



dot-art Activity Report, March – August 2021

Introduction

As we enter the 18th month of the pandemic, we are once again feeling hopeful about the future, despite the uncertainty of the coming autumn and winter months. Although there is a slight sense of déjà vu when we look back on last September, the situation now is very different, with 65% of the population in England fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and all restrictions currently lifted.

The spring and summer remained challenging for us. We started to gradually reopen the gallery as lockdown lifted, with 3-day opening starting in late April and moving to 4 days per week from 1st September. We are hopeful of returning to full opening hours in early November, but nothing is yet guaranteed. Our course programme in the spring / summer had very low take up as confidence levels remained low in the general public, however this appears to be changing as the summer comes to an end and people begin to start returning to pre-pandemic activities. We are also finally starting to see the corporate art market start to return, as offices are once again occupied.

I would once again like to thank all our artist members for sticking with us during this uniquely challenging time. We are quietly optimistic about the next 6 months and hope you will continue on the journey with us, as we continue to develop and build opportunities, projects and services to help you build your career.



Exhibitions

Out of the Darkness

16th April – 5th June

dot-art Gallery opened its doors for the first time in 2021 with new exhibition Out of the Darkness, showcasing works by artists Madeleine Pires and Haylea Archer. Out of the Darkness explores an expression of life through art, creating an experience that is personal yet part of a collective journey as we transcend the limitations of our thoughts through the medium of paint.

A Virtual Private View was held via Zoom.



**OUT OF THE
DARKNESS**

**HAYLEA ARCHER
MADELEINE PIRES**

16TH APRIL - 5TH JUNE

dot-art Gallery
Open Thursday - Saturday 10-6pm
14 Queen Avenue, Castle Street, L2 4TX

 @dotart  dotartliverpool  dot-art

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT DOT-ART.CO.UK



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Landscapes of the Imagination

17th June – 14th August

At a time where we could all benefit from a little escapism, dot-art's new exhibition invites you to walk through a world of imagined landscapes created by artists Carol Miller, Brigitte Watkinson, Natalie Gilmore, and Simon Cooper.

A Virtual Private View was held via Zoom.



LANDSCAPES OF THE IMAGINATION

Carol Miller, Brigitte Watkinson,
Natalie Gilmore, Simon Cooper

17TH JUNE - 14TH AUGUST



dot-art Gallery
14 Queen Avenue, Castle Street, L2 4TX
OPEN THURSDAY - SATURDAY, 10AM - 6PM

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Grasses, Seas, Flowers and Trees

27th August – 23rd October

Seeing the summer out with a splash of colour, dot-art's new exhibition Grasses, Trees, Flowers and Seas celebrates the natural beauty of the world around us through a collection of paintings by artists Hilary Dron and Steve Bayley.

A Virtual Private View was held via Zoom.



GRASSES, TREES, FLOWERS AND SEAS

Hilary Dron & Steve Bayley
27th August - 23rd October
dot-art Gallery
Open Wednesday - Saturday 10am-6pm
14 Queen Avenue, Castle Street, L2 4TX

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dot-art Schools

On Thursday 10th June, we held a virtual prize giving event, broadcast live from the TV studios at Edge Hill University. It was hosted by Carolyn and I, featured contributions from Arts Council England and Edge Hill's Teaching Faculty, a video tour of the exhibition, followed by live links to the schools of the winning young artists as their names are announced!

A video of the event can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/rxJY2I9soUk>.



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The dot-art Schools exhibition 2021 took place from 11th – 25th June in the iconic Port of Liverpool building and was open to the public 12-6pm, Monday to Saturday. We were also able to invite the winning students and their families to a photoshoot with their art works and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool during the exhibition. While this was not the same as a normal year, schools seemed very grateful for the elements we could provide, after everything was cancelled in 2020.

A video of the exhibition can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/ijr3aac600M>.





- **dot-art Schools 2021-22**

This year marks dot-art Schools' 10th birthday! To celebrate this, we have decided for the first time to have a theme for the year – Protecting Our Environment. This means that students can choose to create artwork around this subject for the competition (although they do not have to), plus we will be offering a range of green themed activities and prizes to participating schools as well as sharing practical steps you can take in your own life to help save the planet. We are in talks with a range of partners to deliver this including: Grow Wellbeing (forest schools), Farm Urban (indoor, vertical farming), Mersey Forest (tree planting), Ecotricity (green power) and EcoSchools. We have also had a new version of the dot-art Schools logo produced for use this year. Finally, we will be continuing our successful partnership with Edge Hill University.



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HEAVY GARDENING -
MUSSELS
Something & Son

Mussels, also known as Halo of Hope, is an underwater living shrine to mussels that filter the dark waters, making light. Made of a material from antiquity - a concrete consisting of shellfish shells and lime mortar - the mussels form a ring of hope.

Made in collaboration with Local Work Studio.

The Liverpool Greenhalp project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 720426



The title Heavy Gardening is based on the idea that humanity, in light of the Earth's huge loss of biodiversity, needs to scale up and reevaluate the existing things we have at our disposal, making them of use to other species as well – a billboard becomes a roost for bats and air ducting a home for sparrows. Expanding upon the religious roadside shrines found around the world, the trail of seven sculptures acts as a little pilgrimage, where the venerated are not Gods or people, but offer us the chance to remember and give thanks to some of the other species that call Earth home.

Alongside the artworks, we have worked with local communities to produce seven short films, accessed by QR codes at each site. These will highlight various aspects of the project, showcase nature-based artworks made by community groups and encourage local people to see the benefits of greening their environment.

Heavy Gardening was launched on Light Night on 21st May: <https://lightnightliverpool.co.uk/whats-on/heavy-gardening-art-trail/>

Flag It Up

Flag It Up is a partnership between dot-art and Bruntwood Works to create an exciting new platform for public art in Liverpool – using flags!

In March we launched the second open call for artists to design a flag, this time based around the theme of equality, to mark International Women's' Day. Artist Charlotte Southall was selected for the commission and the new flag will be unveiled in September.



Wild Walls Mural

dot-art worked with [The Good Business Festival](#) and [UK Youth for Nature](#) to bring an iconic new mural to Liverpool's Baltic Triangle. The giant painting of a Northern Dune Tiger Beetle is the first piece of work to be commissioned as part of the [Natural Kingdom: Wild Walls](#) project, which aims to raise awareness of biodiversity and the crucial role it plays in the climate crisis.

Internationally renowned street artist [ATM](#) has created a gigantic version of this highly endangered species, which can be seen on the corner of Grafton Street and Stanhope Street in Liverpool's Baltic Triangle. The beetle was chosen, after discussions with local experts, as 75% of the remaining population can be found in [Merseyside's sand dunes!](#) Find out more about the project and dot-art's work to [combat climate change here](#).

Dedicated to creating exciting and unique opportunities for our dot-art members, we arranged for seven of our artists to work with street artist ATM in delivering the mural.

dot-art member Haylea Archer explained ‘

“Working with ATM really sparked an interest in the power and potency of street art for me, so thank you to dot-art. I learnt a lot in terms of ATM's process, and practical elements such as his brushes, paints of choice, and his creative process. It was really interesting talking to him and finding out about his journey from being an art student to an accomplished international street artist who is raising awareness about endangered species... It was an incredible experience and a thought-provoking artwork. I was really grateful for the opportunity, I found it so inspiring!”

Read more artists experiences on the project here: <https://dot-art.co.uk/2021/07/23/shadowing-atm-wild-walls-mural/>



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The Liverpool Plinth 2021

Liverpool based artist Faith Bebbington is the latest to have her work installed on The Liverpool Plinth, which is the North's answer to London's Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, celebrating and platforming sculptors working in the North of England. Standing on Liverpool Parish Church, the Liverpool Plinth is supported by Liverpool BID Company and dot-art and overlooks the city's famous Pier Head and River Mersey and has hosted a new sculpture, each for 12 months, since 2018.

The winning 2021 sculpture, entitled Jimmy – named after a working horse the artist rode as a child – depicts a horse, once a common site along Liverpool's waterways and canal sides. He overlooks the Leeds to Liverpool Canal at the Pier Head which opened to boats in April 2009 after a £22m extension which took the canal past the city's historic waterfront. Working horses would tow narrow boats along Britain's canals, and from 1740 were one of the main forms of transportation for goods across the country. In Liverpool, they would help transport produce and goods arriving at the city's docks and up the canal to Manchester and the North of England.

Jimmy has a coat made of recycled plastic milk bottles and with a steel, willow and wire inner framework. The sculpture was selected after an open call to artists based in the North of England. It is the fourth sculpture to be installed on the Liverpool Plinth and will remain for 12 months.

The Liverpool Plinth is commissioned by Liverpool BID Company, Liverpool Parish Church and dot-art. The winning artist receives £1,000. The aim of the site is to celebrate up and coming sculptors in the North, to profile public art and to animate an historic corner of Liverpool and its waterfront with contemporary art.



Art Classes

As mentioned above, our spring / summer course programme, despite being postponed slightly, was not successful. However, our autumn courses are looking much more promising and should be able to generate income for our members. The Bluecoat, while still not yet open in the evenings, has allowed us to return at weekends, and restrictions on numbers have been removed at all venues. Ticket sales are so far looking promising.

Dark Room

We will be relaunching the dot-art Dark Room this autumn after its forced closure during the pandemic. If you know any groups, colleges or individuals who would be interested in either membership or tuition, please get in touch.



LIVERPOOL
DARKROOM

dot-art
services

Whether you're a complete beginner or advanced photographer needing some guidance, the **dot-art Darkroom** has everything you need to create fantastic photographs.

Brush up your skills or learn new ones with a fully kitted-out darkroom that can transform your camera film into beautiful black and white prints.

Book onto a workshop and learn from a professional photographer or get in touch to become a darkroom member for unlimited access.

 **0345 0176660**

 **dot-art.co.uk/darkroom**

 **Ormond Street
Liverpool
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DARKROOM WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO THE DARKROOM

1 day workshop / £65

A one day workshop designed for anyone who has taken images using a film camera and wishes to be guided in printing their own negatives in a darkroom.

ANALOGUE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND

2 day workshop / £150

This weekend workshop will take beginner photographers through the whole process of shooting, processing and developing their own black and white film.

DARKROOM TECHNICIAN HIRE

Appointment only

Suitable for experienced photographers who need guidance using the darkroom, or for professional photographers wanting to try something new.

DARKROOM MEMBERSHIP

dot-art Darkroom membership is available to any professional photographer; those with significant experience of using darkroom equipment and for people who have attended either our Introduction to the Darkroom or Analogue Photography Weekend courses.

Members have unlimited access to the darkroom (subject to availability) and can book morning (9am-1pm), afternoon (2-6pm) or evening (7-11pm) slots in advance. Chemicals are included in your membership fee, but all other consumables, including paper, must be supplied by you.

MONTLY

£25 / month

ANNUAL

£250 / year



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Sustainability

dot-art are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate crisis and reducing our carbon emissions. As well as delivering climate focused projects, we are taking proactive measures to improve internally.

Following our work with the [LJMU Eco-Innovatory](#), who have measured our carbon footprint and given us the tools to continue to measure and reduce this, we are now officially **CARBON NEUTRAL!** From 2019 to 2021, we produced 3.74 tonnes of carbon. Through our work with Ecologi we have so far offset 27.5 tonnes of carbon, as well as planting over 1000 trees, meaning dot-art has an overall positive impact on the environment.

We have joined the newly formed sustainability group for Liverpool's cultural sector, [SHIFT](#), sitting on the Steering Group, which will bring us together to collaboratively respond to these challenges.

You can now follow our sustainability journey here: <https://dot-art.co.uk/about/sustainability/>

Gallery Manager

Sadly, Sally will be leaving us for pastures new in mid-October. We will be introducing you to our new Gallery manager Claire in the next few weeks. Please join me in thanking Sally for all her hard work under very difficult circumstances and wishing her all the best for the future.

Staff Picks Emails

As well as sending general news and update emails to our mailing list every 6-8 weeks, we will now be sending "Staff Picks" emails; curated collections of artwork from dot-art Members which we think will appeal to our customer base. This seems to be proving popular so far!

Other News from the past 6 months:

- Online sales have levelled out, but not returned to lower pre-pandemic levels, so combined with gallery sales, this has meant almost £10,000 commission being paid to artist members so far this year on individual sales alone.
- Olga Snell was commissioned by a corporate client to create a bespoke work to mark their transition to Employee Ownership. You can read more here: <https://dot-art.co.uk/2021/08/13/case-study-curtins/>
- Carol Miller was selected to produce a commissioned painting for a private customer.
- Tommy Graham produced a second interactive artwork on the glass balconies of the Museum of Liverpool, following the [success of the work in 2020](#).
- Madeleine Pires delivered a 2 day workshop in a secondary school.
- We welcomed Vice President, FP&A, Liverpool Football Club, Claire Spellman to the dot-art Board.



ENABLING EVERYONE TO ENRICH THEIR LIVES THROUGH ART.

A paintbrush with a gold handle and a blue brush head. The brush head has the 'dot art' logo, which consists of the words 'dot' and 'art' stacked vertically, with a grid of white dots between them. The brush is resting on a white surface with colorful watercolor splashes in blue, red, and purple.

For more information please see: dot-art.com, email info@dot-art.com or call 0345 0176660

You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) or sign up to our [Mailing List](#).

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