

the drawing shed

OBJECTS

WHAT

- to advance education for the public benefit by the promotion of the arts
- to commission and deliver contemporary art that experimentally and critically engages with people and ideas
- to produce provocative, playful, risk-taking arts projects and events intended to spark dynamic conversations locally (*where the project is taking place*) about our changing world globally
- to engage critically with the dynamic space between the public and the private
- to promote an imaginative engagement between people of different generations, communities and cultures, contributing to individual and cultural wellbeing
- to question the relationship between creativity, networks, community cohesion and correspondent value to well-being
- to celebrate, support and expand the context for interdisciplinary artists' practice as well as that of project participants / audience

WHO

- general public
- the local audience
- communities of interest
- specific project-based participants

HOW

- using interdisciplinary arts and social media
- by developing community, cultural and academic partnerships
- through exhibitions, events, residencies, conferences, commissions, publishing and research
- by generating income from a diverse range of sources fundraising

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SUMMARY

Established in 2009, **the drawing shed** is a contemporary arts project led by visual artists Sally Labern and Bobby Lloyd, with its new project base, **LockUpNNumber11** on two housing estates in London E17.

the drawing shed sets up projects that invite local people to experience and take part in cultural activities and exchanges. Printmaking, drawing, festival, performance / live art, film, sound, pop-up cinema, food, installation, live-art-writing and social media are used to create art works, share ideas, develop community-based performance and trigger 'public' intervention through provocation.

Its mobile studios – **the drawing shed**, **ClayOven**, **PrintBike** and **The Public Typing Pool** act as an artist-led project resource for collaboration and form one of the central platforms for the work which takes place on the estates, across London and further a-field. Supported by a diverse range of local, regional and national partners, **the drawing shed** receives regular project led funding from Arts Council England and Waltham Forest Council and Arvon, and is currently in the process of registering as a charity.

the drawing shed also commissions other artists to work with the organisation, running participatory projects, interventions and provocations, as well as co-curating. Bringing in new ideas from these artists, and co-producing contemporary arts projects with local people as active participants is how **the drawing shed** develops dialogue between residents, communities and artists, as well as across generations and cultures.

the drawing shed is interested in ideas that interrogate the margins of often contested public places and notions of 'community'.

'These are the pathways into a dialogue and creation of a new form and this is integral to our methodology around social engagement'.

Reflecting both London and the globalizing world's diaspora, the project's mobility is the aesthetic and political driver that underpins **the drawing shed's** ethos of 'going to where people are rather than waiting for them to come to us'. Bridging in and out of the durational projects on the estates, **the drawing shed's** enduring presence in turn makes way for risk-taking and feeds back into the development of critical practice and ideas.

the drawing shed works closely with the Institute for Health and Human Development (IHHD) at University of East London (UEL) on questioning the relationship between creativity, networks, community cohesion and correspondent value to well-being (<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/browse-advice-and-guidance/be-creative-be-well-arts-wellbeing-and-local-communities-evaluation>). Both lead artists are now Honorary Fellows of the institute; they speak and contribute papers at academic and cultural conferences.

Last year the drawing shed hit the ArtAngel Open 100 list in 2013 for project idea Sky.I.Ark – in 2014 the artists proposed **set-aside** - which will form a major strand of the artists' next three years development:

'set-aside' is a new artwork by Sally Labern and Bobby Lloyd of **the drawing shed**, created on the ground within an urban soup kitchen and an island community and in the metaphorical 'mile high' space above city and sea. Working with the Alauda Skylark's complex song, its stranger-neighbour dynamics, and the rich voices of the homeless and activists, asylum seekers and birders, Labern+Lloyd will explore through film, sound, social media and text, the critical need for the 'set-aside' in the C21st fracture of the [un]civil. Without making visible the dissonance on the ground, this 'imaginative' mile high space cannot exist.

<http://www.thedrawingshed.org/sky-l-ark-artangel-open-100>

PROJECTS 2014 - 2017

the drawing shed is currently in residence with **Text Festival 2014**, with **The Public Typing Pool** sharing with artist Laurence Weiner the launch of the new Sculpture Centre Bury in Manchester; In parallel to the manual typewriters, Lloyd+Labern worked with participants drawing upon Richard Sennett's text : *Together*, to develop a 'scored' public performance on Twitter exploring the Civil and the Uncivil and the role of civil disobedience in the construct of 'Civility'.

the drawing shed has worked in 2014 on two projects with visual and performance artist Jordan McKenzie as co-curator and the Live Art Development Agency (LADA). Cara Courage, a PHD student from Brighton University continues to work alongside projects as 'thinker in residence':

- **LiveElse[W]here** has invited both performance artists and residents for short residencies using project space LockUpNumber11, recently equipped with electricity and light (courtesy estate-managers Ascham Homes), spring/summer 2014. <http://ideasfromelsewhere.wordpress.com/liveelsewhere-2/>
- **IdeasFromElse[W]here**, June/July 2014 a month long arts 'laboratory' space in Winns Gallery, Lloyd Park E17 **also** using the grounds of the park (close to the estates) as spaces to make new work, try things out and enjoy a culture of making, experimenting and performing.
www.ideasfromelsewhere.wordpress.com

the drawing shed continues to develop its co-production relationship with both the national literature agency Arvon, by extending the live-art writing project in London E17 and co-hosting a live-art writing workshop involving members of its own art writing group *StrangerNeighbour* with Parasol Unit Foundation, the London based contemporary art gallery and project space.

Autumn 2014, **the drawing shed** have been commissioned by Wandsworth Arts Team and Public Health in Nine Elms to run **Some[W]here**; across three housing estates and working with residents and local 're-makers', a series of small mobile structures drawing upon the history/culture of the Soap Box and Go-Cart, will act as the platforms from and through which stories are told, local heritage is explored and meaningful conversations can take place, across the estates, cultures and generations.

Lloyd+Labern have been commissioned to bring The Public Typing Pool into an empty shop as part of Bury Light Nights where they will be creating three projected Gobo images on to the art gallery building in October 2014.

2014 - 2017 It is **the drawing shed's** intention to develop the use of **LockUpNumber11** by both lead artists, visiting artists and residents of The Drive and Attlee Terrace further supporting the ethics of co production. Alongside LockUpNo11 new commissions and residencies will be fostered with partners and galleries locally and in other places - with time for research built into the projects – it will deepen the relationship of the lead artists' work and the academic underpinning of their practice.

The move from voluntary to charitable organisation will allow **the drawing shed** to develop an integrated portfolio of practice, build its capacity, extend and deepen relationships with both its academic and contemporary arts partners, including other artists, and create a sustainable future for **the drawing shed**.

LEAD ARTISTS

Labern+Lloyd have worked together since 2004 on **the drawing shed**, as well as on independent projects for more than two decades in east London and beyond, working with communities experiencing high levels of social exclusion. Alongside this, both artists respond individually, and in collaboration, to commission briefs for site specific and other work that extends their ideas and practice.

Sally Labern is a multi disciplinary artist, studying for a Fine Art Doctorate at UEL; her practice-led research explores the value of the autonomous imagination in relation to collaboration and co-authorship; She is a member of the artists' collective <http://sevenartwriters.co.uk/>

Labern seeks to reconfigure public and private spaces and objects that hold social positions, and distort/reposition/remake them to explore how an intervention can make the object's usual position discordant with its new 'value'. Labern sets out to unsettle, and subtly rupture / contest known meanings, to uncover the 'other' - by which she means the ideas that sit outside the mainstream: dominant received ideas of the mythical norm and those of the imagination; She chooses to uncover the liminal space that can harbour distinct differences to be explored under the public gaze.

Bobby Lloyd is a visual artist whose enquiry explores places, landscapes and communities in the throes of disruption/contestation, in order to engage with new/other/imagined possibilities across art media, including photography, found objects, film, text and installation. Since 2007 she has worked as artist and consultant on a new, large mixed-need housing project in Tower Hamlets, East London, formerly the site of a Victorian hospital, developing a series of artworks for the site. Lloyd is also an HCPC registered art therapist, clinical supervisor, lecturer, consultant and writer. Her work has taken her to countries of political conflict and social upheaval over two decades.