

ABOUT COVENTRY CREATES

2021

Coventry Creates has been two years in the making and is now home to 30 thought-provoking artistic commissions produced in response to a range of university research.

Beginning in 2020 lockdown, the University of Warwick and Coventry University wanted to deliver a project that could provide support and open doors for local artists. We were also keen to provide an opportunity for researchers from any discipline to do something a little different, extend their networks and bring their work to new audiences in innovative and creative ways. Through the University Partnership, we decided to pool our funds, support as many artists as we could and launch Coventry Creates as fast as we could.

Not only was the exhibition a success, but the University of Warwick's [evaluation of 2020 Coventry Creates](#) also revealed a myriad of benefits and learning opportunities for artists and researchers alike. So, after a successful application to Arts Council England we've been able to extend the exhibition and include 12 new projects during the UK City of Culture year, once again combining people and ideas that wouldn't usually interact and seeing what truly amazing things can happen. Professor Jackie Hodgson (University of Warwick) is the lead investigator on the project and Peta Murphy is the co-investigator (Coventry University) making this a truly joint endeavour.

Over the last four years the University Partnership has funded over 60 research and creative projects and we are proud to be supporting our region, working in collaboration with organisations and communities in Coventry. Researchers have worked with a lot of different communities, including parents of autistic children, Syrian refugees, politically marginalised groups, school children, BAME women, new parents, dementia patients and the Roma community. We've helped bring oral histories of political activism to life with Punjabi song - Boliyan and dance - Giddha, held virtual school foreign language exchanges, imagined new possibilities for a post-Covid future and created songs about women's suffrage and about respect for people's names and identity. We've supported health workers to reflect on and embody their experiences using the arts and held innovative drama workshops with newly arrived migrants. Lots of these projects focus on making connections, unearthing hidden stories, and positively impacting people's lives.

We would like to say thank you to all the talented and dedicated artists that have helped make this exhibition happen, thank you to the researchers who have shared their work and embraced artistic creativity and to thank everyone who has participated in the projects. We hope that it inspires others to reach out and work in new ways, with new people and new ideas.

'Coventry UK City of Culture has encouraged us to work with the people in our city in new and exciting ways. Coventry Creates is a fantastic example of this, born out of the University Partnership and a strong desire to connect more strongly with the artistic and creative communities right here on our doorstep. It shows both the talent of our artists and the relevance of the work carried out by our researchers, addressing important societal challenges.'

Professor Jackie Hodgson, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research), University of Warwick.

'Coventry Creates was a response to the first lockdown when artists and creative industries saw their income and ability to work severely diminished. The University partnership commissioned digital artworks and created a space online to exhibit the extraordinary results of artists working with contemporary research. The second edition uses the same platform so audiences can experience the evolution of the project, more brilliant artworks that reinterpret research from both Universities in a project built on collaboration.'

Peta Murphy, Associate Head of School: Enterprise and Innovation, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Coventry University.

The City of Culture University Partnership team is made up of a number of academics and professional services staff, led by Professor [Neil Forbes](#) (Coventry University) and Professor [Jackie Hodgson](#) (University of Warwick). Coventry Creates has been a collaborative project across both universities and coordinated by [India Holme](#) (University of Warwick) and [Samima Hussain](#) (Coventry University) and led by Professor [Jackie Hodgson](#) (University of Warwick) and [Peta Murphy](#) (Coventry University).

Thank you to Arts Council England, artists, researchers, our panel members, and many other colleagues who have helped to make this project happen.

Useful and related links:

University of Warwick - City of Culture Collaborative Research Projects - warwick.ac.uk/about/cityofculture/our-research/

Coventry University - City of Culture Collaborative Research Projects - coventry.ac.uk/the-university/city-of-culture/projects/

Evaluation of Coventry Creates 2020 - warwick.ac.uk/about/cityofculture/coventry-creates/evaluation/

Artist-Researcher Collaborations: Lessons and Challenges - warwick.ac.uk/about/cityofculture/artists-researchers/Coventry-creates-knowledge-sharing/

For further information please contact info@coventrycreates.co.uk

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