

Shine a Light

*Creating monoprints
inspired by Joseph Wright*



Photos by Jon Legge

Introduction

Shine a Light is the second part of a three-year project funded by Arts Council England.

The project aims to encourage new people to get involved in art, to see the world differently and to express themselves in new and creative ways. We also hope to break down stereotypes by revealing something of the hidden complexities, personalities, thoughts and dreams of people who have faced challenges such as homelessness.

Working with contemporary visual artist, Olivia Punnett, the group visited Derby Museum and Art Gallery and each chose a work that resonated with them personally. They were then supported to translate their feelings and experiences about the piece into a monoprint.

The entire process was documented by photographer Jon Legge, whose images feature throughout this booklet.

Film maker Gavin Repton also took footage which will become part of a film to be exhibited in 2020.



Exploring Derby Museum and Art Gallery

We are lucky to have the world's largest collection of Joseph Wright paintings right on our doorstep at Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Born in Derby in 1734, Wright is an internationally renowned artist who is known as a "painter of light".

Derby Museums kindly gave us a private tour of the works on display in the Joseph Wright Gallery, where Senior Curator of Fine Art and the Joseph Wright Collection, Lucy Bamford, spoke about his life and his paintings.

We enjoyed the opportunity to have a play with the effects of light, and to start to think about the work we would make.





Using torches to view the Joseph Wright paintings in the darkened gallery was a fantastic experience.

Jon Legge, Photographer



Inspired by Joseph Wright's masterpieces

Joseph Wright's most famous painting, *A Philosopher Giving that Lecture on an Orrery, in which a Lamp is put in the Place of the Sun* is a masterclass in painting with darkness, light and shadows.

The private view was a fantastic opportunity for us to see the work up close and get some inspiration for our own art.

The experience of having a private tour of the Joseph Wright paintings at Derby Museum and Art Gallery was a lovely start to this project.

Kate Tilsley, Growing Lives Tutor





It was interesting, the museum visit. I used to go a lot before but it was nice to go there again.

Participant



It was great to have privileged access to the gallery when it was closed to the public.

Jon Legge, Photographer



Planning our monoprints

Back at the Growing Lives crafts room we had the chance to do some additional research. We each chose an image that personally resonated with us to use as the starting point for our monoprint.

Artist Olivia Punnett was on hand to explain how we could use the ink and rollers to make our own work.

Jon Legge took photos to record the process.





It were different.

Participant





It's nice doing art and talking about it.

Participant







Learning about the monoprint process

All of us were new to the idea of monoprinting and it was fascinating to see and experience the process from start to finish.

A monoprint image can only be made once, so it was nerve-wracking when our final prints were revealed!

I have worked with participants over the course of this project and have been amazed at the work produced, as well as seeing the Joseph Wright collection in a completely new light.

Olivia Punnett, Artist









Brilliant, spot on. Meeting new people and actually learning the monoprinting with Livvy. The first time I did it I could have stayed all day.

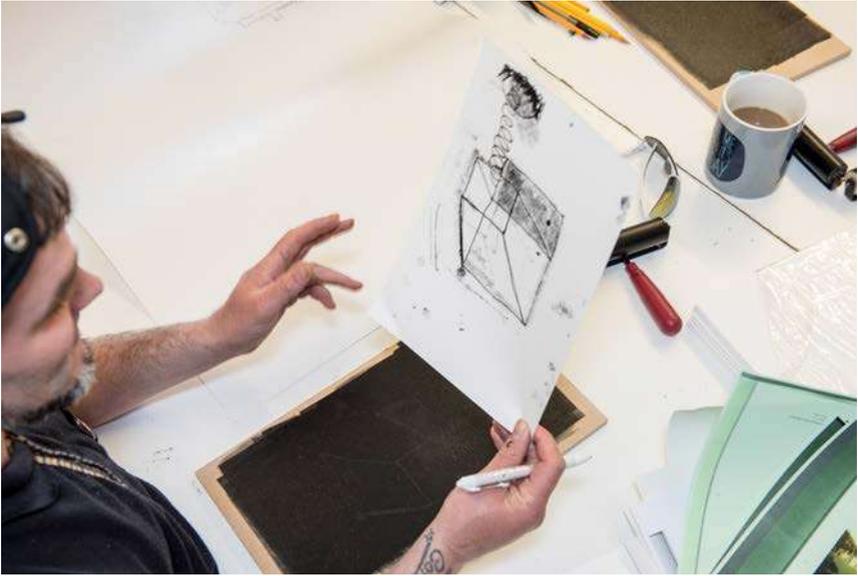
Participant











The monoprinting worked really well with participants, as they were able to achieve prints in a short space of time, inspiring them to do more, and then giving them the confidence to develop their skills using watercolour paints.

Kate Tilsley, Growing Lives Tutor









Everyone got a lot of satisfaction from the artwork they produced.

Kate Tilsley, Growing Lives Tutor



The final pieces

The final monoprints are all varied with one each representing the individual skills and interests of its artist.

Everyone involved is really proud of the resulting works and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of creating them.







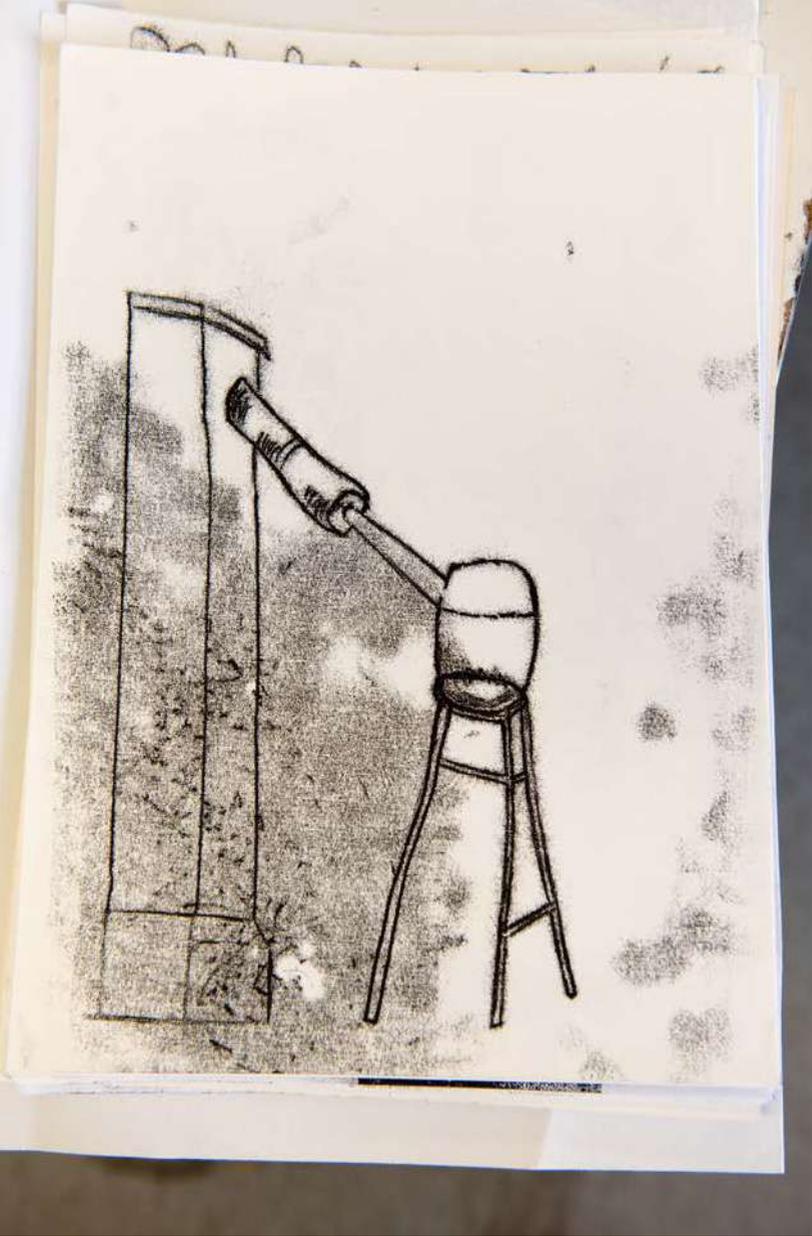
I think this looks great. The resulting artworks look excellent. Well done to everyone involved.

Lucy Bamford, Derby Museum and Art Gallery

Sketch of a tulip









The Artists

Alan | Daniel | Dawn | Dominic | Ellen | Gary | Gaz | John
Luke | Natasha | Simon | Steven | Thomas | Anon | Anon

Derventio Housing Trust

Derventio Housing Trust is a registered social landlord providing accommodation and support to people experiencing homelessness. As well as providing safe and secure accommodation and support to sustain a home, we provide specialist support services to help people overcome any barriers they are facing.

Shine a Light is part of Growing Lives, an easy-access project in an urban community setting. It provides people with opportunities to develop their self-confidence, gain new skills, reduce social isolation and improve their health and wellbeing.

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the Growing Lives participants, Growing Lives staff and artists Olivia Punnett and Jon Legge for their work on this project. Thank you also to Derby Museum and Art Gallery for their generous support.

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With Thanks To

Derby Museum and Art Gallery

The Museum and Art Gallery boasts paintings and artefacts that are of both local and international significance, including the world's largest collection of Joseph Wright paintings. With a combination of long-standing and temporary exhibits, the collections are updated regularly so there is always something new.

www.derbymuseums.org

Twitter: @derbymuseums

Facebook: /derbymuseums

Olivia Punnett

Olivia Punnett is an artist and curator based in Derbyshire. She holds an MA in Fine Art from Sheffield Hallam University, having previously trained at the University of Derby and Falmouth College of Arts. Olivia is a lecturer at Nottingham Trent University and a founding member of Haarlem Artspace. Olivia's practice is diverse, encompassing a range of media including printmaking, installation, film and projection.

Jon Legge

Jon Legge is a Nottingham-based photographer and photography educator. He delivers photography courses, workshops and events across the East Midlands and beyond. His recent clients include Hereford Cathedral, QUAD Derby, Nottingham University and the NHS. Jon is also Senior Instructor in photography (p/t) at Coventry University. He has worked with Growing Lives at Derventio for the past three years.

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