rainbow... can you find them all?



Now note down all of the objects, which make up the colours of your rainbow

WORKSHOP TASK 3

A Room With A View

Activities by Robert Parkinson

Choose one window as your subject matter for this project. It can be any that you have easy access to. This could be your favourite view, or you could challenge yourself by using a window you don't often look out of.

All these tasks can be performed on multiple occasions but for your first time we suggest you choose one per day.

Part 1 - One Viewpoint

After choosing your window to photograph from, attempt to make images from all the tasks from the check list below.

- Your favourite part of the view
- Photograph from the same position ten times
- Set your camera focussed on one object and photograph ten times
- Make images of the light passing across the landscape.
How do the shadows change over time?
- Take a step back and photograph the domestic environment surrounding the window
- Focus your camera on an area where people or animals come into view. Photograph everything that passes



WORKSHOP TASK 4

A Room With A View

Part 2 - Dissecting the Landscape

A great way to start re-looking at your landscape is to focus on themes that may not necessarily sound too important. In doing so we 'reset' our trained eye from the 'extraordinary' to the 'ordinary' landscape. We can start to appreciate parts of the view, which may have been normally disregarded.

Photograph the themes below.

SQUARE

RED

GREEN

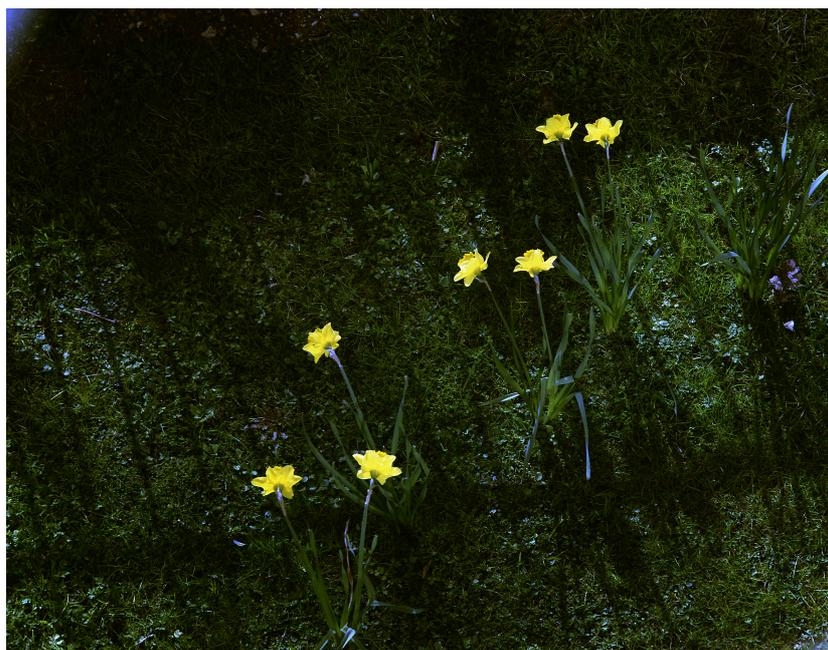
CROSS

TALL

BLUE

CIRCLE

LIGHT



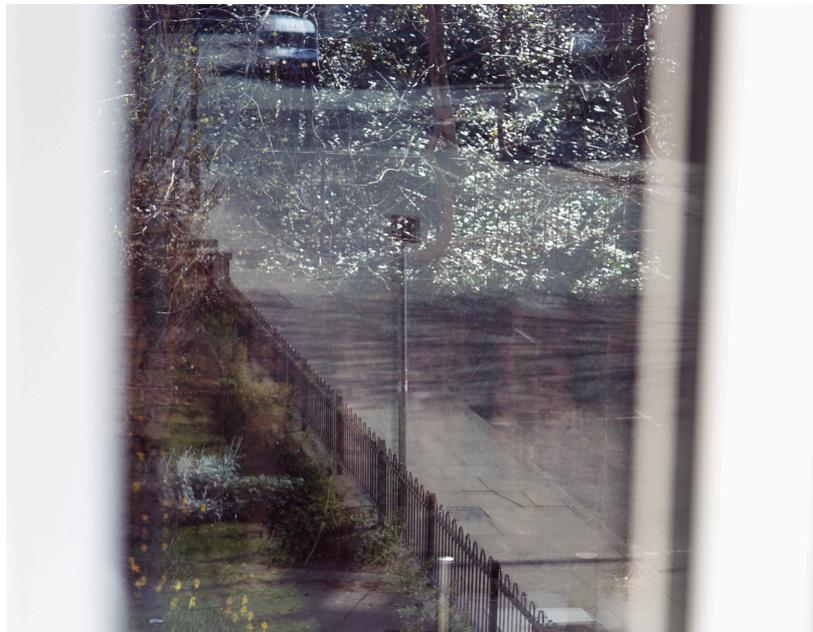
WORKSHOP TASK 5

A Room With A View

Part 3 - Reflections

Your window can be used as a tool with photography for experimentation. When looking through your camera you can focus on the reflection to create a self-portrait and highlight your domestic surroundings, or even open the windows at an angle to see a different view. Try these below.

- Look through your camera and focus on your reflection in the window to create a self portrait
- Open your window at an angle and focus on the reflection. What can you see in your new view?
- Keep checking back to your window throughout the day. As the light changes it will create reflections on surfaces. Make photographs of these.
- Using a glass object placed on your window ledge, mark photographs through this and experiment with different angles. Images made through two pieces of glass can often create interesting effects.



WORKSHOP TASK 6

It's Not What It Looks Like!

This activity invites you to try and transform one object into another simply by the way you construct your image and capture it on a camera.

Play around with the camera angles and have some fun!

Can you make...

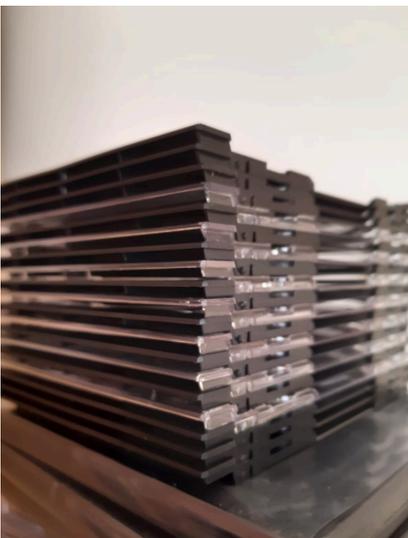
Your bedding look like the Sea

Your cutlery look like a Robot

Your light/ lamp look like a spaceship

Your shadow look like a giant

Your CDs or books look like a skyscraper



This is an image by Ged, from a Manchester Over60s group, Many Hands Craft Collective with his response to the activity.

WORKSHOP TASK 7

Mindful Photography

Sometimes people find photography a really useful tool for supporting mindfulness. By focusing on specific colours, textures, patterns or angles you can look at the world with fresh eyes.

Give yourself plenty of time to try and find a pattern or texture in your house or garden, which you are particularly drawn to. Take a picture of that pattern or texture.

Note down all the things you can calming or satisfying about that pattern or texture

Now every day this week go back to your favourite pattern or texture. Focus on it and try not to think about anything else...do you spot anything new about it each day you go back, does this make you photograph the pattern/texture in a different way?

Try out different angles, and try zooming in and stepping back every time you re-visit the pattern or texture.

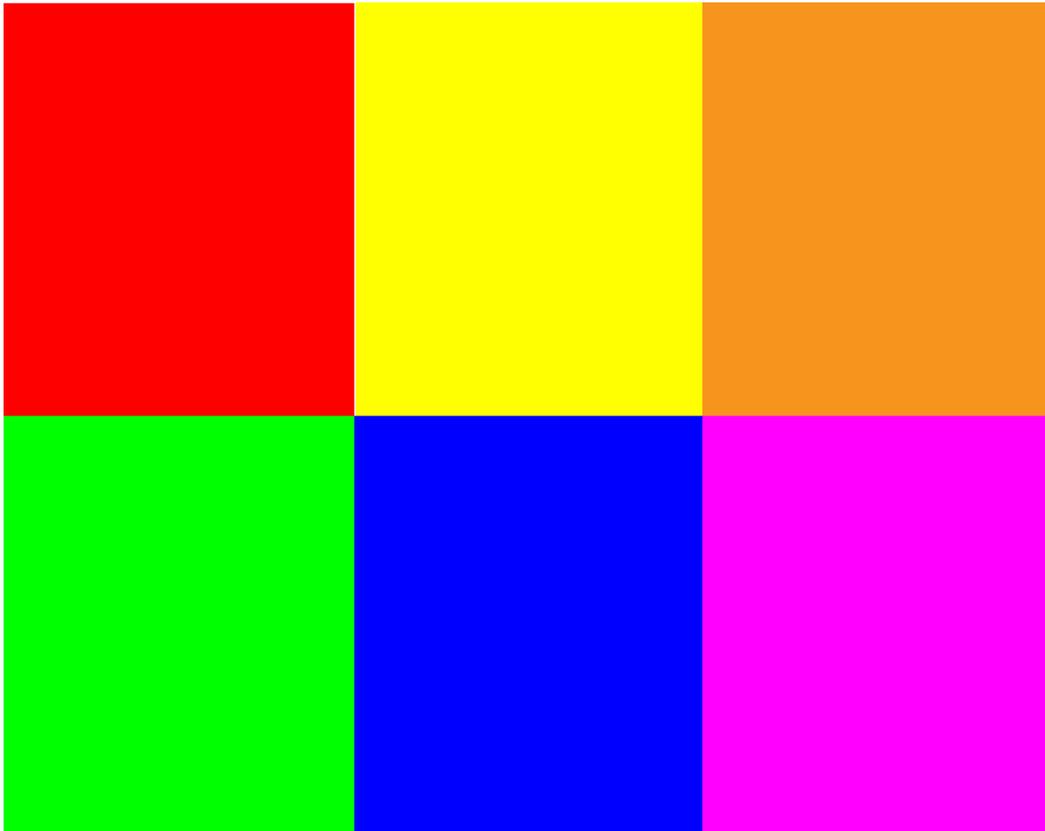
WORKSHOP TASK 8

Re-visiting your Photographic Rainbow

In workshop 2 we asked you to note down all of the objects that made up rainbow colours.

Using this list of objects can you now photograph the same items but find a different colour? If you found an orange fence, can you now find a red one? If you found a red top can you now find a blue one?

Can you find a whole new photographic rainbow?

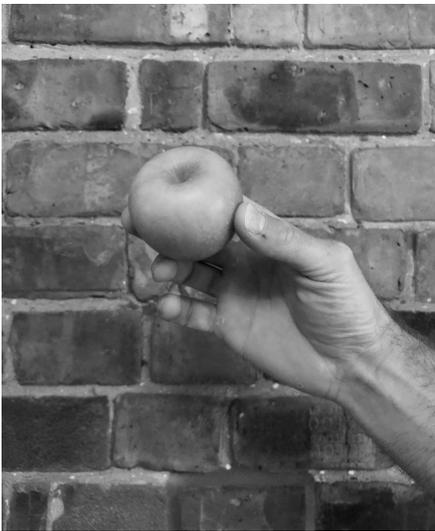


WORKSHOP TASK 9

Photography A-Z

This activity should keep you busy, whilst we invite you to hunt out the alphabet from A-Z to photograph in and around your house. Can you find all 26 letters?

Here are some we found earlier... good luck on your A-Z hunt



A



B



C

WORKSHOP TASK 10

Just a little note to say...

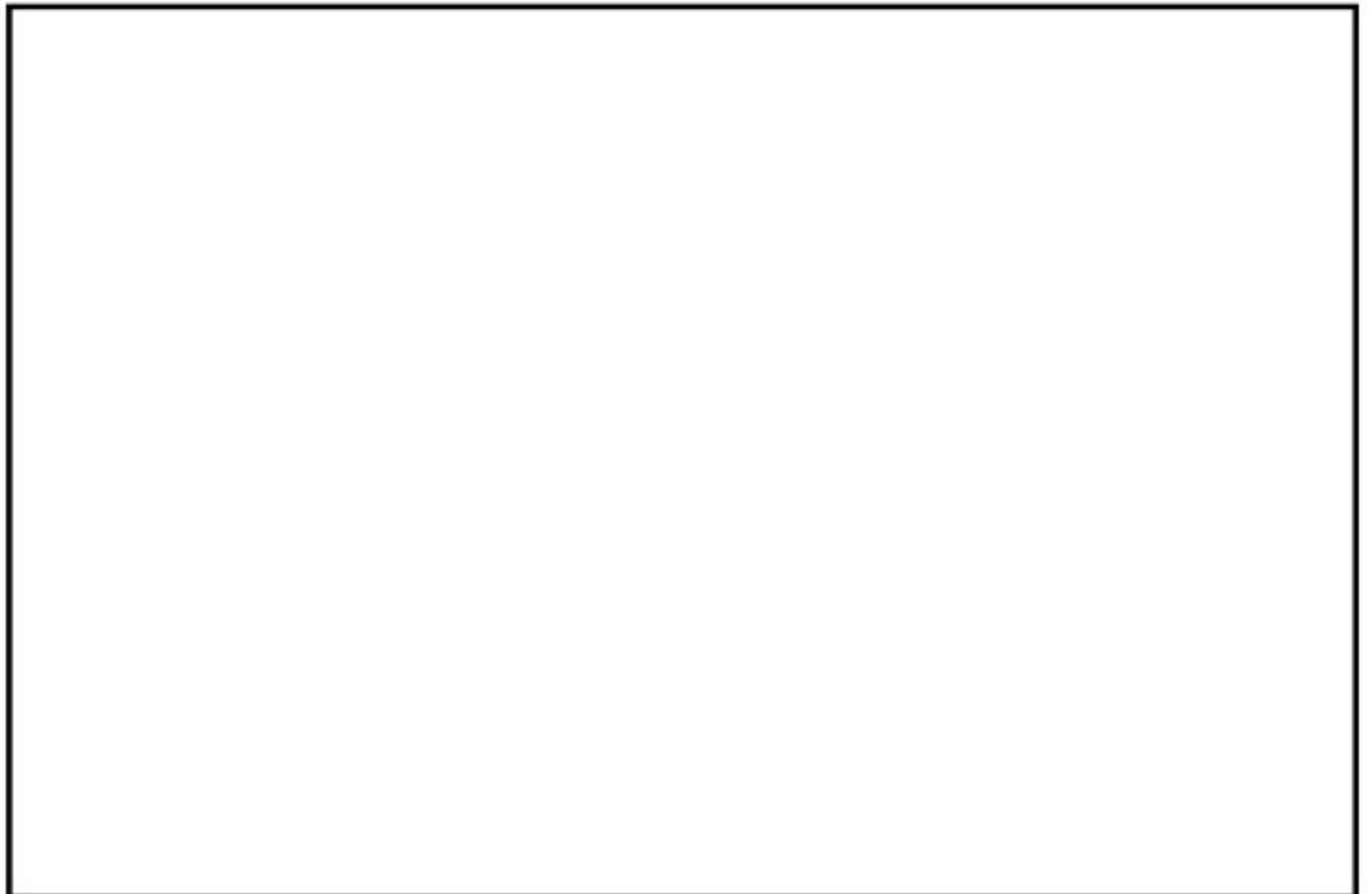
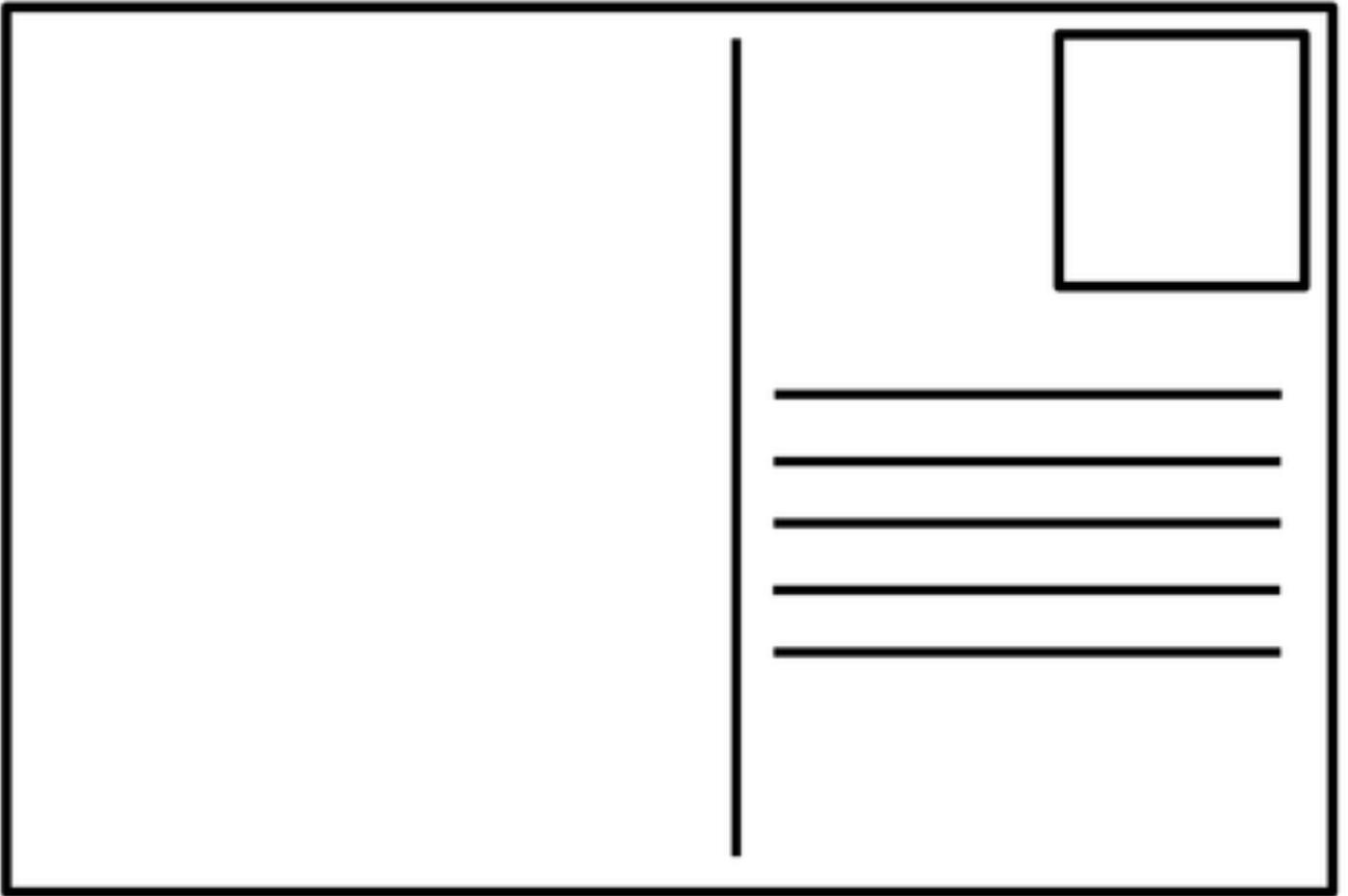
Whilst we can't get out and about how we used to, we can still keep in touch via mail.

We invite you to create a picture that you would like to share with someone on a postcard. You can use the template below to design your postcard picture and personal message.

This could be a re-enactment of a 'holiday' scene or a simple image to share with someone else to brighten up their day.

If you don't have a printer then you can contact liz@openeye.org.uk and she can organise to get your postcard printed for you.

See over on the next page for your postcard template...



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Robert Parkinson is an artist based in Manchester. His work revolves around social and political themes, the everyday, and cultural elements that shape the people and infrastructure of Britain today. Pedagogy and collaboration is at the core of Roberts practice; he has led workshops across a number of institutes in the UK and is an educator.

The exercises from 'A Room with A View' were inspired by his project Rear Window. All of the workshops and actions he participated in himself while making the content for the project. The outcome was a publication where all the profits were donated to Manchester Central Foodbank during lockdown. The book was published by Tide Press and sold out in a week. Rob is also currently working with Open Eye Gallery on a project with a group of male residents in Runcorn, exploring the changes of their local landscape due to redevelopment.

Katherine Monaghan is a photographic artist, facilitator and educator. Her work is focused mainly around community groups, aiming to help raise awareness of the importance of community. The concept of socially engaged photography reflects her approach intrinsically, as her work is community-led and most importantly, subject-led.

She currently works with Open Eye Gallery co-running a photography group in Clubmoor, North Liverpool. She shoots with a 35mm analogue camera and particularly likes photographing buildings and still scenes. If you are on instagram you can follow here [@katmonaghan.photograph](https://www.instagram.com/katmonaghan.photograph)

Liz Wewiora is our Head of Engagement here at Open Eye Gallery, supporting photographers to work with a range of community groups across the city region. She also works as an artist and educator in Manchester. She is currently working with an Over60s group, the Many Hands Craft Collective, who have helped shaped the ideas for these activities as the group also try them out each week. You can find out more about Liz's work via www.elizabeth-wewiora.com