



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release: Re-Rooting



Daisy Murphy Youth Dance,
Sandgate Rd,
Folkestone
CT20 2DA

Opening:
7th – 30th Oct
Thurs – Sun
11am – 4pm

Curated by Shed Project



Location: Daisy Murphy Youth Dance,
Shakespeare Centre, Sandgate Rd, Folkestone
CT20 2DA

Artists: Fernanda Galvão, Lyndsay Mann,
Shorsh Saleh, Sandgate Community Garden,
Amber Sherratt and Howard Sooley.

Opening night: 5pm-7pm, 7th October.

[Booking via eventbrite is strongly recommended](#)

Exhibition continues: 8th - 30th October,
Thursday-Sunday 11am-4pm

PRESS USE ONLY [Google album of artworks](#)

Shed Project presents *Re-Rooting*, an exhibition unearthing the psychological and political undergrowth behind connections to 'the land'. Inspired by the rising popularity of gardening during the Covid-19 pandemic, the show examines how artists relate to nature as a means of personal and socio-political healing.

Everyone is welcome to attend the exhibition opening on 7 October, 5-8pm at Daisy Murphy Youth Dance on Sandgate Road. Cocktails made with local, foraged and home-grown ingredients will be served to celebrate. [Booking via eventbrite](#) is recommended.

The show was one of two innovative and ambitious proposals selected for **Folkestone Fringe's** new curatorial platform, **GLUE**. In the context of the pandemic, GLUE tackles reports of dwindling opportunities for emerging curators. GLUE launched with an open call running from 1st June - 1st July 2021. The open call welcomed submissions from energetic and



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entrepreneurial artists, curators or collectives who were final year students, recent graduates and postgraduate students from UK art schools or alternative programmes.

Re-Rooting explores the complex relationship we have with land in both the context of a globalised, 'post-colonial' world and on a more intimate scale in caring for a garden. Here, gardening connects us with the people and places we have lost. Each artwork reveals the garden's potential for healing through fostering intimacy, resistance and community.

Howard Sooley's unflinching yet tender photographs of **Derek Jarman** (1990) encapsulate the garden as a site of intimate resistance. The photo series depicts Derek Jarman both caring for the garden at Prospect Cottage, an old fisherman's shack he bought after being diagnosed with HIV in 1986 and lying in a hospital bed. Prospect Cottage sits on single-covered Dungeness Beach in the shadow of a nuclear power station. Despite its inhospitable environment, Jarman spent his last years cultivating this garden. Here, the garden represents resilience. If a garden could grow here, it could grow anywhere.

For Jarman, connecting with this outside space was vital, it was a way of fighting against normativity with a radical act of care. **Amber Sherratt's** installation *@mama.gardened* (2021) continues Jarman's legacy through the intimacy inherent to caring for plants. Sherratt was carer to her mother in the time leading to her death. She now tends to her mother's plants in her absence; she explains '*mama was a gardener and so am I*'. *@mama.gardened* makes public the extent of daily care required to sustain another life. She extends this invitation to the audience, who can come away with free plant cuttings to propagate. Sherratt's nursery acts as a means of rooting memory but also facing the inevitability of death.

With a specially commissioned planter of medicinal herbs and plants rooted in local folklore, **Sandgate Community Garden** continues the exploration of healing through gardening. Like Sherratt's practice, this knowledge is shared through generations and communities. The abundant planter will be repurposed within Folkestone Memorial Garden after the exhibition, as a resource for the local community and generations to come.



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Local community's power is witnessed on a global scale within the exhibition's **zine library**. Zines are low-cost DIY magazines used by artists and activists to share news and grow networks. International examples of grassroots initiatives connect the Sandgate Community commission to artists, activists and gardeners from Germany, Australia, Hong Kong, USA and the UK. Visitors are welcome to spend time with these publications to explore the power of the micro within the macro.

In contrast, **Fernanda Galvão's** dystopian landscape painting *Ovitos II* (2021) challenges the extent to which artists can protect land, when living under oppressive regimes. Born and based in São Paulo, Galvão's large-scale oil and pastel canvas is subversively named after the Portuguese word for 'egg', symbolising new life and fertility. Melancholic grey stains interrupt sweeping vegetal forms, alluding to her nation's accelerated deforestation and industrialisation. Although Brazil's indigigenous communities live harmoniously with nature, the country's city-dwelling political elite favour destructively rapid economic and urban expansion. The plants and fungi in *Ovitos II* creep around concrete forms; their obfuscation quietly alluding to the country's violence towards nature and the activists risking their lives to protect it.

Shorsh Saleh's *Displacement* (2019) explores socio-political healing on a macro scale. *Displacement* was hand-woven by Kurdish women in Iraq as part of a project aiming to revive traditional weaving techniques and provide income for local people. The threads are dyed using natural pigments extracted from local plant life. Also displayed is a photograph depicting Iraqi-Kurdish refugees fleeing Northern Iraq during Saddam Hussein's attacks in 1991, from which the carpet derives its pattern. As the pattern graduates from dark to light, Saleh explores both the rebirth and displacement of a community.

Similarly, **Lyndsay Mann** asks complex questions of decolonisation, migration and ownership in her essay-film *A Desire for Organic Order* (2016). Filmed at the Herbarium and Centre for Middle Eastern plants at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Lyndsay addresses the violence rooted in the garden collections and by extension, Scotland's colonial past. Following meticulously categorised and conserved plants, Lyndsay's voiceover exposes the level of care given to these artefacts over the people who lived alongside them.



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Artist biographies

Howard Sooley

Born in Doncaster, Howard Sooley is a well known gardening and botanical photographer based in the UK. His work has been featured in *The Guardian* and the *Observer*.

Sandgate Community Garden

Sandgate Community Garden is a volunteer project in the Enbrook Park grounds of Saga, near Folkestone in Kent. New volunteers are always welcome, and the crops grown are shared by and with the community of gardeners. The Community Garden team are also involved in other projects around Sandgate and Folkestone, including “Incredible Edible” planters by the Golden Valley shops, in Fremantle Road Park, on Sandgate High Street and Sandgate Esplanade.

Amber Sherratt

Born in Oxford in 1998, Sherratt is a multidisciplinary artist who’s current focus is upon care; what it is to give and receive. Graduating from Chelsea College of Arts, London in 2021, Sherratt continues to live and work in the city.

Fernanda Galvão

Born in São Paulo in 1994, Galvao graduated with a BA in visual arts in 2016 and has since won several acquisition awards and exhibited in group shows in Brazil and the UK. She is represented by NEON gallery in London.

Shorsh Saleh

Born in Kurdistan, Saleh studied MA Traditional Arts at The Prince’s School of Traditional Arts, London, where he has been teaching carpet weaving since 2015. Saleh has exhibited in Germany, Iraqi Kurdistan, Lebanon, UK and the USA. A series of his works were part of the Refugees; Forced to Flee exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, London, 2020-2021. Saleh’s works are held in the Royal Collection Trust, The Prince’s Foundation, the British Museum, the Bagari Foundation and the Islamic Art Museum, Malaysia. His work was part of the Prince & Patron exhibition at Buckingham Palace, 2018. His solo exhibitions include Remembering



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Yezidis, Iraqi Kurdistan, 2015 and Always Colour, Always Rain, Iraqi Kurdistan, 2000. Saleh was Artist in Residence at the Migration Museum, London, April 2019.

Lyndsay Mann

Lyndsay Mann is an artist and lecturer based in Edinburgh who works across a range of media, including voice, sculpture, writing and moving image. Her practice investigates the ways in which established narratives, and the institutional practices that support them, inform our sense of self. Recent projects and exhibitions include: *Florilegium*, Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; *New Mothers' Assembly*, Surgeons' Hall Museum, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; *Looking at the Past Understanding the Present Shaping the Future*, LUX and Goethe Institute, Glasgow; *Seeing Systems*, videoclub + ArtScience Museum, Singapore; *Utter, Utter, Utter*, Cooper Gallery, Dundee; *Character Double*, LUX Scotland; *>>FFWD*, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai; *Transmediale*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; *Say-so*, MAP and Glasgow Film Festival.

About Shed Project

Shed Project is a curatorial collective working part-time on socially engaged exhibitions and projects. Shed provides a casual creative space for slow-paced production and interdisciplinary research. We work on small, temporary exhibitions to foster creative development.

About GLUE

GLUE launched with an open call running from 1st June - 1st July 2021. The open call welcomed submissions from artists, curators or collectives who are final year students, recent graduates and postgraduate students from UK art schools or alternative programmes.

Folkestone Fringe were seeking artists, curators and collectives who are energetic and entrepreneurial. This open call was for people who may have missed out on the catapult moments that degree shows can provide, and were looking to create opportunities that define their futures.



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Part of the Folkestone Fringe Triennial programme, the funded commissions are for two separate contemporary exhibitions in Folkestone, the first taking place throughout September and the second throughout October. Capitalising on the energy of the Creative Folkestone Triennial, GLUE required proposals that were innovative and ambitious.

About Folkestone Fringe

Folkestone Fringe is an artist-led organisation committed to creating opportunities and projects which connect people to each other and the place that we live.

The fourteen week programme opened in April and closes 2 November 2021.

ENDS

Note to editors

Please refer to the exhibition's curators as 'Shed Project', not The Shed Project, Shed Studio or any other derivation.

Contact

For all enquiries please contact: shed.project.studio@gmail.com

Instagram: [@Shed.Project.Studio](https://www.instagram.com/Shed.Project.Studio)

Google album of artworks:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3cfm72w7m8Xxq7bp6>