



# Artists in Schools: Newham

**In recent years, Bow Arts has worked with a number of schools across Newham. These include a core group of schools that make up the Sarah Bonnell Consortium.**

### **The Sarah Bonnell Consortium Schools are:**

Essex Primary School  
Portway Primary School  
Ronald Openshaw Nursery Education Centre  
Sandringham Primary School  
Sarah Bonnell School  
Selwyn Primary School  
William Davies Primary School

### **Bow Arts has also worked with the following Newham schools & organisations:**

Earlham Primary School  
Hallsville Primary School  
Hartley Primary School  
Kaizen Primary School  
Oasis Academy Silvertown  
SCITTELS (School Centred Initial Teacher Training in East London Schools)  
Sheringham Primary School  
St Joachim's Catholic Primary School

### **What is the Consortium?**

The consortium model was born out of a desire to collaborate, share and develop arts education provision for children and teachers who work in the same local area. The model involves schools and Bow Arts working together and pooling resources to address shared priorities and needs, with the aim to improve visual arts practice across the schools. The consortium model is delivered through two main strands: individual projects within schools and a shared programme.

### **Individual Projects**

Each school's individual project is co-planned by the Art Coordinator, Project Manager and artist, with a particular aim, challenge or outcome in mind. It's less about off-the-shelf projects, or a menu of options, and more about pooling the ideas and skills of the project leads and coming up with a creative starting

point or challenge, bespoke to the context of that particular school. This allows schools to focus on their own priorities, aims and ambitions, and consider how artists can help to address these.

### **Shared Programme**

The shared programme aims to support schools to share practice and build networks across a borough. Through termly meetings and CPD sessions, Art Coordinators are given time and space to learn from one another, the Bow Arts Learning team and a range of artists. They share ideas, discuss challenges and learn skills and approaches in order to strengthen the creative education experience in their schools. Similarly, holiday programmes and celebration events provide opportunities for children across the consortium to meet like-minded peers and create together in workshops.

**Over 7,000 children & young people** have taken part in creative projects in Newham in the last decade

**99%** of children asked said they enjoyed the project

**Over 95%** of children asked said they learned something new

**More than 100 bespoke projects** have been delivered in schools

Projects have reached **over 500 teachers**

**400+** children & young people have received **Arts Award qualifications**

*“Partnering with Bow Arts has changed how I teach art. They’ve brought fresh ideas, materials, & ideas of how to deliver content to our pupils. I have been able to apply [that] with more confidence now.*”

*Watching the pupils grow creatively through their projects has been inspiring. It is amazing to see how much the pupils’ knowledge & skills have improved.”*

**Bow Arts Learning works with teachers & artists to plan projects which meet the needs of the school, meaning each project is unique and bespoke. Nevertheless, the projects often have similar aims, which can be loosely categorised as fitting into one of the following areas:**



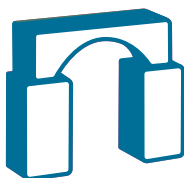
### **Learning & Developing Skills**

Projects often focus on developing practical, technical artistic skills of children and teachers using particular materials or tools. This can also refer to broader life skills including creativity, problem-solving and communication.



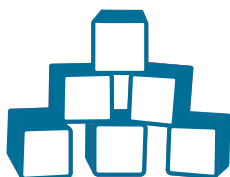
### **Enhancing Environments**

We create artworks and spaces which aim to improve the experience and appearance of the school building or grounds, often aiming to increase children's ownership over their school environment.



### **Creating Links**

Making links with existing curricula or with real world industry ensures the projects are relevant and learning is broadened beyond art and design.



### **Building Community**

Through collaboration and partnership working, we aim to build creative school communities.



**Transformation:  
Exploring Jesmonite**  
William Davies Primary School  
Rebecca Griffiths & Year 5  
Spring 2022



Exploring a medium and process that was new to the school, ceramicist and sculptor Rebecca Griffiths worked with a Y5 class from William Davies across three days to produce these 'bronze' amulets, created by infusing bronze pigment through Jesmonite, poured into individually crafted clay moulds – each one treasuring something deeply personal to the student that made it. Rebecca focused on exploring the

properties of Jesmonite as a creative material, and encouraging students to think of themselves as artists, feeling empowered to make bold creative decisions and respond individually to the work of established artists examined alongside the project.

Finished pieces were included in an exhibition within the school.





*“I’ve learnt how to structure the project to give the students as much ownership over their own work as possible, whilst managing the process to ensure safe use of Jesmonite & casting materials. Students were evidently engaged throughout, & found the transformative sculpture process extremely exciting!”*



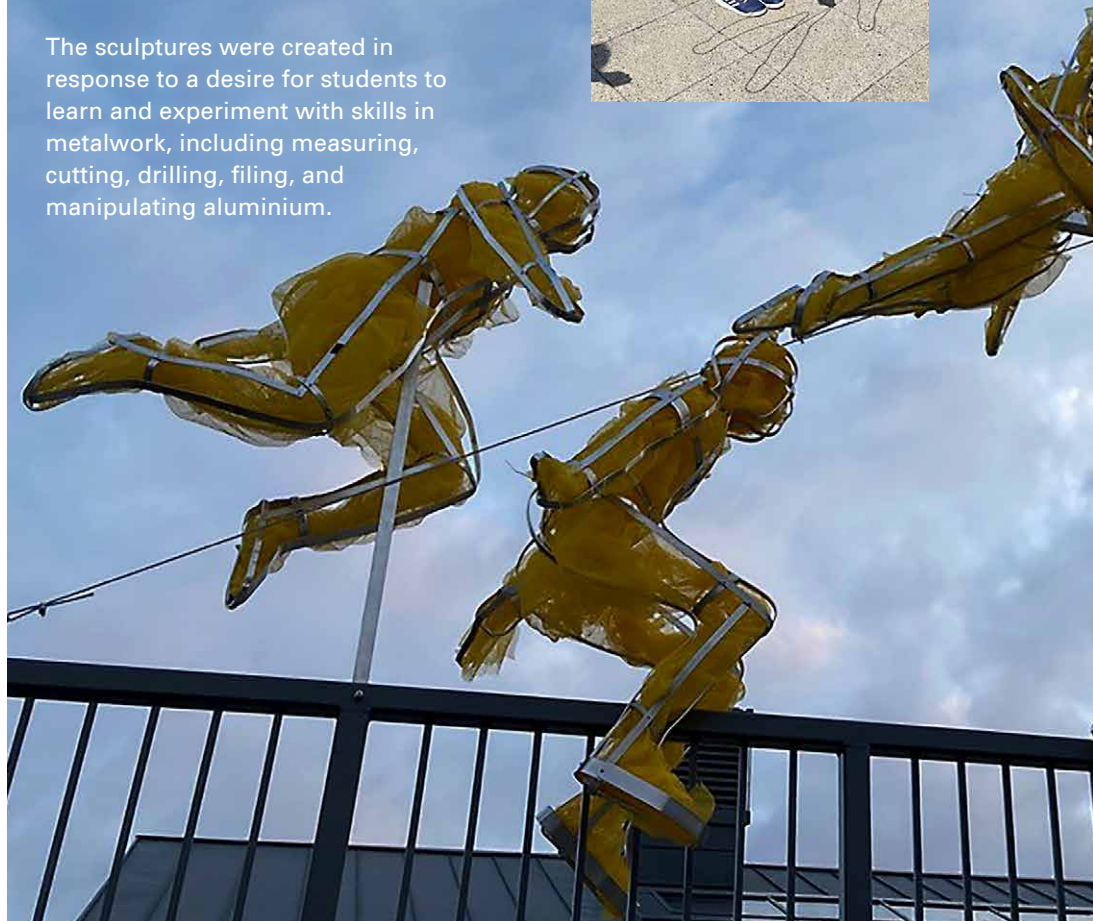
## Metal

Sandringham Primary School  
Reza Ben Gajra & Mixed year  
groups; 2020-2022

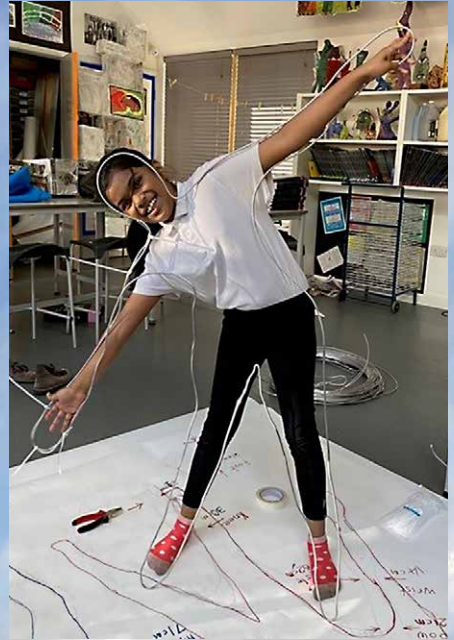


Art lead Michael Pearmain collaborated with artist Reza Ben Gajra and over a hundred pupils in the fabrication of an extensive series of life size figures in aluminium, who can now be found throughout the school, the playground, and even climbing the whole façade of the towering late-Victorian school building.

The sculptures were created in response to a desire for students to learn and experiment with skills in metalwork, including measuring, cutting, drilling, filing, and manipulating aluminium.









**Africa**  
Selwyn Primary School  
Bhajan Hunjan & Year 5  
Summer 2021

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Painter and printmaker Bhajan Hunjan led a select group of Year 5s through an exploration of the art, culture and environment of East Africa.

Students were set the task of creating work for a new display in the school, with the requirement that a variety of different art skills and mediums were experimented with along the way.



*"We chose the students based on their artistic abilities [but] we also chose students who we believed would gain further confidence from participating in the project. For example, two students were new joiners from other countries."*



## Expressive Arts Days / Futures Week

Oasis Academy Silvertown  
Various artists & Years 7-9

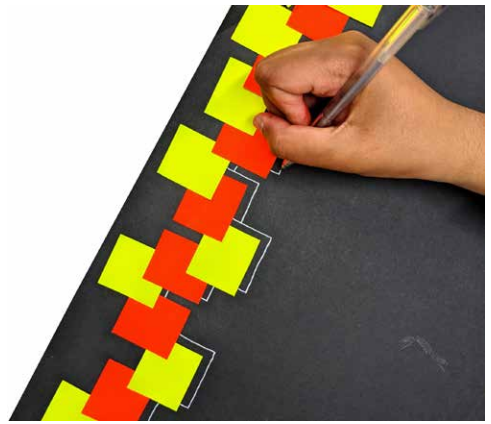


A number of Bow Arts Artist Educators have visited Oasis Academy Silvertown over the last few years to lead one-off workshops with students in Year 7-9, with the aim of promoting and raising the profile of Art & Design as a GCSE option, as well as giving students an understanding of what

being a professional artist is like as a career option.

These workshops have been an opportunity for students to meet, work alongside and ask questions of practising artists, learning what choosing a career as an artist can be like.





*"I enjoyed being able to freely create a piece of art without having specific rules to follow."*



## Tulip Trees

Sandringham Primary School  
Miyuki Kasahara & Years 2-3  
Spring 2023



Sculptor and mixed media artist Miyuki Kasahara worked with a large number of students from Sandringham to produce a series of outdoor artworks.

These 'tulip trees' were inspired by the life and work of eighteenth-century physician John Fothergill, who created a sizeable botanical garden nearby in what is now West Ham Park. The

pieces are made up of breeze block pillars containing living bug hotels, and adorned with fired and glazed moths, botanical watercolours transferred onto tiles, and topped with cast concrete tulips.

Students were involved in all stages – designing, researching, sketching, painting, sculpting, firing and finally in building the bug hotels.



*"We were surprised at how much the students were able to achieve, especially those younger ones in Years 2 & 3, when things were introduced in a patient, step-by-step approach."*



Tulip Trees





**Staircase Mural**  
Portway Primary School  
Tom Berry & Year 5  
Summer 2023

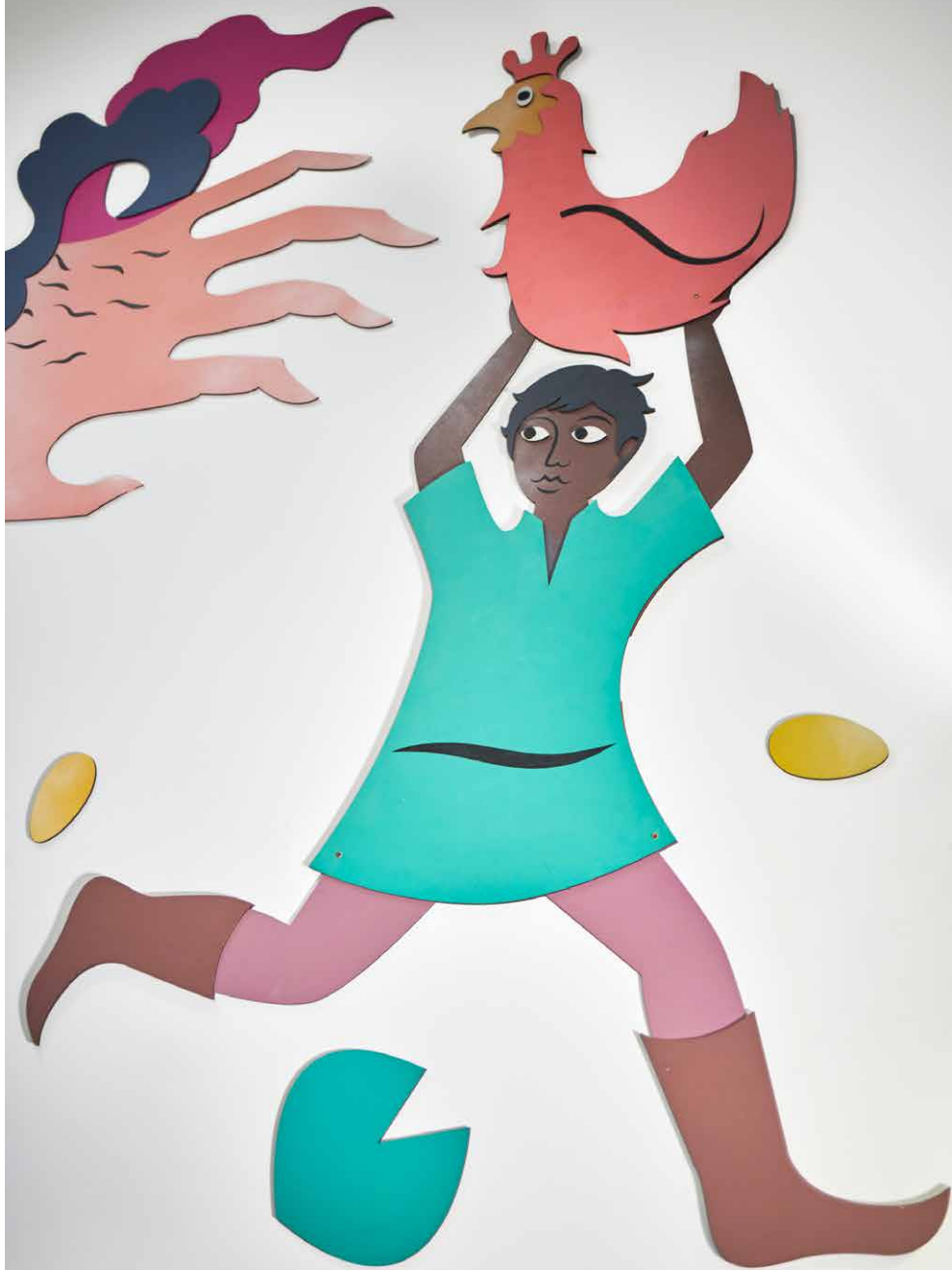


Artist Tom Berry worked with a select group of Portway's Y5 on a commission to brighten up an area of the school with a new permanent mural, inspired by classic fairy tales.

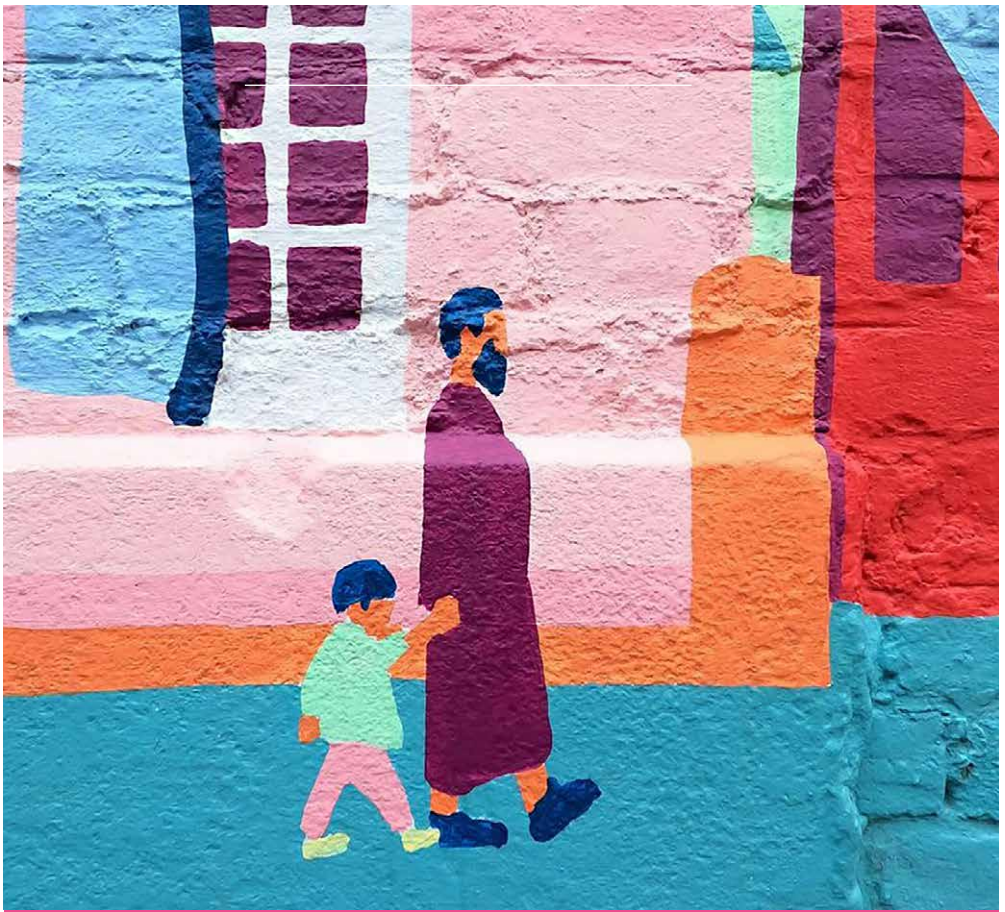
Students explored a range of 2D processes - line and fill, cyanotypes, silhouettes, paper cut outs, and so on to inform the final design, which was realised in painted, shallow relief MDF boards.



Staircase Mural







**Newham Heritage Week Mural**  
Hartley Primary School  
Will Redgrove & Year 4  
Summer 2023

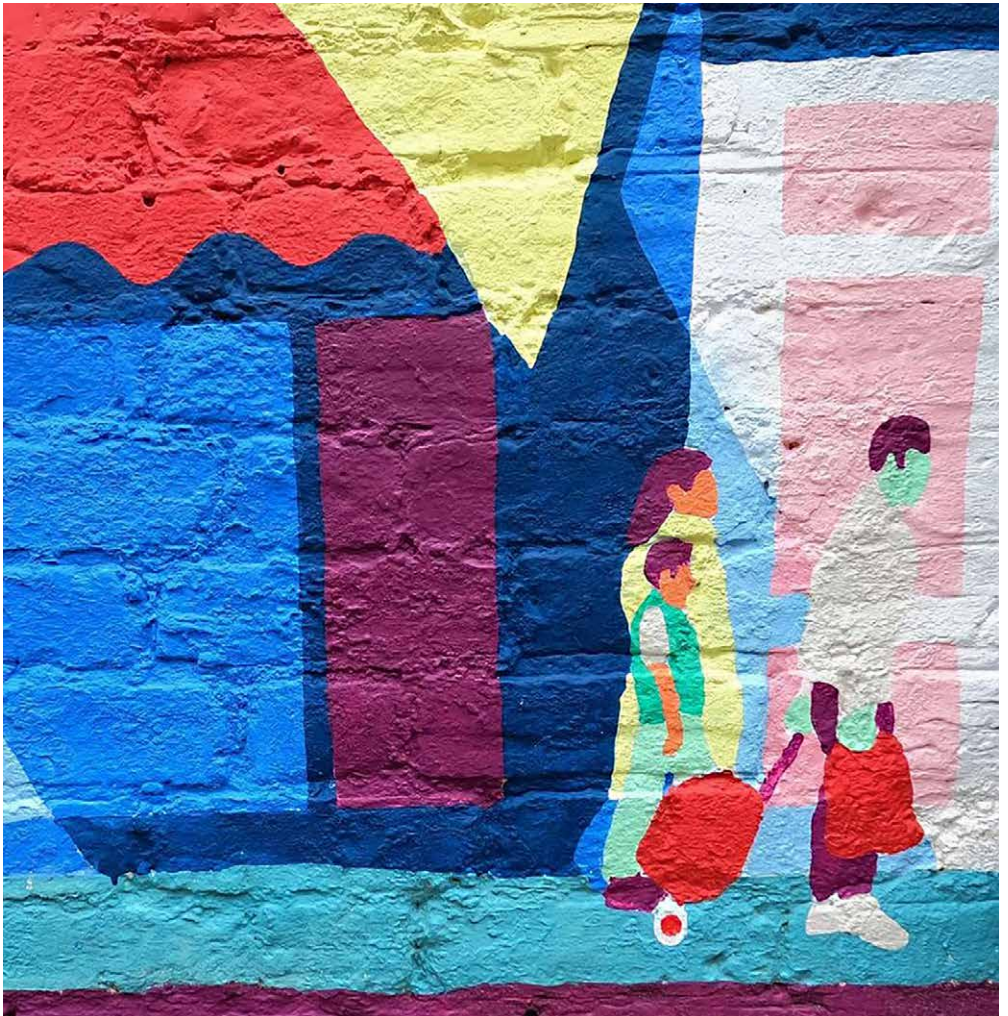


Bow Arts were approached by Hartley Primary School to help celebrate Newham Heritage Week 2023.

The project began with Year 4 meeting and hearing from local artists in Bow Arts' Old Manor Park Library studios, before pupils embarked upon a

research and design phase, using the work of Newham artist Ferha Farooqui as inspiration.

Families were then invited to contribute to the selection of final designs, which Will then pulled together into one piece.



**South Asian Heritage Week**  
Sandringham Primary School  
Bhajan Hunjan  
& Mixed year groups  
Summer 2024



Contributing to an exhibition of work from across the school celebrating South Asian Heritage Week, artist Bhajan Hunjan visited Sandringham to lead a small group of students through a printmaking masterclass, responding to the work of Indian painter and graphic artist Arpana Caur, and traditional Indian miniature paintings.

Students learned to make prints with a traditional roller press, and then demonstrated the techniques to peers and parents at the subsequent exhibition.

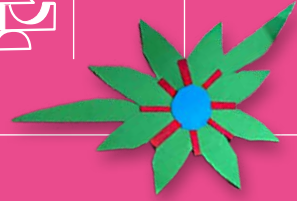




*"There is a surprise element when a print is produced using a press - a 'wow' factor for the students."*

## School Values Mural

William Davies Primary School  
Will Redgrove & Year 4  
Summer 2024



*"I've never had so many  
parents come up to me  
to tell me how gorgeous  
something is – can you  
come back soon please?"*

*"I like that the picture  
has a message in it.  
It's inspiring for  
everybody who  
looks at it."*





'Be Collaborative', one of William Davies' six Learning Powers, was chosen as the focus of this mural.

Will began by working with whole classes on the design process, using coloured paper cut outs and arranging designs into large mock-ups that could be adjusted and edited collaboratively.

Once students were happy with the design, the development stage saw Will replacing photographs of the work with block colours, retaining features so that the final mural looked

and felt like the students' work. This simplifying of detail enabled students to assist Will in the painting of the mural itself, working in small groups.

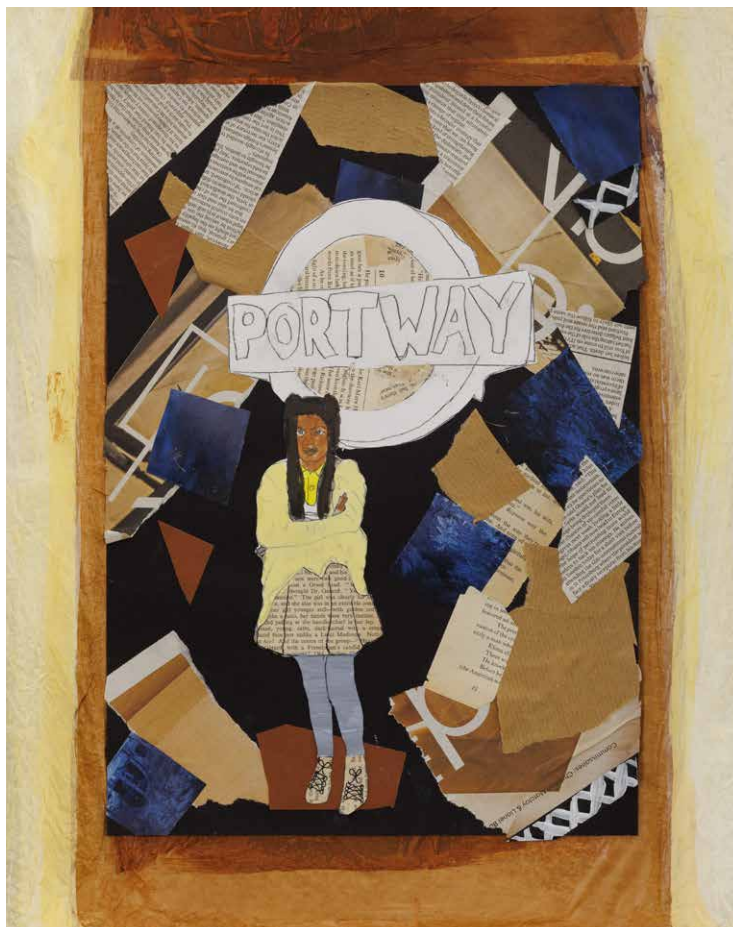
There is always a design sign-off stage, where the school has the chance to suggest edits and amendments. In this case, pupils felt that a green background (the same shade as the green of the school uniform) would be a better fit.





Artist Julia Clarke was commissioned to work with Portway's Year 5 to design and build a new decorative entrance to Portway's own 'Royal Albert Hall' performance space.

The impressive and expansive final piece is a mixture of paint, prints and shallow 3D relief, incorporating individual artworks as well as the handiwork of a large number of students who supported in the build.









**Hallsville Arts Week**  
Hallsville Primary School  
Lily German & Year 3  
Summer 2021



Artist Lily German visited Hallsville Primary School to work with Year 3 on their watercolour skills alongside their Science topic of plants.

Pupils looked at the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, and went on to experiment with washes, blending and fading, and colour variation.





**International Women's Day**  
 Sarah Bonnell School  
 Various Artists & Years 7-9  
 Spring 2022

These textile pieces are some of a series of artworks produced with various artists as part of the celebrations for International Women's Day in 2022.



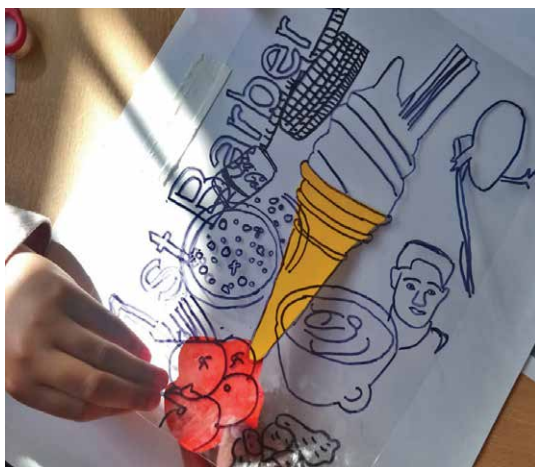
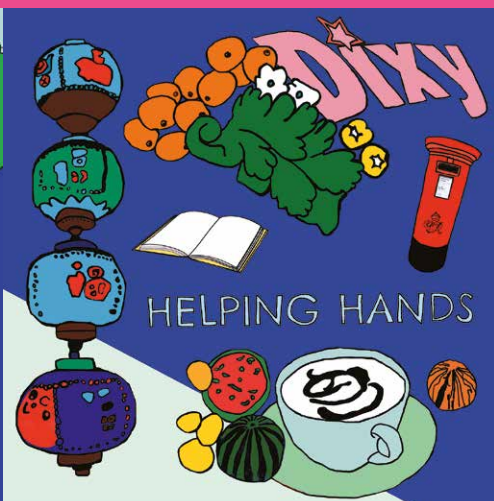
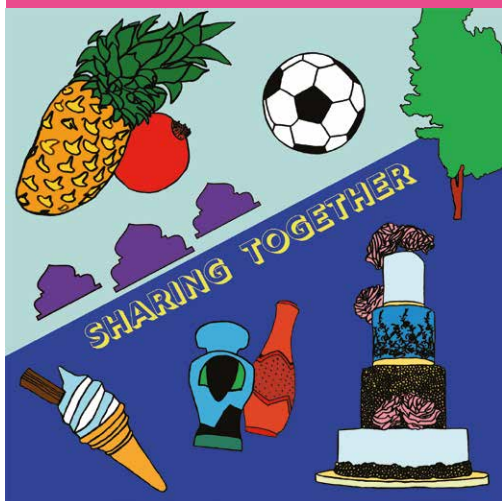
## Playground Mural

Sheringham Primary School  
Sara Heywood & Year 6  
Autumn 2019

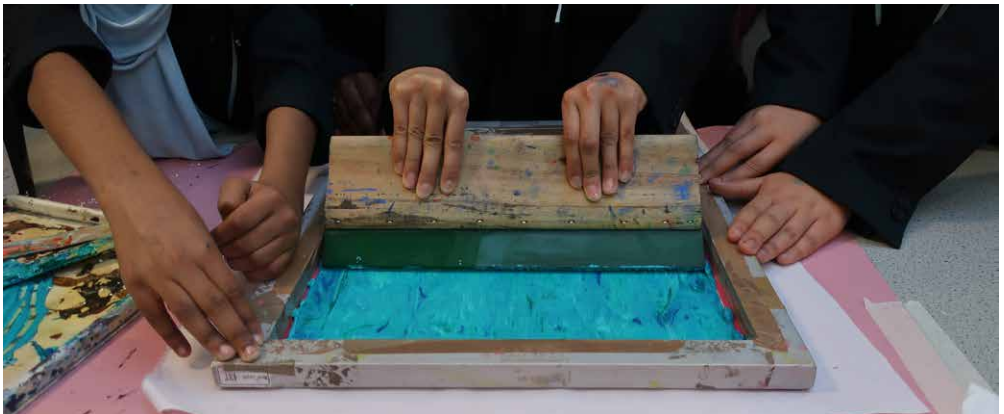


Bow Arts worked with Year 6 pupils from Sheringham and artist Sara Heywood to create a permanent mural artwork for the school playground,

themed around the concept of 'Community', and what that means to different people.







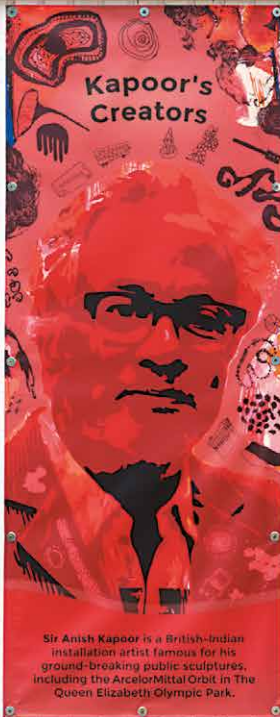
**Visionary Women**  
 Sarah Bonnell School  
 Amy Leung & Year 7  
 Autumn 2021



Complimenting the English & Drama departments' Visionary Women project, a group of Year 7 students worked alongside artist Amy Leung to produce screen-printed banners.







### Kapoor's Creators

Sir Anish Kapoor is a British-Indian installation artist famous for his ground-breaking public sculptures, including the ArcelorMittal Orbit in The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.



### Storey's Soarers

Dame Sarah Storey represented Britain cycling and swimming at multiple Paralympic Games before becoming one of the most decorated Paralympians of all time in 2020 after winning her fifth gold medal.

## House Champions

Selwyn Primary School  
Tom Berry & Year 5  
Spring 2023

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Artist Tom Berry worked with a group of Selwyn pupils to produce four banners, one for each of the school's 'House Champions'.

Professionally printed on heavyweight, weather-resistant PVC, the banners stand proudly in Selwyn's playground, celebrating the achievements of pupils and their House Champions alike.



## Botanical Mosaic

Sarah Bonnell School  
Bhajan Hunjan & Year 9  
Autumn 2021

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Year 9 students and artist Bhajan Hunjan collaborated to produce this permanent artwork for the school. Students began by exploring the significance of various flora through their cultural or medicinal use amongst diverse communities, and worked during a series of after-school clubs to produce the mosaic seen here.







**Zine in a Day**  
Sarah Bonnell School  
Various Artists & Year 7  
Autumn 2021



This project saw nine Bow Arts artists each working with a Year 7 class for a full day workshop where students made their own zine.

Exploring the theme of identity, students framed themselves as superheroes, thinking of their own skills and qualities as superpowers, and considered how their backgrounds and heritage have made them who they are.



*“I really enjoyed this project & I wish I could do something like this again.”*



Artist and theatre designer Charlie Damigos worked with Selwyn's Year 5 to produce these delicate and detailed Tudor portraits, learning sewing

and embroidery techniques before assembling final pieces into a display for the school.







## Lanterns

Selwyn Primary School  
Anne Harild & Year 2  
Summer 2019

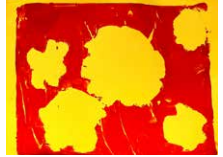
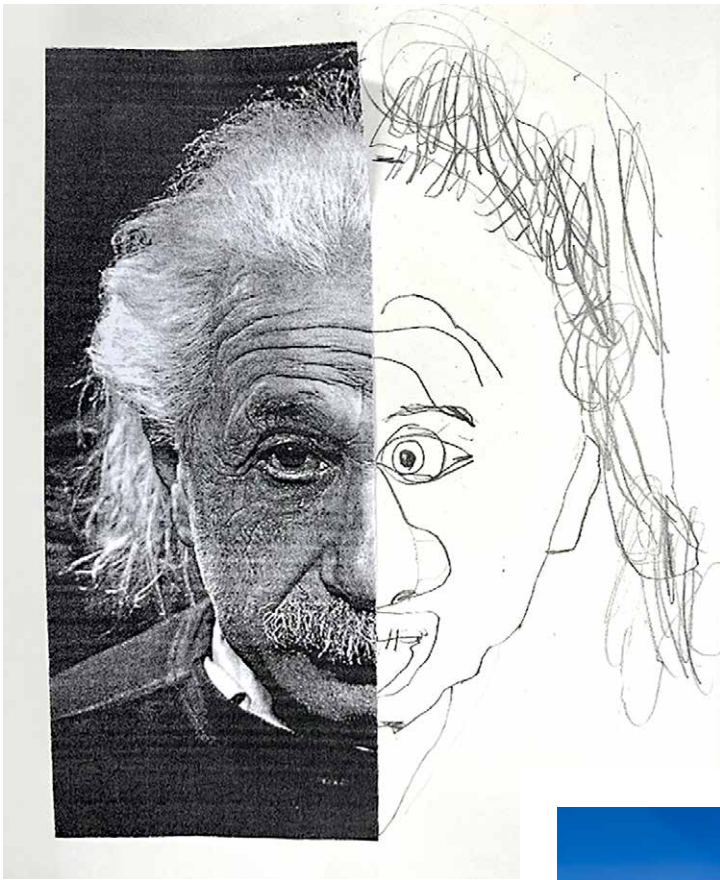


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Artist Anne Harild worked with two classes on a project exploring light and shadow, linking to Year 2's concurrent science topic, and focusing on using three-dimensional working to improve dexterity and motor skills.







*“...I have seen a huge change in the curriculum. It is significantly more thoroughly planned & sequenced very well. Pupil engagement in lessons has increased as practical understanding is emphasised heavily. I enjoy teaching Art a lot more as expectations are clear. It has helped having modelled examples set by each year group as it supports the teachers the following year.”*



## Curriculum Development

Essex Primary School

Sara Heywood

& EYFS – Year 6

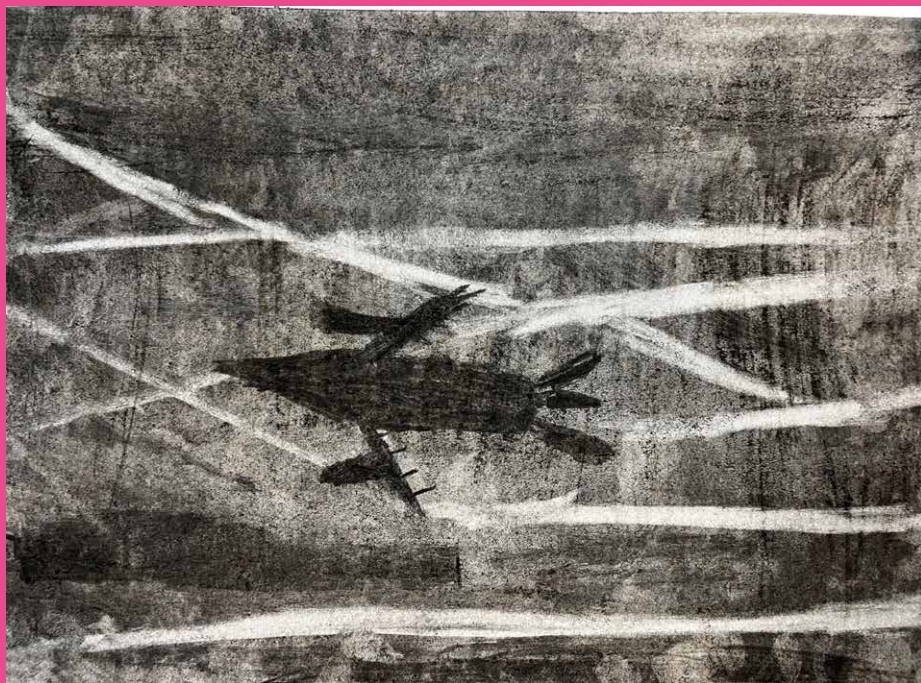
2022-2025



Essex Primary School commissioned multi-disciplinary artist Sara Heywood to work with Art Leads and SLT at the school on an extensive project looking to enhance and develop delivery of the arts curriculum.

The project began with a planning stage where Sara and the art leads worked together to redesign the

curriculum, choosing artists and artforms that would suit Essex's school community the most, before moving on to a CPD phase involving after-school sessions and team teaching, where sessions were aimed at the skills and areas in which teachers self-identified to be most lacking in confidence.





## Printmaking

Essex Primary School  
Bhajan Hunjan & Year 2  
Summer 2022

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Printmaker and painter Bhajan Hunjan worked with each of Essex's four Year 4 classes over a four day period, guiding students and teachers alike through introductory printing processes.





**Under the Sea**  
Ronald Openshaw Nursery  
Education Centre  
Amy Leung & EYFS  
Summer 2019



Artist Amy Leung worked with staff, pupils and parents at Ronald Openshaw on a creative response to the topic Under the Sea. The project began with a CPD day for staff where Amy introduced her planning and

approach, and demonstrated the techniques involved so that on the second day with children and families, all staff were able to assist and contribute in the free-flow workshop.

## Arts Award Projects



Over the past few years, a number of Arts Award projects run by Bow Arts artists have taken place in Newham Schools, with focuses and outcomes

including but not limited to sculpture, 3D design, drawing, printmaking and painting.







*“I learnt new skills along with the students. Moreover, I was inspired by the artists we visited & worked with to create more artwork with students at school.”*

*“The small group absolutely loved the project. They had lots of exciting opportunities to see & make art, as well as put together an exhibition of their work to share with staff & peers. The work was of a high standard & students were obviously proud of sharing the work that they accomplished with others.”*



## Teacher Training

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Teachers and art coordinators have taken part in artist-led Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sessions focused on art and design skills which can be used in the primary classroom and link to existing curricula.

Ranging from printmaking, sewing and sustainable textiles to animation and digital photography, the sessions aim to develop the teachers' skills to apply to their teaching practice.



## Celebration

Every Consortium year traditionally culminates in a celebration where students, teachers and families have the opportunity to view a curated exhibition of the amazing work that has been produced.





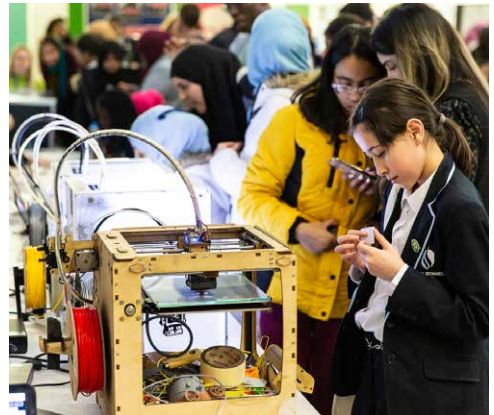
## Creative Careers Events Sarah Bonnell School



We support schools to bridge the gap between education and work in the creative industries through a range of opportunities. By collaborating with Bow Arts studio artists and industry partners, we share experiences, expertise and insights from a wide range of creative professionals, demonstrating to students the variety of possible creative pathways.

Access to creative careers events at Sarah Bonnell School have included talks, Q&As and a wide range of stalls where students had the opportunity to meet and talk with diverse and successful creative practitioners.

The sessions can be tailored to any key stage, and are appropriate for all year groups and targeted learner groups.





# Thank you

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**Bow Arts appreciates the on-going partnership and support from the Art Coordinators and Headteachers of the Sarah Bonnell Consortium schools.**

## **Sarah Bonnell Consortium:**

### **Essex Primary School**

Art Coordinators: Bronwen Smith,  
Nishat Ahmed, Jubeda Begum  
Headteacher: Cecilia Mojzes

### **Portway Primary School**

Art Coordinator: Airina Narbuntiene  
Headteacher: Scott Chudley

### **Ronald Openshaw Nursery Education Centre**

Art Coordinator: Ellen Small  
Headteacher: Megan Panayiotou

### **Sandringham Primary School**

Art Coordinator: Michael Pearmain  
Headteacher: Robert Cleary

### **Sarah Bonnell School**

Art Coordinators: Freya Morter,  
Lily Magenis, Laura Davies  
Headteacher: Rae Potter

### **Selwyn Primary School**

Art Coordinators: Theo Creber,  
Nimisha Lathigra  
Headteacher: Helen Mawer

### **William Davies Primary School**

Art Coordinator: Kat Smithers  
Headteacher: Sally Norris

We are grateful to all the artists, designers and makers who have contributed to the consortium, and to other Bow Arts projects within Newham. Their ideas, passion and professional approach has driven the continuous ambition and high standard achieved.

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## **About Bow Arts**

Established in 1995, Bow Arts is an arts education charity that provides affordable creative workspaces for over 500 emerging artists, designers and makers. Alongside this, Bow Arts manages an exciting learning programme, which takes professional artists into schools across 16 boroughs in London to improve the lives and learning of children and young people. Bow Arts runs the Nunnery Gallery, a free public gallery that supports a diverse range of high quality exhibitions and events as well as the delivery of a public arts programme.

[www.bowarts.org](http://www.bowarts.org)



**L&Q**

