

HUMBER STREET GALLERY

EXHIBITION
GUIDE

PERCHES AND FLYWAYS

Creative Connections Artists with Jennifer
Holtridge and Juneau Projects

20.10.23 - 07.01.24

Space 1

EXHIBITION TEXT

Perches and Flyways is a new exhibition commissioned by Humber Street Gallery and produced by Creative Connections; an ongoing series of workshops run by Artlink Hull which provides disabled communities opportunity to explore creative processes and improve wellbeing.

Working with artist Jennifer Holtridge and artist-duo Juneau Projects, the participants have created a collection of ceramic bird sculptures focusing on species which live in or near The Humber. At a time when environmental pressures mean a number of species who have visited the location in the past, including the Night Heron, the Shelduck and Ringed Plover, are now in decline; the exhibition draws attention to the importance of celebrating wildlife local to us.

This project has been developed and delivered in collaboration with Artlink Hull.

ABOUT JUNEAU PROJECTS

Juneau Projects was formed in 2001 by Philip Duckworth and Ben Sadler. Their work is made in collaboration with other people, ranging from one-off workshops that introduce people to a skill or technique to long term projects working with communities to create artworks for their area. They work across a broad range of media including sculpture, animation, print making, Riso printing, performance, music and public art. They are interested in the urge people have to be creative, how that has manifested throughout history and how we can work with groups to create work together.

Juneau Projects have exhibited at venues including Tate Britain (London), PS1 (USA), Frankfurter Kunstverein (Frankfurt), Grizedale Arts (Cumbria), IKON (Birmingham), Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale

(Japan), Tatton Park Biennial (UK), Somerset House - Kings Cultural Institute/Up Projects (London), Lismore Castle Arts (Ireland) & Two Chairs, Vermont (USA).

SCULPTING, FIRING, GLAZING

The ceramic birds in this exhibition were made over hot mugs of tea and sugary doughnuts across a series of six workshops. At the workshops, artists from Creative Connections met with Juneau Projects (Phil and Ben) who are an artist duo that collaborate with people to make artworks.

Creative Connections is an ongoing project, produced by Artlink Hull, which provides disabled communities with opportunities to engage in arts and making. For these workshops Phil and Ben worked with residents of Victoria House, a purpose-built centre providing accommodation and support for people with complex needs, and the Open Access Creative Connections group who meet once a fortnight.

Flicking through textbooks with titles like "Birds of Hull and the Local Area", everyone became familiar with many species including the Avocet, Shelduck, Little Tern and, every East Yorkshire local's favorite winged friend, the Puffin. Over the course of these sessions, Ceramicist Jen Holtridge guided everyone through the process of sculpting a bird of their choosing in clay. Once every wing, beak and tail feather was carefully shaped it was time for the first firing. Firing is a process which brings ceramics up to high temperatures to make them durable. Next, colour. Glazes of sky blue, scarlet, pink, Bittern brown, and the gold of a Plover were mixed and painted on to the ceramics bringing the birds to life before one last firing. Once ready, the delicate sculptures are hung on the wall of the gallery, where you see them today, expressing the variety and diversity of East Yorkshire's more-than-human residents.

But it wasn't all bird and clay chat, there was singing along to the radio, "what are you up to at the weekend"s, dad jokes from Ben and lots of laughter...mainly from Shirley. Whilst hands were busy making new connections, friendships and interests were formed, which are just as integral to this project as the work you see on the walls.

RELATED EVENTS

Perches and Flyways: Exhibition Launch Party

Thursday 19 October 2023

6-9pm

Humber Street Gallery

No booking required

Join us to celebrate the launch of our newest exhibition at Humber Street Gallery, *Perches and Flyways* by Creative Connections with Jennifer Holtridge and Juneau Projects. This event is a chance to meet the artists, visit the exhibitions and to share a drink or two.

Thursday Lates: Dean Wilson

Thursday 26 October 2023

7-9pm

Humber Street Gallery

Pay what you can, booking required

In response to *Perches and Flyways* at Humber Street Gallery, poet Dean Wilson will reveal a specially commissioned poem and perform some of his work gathered in the collections *Take Me Up The Lighthouse* and *Sometimes I'm So Happy I'm Not Safe On The Streets*. Nights with Dean are always something of a surprise – there may be a film screening, you will probably be given a badge with his face on it and he's partial to a game of bingo.

Artist Talk with Juneau Projects

Wednesday 15 November 2023

6-7:30pm

Online

Free and pay what you can, booking required

Join Juneau Projects for an online artist talk as they discuss Perches and Flyways, their exhibition at Humber Street Gallery with Creative Connections and Jennifer Holtridge.

ABOUT US

Humber Street Gallery is an Absolutely Cultured project. Originally established in 2017 as part of the City of Culture programme, it has developed into a vibrant, high-quality contemporary visual art space for Hull. It is now a significant contributor to the contemporary visual arts offer in the north.

Our ambition for Humber Street Gallery is to further develop the venue into a multi-artform and multi-functional creative centre, showcasing a wide range of art and activities providing something for everyone from visual art, dance, music to spoken word.

Increasingly the space will be used to showcase more work by local as well as national and international practitioners.

CONTACT US

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Absolutely Cultured is a registered charity. If you would like to support our work, you can do so at absolutelycultured.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

Mon & Tue	Closed
Wed-Sun	10:30am-5pm

OFFICIAL FUNDING PARTNERS

