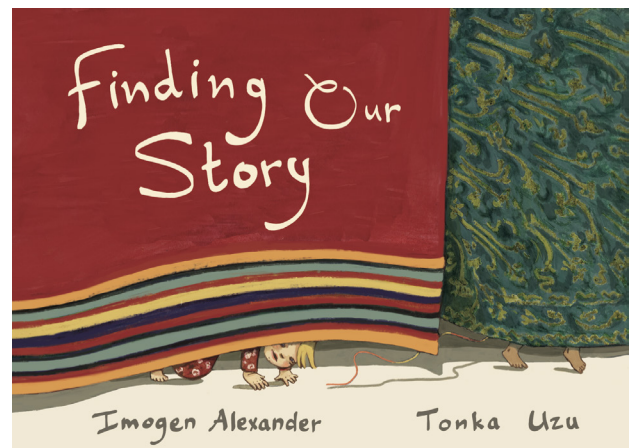


## 'Finding Our Story' Picture Book

December 2021



Extract from *Finding Our Story*, illustrated by Tonka Uzu, text by Imogen Alexander, 2021.

Kettle's Yard is pleased to announce the publication of *Finding Our Story*, a new children's picture book with text by Imogen Alexander and illustrations by Tonka Uzu.

The story follows a group of local children from North Cambridge as they set off on a journey to hunt for a story, travelling through the art collection at Kettle's Yard looking for adventure. As they explore the gallery, the artworks become a starting point for discovery. The more they look, talk and play, the messier their adventure becomes. It is only when they finally return home that they discover that the story was in their hands all along.

*Finding Our Story* is the outcome of the project Story Space, a collaboration between Kettle's Yard and The Red Hen Project, funded by Talking Together in Cambridgeshire. The project supported local families to build positive habits of communication, language and literacy through a playful engagement with art and books.

The project began during the Covid-19 lockdown with a series of home activity packs with books and art materials, along with story-sharing videos set in the Kettle's Yard House. The families then took part in a series of workshops which explored the Kettle's Yard collection and themes that the artist Sutapa Biswas explores in her work. Sutapa Biswas was concurrently preparing for her exhibition at Kettle's Yard. The workshops focused on looking, talking, reading, art-making and multi-sensory play. One

of these sessions was led by Biswas, who created a vibrant fabric world for the families to discover and led a costume-making workshop. In the picture book readers will see references to this fabric world as well as art works from the House at Kettle's Yard.

The characters in the book are based on the local children who took part in the project, and the illustrations were captured during the Story Space sessions.

Red Hen Project worker Rhianna Milton says:

*"The impact of the sessions has been overwhelmingly positive. Families have said they loved the freedom and confidence it has given them, to explore stories and books with their little ones and to learn about the importance of doing something as simple as talking about the colours and images on a page, which is just as important as reading the words on the page with their children."*

At Kettle's Yard there is a small display about the *Finding Our Story* book and the Story Space project alongside the Kettle's Yard exhibition *Sutapa Biswas: Lumen*, until 30 January 2022. The display includes the original illustrations by Tonka Uzu, along with photographs and sketches from the Story Space sessions. Throughout the exhibition period, Kettle's Yard will be hosting a reading space on the top floor with comfy cushions and copies of the book.

## Notes to Editors

For all PRESS enquiries please contact Rees & Co:  
Rosanna Hawkins | [rosanna@reesandco.com](mailto:rosanna@reesandco.com) |  
+44 (0)20 3137 8776

## About *Finding Our Story*

*Finding Our Story* is available in the Kettle's Yard shop or online at [www.kettlesyard.co.uk/shop](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk/shop). There is a 'buy one gift one' scheme which allows you to buy yourself a copy of the book and gift one to a family in North Cambridge through the Red Hen Project.

First published in the UK in 2021 by Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge.  
Text © 2021 Kettle's Yard, written by Imogen Alexander  
Illustrations © 2021 Tonka Uzu  
Designed by Tonka Uzu & Imogen Alexander  
Printed by Langham Press Ltd.

ISBN: 978-1-904561-54-5

Softcover  
210 x 280mm  
32 pages

Imogen Alexander is the Learning and Volunteers Coordinator at Kettle's Yard, and led the Story Space project team. Tonka Uzu is a Bulgarian-born and Italian-educated children's book author/illustrator and artist facilitator who loves drawing children.

Sutapa Biswas is a British Indian conceptual artist, who works across a range of media including painting, drawing, film and time-based media. Her solo exhibition, *Lumen*, is at Kettle's Yard until 30 January 2022.

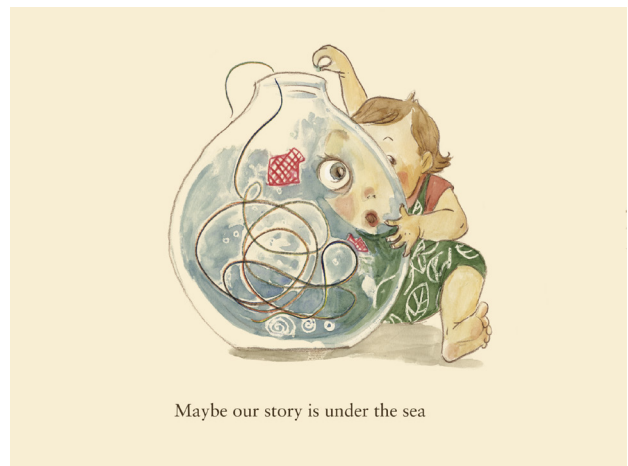
## About Kettle's Yard

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 major new exhibition galleries, generous education spaces, a café and new 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](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk)

**For further information and images**  
Please contact Susie Biller  
[press@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk](mailto:press@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk)

**Kettle's Yard**  
T. +44 (0)1223 748 100  
F. +44 (0)1223 324 377  
[kettlesyard.co.uk](http://kettlesyard.co.uk)



All images: Extract from *Finding Our Story*, illustrated by Tonka Uzu, text by Imogen Alexander, 2021.