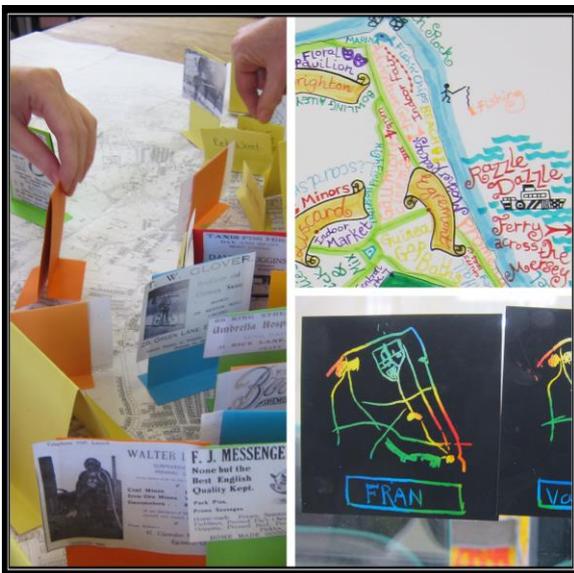




Wallasey Central Library

Nicola McGovern

Over 2 months our artist in residence, Nicola McGovern, has been taking our Make It! artists on a creative journey.



Week 1

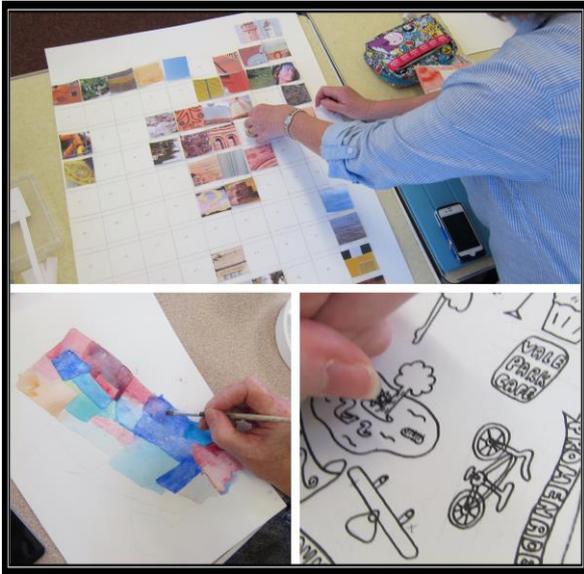
Our map-making project at Wallasey Central Library started off by exploring earliest childhood memories of sweet shops, dolphins, cartoons at the cinema and the ferry and old newspaper adverts in the library's collection, participants made their own personal memory maps of their stories and experiences of Wallasey and started work on a large collaborative word map which will be developed over the next few weeks.

Week 2

Our Make It! In Libraries artists have been experimenting with colour and wax resist techniques to create maps of Wallasey, inspired by Mary Edna Fraser's silk batik maps. They added salt to puddles of ink to create interesting textures and represent the salty seawater surrounding Wirral and emphasised the distinctive coastline with oil pastels and contrasting colours.

The group discussed hidden gems of Wallasey and came up with a long list of must visit places including Earlston park, The Brek, the Heart of Egremont, The Gorse, Vale Park, The Black Pearl, Mariner's Park and the Sailing School.





Week 3

Our Make It! In Libraries artists have been having fun getting out and about taking photos for our '99 Colours of Wallasey' artwork. They captured colours across the rainbow from the red sail of a Star Yacht to the violet face of a mermaid on the Port Sunlight waterfront and positioned them on a collaborative map which will be developed further next week.

The group also experimented with watercolour pencils, gouache and paper collage to create simplified modern maps inspired by contemporary artists and illustrators including Jordan Sondler, Charlie O'Sullivan and Carland Cartography.

Having experimented with a wide range of different design styles and techniques, the artists chose which final project they would like to develop individually or collaboratively over the next 2 sessions to create designs for merchandise.

Week 4

This week has been all about collaboration for our map-making artists. While some added their photos to our 99 Colours of Wallasey map, others sorted images found in Wirral Libraries onto a vintage map of the area, bringing back treasured memories of the Continental Cinema and of Ealing Studios using Seacombe Congregational Church to film *The Magnet*.

Final projects were started with some artists teaming up to create collaborative colour and word maps of Wallasey and others developing their ideas further using paper collage, watercolour pencils and gouache. We can't wait to see the end results.



Week 5

For our final week of map making, our artists finished off work for the exhibition. This included a collaborative word map using home-made coffee paint to achieve a sepia effect of places no longer there and an abstract canvas of the 99 Colours of Wallasey that participants have collected over the last few weeks on photo walks.

It was really great to hear how our artists have been inspired to take the project further after the workshops have ended to create new pieces of embroidery and a large scale canvas map as a gift. So even though the workshops have ended, the

project will continue through their ideas and artwork.

Thank you so much to all our participants who put their own ideas and memories into the activities, made some amazing work and supported each other. Hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Nicola McGovern

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