

Poetry and Art Project Examples

Twin Cities Hereward College

I worked with students at Hereward College across to mornings to create ‘poetry stones’ and ‘blackout poems’ inspired by two of Coventry’s twin cities. These were then displayed at the LTB gallery in Coventry as well as being sent to the twin cities for displays there too. A public call out for photographs of Coventry meant that photos, taken by a diverse mix of local residents, accompanied the exhibition in Connecticut so residents there could learn more about life here.



The exhibition at the town hall in Coventry, Connecticut, USA, including the student’s blackout poems and photos submitted by local residents.

Positive Words and Images with Kate Hills

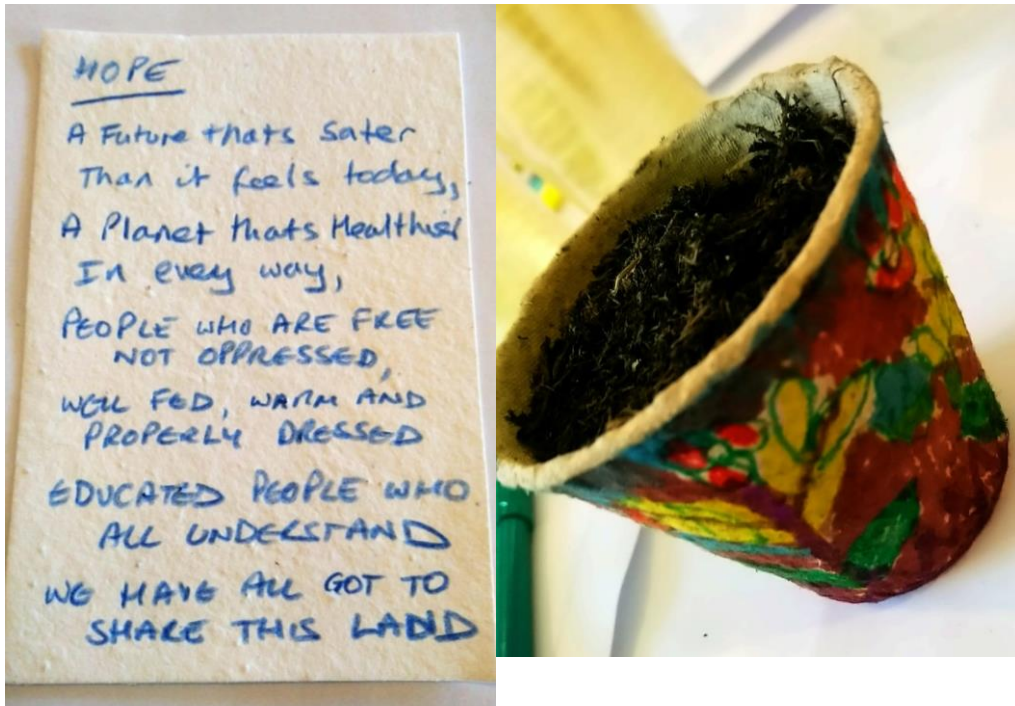
Kate and I worked together to plan and deliver a series of six two-hour workshops at Finham Library in Coventry with an environmental theme. The workshops took place fortnightly. An hour of each session was dedicated to poetry and an hour to visual art, the final session was used as a 'finishing off' session. Participants each created a piece that merged art with poetry in some way, the pieces were then exhibited as part of an exhibition in the centre of Coventry. Alongside the workshops, we commissioned ten local artists to produce a piece on the same theme. All pieces, both in the workshops and from the local artists, were created using scrap/recycled material.



Some of the art and poetry pieces and the exhibition room

Planting Poems

This is a session I've run many times in various venues. We draft poems on a set theme, using an accessible prompt. The final versions of the poems are written on seeded paper and planted into biodegradable pots which can then be planted straight into the ground as part of the event or taken home and planted/placed in a windowsill. The words will eventually blossom into wildflowers. This can be run with a group as a set session or as a drop in session.



Escape Arts and Tate (including acrostic poem)

I worked with two groups in different parts of Warwickshire for three sessions per group for three hours per session. We covered a variety of poetic forms including: poetic self-portraits, acrostics, poetry collages, blackout poetry, metaphorical poetry, list poetry and free-verse. We presented these in interesting ways including on large banners. The work was displayed in a couple of venues in Warwickshire and the banners were displayed as part of an exhibition with the Tate Modern. Alongside the workshops, I was commissioned to create an acrostic poetry trail. Lines of the poem were displayed in different venues/shop fronts in Stratford-upon-Avon over a bank holiday weekend. People were encouraged to collect a worksheet, find the lines of the poem and arrange them into the correct order. The worksheets could be handed in with the chance to win a prize. The poem was then made into a semi-permanent display and printed onto the window of an empty shop front.

Local news article: <https://stratfordobserver.co.uk/news/blackout-poetry-aims-to-spark-creativity-and-connections-in-warwickshire/>

Left: Some of the Nuneaton group members with their poetry banners

Right: The banners (central column) as part of a larger display for a project with the Tate Modern



Emilie Lauren Jones

Young Carers sessions with Adele Harrison at St Mary's Guildhall

A nine-week programme of poetry and art activities where I collaborated with Adele Harrison of Cov Cloth. All art and display materials were recycled. The theme was to celebrate and raise awareness of young carers. The nine, two hour, weekly workshops culminated in an exhibition at the guildhall. Topics included poetry weaving (where lines of poetry were written on to fabric and woven), poetry self-portraits, poetic mood boards, poetry plates, blackout poetry, poetic cartoons, and spoken word audio.

Exhibition photos, photo credit: Jamie Gray



