

Summer/Autumn at The 01625 Gallery - Update 4 - 19/09/23

'Phone Calls From The Past' - August 2023

After a couple of meetings and liaising with the Silk Museum and New Macclesfield School of Art (NMSOA), 'Phone Calls From the Past' went up in August in time for Heritage Open Days events on September 9th.

This interactive installation celebrates the lives of these two important Macc women, bringing them to life through an art + audio experience... The central idea is that it appears as though 2 Macc women from the past - 1920s-50s designer Edith Buxton and Egypt Explorer Marianne Brocklehurst - are standing in the phone boxes along with other relevant objects like watercolour paintings, Marianne's Diary and Murray's Egypt Guidebook. Each QR code links to an audio file of a phone ringing + conversation, alongside text signposting to various things fulfilling the museum's and NMSOA's (of which Becca is Director) aims, namely visits, events, selling workshops, mailing list sign ups.

3 members of [MADS](#) provided some voice acting for the roles, and local musician [RoBoTaLiEn](#) did the audio editing to make the phone calls sound realistic.

[Click Here to Hear the Phone Calls](#)

More information that went out publicly: "Listen in on 6 "phone calls from the past"! Tap into the right frequency via the QR codes and you will hear 3 calls between Marianne Brocklehurst, Mary Booth and their friend Amelia Edwards in 1876 as they discuss their past and future trips to Egypt, and 3 phone calls from 1925-1949 between various people talking about Edith Buxton (nee Clayton), a successful designer who lived and trained in Macclesfield. As the phone boxes were installed from 1935, another exciting fact is that Edith may well have used one of them!

The two silhouette figures of Edith and Marianne were painted by Becca Smith, Director of the New Macclesfield School of Art, based at The Silk Museum, where Edith trained in Design. They are painted with acrylics; Edith's an homage to her popular "Tulip Time" design in a 1950s dress shape, and Marianne's a typical Victorian dress shape based on her photograph decorated with Hieroglyphs and enlarged illustrations from her diary. Both were originally done in watercolours, but unfortunately that wouldn't be fit for a semi-outdoor space!

What other objects can you spot in the phone boxes that relate to each of the women?

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Make sure to visit The [#01625Gallery](#) - which is supported by Macclesfield Town Council and curated by Lucie Fitzpatrick - in the phone boxes outside Macclesfield Town Hall. It's "open" 24 hours a day from August 26th 2023 until November. What3Words//jumps.froze.phones After you've listened in to the phone calls - which are best listened-to through headphones - pop down to The Silk Museum where you can discover the ancient Egyptian artefacts collected by Marianne and Mary, including the mummy case of Shebmut. Find out what the collection reveals about life and death in ancient Egypt, from Hair and Make-Up to Female Pharaohs. Scroll through digitised pages of Marianne's illustrated diary, which inspired the fictional telephone conversations.

Much of Edith's career was centred around screen printing, and The Silk Museum has over 1000 pattern books of designs collected from mills around Macclesfield, full of various techniques like block printing and spanning nearly 200 years of design! Visitors can view these incredible books and blocks at the museum - why not visit on Heritage Open Day on September 9th?

After the museum's event, pop to the phone boxes from 17:00-18:00 where curator Lucie and artist Becca will be available to answer any questions and chat about the installation! Alternatively the museum is open Wednesdays to Saturdays 10.00-16.00 and the last Sunday of each month."



Macclesfield Nub News
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Myra Hollow
[Suzy Prince](#) this looks like great fun!
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Suzy Prince
[Myra Hollow](#) They always have fantastic mini exhibitions in that phone box. Such a great idea.
 1 d [Love](#) [Reply](#) 2 

Feedback about the installation has been positive, with some saying it's a good way to present history, particularly for children when they are usually inundated with things to read, and to bring phones to life. The Silk Museum will be able to keep all the info panels (circles) and QR codes, plus have ownership of the audio files, so can do something else with them in the museum after the installation has ended.

Some people learned how to use a QR because of it. Others said they couldn't/didn't want to use them and went to the webpage instead, but obviously if for some reason they don't work for anybody, that's a shame.

Others remarked that Becca's paintings were very personal to the women, well thought out and brought them back to life visually.

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Looking ahead to the final exhibition of the year '32 (tbc) Macc Artists' - November 2023 - January 2024

The last exhibition of the year will coincide with Christmastime. 32 (tbc) artists will each get a pane strip to show an artwork and the mini panes on each side of them to have links/QRs. The 32 images will be printed on waterproof Correx and the artists can keep them afterwards to minimise wastage. See image below which is a mock up of the

The aim is to provide a platform for exhibiting artists and those making money from their creativity to fulfil their own aims (whatever they may be: sales, promoting market dates, commissions etc) over the festive period. Some may have work in The Visitor's Centre to signpost to.

The call out went out on Sunday September 17th and for full details and to sign up they must first complete an online form <https://forms.gle/vEion3QJqd3zWhmCA>

Mock up example:

