

New Artworks Created with Asylum-Seeking Young People and Artist Anna Brownsted Unveiled at Nuns Way Pavilion

Tuesday 19 April 2022, 1.50pm
Nuns Way Pavilion, Cambridge, CB4 2PF

A series of new artworks will be unveiled on the exterior of Nuns Way Pavilion in Kings Hedges, Cambridge on Tuesday 19 April, as part of a project entitled *Here/Now*. Created in collaboration between Kettle's Yard, artist Anna Brownsted and a group of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people over the past six-months, the artworks will welcome visitors to this much-loved community venue in North Cambridge.

The young people are in care or care leavers supported by Cambridgeshire Virtual School and the Leaving Care team live and study in the city. Their countries of origin include places experiencing significant conflict and unrest such as Sudan, Afghanistan, Albania, Syria and The Gambia. *Here/Now* provided an opportunity for the young people to get to know Cambridge better through exploring the city and developing a greater connection through creativity.

Cambridgeshire Virtual School understands that some of their students may have very limited experiences outside of living and studying in Cambridge. Broadening students' horizons can build confidence, open new pathways and interests, nurture skills and develop existing ones. *Here/Now* aimed to introduce participants to some of the unique places and people within the city and develop ownership through creative activities. Working with Cambridge-based artist Anna



Anna Brownsted, *Here/Now*, 2022. Nuns Way Pavilion.

Brownsted, the young people thought about things they value being here and now in Cambridge today. They created a meal together, played games, captured photographs, created drawings and shared their thoughts about their experiences.

During the project those involved visited both the Kettle's Yard House and the current exhibition, *The Liberty of Doubt*, by artist and activist Ai Weiwei. They were inspired by how Jim Ede, founder of Kettle's Yard, and Ai Weiwei could share their individual stories and experiences and create beautiful artworks and spaces.

These experiences inspired a series of new artworks created in collaboration with Anna Brownsted. The group shared their feelings of support, welcome, connection and camaraderie with the local community through their creativity. Inspired by a universal 'language' of hands and gesture, they shared their feelings in the images created. The use of layered and repeated hands in the images also reflects on the landscapes of their countries of origin and their individual journeys to the UK.

Anna Brownsted says: "*Working with this group of young people has been truly joyous - their resilience as individuals is both humbling and inspiring, and I feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with them. They've really brought a lot of wonderful energy and*

**For further information
and images**

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creativity to everything we've done together."

Sarah-Jo Jefford of Cambridge Virtual School says: *"It was great to collaborate with Kettle's Yard, Cambridge Regional College and Anna Brownsted on this project. Our young people were very moved by Ai Weiwei's work on refugee themes and they thoroughly enjoyed working creatively together – cooking, drawing, making film and designing digital images. We are so proud of them gaining Arts Award."*

One of the asylum-seeking young people says: *"At first we didn't know about Ai Weiwei or know why anyone would be interested in working with us. Then we started to see and do new things. Now I put it all on my (social media) stories and all my friends have asked me about it."*

The artworks at Nuns Way Pavilion will be displayed long-term at the site. A short film made by Anna Brownsted with the young people entitled *Sunshine England* will be screened at Kettle's Yard in the Clore Learning Studio on 23 and 24 April 2022.

The project has been commissioned by Kettle's Yard and funded by Cambridge City Council with support from Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge Regional College, North Cambridge Community Partnership and Arts Council England.



Anna Brownsted, *Here/Now*, 2022. Nuns Way Pavilion.



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Notes to Editors

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About Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard is one of Britain's best galleries - a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two-year development by architect Jamie Fobert. The new Kettle's Yard includes exhibition galleries, education spaces, a café and welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.

www.kettlesyard.co.uk

About Anna Brownsted

Anna Brownsted is a Cambridge-based American artist working across a wide range of media including film, sound, installation, performance and action-based interventions. Her practice is led by an ongoing exploration of liveness and presence, and her process is often collaborative - involving interdisciplinary exchanges with other artists, researchers, academics and community groups, which directly inform the development of her work. Anna is supported by Arts Council England and her work is shown in museums, galleries, theatres and public spaces including Kettle's Yard, the British Museum, HOME Manchester, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art, UCL, the Roundhouse, Battersea Art Centre and Cambridge Junction, where she is currently an Associate Artist.

About Cambridgeshire Virtual School

Cambridgeshire Virtual School supports children and young people in care between the ages of 2 and 18. Cambridgeshire Virtual School is a team of advisory teachers and dedicated education professionals who work to support the education and improve educational outcomes for Cambridgeshire's looked after children and previously looked after children.

The Virtual School work very closely with Social Care to make sure that our UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) young people have access to the appropriate education and support they need. We support them from their arrival right through to them become a Care Leaver/finishing their Year 13 academic year. We make sure they are accessing EAL provisions but also where possible have fair access to vocational and academic courses as well. We aim to make sure that all professionals work together to make sure that these young people's aspirations and career pathways are realised and not hindered by their language ability, previous schooling history and personal circumstances.



Anna Brownsted, *Sunshine England*, 2022. Film Still.

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