

## **Winter at The 01625 Gallery - Update 5 - 23/02/24**

### **'32 Macc Artists', opened November 2023**

The last exhibition of 2023 coincided with Christmas and the festive Treacle Markets. The creatives involved included potters, photographers, fine artists, illustrators, poets and digital artists, who each had a pane to show an artwork and the mini panes on each side to have links/QRs to their preferred online space. They were printed on waterproof Correx and artists will collect them to reuse and minimise waste. The aim was to provide a platform for exhibiting artists and those making money from their creativity to fulfil their own aims like shop sales/commissions.

Becca Smith, New Macc School of Art Director said that a cohort of home educated children aged 11-13 visited the exhibition for Part B 'Review an Arts Experience' of their Bronze Arts Awards. "They enjoyed discussing and debating which pieces were "better" than others. I think that the unexpected and very visible/accessible placement of the gallery inspired them. It's so good to have this micro-gallery as a resource in Macc for inspiring young creative minds."

#### **Students feedback:**

"If this is an art gallery, why can't everywhere be an art gallery?"

"We could put our paintings in here!"

"I think it looks exotic and exquisite."

"I love seeing all the styles and ideas together."

"Line all the streets with artwork!"

#### **Exhibiting artist feedback:**

"From what I've seen, MTC are very supportive of creatives in the area."

"For me, the exhibition has been something really cool to talk about and it motivated me to ask if I could display some products in the Visitor's Centre."

"I loved taking part in the exhibition. It was great to see a variety of artists that were featured. The phone boxes are such an iconic part of British culture. More free street exhibitions would be great to see in the future."

"This is such a great idea. Proud to have been part of it."

"It was really simple to get involved and that helped because I don't have much time."

"I missed out!" (someone who forgot to submit).

It's clear from artist feedback that it created a sense of pride. Probably the gallery's placement adds to this, especially with a lack of a formal, gallery-only space.

## Winter at The 01625 Gallery - Update 5 - 23/02/24

### Images of the installation



There's also a reel [here](#) showing the artworks, and another one [here](#).

From a curatorial point of view, this is a great fall-back idea for owners of phone boxes like this to have long term displays. The format is easier to manage than 3D exhibitions, the print was waterproof and quite affordable (about £150 from a regular MTC contact), so it could be adapted for themed call outs, full length imagery, text installations (eg big word-based statements), group/charity takeovers, heritage info, data/views collection, even paid advertising.

## Winter at The 01625 Gallery - Update 5 - 23/02/24

### 'Macclesfield Memories', Feb - May 2024

The first exhibition of 2024 is 'Macclesfield Memories', a collection of old photographs of Macclesfield, mainly from the Victorian era up until the 1960s. Most of them were from local studio Ollier Photography's archive who kindly let them be reprinted with credit.

The photographs all show a certain area, pretty much the immediate area around the Town Hall where the phone boxes are: Market Place, Chestergate, Mill St, Stanley St and Church St. Then other attractive or notable places close by; Chester Road, Waters Green and Park Green and one from outside the town centre because it shows a phone box. The photos have street names alongside them.

These more central places were chosen because it's likely that non-resident audiences will go to these places on a visit to Macc, or that residents see them regularly or know them well. The visual idea was to keep it old-fashioned and monochrome looking, yet sleek and professional. The red and black work well together. It is supposed to be a bit like looking "through" a time machine, back in time.

A lot of people find old photos fascinating, seeing who or what stood on that same spot X years ago. It's educational too, particularly for children who rarely see print photos, nevermind the past.

There's credit to Ollier's, and the text panel promotes the Silk Museum, History Hunters, Macc Historical Society and the very active Facebook Group that the installation's name is a nod to.

### Images of the installation





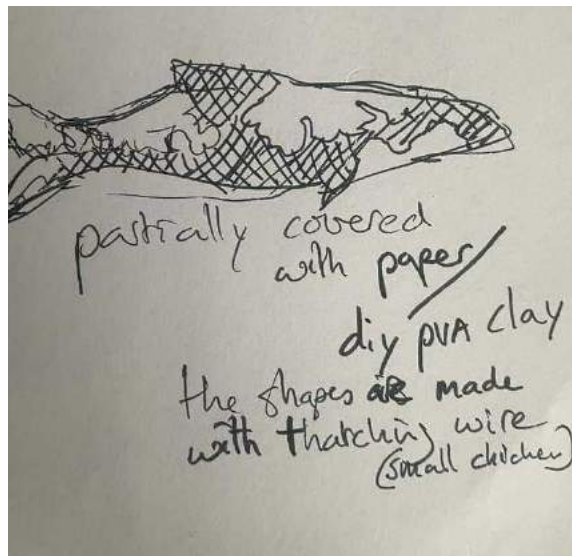
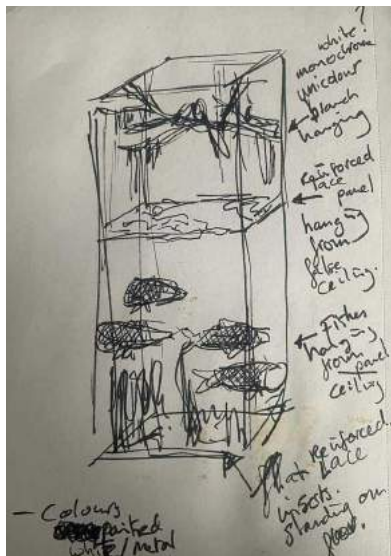
## Winter at The 01625 Gallery - Update 5 - 23/02/24

Lucie said, "I am a photographer and very interested in history, so I wanted to do a display like this at some point, and now seemed like a good time while other people don't seem as keen in the cold weather.

I tried to call out for photos of the phone boxes themselves and to find them in the Ollier archive, but it wasn't very fruitful. I also enquired about 4 full length photographs of the Market Place printed on vinyl, but Olliers thought it would be expensive and hard to install 1 image over 8 separate panes. This way, lots of photos are displayed in one installation, but it could look great with just 4 big ones, so it could be looked into again though for a more permanent display."

### Looking ahead to the rest of the year...

Erika Groeneveld's Bollin Valley Boxes solo installation, May - July/Aug - "I'd like to make the boxes look like "fish tanks", with floating wire fish, a scientific edge highlighting British biotope and perhaps the Bollin river wildlife, with the recent pollution in mind. Using clad thatching wire, hopefully a DIY recipe of PVA + air drying cold "porcelain" I'm experimenting with, recycled net curtains..."



Then it will be either an Open Call or working with GROW - they expressed interest to the MTC team and it would be great to have them involved in a summer installation - haven't been able to contact them.

Then the inner-lit windows are simply crying out for "Stained Glass"! Workshops could produce colourful panels over the festive season, one box with panels done by kids, one by adults. Perhaps booked for adults and open sessions at ArtSpace or ArtSpace outreaching / partnering with somewhere else that works with more vulnerable children or perhaps linked with St Michael's Church.

