

# Thelma Hulbert Gallery

## 2022-23

Forward Programme



**Council Plan 2021-2023:** Our vision and values

Our vision is “to make a positive difference to residents’ lives and our environment in East Devon”

Council priority one:

- + Promoting culture and community
- + Develop a stronger commitment to and offers in arts and leisure through the development of a Culture Strategy and an Events Strategy for our own land
- + Encourage Town and Parish Councils (and the third sector where appropriate) to protect and support their community spaces.
- + Promote community wellbeing programmes through a culture and activities offer, led by the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Seaton Wetlands, Wild East Devon, and expand our community development activities.
- + Promote the links between arts and culture and climate change through the Creative Cabin and other initiatives, raising awareness of the public and seeking to change behaviours.



# Towards a new model of rural cultural production

**Towards a New Model** will extend our impact across East Devon, rooting creativity in community & place and establishing a sub-regional strategic role for culture.

# Overview

## + THE PROJECT

- + Since 2019 THG has developed a greater focus on arts and cultural development. In the next phase of our work, **Towards a new model for inclusive rural cultural production**, we are helping to stabilise East Devon's arts ecology as a whole, linking culture and creativity into wider agendas such as climate emergency, inequality, rurality and post-pandemic recovery.

## + THE PROGRAMME

- + **Creative Communities and the Land** explores inequality and environmental injustice, while celebrating individual creative expression. The programme of film, painting, sculpture and craft takes place across two towns and will tour across the district in our Creative Cabin. It will support sector growth and resilience through the new ACED network, re-engage audiences post-pandemic, increase diversity and develop new contemporary art audiences.

# Our Focus

- + Building on 2019-21 foundations, **Towards a New Model** will extend our impact across East Devon, rooting creativity in community & place and establishing a **sub-regional strategic role for culture**. Just as our artistic programme encapsulates a spirit of change and survival, so does our **new approach of institutional change**, collective and free expression.
- + Towards a New Model is about change as well as expansion. This next phase will nurture a creative ecology across East Devon that is more rooted, **more relevant & more inclusive**.
- + In 2022-23 we will further embed THG among our place-based partners: EDDC Economy, Tourism, Housing, Public Health; AONBs, Leisure East Devon, University of Exeter.
- + Activities such as **Climate Conversations Phase 2** and the extended Ocean pilot will position THG at the heart of urgent local agendas (health & wellbeing, economic recovery, tackling inequality, climate mitigation).
- + Increasing our **engagement** team capacity will enable us to extend outreach activity into new neighbourhoods and communities, working in and with areas such as St Paul's Estate (Exmouth), whose communities have been underserved.
- + Our extended pilot with **Ocean (Exmouth)** will provide a new, multi-use base in a community with a younger-than-UK-average population (39.3yrs) (Census 2011).
- + After 2020/21's challenges, we want to welcome audiences to a diverse, experimental programme of activity exploring complex yet acutely relevant issues such as **equality and environmental justice, whilst celebrating creative expression**

# Creative Communities and the Land

## 2022 – 23 creative programme

Responding to diverse artistic perspectives, *Creative Communities and the Land* will join with East Devon communities to explore inequality and environmental injustice, helping us realise a better future through individual and collective creative expression

- + Mikhail Karikis 08.01.22 - 05.03.22
- + Nick Goss 19.03.22 - 15.05.22
- + Theatre West 05.22
- + Devon Artist Network 28.05.22 - 23.07.22
- + Ingrid Pollard 06.08.22 - 29.10.22
- + Emerging Maker 12.11.22 - 23.12.22
- + John Akomfrah 05.01.23 - 11.03.23

# FILM



## Mikhail Karikis, *Children of Unquiet*, 2013

Greek-British artist Mikhail Karikis (b. 1975) works in video, installation, performance and sound. He often produces site-specific performances working with different communities

**This work was created with a group of forty-five children living in Devil's Valley in Tuscany, a volcanic landscape and home to the world's first geothermal power station. The area has recently become depopulated following the automation of the process of generating energy.**

**In this film, children take over the empty spaces, recreating the noises of both the natural and man-made landscape: the hissing of steam, the bubbling of water and groaning and rumbling of metal work. It is through their collective voice and imaginative play that the landscape can be seen anew.**

*This presentation will be accompanied by a project developed with local children in Honiton who will look to their own environment to reflect on the past, and reimagine its future.*

## *Seawomen*, 2021

SeaWomen is a video and sound installation by Mikhail Karikis focusing on a fast vanishing community of elderly female sea workers living on the North Pacific island of Jeju - a jagged patch of black volcanic rock that belongs to South Korea and floats between Japan and China. The work was created during Karikis's residency on the island, when he encountered a group of women called haenyeo (sea-women), now in their late 70s and 80s, who dive to great depths with no oxygen supply to find pearls and catch sea-food.



# THEATRE



**Theatre West, Gluck's Flowers**  
**THG 12.03.22 – 15.05.22**

**Gluck's Flowers** examines connections between art and gender. The performance is specially developed for gallery spaces by new theatre writing specialists Theatre West.

The play will be accompanied by a project led by young people, exploring the play's themes and the intersection with Nick Goss' work.



# Ingrid Pollard

6 August 2022 - 29 October 2022

[Ingrid Pollard](#) is a leading artist and photographer working in Britain today. Her contributions to art over the past 40 years have broken new ground and forged pathways for younger generations, shaping Britain's understanding and histories of art, society and culture.

In our 2<sup>nd</sup> Guest Curated show of 2022, THG will work with art historian Ella S Mills, to present a solo exhibition by Ingrid Pollard, in collaboration with Devon & Exeter Institution, Libraries Unlimited, and University of Exeter.

This solo exhibition sees Pollard create a new series of work in response to the histories of Devon and the South West. Through her photographic research and practice into nature, Pollard explores narratives of people and places across industry, labour and individual experiences, which has shaped our stories and landscapes.



# Nick Goss, painter and musician

## Curated by Melissa Blanchflower, (Serpentine) THG and Ocean



Nick Goss (b. 1981, Bristol, UK) layers personal and collective history on the canvas. His paintings summon the space of dreams, where time, space and identity slip.

This exhibition, Curated by Melissa Blanchflower (Serpentine), includes a new body of work inspired by the landscapes and communities of Devon and the south west of England. Using innovative painterly techniques, Goss reveals this unique ever-changing cultural landscape as both a space of transience and permanence, evoked through familiar yet disparate cultural narratives and motifs

This exhibition will mark the launch of a new collaborative album 'pool' by multi-instrumentalist and modern nature member Jim Wallis, and painter and guitarist Nick Goss



# Emerging Maker: south west 2022

## THG and Ocean 05.11.22 - 23.12.22

- + *Emerging Makers: south west 2022* is our investment in the research and development of emerging craft makers.
- + We will give 30 graduate makers a public platform at THG and Ocean, with mentoring and exhibition making support.



# Creative Cabin : Climate Conversations Phase 2 delivery (isolated rural and coastal locations) 01.04.22 - 31.10.22

We will expand our mobile creative space touring programme, Creative Cabin, taking 'Creative Cabin: Climate Conversations on Tour' into more communities. Informed by the curated programme at THG and Ocean, and working with AONB and Uni of Exeter,

Creative Cabin: *Climate Conversations* will seed creativity, discussion and action in isolated towns and villages

## LEARNING PARTNERS

- + Honiton Primary
- + Littletown Primary
- + Jubilee Federation of Schools ,
- + FORT Federation •-Awliscombe
- + and Payhembury
- + Withycombe Raleigh primary
- + Littletown Primary
- + Honiton Community College
- + Sidmouth College
- + Exmouth College
- + Millwater special school
- + ERADE - Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education
- + WESC - West of England School for blind and partially sighted

## EVENTS AND APPEARANCES

- + Cranbrook Town Council
- + Queensdrive Space, Exmouth Pride
- + Honiton Show
- + Exeter City of Literature/Customs House
- + Sidmouth Seafest
- + Donkey Sanctuary
- + Cullumpton Farmers Market
- + Bovey Craft Fair
- + Exmouth Festival
- + Hestercombe House and Garden

The logo for 'Climate Conversations' features the words 'CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a vibrant red background that has a rough, hand-painted or splattered texture, giving it a dynamic and grassroots feel.

# Audience development

- + **Interim Audience Objectives** For 2022-23 we have 11 audience objectives under three themes

## **Theme 1: Re-engaging core audiences who have lapsed during the pandemic •**

- + *(Obj 1) Re-engage our core audience of 'gallery go-er' older adults, many of whom have not yet returned after the pandemic*
- + *(Obj 2) Further increase the number of families with young children that we engage with, particularly those living in or visiting Exmouth*
- + *(Obj 3) Re-engage older residents affected by dementia, age-related conditions, Covid anxiety and barriers to attendance*
- + *(Obj 4) Re-engage disabled residents with visual impairments and associated barriers to attendance*
- + *(Obj 5) Re-engage schools*

## **Theme 2: Increase the diversity of our audiences**

- + *(Obj 6) Increase the percentage of participants from more disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, particularly those from rurally disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds in East Devon*
- + *Obj 7) Increase the racial and ethnic diversity of our visitor base to at least reflect and ideally exceed the diversity of the Devon population*
- + *(Obj 8) Increase the proportion of visitors aged 16-24*

## **Theme 3: Building the audience for contemporary art •**

- + *(Obj 9) Increase the number of cultural tourists visiting THG and its off-site programmes, from outside Devon and the South West*
- + *(10) Increase the homegrown and regional contemporary arts audience: Exeter, Ply-mouth, Devon, Bristol*
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In February 2021, THG launched **Arts and Culture East Devon (ACED)**, a forum connecting the artistic communities of East Devon and providing a central platform to engage, network, promote and talk about arts and culture across the region.

## ACED Network & Participation Coordinator

### Role focus:

- ACED's membership framework
- Volunteer engagement at THG & Ocean,
- Create a community hub (Ocean)
- Coordinate training, development and innovation at ACED

### Champions

- + Decolonisation Champion
- + Art Champion
- + Education Champion
- + Theatre Champion

# Ocean, Exmouth – The Ocean Gallery

Working in collaborative partnership with Leisure East Devon

- + Our second creative ‘hub’ at Ocean in Exmouth, will have a different character to THG - one that we hope will appeal to this age group. Ocean is a popular multidisciplinary leisure centre combining food and drink outlets with a bowling alley and amusements.
- + At Ocean, we aim to engage a younger and more diverse audience, by offering an informal experience linked to social time and enjoyment of the beach and sea. Ocean’s flexible exhibition space combines white cube gallery space with a bar and ocean terrace

