



MORAY

Wonderful Things

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PRESENTED BY ART NORTH PROJECTS (NORTHERN FUTURES*)
IN ASSOCIATION WITH M:ADE (MORAY: ARTS DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT)

<https://www.morayartsdevelopmentengagement.org>

Introduction

STACEYTONER

Moray: Wonderful Things is a project conceived and coordinated by M:ADE (Moray Arts Development Engagement) as a collaborative community effort intended to share and document our individual experiences of the period of lockdown through imagery. Individuals living in the region of Moray, of any age and from any area, were invited to participate by submitting a photograph of an object that represented their time in isolation – from old, mundane items that they used prior to lockdown but that now carry a different meaning, to new items purchased or accrued within the months preceding that had been central to their lockdown experience. Following exhibition here at Projectroom2020, the project materials will be archived on the M:ADE website.

At M:ADE we establish projects that address local issues in communities across Moray. We believe that we can make an impact through grassroots collaboration and creativity. We aim to build and adapt with and for the people of Moray. We have four key drivers at our core:

- Moray - the place, the people, the landscape, our heritage;*
- Arts and Creativity- as a tool for influencing positive social change;*
- Development - supporting individuals and communities to progress;*
- Engagement - shaping and delivering quality projects through establishing strong relationships.*

You can contact us by email at: stacey@morayartsdevelopmentengagement.org.

MORAY

Wonderful Things



John Quigg

"For me the coronavirus put a stop to many things in my life, however it could not stop my love for photography. During lockdown I was still able to find joy and a positive focus."



Louise Edgar

"I had a safe haven away from the dangers of the virus but access to the haven was suddenly obstructed. Privacy so essential to the haven was lost because of visitors stranded by the pandemic. The absence of the availability of that space has reinforced the meaning of the space to me. The respite it offers post pandemic is more important and appreciated than it could have been before."



Lynne Hague

"Windows have become a significant portal for my creativity and escapism during lockdown. Reflections of everyday in my space have become a fascinating muse. They have become an obsession for looking into parallel worlds and visual stories."



Nicola Gobson

"This is me in my full PPE for going out to care for end of life patients in the community. I was redeployed to this team at the start of lockdown, and have been going out into the community caring for end of life patient's with and without covid-19. Although I have enjoyed doing my bit during the lockdown it has also been scary as a mum of 3 having to go home at the end of a shift hoping you haven't taking anything home. The whole experience has changed my perspective has I will never again take for granted not having to wear a face mask, the reassuring smile that we give the patient isn't the same from behind a mask."



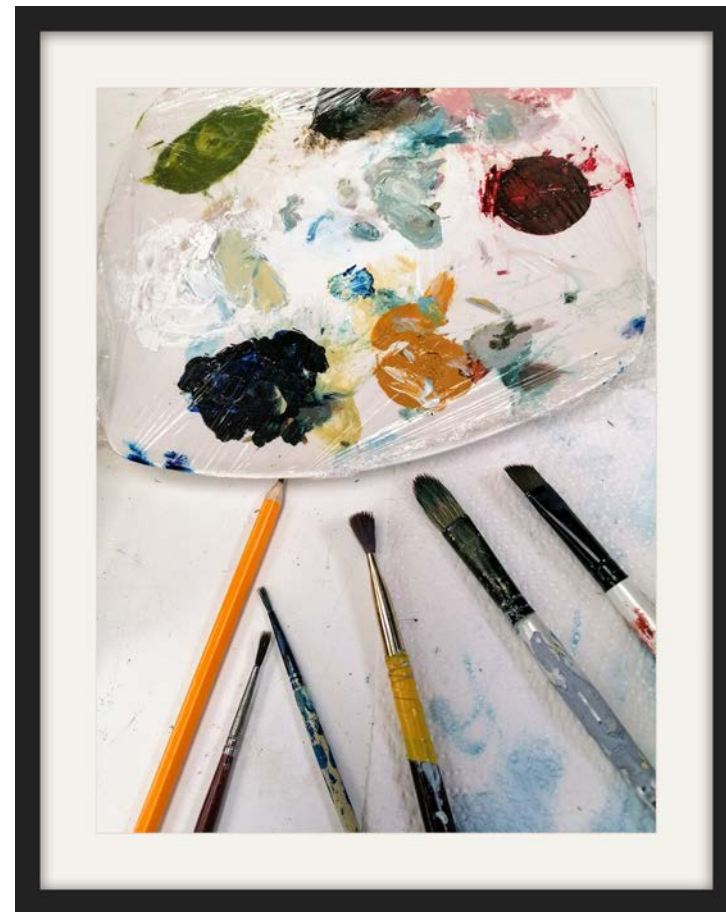
Wendy Grosvenor

"I passed by this teddy on one of my walks. His situation behind the metal bars seemed familiar to me."



Audrey Mitchell

"This image of my painting reflects how my state of mind has been during this unusual and surreal time – confused, unsettled and questioning everything. However, it is my love of painting that has kept me going and has provided me with some form of peace and sanctuary."



Caroline Inckle

"This image represents the freedom I have found during lock down of making art for fun. Each week our family put aside an evening to enjoy making some art together and it reminded me of the simple pleasure of playing with art materials and the fun of creating with others, for no other reason than just spending time together doing something. We now have a kitchen full of portraits we have done of each other and a record of a strange but also beautiful time where we were forced to enjoy each other's company a little more often than usual."



Heidi Tweedie

"This 1950's card table, long since lost its green felt, has been use for many things in my family including a kitchen table. In lockdown it became my living room 'office' every day due to lack of a suitable space for me to work separate from my children and their home schooling needs. It's not even flat anymore but with the right wedges it has provided enough support to carry on running the Moray Well-being Hub from home and over many Zoom meetings. For these many 14 plus hour days I am very grateful to it."



Jamie Banks

"This is an image of all the paintings frames and even got time to make a flower press during the covid 19 lockdown I am an local artist from forres although was locked out of my shared studio in orchard road so I downsized my art during the months of lockdown and ventured into oil painting a medium I never have used in the past it was great to move out of my comfort zone for a whole as an Artist I know how to self isolate its the becoming social again I have troubles with."



Owen Dempsey

Covid-19, invisible, deadly, unpredictable, has disrupted meanings that hold my sense of self together. Whilst, by contrast, unwritten ink embodies the inexpressible potential to be fully me. The flow of ink from fountain pen onto paper expresses myself as both a desire to be understood and to exceed understanding. Since Covid I see ink as a way to renew desire and myself, and as a repository of hope.



Andrea Fraser

"During isolation, the treat of a good gin and tonic and a candle have been lovely when looking to relax."



Craig McDonald



Anon.

“Rangers tops and tinned Tennant’s have become a comfort whilst the pubs have been closed. Does anyone recognise this Cottar Hoose loyal?”



Amanda Lindsay

"The week before lockdown I got a chest infection and am struggling with it's after-effects. My asthma was really well-managed for over 30 years; my inhaler something carried carelessly in a pocket and used maybe if I danced too much at a gig, or on an occasional really cold morning. Now I literally would not be alive without them. My lockdown experience is defined by the breaths I can take. Breathe: the story goes on."



Becca Faulkner

"During isolation, with no access to the hairdressers, I took on the new role of taming my husband's hair!"



Bernie Walker

“With no commuting to work or running the youngster around to classes, I had more time to experiment with my camera and have now discovered a new photography genre which I love. Being creative didn’t stop there, we also enjoyed creating TikTok masterpieces!”



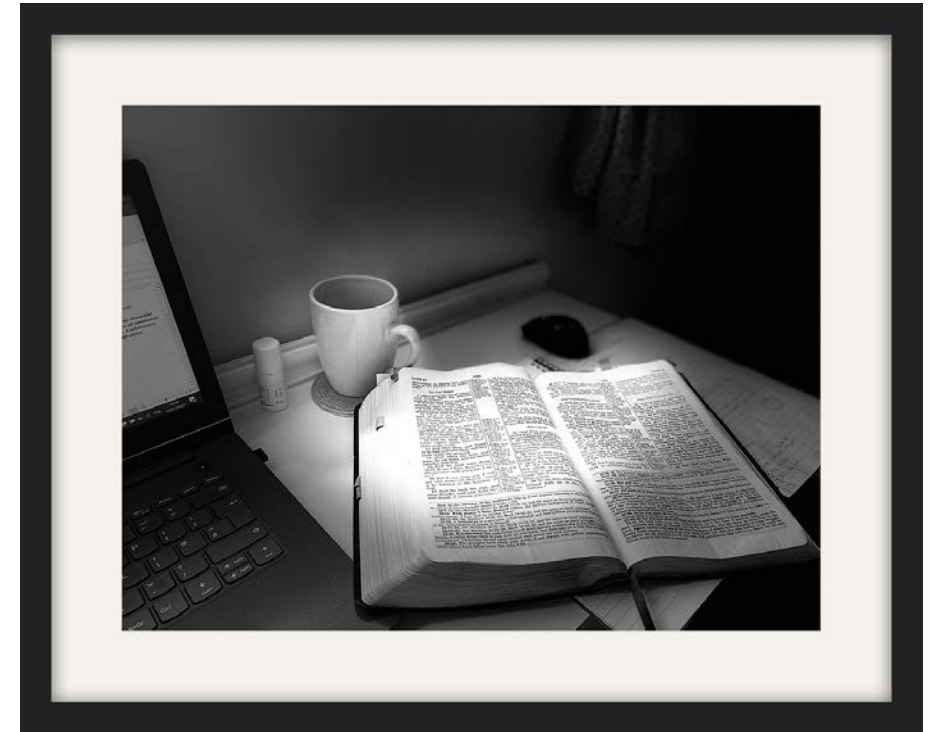
Jane Pickthall

“Lockdown to me has meant FaceTime and video chats. Holding my phoned got tiring and awkward (and eh, distracting trying to find the best angle!!), but this wonderful object allowed me to sit back and feel like I’m having a conversation, shift about and most importantly use my hands to make a point! It also became part of my work life when I had to start creating videos for work – hands free is true freedom!”



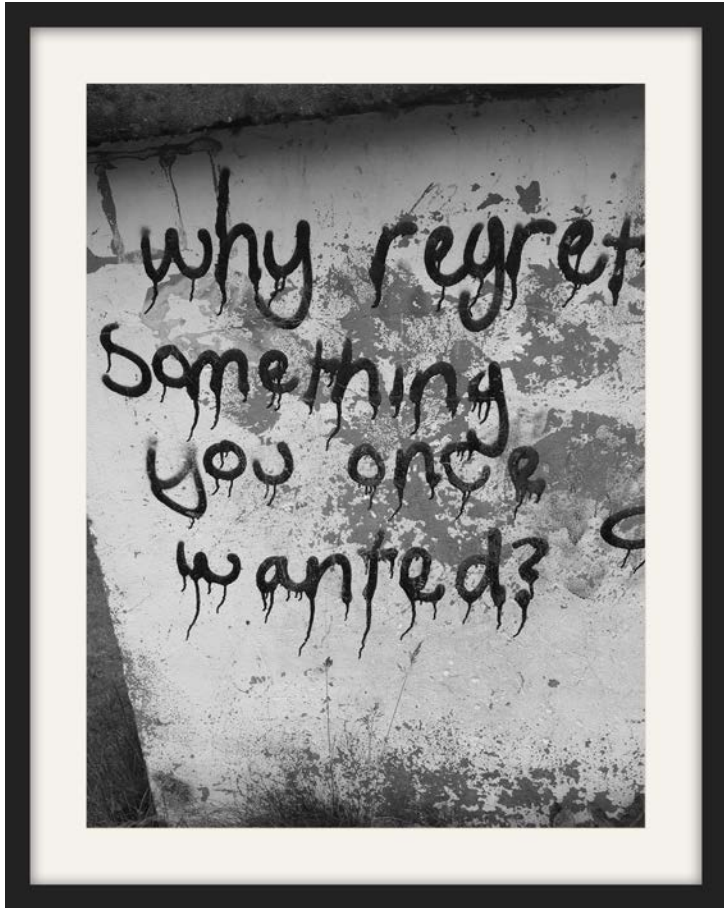
Lynne Strachan

"The meditative rhythm of the linocut carving process helps me reflect and escape."



Michelle Good

"This image reflects how I find peace in times of trouble. COVID has presented many challenges in so many ways. In all of this there has remained one constant, where love and hope is found and accessed by faith. A reminder that even in lockdown, I am never alone and my future is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow... secure in Him."



Wendy MacGillivray Toner

"I found this on a wall at the Dookit Park in New Elgin. Never really paid it much attention until this local place became the daily walk during isolation as at the start of lockdown we could only walk for one hour a day. As a full time worker I often wished for more time at home! Covid-19 provided me that... and I've noticed more."



Moira Downie

"#applying layers of latex #slow #time consuming #sustained #handwork #répetitive #mindless #challenging #problemsolving #immersive work for me in lockdown."



Anne Rhynas

"I've used my time to learn new skills, Mandala Dotting being one of them. At least I'll emerge creatively richer from lockdown compared to when I went in."



Michaela Munro

"This represents what lockdown has meant to us. A combination of home working, schooling and a toddler has meant challenging times for us all but made us thankful for the small things. The close bond we have, extra family time without distractions and we still have each other. Life often gets in the way, housework, shopping, practical things but this lockdown has also reiterated the fact family comes first and those important moments are not to be missed and taken for granted."



Ruby Worth

"First thing I noticed was the birdsong. Then a baby seagull fell into the garden. I watched it grow up and learn to fly. When I was 12 years old I left Findhorn Village and went to live with my dad in NYC. My high school was 65% African-American. I miss being a part of a racially diverse community. My dad Michael Worth carved these faces; Friday 24th July is his birthday. RIP Michael Worth."



Robert Menzies-Toner

"A combination of my lockdown experiences – time to bake, read and grow."



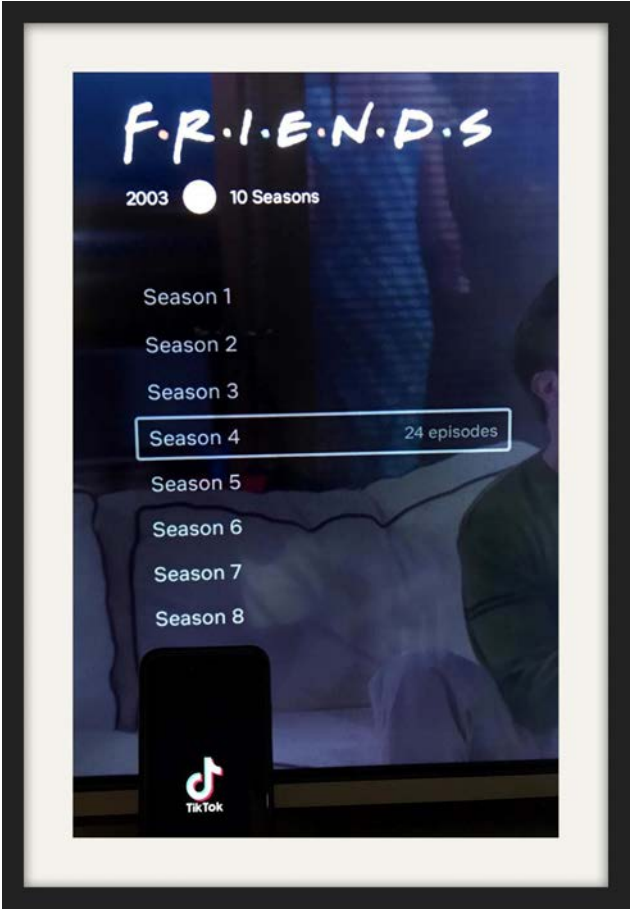
Craig Robertson

"Working from home throughout lockdown supporting Moray businesses – a very cathartic experience, with varying degrees of success using Zoom. Is this an insight into what the 'new norm' will look like?"



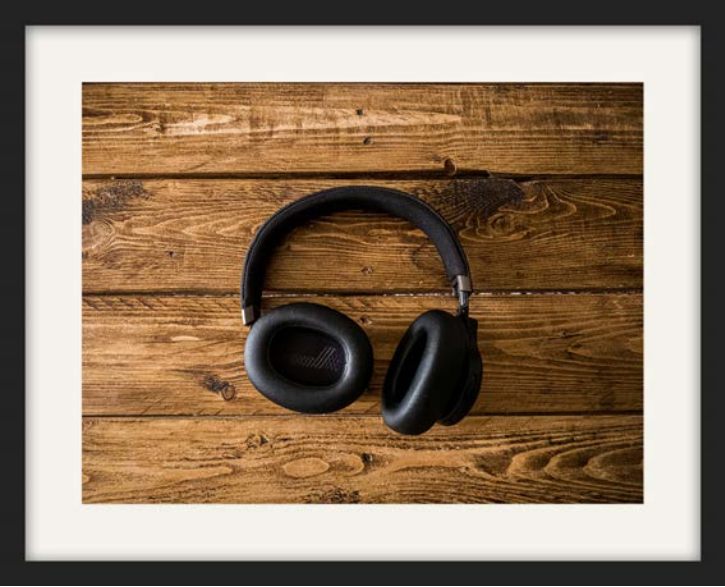
Dave Martin

"Music has been my medicine and therapy during lockdown. I do not know what I would have done if I didn't have my instruments and studio at home. I set a project for myself and for the band that I play with and recorded a full nine-track album with these babies. Kept me focused and sane, but probably not my partner and son who live here too."



Emmie Geddes

“Through lockdown, I have discovered two new loves – Tik Tok and the American TV series, Friends! Thanks to Netflix I have now watched it multiple times.”



Jason Sinclair

“I have one of those brains that when it’s not kept occupied it gets really noisy and negative in there quickly. So, for the past 4 months while trying to fill my days, I’ve filled my head listening to comedy, new music, self-help and tutorials. I’ve learnt and laughed quite a lot through lockdown.”



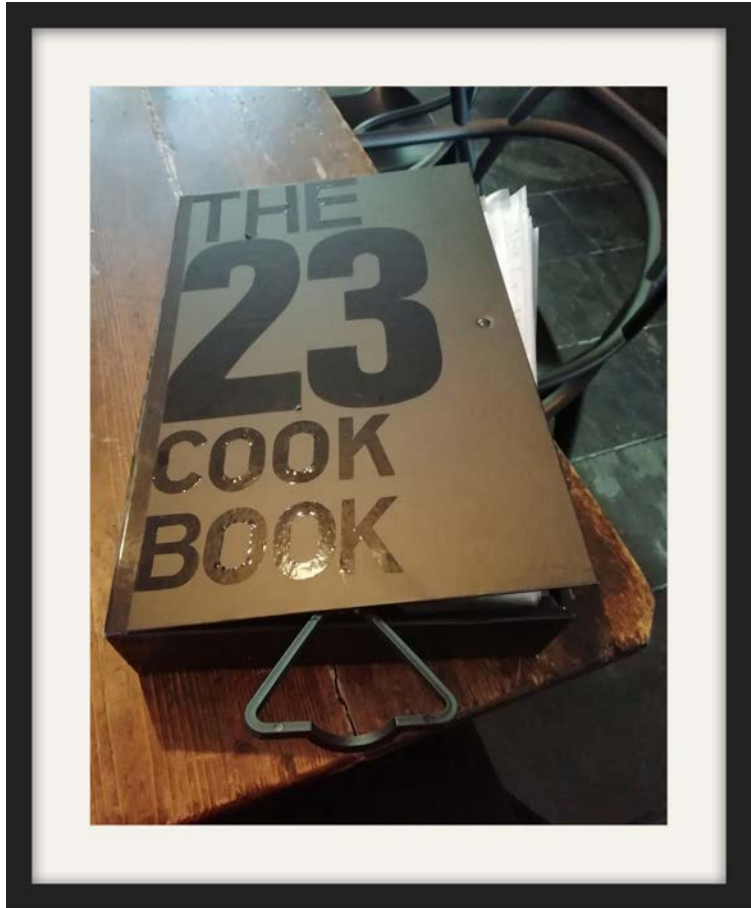
Louie Buchan

"Not only a game console but my only way of socialising with my friends. This made me very happy as we made teams and could still play all together."



Pauline Atkinson

"The alarm clock I no longer have to set. Nowhere to go – and no appointments to keep or trains to catch. Loss of connection to others. Lockdown has become like the long hot summer holidays of childhood when days bleed into each other and time became endless. The alarm clock has become a sign of hope that I will set it for one early morning train ride to see and hug the ones I love."



Drew and Issy Whitmore

"Our girls like to cook, and eat, but nothing prepared us for how much they would cook, and eat, in lockdown. It started with high school home economics homework and soon turned into a weekly if not daily feast. We made a box to hold all the recipes they were making, from cut-outs from magazines or hand-written by friends and family. 23 is our house number."



Graham Buchan

"All that matters is spending the day with my children and enjoying some home comforts. It's not about going out to fancy places but being at home and being together."



Judy Spark

"During the lockdown I spent a lot of time developing the garden of my childhood home, an activity that became almost an addiction. One heaped teaspoon of good garden soil is reported to hold up to one billion microbes and it is due to microbial activity in the soil that wet earth smells as it does. This aroma, known as *petrichor*, is said to have a soothing effect on people, a point with which I would concur."



Justine Andrew

"Coffee, how most parents have gotten through lockdown! Trying to drink a cuppa whilst still hot, and in any kind of peaceful setting has become a luxury to most parents therefore changing our perspective of the kettle to a lifeline."



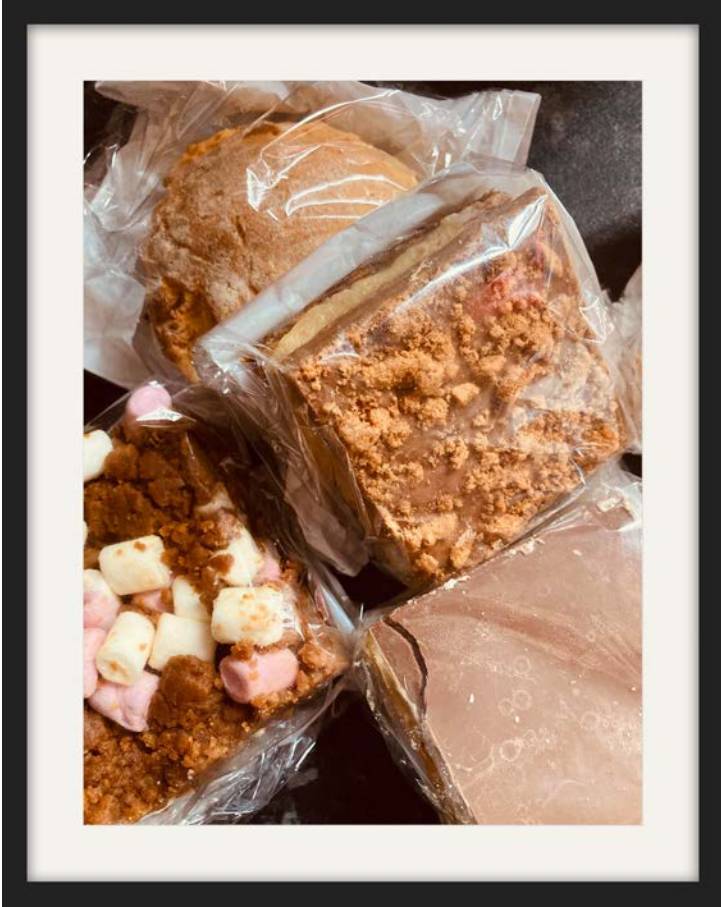
Ruthie

"I have become Ben Gunn... I dreams of
CHEEESE... "toasted mostly"



Kristin Edward

"Lockdown meant a lot of baking and especially cake for
those whose birthdays were going by unmarked, cakes and
rainbows were featured heavily and happiness amongst the
early darkness."



Mya Buchan

"Appreciating all the small businesses doing what they can to stay active. Going on an early morning trip to the farm to choose our treats and being honest."



Angela Jones

"I made a bird table during lockdown so that I could put it up outside the window where I set up my desk for working from home. I wanted to see if the birds in the nearby wood would get closer. The bird table turned out to be an utter joy for me – seeing birds on it every day and then, later on, their fledglings. It's true to say that my birds kept me sane!"



Amy Stewart

"We had the time and energy to focus on our garden; our new decking and our door bar are now great places to entertain."



Kate Henderson

"We had black ground cover round the sides of our raised decking. It needed colour. We were then in Lockdown – in the dark days of a pandemic threat. I decided to put some colour into our lives and to the decking. It was my first attempt at painting."



Chris Bird

"This is macro image of a cucumber plant grown during this period of Lockdown. With our diminished opportunities to travel and explore, our attention turned to what could be found locally. Many hours have been spent this spring watching the optimistic progress of the plants and wildlife mostly in my own back garden."



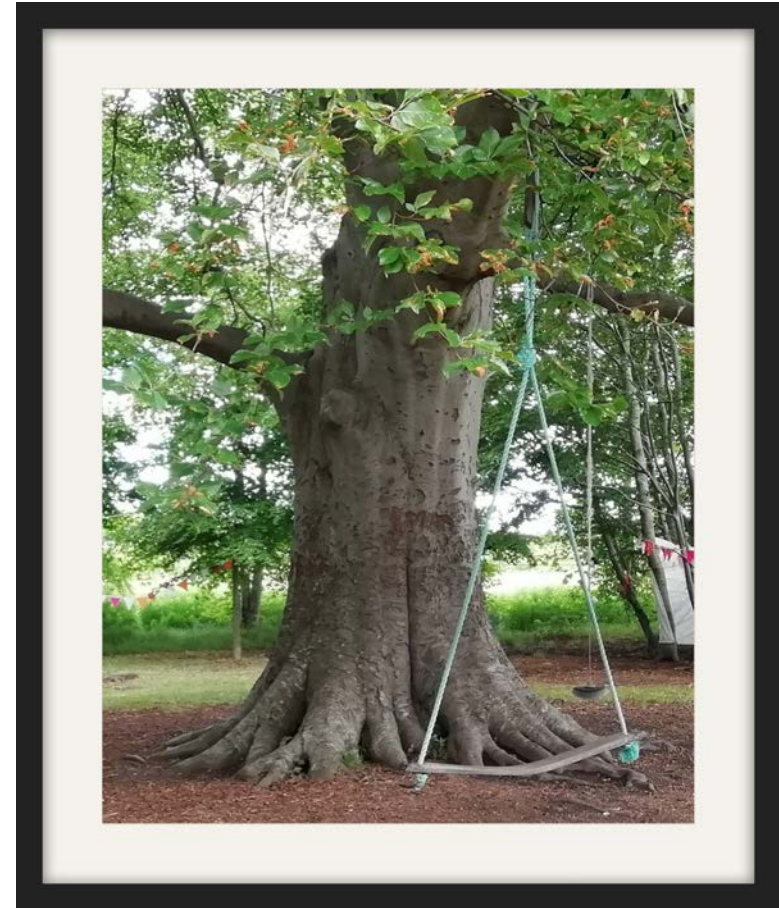
Gill Bird

"When official lockdown finally started I was relieved. I know lots of people have found lockdown very hard, but here I was being ordered to stay at my home, which I love with the family, garden and animals I adore. Despite having just been made redundant and my redundancy money running out I think I was as happy as I have ever been – bimbbling around my garden weeding, planting veg and drinking tea."



Gilyan Noble

"During lockdown I took a closer look at the remnant of sea vegetation I found on a beach and began to draw it. The subject was no longer a piece of sea life. It represented my curiosity, a view of otherworldliness, and the sense of achievement and joy that creativity including visual art inspires in the maker. I will always think of lockdown and the joy of creativity when I look at this object."



Jacqueline Bennett

"Made from an old whisky stave, this swing is the most popular of swings found under a large beech tree in The Belt, an area of wildness right opposite our house. Normally filled with 2 if not 3 kids at any one time, this swing was lonely in lockdown. It soon became part of my lockdown meditation, its low, long arc sweeping away all worries, in solitary peace and quiet."



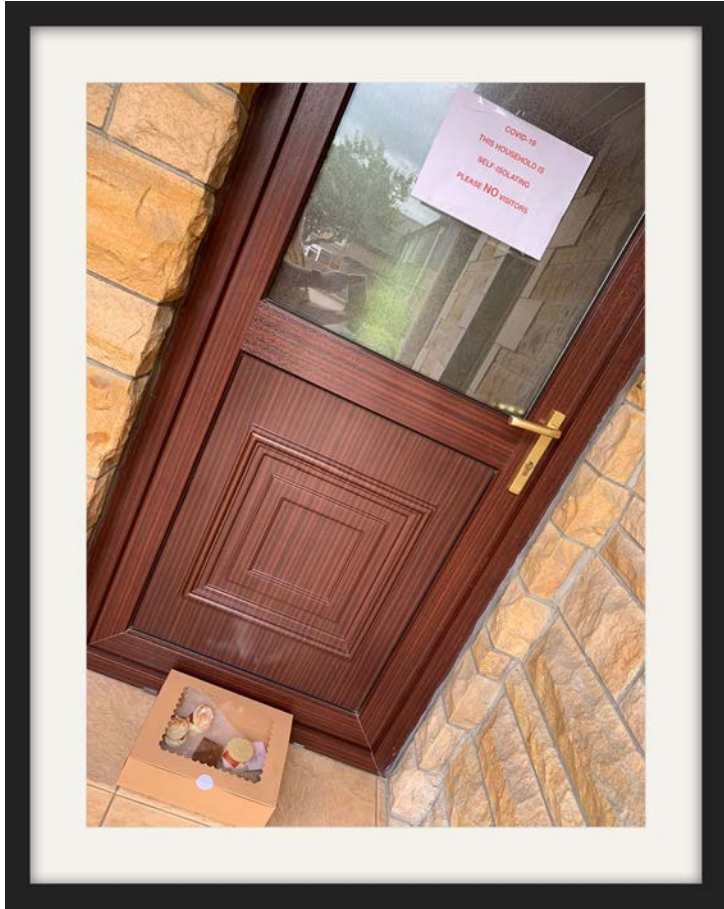
Morag Tweedie

“The poly-tunnel came by default, situated in a neglected garden beside ours. Strimmed and plastic covered for a couple of seasons, meant that it was ready to open up and plant when lock-down started. The time to experiment in this new environment, grow and then eat vegetables raised from seed has been a balm and a joy. And the giant nasturtium....a gift from the previous gardener, in the ground and now free and flourishing”



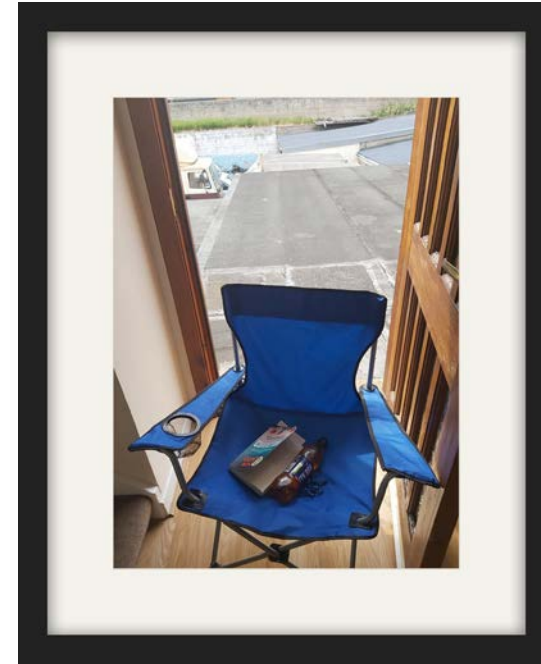
Myra Robertson

“This is my snapshot associated with Covid 19 lockdown; my flowerbed and sunflowers garden space at the back of my block of flats. I am in the vulnerable group and my neighbours, who are very kindly, did much of this work for me. It’s been a very nice place to sit and read during this time.”



Audrey Graham

"Dropping off treats to mum and dad during lockdown."



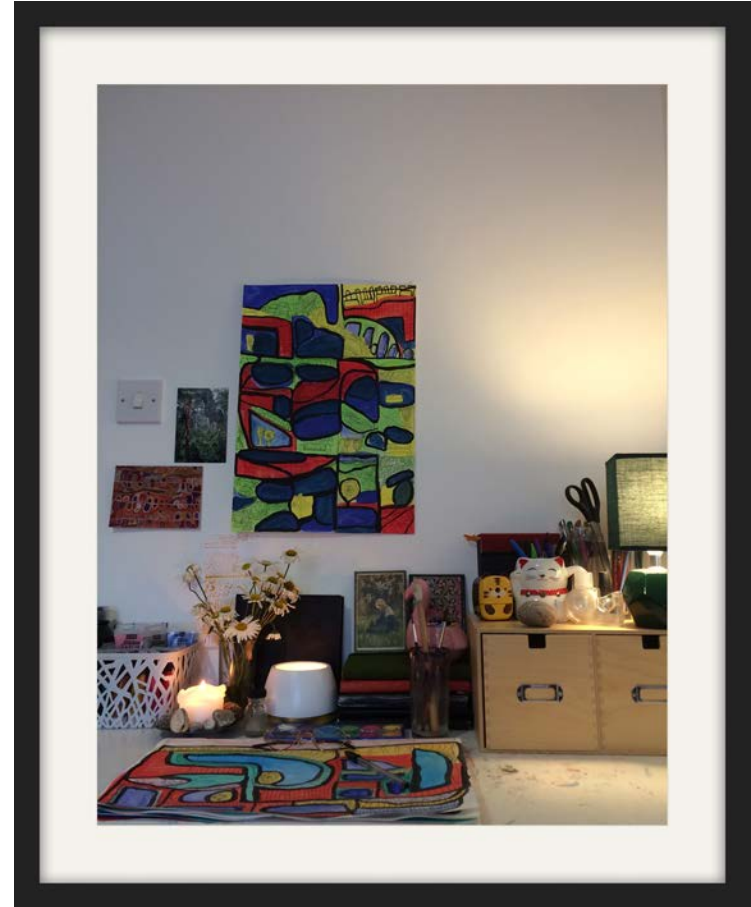
Barry Weiland Jarvis

"I love to get outside and read or listen to music. Living in a flat there has been little opportunity for this during Lockdown, but by sitting at the door we can get just enough of a taste of what we are missing. Lockdown has taught us that we sometimes need to make the best of what we have rather than worry about what we cannot change."



Dennis Paterson

"This is a portrayal of the Cullen and Deskford Community Council Coronavirus Relief efforts from the past few months; a bunch of flowers delivered to a local lady to celebrate her 80th birthday in lockdown. Cullen Bay also kindly supplied 3,550 free meals of which our volunteers delivered on average 38/40 meals per day."



Elizabeth Claire Burke

"As a Ceramic and Mixed Media Artist, I have taken a photograph that celebrates my shrine to my artistic career. The image directs focus on where I have sat for many months in isolation. Originally from sunny Australia, living in isolation in my wee fishing cottage in Cullen, I have had the opportunity to reflect and develop on the ability to use art to overcome the hardships of being away from family and love ones back in Australia."



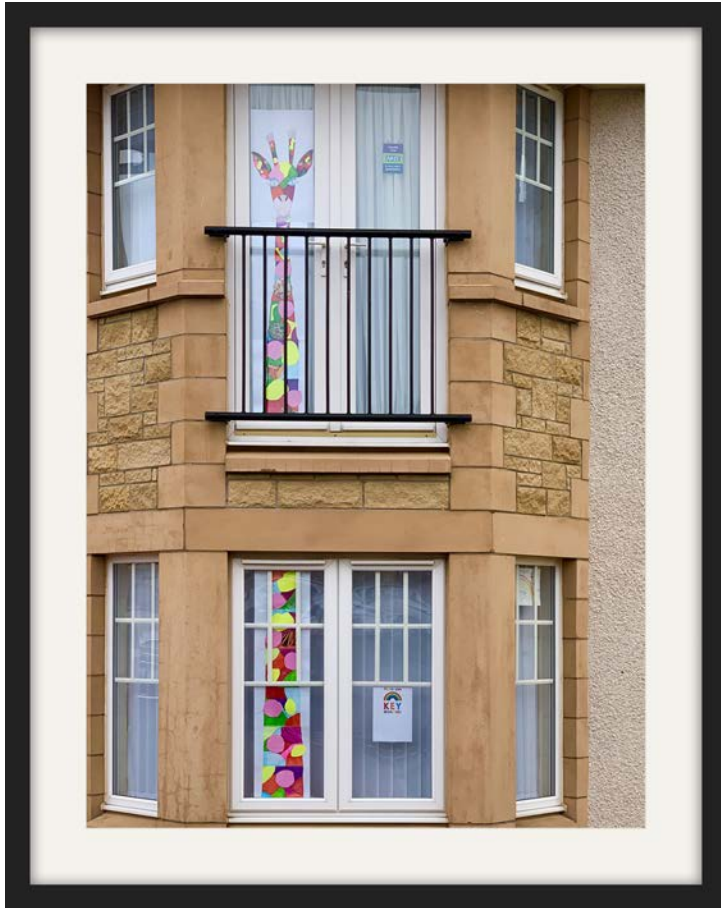
Ruth McIntosh

"This hat was bought by me in France only to wear on holiday because I don't like to wear a hat. During this four month period of Covid lockdown it has become my best friend along with my hair brush. Four months of no haircuts has made me look like I have been dragged through a hedge. Brush my hair and on with the hat and I am ready to face the world."



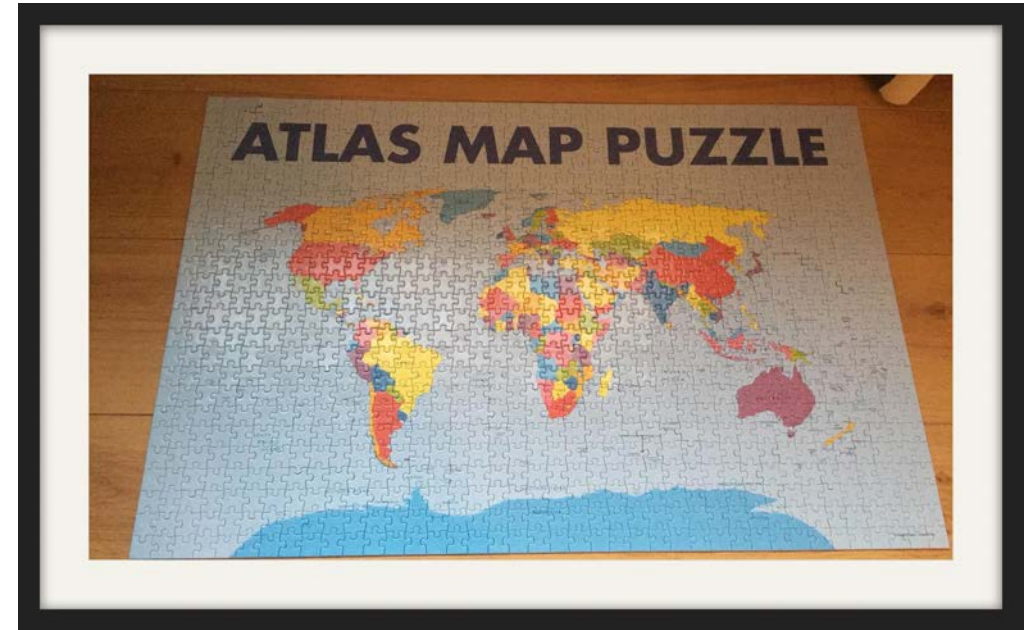
Stacey Menzies-Toner

"With working from home came more screen time; I purchased some blue light glasses as I began to experience tired eyes and headaches – not only did they help but I now love them as an accessory. As leisure and gym gear became the everyday outfit of choice, these also reminded not to take clothing or styling for granted, as it became something I really missed playing with on a daily basis."



Robertson Family – Adele, Stephen & Andrew

"Geoffrey was the result of a family lockdown project in April 2020. The lockdown rainbow theme was used to brighten up our lives and those of our neighbours, during this difficult time. Pictures of favourite foods, used post-it notes containing our lockdown shopping lists and answers to family quizzes were included to provide memories of this time. The nights were dark when Geoffrey went up but our room seemed lighter when we took him down."



Elaine Buchan

"When the days are tough and schooling is an obstacle I loved my jigsaw life. What better way to relax and switch off. Then the feeling when accomplished is priceless."



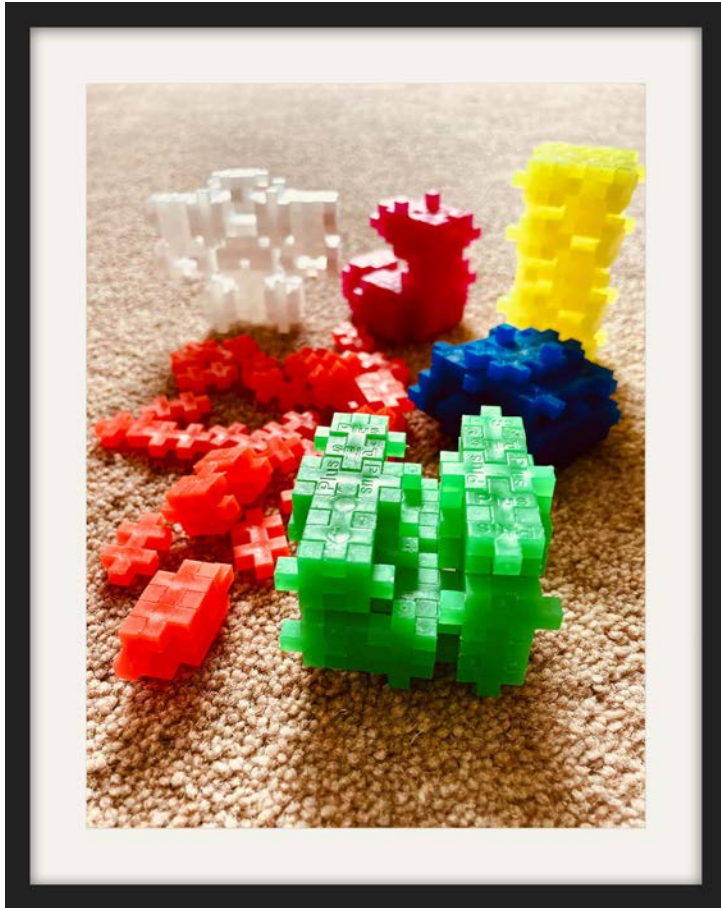
Jennifer Cantwell

"During lockdown we cleared and swept a derelict site so we could use it for skating. Local spaces are being reclaimed, people are planting, clearing, mending, making. Veggie plots, skate parks, pop-up shops and home sewn masks. When we're able to spend time here in our places and communities these are the things we're choosing to do, and we need more of this. We need less pressure and more time. I don't want the old life back."



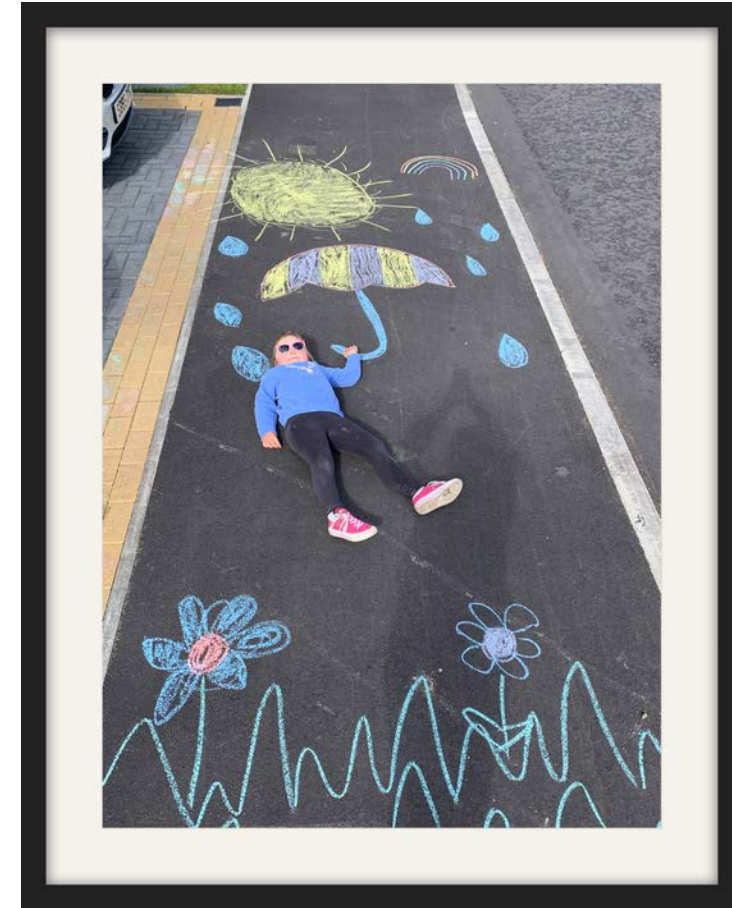
Kirstie Wallace

"This is a pic of a bracelet my nieces gave me on my birthday during lockdown. I've worn it every day since. I think of my nieces & nephew every time I notice it and my heart fills with love and joy."



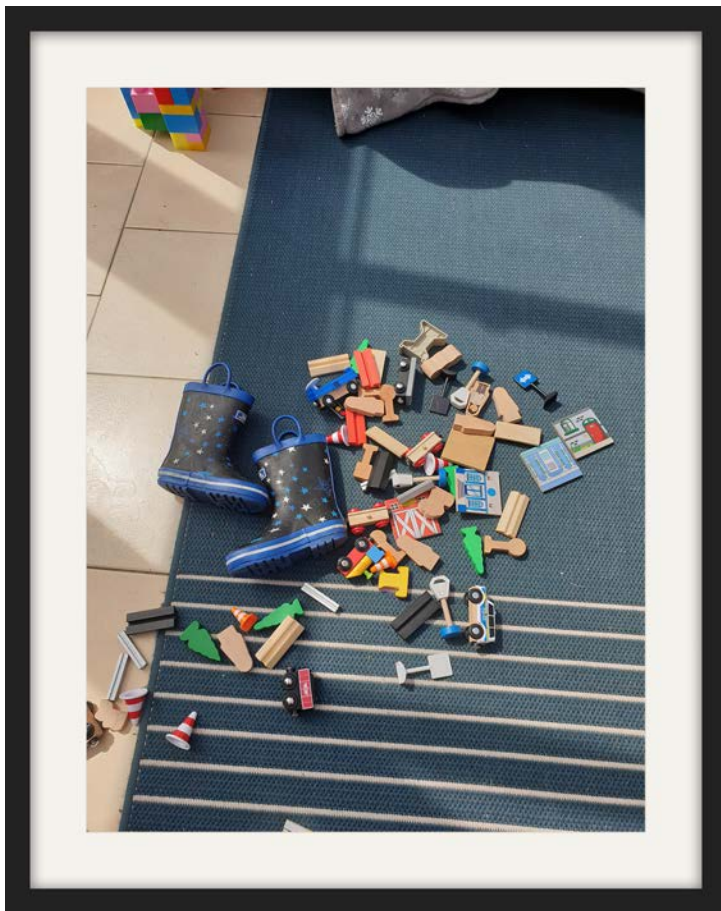
Louie Avenell

"Plus-Plus are tiny plastic bricks you can piece together to make shapes. In lockdown I used them almost every day to make mini sculptures. Each one is unique, and I never know what my fingers will create... sometimes they look like robots... sometimes like tiny buildings. Plus-plus stopped me being bored and helped me feel creative when I was stuck at home."



Stephanie Bayliss

"Chalk has become an absolute go too during our isolation, used for playing, games and quality family time."



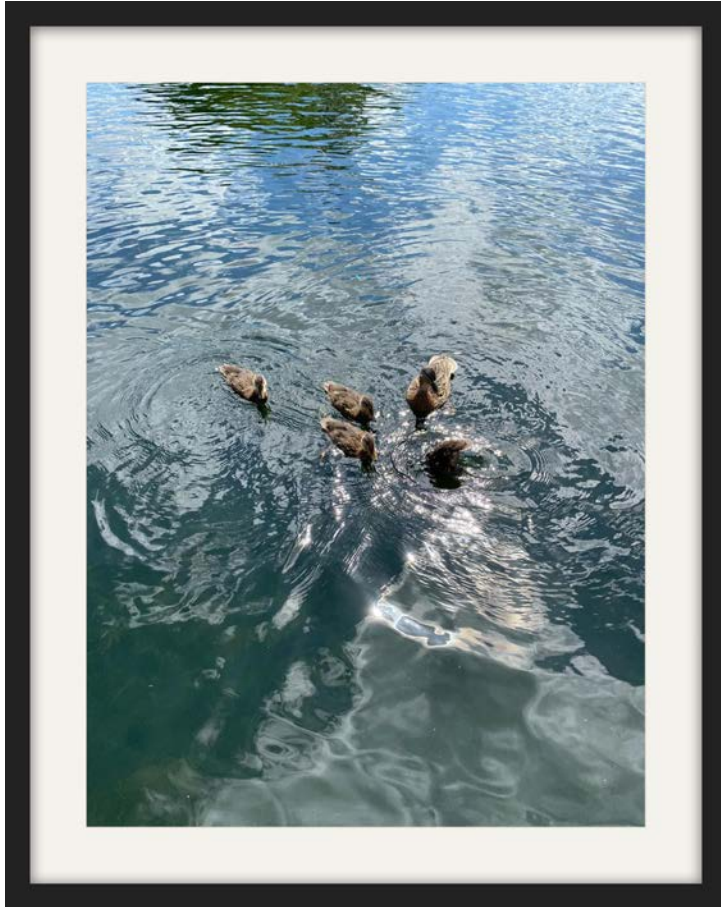
Tilly Howie

"My son's trains. He has enjoyed playing them occasionally in the past, during lockdown they have been the turn-to toy! We have created endless layouts and had great fun. It always ends like this."



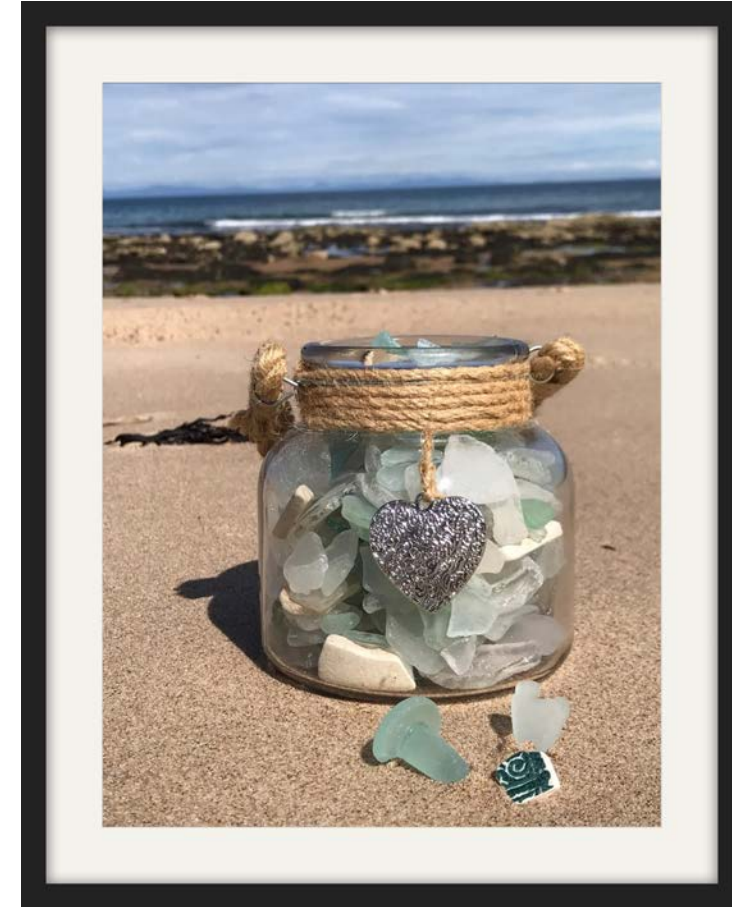
Bruce Gordon

"I decided to teach myself to play the trombone during lockdown, as a personal challenge and to raise funds for the Scottish Schools Orchestra Trust, an organisation that does a whole lot of good for young musicians of any ability. I've moved from being almost unable to make a sound on it to taking my Grade 3 exam in a little over two months. A new passion and a new motivation!"



Ashley Russell

"Our one hour of exercise a day was used for woodland walks, cycle runs and outings to feed the ducks at the Cooper park."



Dianne McLeish

"I usually climb the Munro's around Scotland but due to the Lockdown and travel restrictions I was unable to get out and about. To keep my fitness up I decided to do a daily walk on my local beach at Burghead and while walking I found lots of beautiful sea glass and pottery which filled this empty jar. I plan to make them into a picture as a memento of the Lockdown."



David Patterson

“The Moray sky has always struck me as one of Moray’s most wonderful things. During lockdown a marvellous obsession with it grew and grew: the light, the colours, the textures of the sky. I kept a weather eye on it each evening and invariably found myself outside our back gate snapping it with my smartphone and sharing it with friends and contacts.”



Natalie Taylor



Kristy Langdale

"My photograph is of my red converse at the beach. This was my first trip outside my house in four months, Roseisle beach is my happy place and I didn't realise how much I had missed it's beauty and tranquillity. We maybe appreciate things a lot more now as things start to ease, something as simple as putting on a pair of shoes to go explore is something I won't take for granted. Happy feet."



Mark Aldridge

"My bike...I cycled the few miles to work, but since Lockdown it's really been a godsend. I've used it to help get fitter, both mentally and physically, and discover areas of Moray, I never new existed. I'm addicted now! This is a picture of the view of the Moray Coast after coming over The Mannoeh, the old drovers road from Knockando to Elgin, above Birnie. My granddad used to walk it, so I gave it a go."



Mary Bourne

"Like so many people during lockdown, I walked daily and took photos. I was finding it hard to adjust to this strange new world, which made my artistic practice impossible for a while. However, the act of photographing my surroundings was anchoring; it meant quite literally focussing on the positive. So, for lockdown, my camera was more than just a tool to record - it became a way of reframing my relationship with the world."



Rebecca Gibson

"During lockdown, it was important for me to stay connected to nature. I began gathering mementos on my daily exercise walks and created a nature table of items such as shells, crab claws, pebbles and pieces of sea glass. Not only are these items pretty to look at, but by smelling and touching them I've found that they help me continue to engage with nature from home."



Saskia Lassman

“I made this piece in Elgin three years ago. Now back in Vienna this wheel with its little added in plants as well as the photograph that comes with it has come to represent freedom and a window to the past allowing me to travel through my imagination back to the gorgeous landscape surrounding Elgin.”

Thank You To

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Amanda Lindsay | Judy Spark |
| Amy Stewart | Justine Andrew |
| Andrea Fraser | Karen Ruth Jenkins |
| Angela Jones | Kate Henderson |
| Anne Rhynas | Kirstie Wallace |
| Ashley Russell | Kristin Edward |
| Audrey Graham | Kristy Langdale |
| Audrey Mitchell | Louie Avenell |
| Barry Weiland-Jarvis | Louie Buchan |
| Becca Faulkner | Louise Edgar |
| Bernie Walker | Lynne Hague |
| Bruce Gordon | Lynne Strachan |
| Caroline Inckle | Mark Aldridge |
| Chris Bird | Mary Bourne |
| Craig McDonald | Michaela Munro |
| Craig Robertson | Michelle Good |
| Dave Martin | Moira Downie |
| David MacGillivray | Morag Tweedie |
| David Patterson | Mya Buchan |
| Dennis Paterson | Myra Robertson |
| Dianne McLeish | Natalie Taylor |
| Drew & Issy Whitmore | Nicola Gibson |
| Elaine Buchan | Owen Dempsey |
| Elizabeth Burke | Pauline Atkinson |
| Emmie Geddes | Rebecca Gibson |
| Gill Bird | Robert Menzies-Toner |
| Gilyan Noble | Ruby Worth |
| Graham Buchan | Ruth McIntosh |
| Heidi Tweedie | Saskia Lassmann |
| Jac Bennett | Stacey Menzies-Toner |
| Jamie Banks | Stephanie Bayliss |
| Jane Pickthall | The Robertson Family |
| Jason Sinclair | Tilly Howie |
| Jen Cantwell | Wendy Grosvenor |
| Jon Quigg | Wendy MacGillivray Toner |

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AN ONLINE EXHIBITION FROM PROJECTROOM2020,
PRESENTED BY ART NORTH PROJECTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH M:ADE (MORAY: ARTS DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT)
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