



www.b-side.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

04 June 2020

Socially Distanced Exhibition Opportunity for Portland Residents launches this week

The Corona virus pandemic and resulting lockdown has had a huge and catastrophic effect on the arts. With venues closed more and more artists exhibitions going online, what happens if you don't have good access to the internet?

b-side has come up with a simple but ingenious solution and has asked Portland residents to join in too. B-side is best known for its biennial Festival on Portland, the festival has had to be postponed this year but the b-side team are keen to make sure that everyone on Portland can still be part of their creative programme.

b-side's project space on Fortuneswell High Street has huge front windows, perfect for safe exhibiting! Following a call out on social media for anyone on Portland who has been making, and creating during lockdown a plethora of drawings, painting, poetry and craft has been sent to the team. These are being printed up into huge posters and exhibited in the two large street level windows for a few weeks at a time.

"Anyone who lives or works on Portland can take part. The lockdown has been really difficult for lots of people and making or creating has been a way of coping with this enormous change to our lifestyle. We have had some great entries already, many people have been rekindling their love of making during the lockdown - baking, sewing, painting, drawing and crafting and the results are wonderful, so do pop by and see for yourselves. This is our way of supporting the local community and celebrating resident's creativity during this strange time"

Sandy Kirkby, b-side Producer

The exhibition kicks off with work from Portland artists Lyn Kirkland and Antje Rook who have both made work in direct response to the virus. Lyn has been recording her dreams during lockdown, creating images as soon as she has woken up and Antje has stitched embroidered viruses one for everyday of lockdown.



www.b-side.org.uk

“I started the virus project right at the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, because I knew my husband and I would have to isolate for a very long time due to his Leukemia. The magnified pictures of the virus everywhere intrigued me and I could see lots of colourful 'viruses' with different shapes and textures. Also making a 'virus' every day, gives my life in isolation a structure. I'm absolutely delighted and proud to have my work displayed in the Outpost, because it is on Portland, the place I love most in the world.”

Antje Rook

Large scale posters of both these artists work can be seen from 03 June to 24 June at 77 Fortuneswell, Portland (top of the hill near to The Co-op).

The exhibition opportunity is open to anyone of any age or skill, who lives or works on Portland and the b-side team will be making a donation to The Portland Foodbank for every artwork shared with them for the windows exhibition.

Jonathan Bayliff from Portland Foodbank said

“This sounds like a wonderful project and of course we are massively grateful for the offer of donating to and focusing on the Foodbank.”

The Portland Foodbank is part of Churches Together on Portland and is located in St John's Church Hall, Ventnor Rd, Portland - open 9.30 - 11.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Foodbank are keen to make sure that everyone who needs some support with supplies at the moment is welcome to come along.

For more information on this project and how you could get involved www.b-side.org.uk.

DOWNLOAD IMAGES FOR THIS PRESS RELEASE HERE

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15IKIkISXr8Bn9jxWoODMgWjcx8p_2c2E?usp=sharing



www.b-side.org.uk

Editors Notes

- b-side is a Dorset based arts organisation working with artists, residents and young people to make new site-responsive work revealing the marginal, often forgotten and less commercial aspects of Dorset's coastal towns and communities.
- b-side produces the b-side biennial festival a 9 day programme of events in visual art, text, sound and installations all in unusual places and spaces over the Isle of Portland. The festival generates thousands of visits to the many artworks uniquely created for the island.
- The next b-side festival is 11 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021
- b-side is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation. **Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk
- Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council has developed a £160 million **emergency response package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19
- Portland Foodbank is part of Churches Together on Portland and is located in St John's Church Hall, Ventnor Rd, Portland - open 9.30 - 11.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays

For all press enquiries: Sandy Kirkby producer@b-side.org.uk



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**