



# The HIDDEN INSIDE OF The MUSEUM

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

ARTS FESTIVAL

WORK EXPERIENCE

2025 CASE STUDY

WORKSHOPS 3RD - 14TH FEB

FESTIVAL EVENT - 14TH MARCH

[www.artisticlabourers.co.uk](http://www.artisticlabourers.co.uk)

"Work experience" is a strange term for creative students. How do you provide 130+ individuals with meaningful opportunities that cater to every niche of creative interest?

At Weymouth College's Art Department, we do things differently. Instead of traditional placements, we have a real-world commissioning brief, leading to an ambitious artistic takeover of a selected space, for example; Nothe Fort, Dorset Museum, Shire Hall and online during covid. Every student plays a role, whether in research, idea negotiation, making, marketing, advertising, management, documentation, curation, installation, sales, or hosting. This hands-on experience truly prepares them for future creative careers.

#### **DEPUTY HEAD OF CREATIVE CURRICULUM**

This year's commission was set by the founder of OSR Projects and OD Art Festival, challenging students to explore the hidden narratives behind museum collections—the stories behind the objects and how they came to be there.

Students then selected their industry groups, each supported by an artist or industry professional for two weeks of intensive research and creation. For many, this was their first experience collaborating with creatives outside their usual academic circles. Degree students, Foundation Diploma students, and Level 3 & Level 2 learners worked side by side, blending skills and perspectives to meet the commission's demands.

The result? A powerful artistic takeover of Dorset Museum. The students' work dissected and reinterpreted the hidden narratives of the collection, displayed alongside the original artefacts. Over 400 visitors walked through the museum doors—many from creative industries—engaging with the students' thought-provoking responses.



# INDUSTRY INSIGHT

This initiative provides over 150 Creative Industry students with **invaluable industry experience** by engaging them in a two-week, **cross-disciplinary** project in conjunction with the Dorset Museum.

Students from Levels 2 to FDA have worked **collaboratively** on a practical response to articles and artefacts from the museum's collection, guided by artist Simon Lee Dicker from OSR Projects. The project includes **practical workshops** and **industry insight talks** from five artists and **industry professionals**, along with the opportunity for students to plan, create, install, and promote their own exhibition.

This **hands-on experience** encompasses **key industry skills** such as exhibition lighting, curation, installation, safety, and teamwork. Students select from various **creative disciplines**, including textiles, sound, photography, sculpture, printmaking, interactive media, and performance arts. The culmination of their work is a museum takeover event, where students **showcase** their hard work to friends, family, stakeholders, and **industry professionals**.

The project is an excellent example of how we **foster creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication** —skills that are highly valued in the 21st-century workforce and central to the success of our creative industries students.

# COMMISSIONING BRIEF

## Project Title: FSAL 2025 – *The Hidden Side of the Museum*

### Project Overview:

The **Friendly Society of Artistic Labourers (FSAL)** is embarking on its sixth iteration, **The Hidden Side of the Museum**, in partnership with Dorset Museum, Dorchester. This research-led project invites creative practitioners and students from Weymouth College to respond to the museum's extensive collection of over 3 million artifacts.

Focusing on hidden stories, overlooked narratives, and the often-shadowed legacy of colonial and extractive practices in museum curation, the project aims to reinterpret the museum's collections through a highly imaginative and experimental lens.

The final outcomes will culminate in a **multi-disciplinary exhibition and performance event** at Dorset Museum on **Friday, 14th March 2025**. Installations will take place during the day, with the event running into the late evening, transforming the museum into a space alive with contemporary creativity.

### A Unique Opportunity for Creatives

This experience forms a **vital part of being a creative** at Weymouth College, offering students an exceptional opportunity to directly engage with industry practices and gain invaluable, first-hand experience of every stage of creating and hosting an art event.

Working alongside industry professionals such as Simon Lee Dicker and his team of artists, students will collaborate across disciplines, develop skills in project management, and contribute to an ambitious, high-profile event in a prestigious museum setting.

This is a rare chance to:

- ❑ **Learn from Experts:** Engage with accomplished artists who will mentor and inspire you throughout the project.
- ❑ **Collaborate Across Disciplines:** Work alongside peers from other courses, sharing ideas and integrating different creative practices.
- ❑ **Engage with Industry Standards:** Gain practical experience in research, production, exhibition planning, marketing, and event management.
- ❑ **Create Impactful Work:** See your ideas come to life on a large scale in a professional setting.



# CONTINUED

## Key Themes:

Participants are encouraged to:

- ❑ **Interrogate Colonialism:** Explore its influence on museum collections and its continuing legacy in contemporary society.
- ❑ **Examine Appropriation:** Consider historical and artistic contexts, exploring questions of ownership and influence.
- ❑ **Explore Contrasts:** Dive into the positive, the underbelly, and the overlooked stories and artifacts.

## Ambition and Approach:

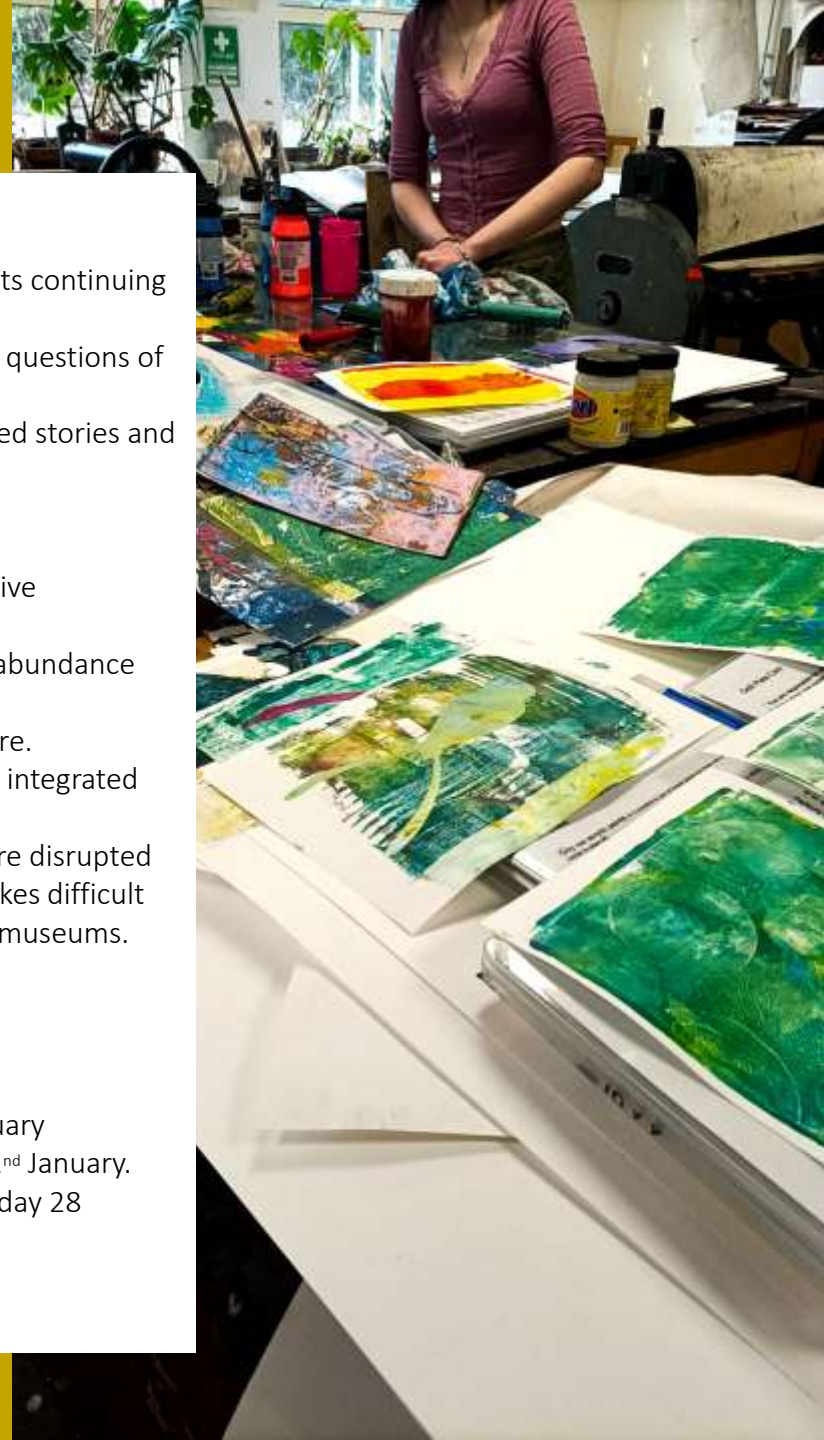
We are seeking **bold, imaginative, and experimental responses** that push creative boundaries. Students are encouraged to:

- ❑ Create **volumes of work** to fill the museum's space, embracing a sense of abundance and scale.
- ❑ Be **ambitious**, tackling projects larger than they may have attempted before.
- ❑ Work **collaboratively**, combining disciplines, materials, and ideas to create integrated and thought-provoking outcomes.

The aim is to transform the museum into a site where traditional narratives are disrupted and reimagined through contemporary art and design, where the work provokes difficult conversations and confronts the uncomfortable history contained within our museums.

## Timeline and Key Dates:

- ❑ **Workshops:** 3rd – 14th February 2025
  - Monday – Thursday, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM.
- ❑ **Artist Talk, Concept Briefing & Group Signup:** From 1:15 and 2:00, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Pioneers Proposed departmental trip to Dorset Museum, Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> January.
- ❑ **Talk: Executive Director of Dorset Museum** Clare Dixon at 1:15 am on Tuesday 28 January.
- ❑ **Final Event:** Friday, 14th March 2025. 9am – 11pm.



# CONTINUED



## Project Goals:

1. **Engage with History and Context:** Develop creative responses inspired by the museum's collection, exposing hidden or challenging stories.
2. **Foster Collaboration:** Encourage cross-disciplinary and multi-media projects, combining ideas and techniques for innovative outcomes.
3. **Encourage Ambition:** Challenge students to work on a larger scale than they've previously undertaken, creating bold, impactful works.
4. **Pioneers Group:** Empower a student-led steering committee to make strategic decisions and represent participants throughout the project.
5. **Skill Development:** Provide opportunities for hands-on experience in research, production, marketing, and event planning.

## Background:

The **Friendly Society of Artistic Labourers** began in 2019, inspired by the Tolpuddle Martyrs and their legacy of unionising labourers. Each iteration focuses on a different theme, encouraging artistic exploration and community engagement.

Previous iterations have addressed themes such as **environmentalism, survival, and historical layers**, with events hosted in notable Dorset venues, including Shire Hall and Nothe Fort.

The 2025 iteration will build on this legacy, transforming Dorset Museum into a space for bold contemporary art that critically examines its collection.

## The Lead Artists:

We have 6 creative practitioners to inspire and provoke ideas within their respective groups. Each artist will:

1. Present their work and engage in discussions with students.
2. Offer guidance and mentoring during workshops.
3. Encourage experimental and ambitious approaches to the project's themes.
4. Support students in realising their creative responses, ensuring high-quality outcomes.
5. Provide feedback during the exhibition planning process.

## Logistics:

- Workshops will take place at Weymouth College, with the final event at Dorset Museum.



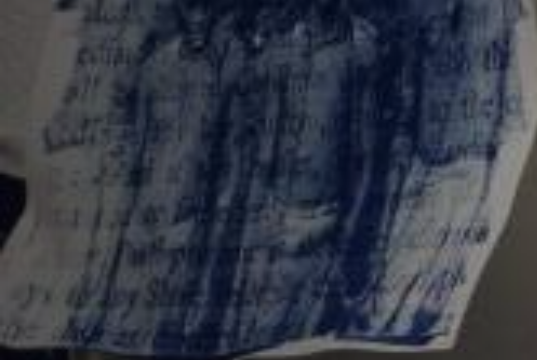
# PHOTOGRAPHY

# WORKSHOP

EXPLORING FOUND AND MADE IMAGERY, THE WORK EXPLORES THEMES OF OWNERSHIP, PRESERVATION, AND CULTURAL IDENTITY



ARTIST:  
ANNA CRYSTAL STEVENS





A man with dark, curly hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, stands in a cluttered workshop. He is looking towards the right. The workshop is filled with various tools, including hammers, wrenches, and screwdrivers, hanging on a wooden board. There are also wooden planks and other materials scattered around. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is one of a busy, creative workspace.

ARTIST:  
ANDY PARKER

# SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

CONCEPTUAL SCULPTURES  
EXPLORING COLONISATION AND  
SETTLEMENT







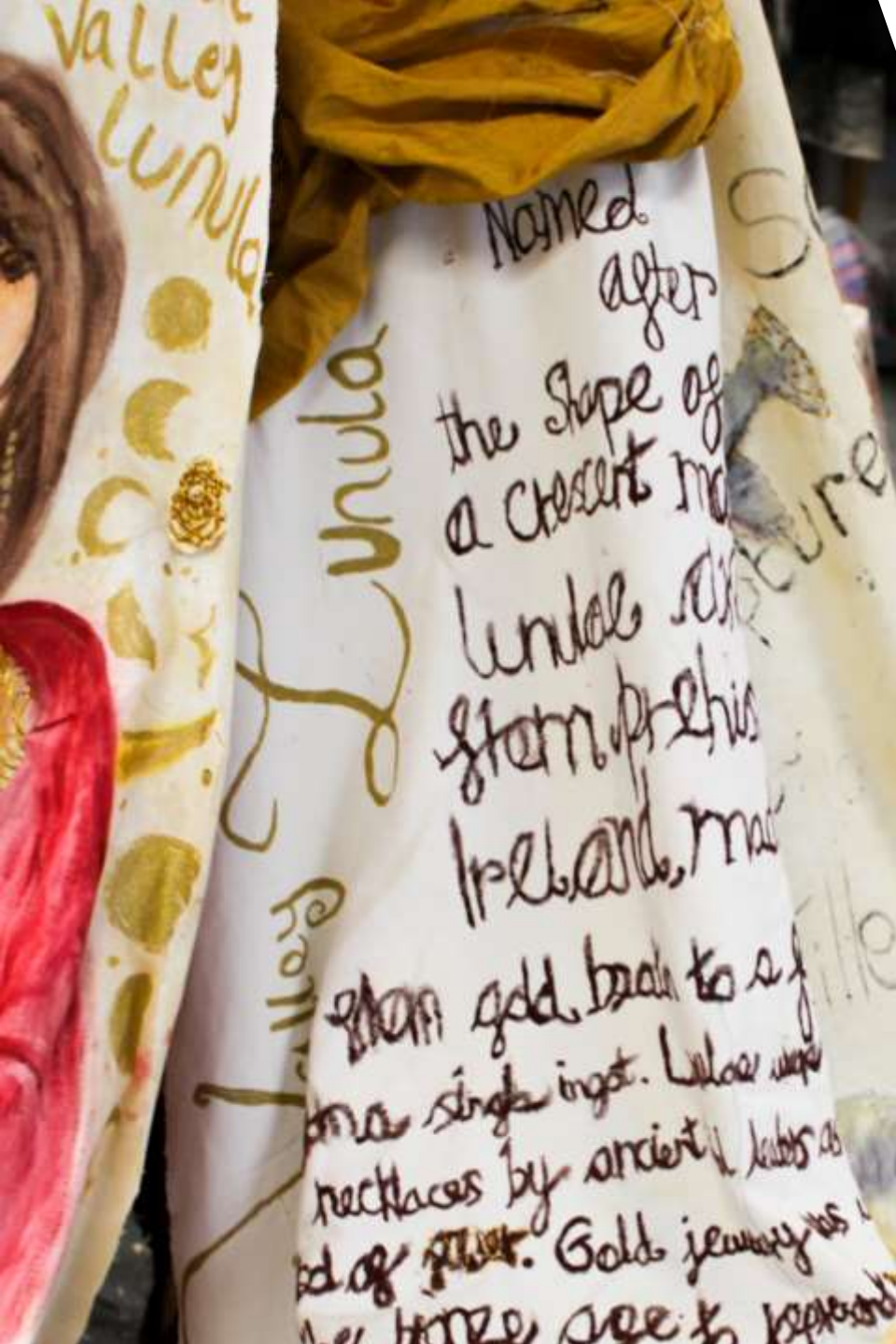
# TEXTILE WORKSHOP

CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT,  
SHINING A LIGHT ON STORIES OF  
COLONIALISM, DISPLACEMENT &  
POWER



ARTIST:  
ALICE MARIE ARCHER







ARTIST:  
MARCIA TEUSINK



# FINE ART WORKSHOP

ILLUSTRATIVE WORKS  
EXPLORING IDEAS OF NATIVE  
SPECIMENS





# PRINT MAKING WORKSHOP

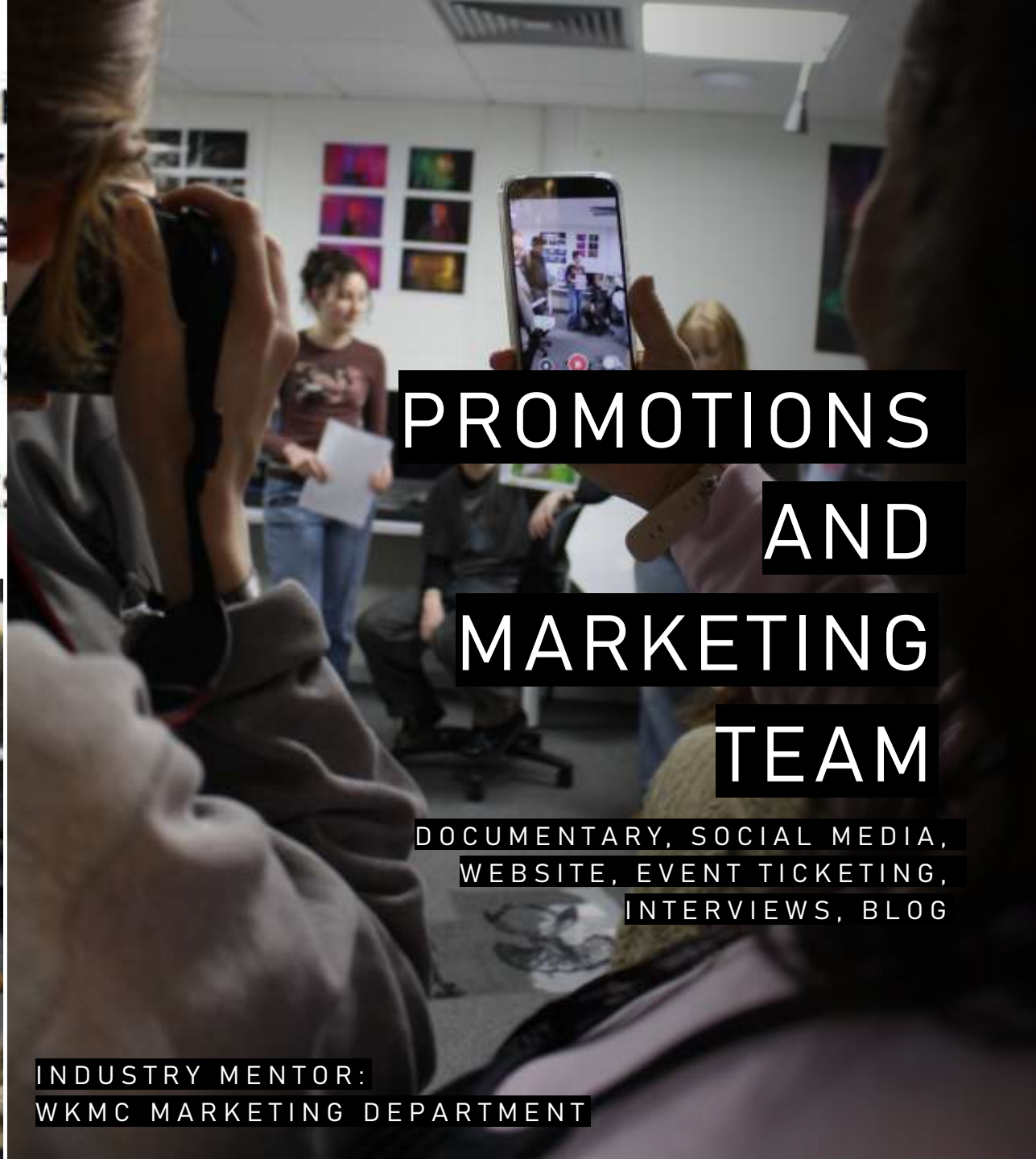
PROVOCATIVE PRINTS AND  
INSTALLATIONS TO EXPLORE THE  
COMPLEX THEMES OF  
OWNERSHIP, ACQUISITION, AND  
THE ETHICS OF COLLECTING







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# PROMOTIONS AND MARKETING TEAM

DOCUMENTARY, SOCIAL MEDIA,  
WEBSITE, EVENT TICKETING,  
INTERVIEWS, BLOG

INDUSTRY MENTOR:  
WKMC MARKETING DEPARTMENT

INDUSTRY

GROUPS &

THEIR

COLLABORATIVE

ARTISTS

**Lead Artist:** *Simon Lee Dicker, OSR Projects*

## Textile

*Artist: Alice Marie Archer*

[Alice-Marie Archer – seam](#)

## Print

*Artist: Simon Ripley*

[simonripley.co.uk](http://simonripley.co.uk)

## Fine Art Sculpture

*Artist: Andy Parker*

[www.andyp.co.uk/about](http://www.andyp.co.uk/about)

## Fine Art

*Artist: Marcia Teusink*

[MARCIA TEUSINK - Home](#)

## Promotion & Marketing

*Industry: WKMC Marketing Department.*

## Photography

*Artist: Anna Crystal Stephens*

[www.annachrystal.com](http://www.annachrystal.com) [silt.work](http://silt.work)

## Performing Arts

# ARTIST INTERVIEWS BY THE PROMO TEAM

*"I really like the energy of the department... and of the students....I think an opportunity like this to bring all of the different courses together and work together on one project... is something that should be supported, and something I wanted to get involved in. I have really enjoyed pushing people to make something really big and ambitious"*

*"Everyone has got really stuck into it... it's been a really productive day"*

*"Encouraging people to use more sustainable materials. And to look at those aspects within visual practice... there are aspects of the making process that can be altered, looked at, changed. Using plant-based materials throws up questions about longevity and archiving.. .permanence...whether it will fade and change"*

PROMO

GROUPS

INTERVIEW

Every student mentioned how they have **enjoyed working** on a **collaborative project as a team** – something that most hadn't done much of before. They also enjoyed the **“community spirit”** and vibe, how they all get along and enjoy just creating together! In Fine Art 2, they explained they **enjoyed the drawing** aspect of their project, drawing the artefacts and **seeing the work come together**. Students who did the festival last year found they enjoyed having the previous experience and felt more familiar and involved with the group, **helping to lead the ideas** and other students who are in their 1<sup>st</sup> year.

In Fine Art 1, they mentioned how they were **proud** of the outcome of the 'Wetu' structure after the collapses and problems that occurred, as well as how the team came together to **find a solution that worked**. In photography they said they felt more **confident** in speaking up and **pitching ideas**, both in their group and in pioneer meetings – something they felt **proud** of. In print, students described it as a **“10/10 experience”!**

# ARTIST REFLECTIONS ON OUR STUDENTS

*The students **responded brilliantly** - they were all attentive to my introduction and asked good questions about what I had to say. I was nervous about how we might begin the practical work - launching into the making - but I need not have worried since all students immediately started to make collagraphs and also to adapt these directly to the subject and theme.*

*The day was non-stop interaction with students moving from one print process to another and combining processes. We addressed also the potential of making some images and text that would work well as project branding and to this end the group produced an array of letterpress texts and words.*

*I was **so impressed** with the overall **amount and variety of work produced** - so many individual interpretations and understandings of the subject. I left feeling that there would be no difficulty in students developing these initial ideas.*

*I was so grateful for the help of Sandra - the print tutor, who not only maintains a great and rare print resource in the classroom but also she clearly had a great rapport with the students and a very enthusiastic and encouraging manner.*

SIMON RIPLEY

# ARTIST REFLECTIONS ON OUR STUDENTS

The idea of the FSAL has a **radical and collaborative flavour** that conjures the sort of thinking and activity I think is essential in creative education.

As the day progressed an energy built up which I think fed on the novelty of a cross-course mixed group - I could hear informal introductions being made and thoughts and **ideas being shared** between previously unacquainted group members. **Newer students worked alongside those with more experience** - hearing how they **articulated their thinking and engagement with the brief** in a realistic and practical, rather than theoretical, setting.

ANDY PARKER

# ARTIST REFLECTIONS ON OUR STUDENTS

This kind of **cascade learning and modelled behaviour** is not something that is easy to realistically apply in the learning environment despite its benefits - and with the FSAL it was kind of a side effect rather than a focus, which couldn't be better.

There was also something to be said for the impact of working on a single project for two weeks. Without knowing the timetable structure I can only imagine this was unusual, and I think it spurred a new approach, encouraging us all to engage with a longer process of thinking, making and sharing which again, **reflects something closer to an experience of conceiving, developing and making creative work in a professional setting.**

ANDY PARKER

# ARTIST REFLECTIONS ON OUR STUDENTS

"My approach was to share ideas from my own practice and SILT, as methodologies the students could apply to their project. They learnt the practical anotype process from scratch and they will be able to repeat this in future work, also applying the variations to other forms of contact printing.

They will have knowledge to experiment with different substrates and emulsions, many having ideas during the workshop of how to take the process forward. We talked about image making within photography, disappearing images (and histories), and broadly the practice of elevating objects both personal and historical.

It was great to be able to work with the group over the whole day and help the students to develop ideas around their own experience and interests"

ANNA CRYSTAL STEVENS





# CURATIONAL SITE VISIT

MEASURING, CURATION,  
INSTALLATION PREPARATION &  
CONSIDERATION



# INSTALLATION AND CURATION

TEAM WORK

HEALTH AND SAFETY

COMMUNICATION

PROBLEM SOLVING

ADAPTABILITY



BRIEFING



# THE EVENT

400+ MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDED THE EVENING EVENT



LIVE MUSIC



HOSTS, IN ARTISTIC LABOURERS T-SHIRTS



COMMUNICATION

CONFIDENCE

TEAMWORK

HOSTING



SELLING  
COMMERCIAL  
WORKS



RUNNING THE BAR



HOSTING

# FEEDBACK

BRILLIANT ARTWORK AND CREATIVITY. EXCELLENT GUIDES.

REALLY DYNAMIC AND THOUGHTFUL

WONDERFUL WORK IN AMAZING SPACES

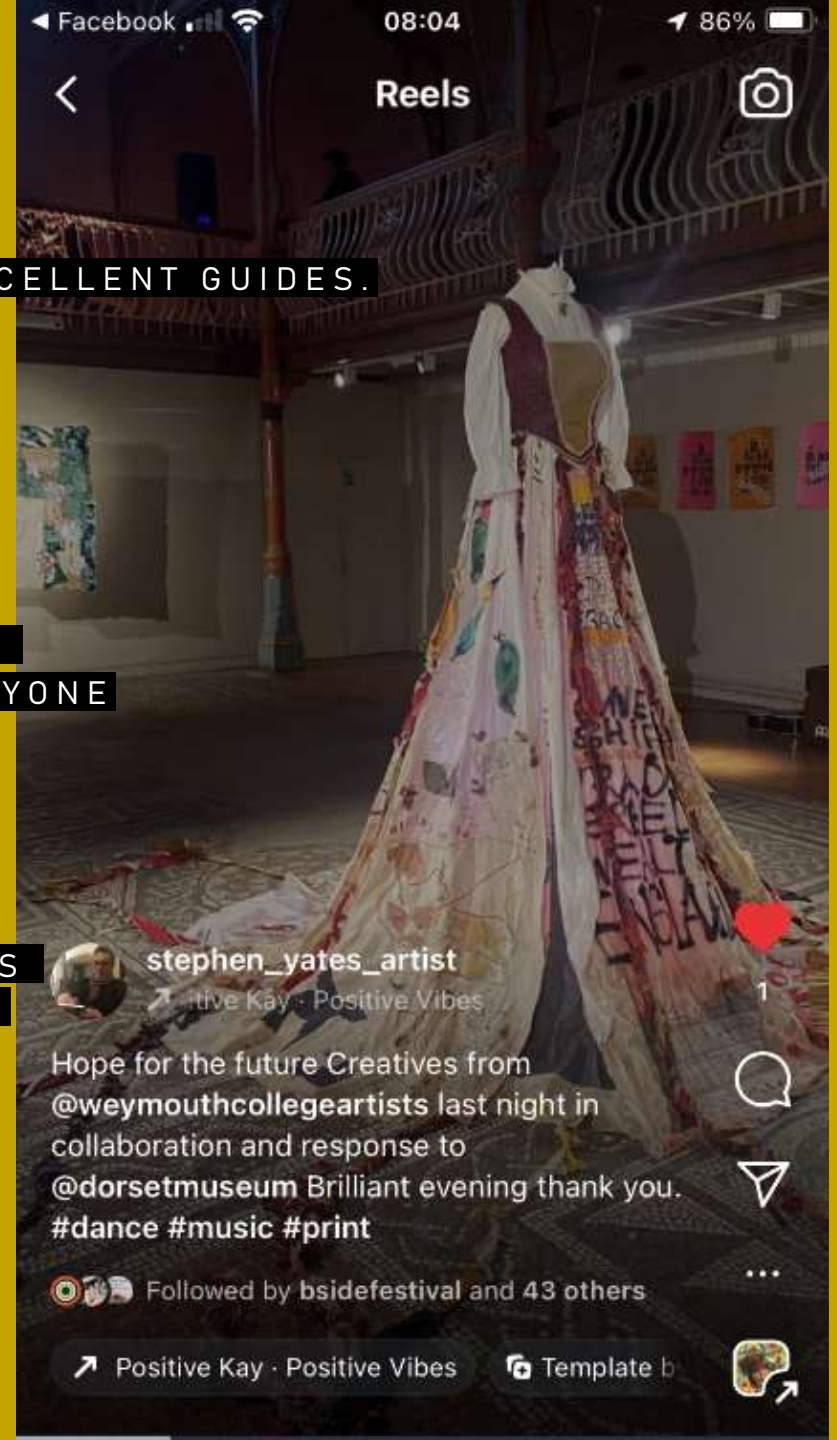
GREAT EVENING! LOVELY TO SEE SO MUCH CREATIVITY IN ONE PLACE. FAB JOB EVERYONE

HOORAY FOR THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENING IN MUSEUMS

GREAT EXHIBITION. WELL DONE ALL. LOTS OF WORK GONE INTO IT ALL. SOME GREAT TALENT.

FANTASTIC EVENING. WELL DONE ALL.

SUCH INVENTIVE AND INSPIRING WORK, DISPLAYED SO BEAUTIFULLY IN THEIR LOCATION. COMPLETELY AMAZING AND AWE INSPIRING.





CONGRATULATIONS. THE DISPLAYS WERE STIMULATING AND INTERESTING. THE HARD WORK IN ORGANISING SUCH A LARGE UNDERTAKING IS TO BE APPLAUDED.

IT WAS A LOVELY EVENT. WELL PUT TOGETHER. WORK IS AT A HIGH STANDARD.

FABOLOUS EVENING AND AMAZING ARTISTS. CONGRATULATIONS.

ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. THOUGHT PROVOKING. AND REALLY GOOD TO SEE SUCH CREATIVE ARTISTIC WORK

SIMPLY AMAZING. WELL DONE ALL OF YOU

CONGRATULATIONS. WE LOVED ALL THE WORK AND CREATIVITY THAT HAS GONE INTO IT. BIG THANKS TO ALL THE STUDENTS AND THE MUSEUM.

AMAZING EXHIBITION. JUST FANTASTIC.

INSPIRING AND THOUGHT PROVOKING. BRILLIANT. WELL DONE EVERYONE.



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artsinhospital HIDDEN SIDE OF THE MUSEUM !  
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[@weymouthcollegeartists](#)

A fantastic takeover by Weymouth college students last night at the DORCHESTER museum. Wonderful seeing all the hard work the college students have put in come to fruition. An exciting interaction with the museum, bringing exhibits to life and looking at the reality of the hidden side of the museum.

We loved the moral question brought about with the pillaging of printed birds from the wall.

[#college](#) [#students](#) [#Dorset](#) [#DORCHESTER](#)  
[#museum](#) [#creativehealth](#) [##creativewellbeing](#)  
[#creativewriting](#) [#weymouthcollege](#)  
[#emergingartists](#)

1 day ago

## Dorset Museum & Art Gallery's post



Dorset Museum & Art Gallery is with Artistic Labourers and Weymouth College.

15h · 🌐



What an unforgettable evening!

Last Friday, [Weymouth College](#) students and the Friendly Society of [Artistic Labourers](#) took over the Museum for one night only to showcase The Hidden Side of the Museum.

From captivating performances to thought-provoking art installations, each project breathed new life into our spaces and offered fresh perspectives on our collections.

Well done to everyone involved – your hard work really paid off!

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[#ArtsFestival](#) [#MuseumTakeover](#) [#StudentArtists](#) [#StudentArt](#) [#SupportYoungArtists](#) [#DorsetArts](#) [#Museum](#) [#Dorset](#) [#HiddenSideOfTheMuseum](#)



Congratulations for your "Hidden side of the museum" event.... we were so overwhelmed with the experience. So fab to see your students so committed to their work and delivering it with such ingenuity and creativity. We took our kids along who also were in awe :) We're lucky to have your provision accessible to us here in West Dorset.

Ripple Workshop CIC

# PROGRESSION

Work experience through Weymouth College was the first experience I had working within industry. This opportunity led me to think about the future, and cemented my belief that illustration is the path for me.... engagement with industry practices led me to see a career in art was possible.

I shared my positive experience of working alongside a team [at my uni interview], and I believe this was one of the reasons I got offered a place at all of the universities I applied to.

Sarah Coles, studying Illustration at Uni



EMPLOYMENT IN THE  
UK CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
IS GROWING AT FOUR  
TIMES

THE RATE OF THE UK WORKFORCE  
AS A WHOLE