

BRICKS BRISTOL

PRESS RELEASE

Artists explore Covid-secure ways to exhibit using sound, in a new podcast which brings together people & places

Bricks commissions artists to provide income, new skills & a creative community

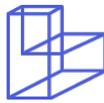
Bristol charity [Bricks](#) has launched a new series of podcasts, bringing together artists, communities and places. Supported by Arts Council England Emergency Response funding, Bricks has commissioned 6 artists to explore ideas through sound.

At a time when many artists have found their income and exhibitions reduced or cancelled, the Bricks Podcast supports artists in sharing their unique perspectives on the world with an online audience. The arts sector is continually in search of ways to communicate with new audiences, and face off the financial challenges posed by Covid-19: Bricks is doing this by supporting artists directly to continue making work in ways that are new to them.

"Art is reflective of society, and is often instrumental in creating social change. We need artists' voices now more than ever; the Bricks Podcast brings some of those voices direct to the listener.", says Bricks Artist Programme Producer and Bristol-based artist, Jessica Akerman.

The 6 artists are part of Bricks Artist Programme, which developed to meet the needs of artists affected by the Covid-19 crisis, but also by wider systemic issues that have made practice as a visual artist in Bristol increasingly precarious.

Bricks Artist Programme provides a mechanism for visual artists to make a living from their work, by connecting them with new audiences and supporters, as well as helping them to develop their skill set, hear about opportunities and learn from each other through a peer-to-peer network.



Every episode of the Bricks Podcast is led by a different artist. Their research takes them to academics, artists, musicians, fans of the open road and more, as they recount their stories and the influence of the South West.

Artist Megan Clark-Bagnall whose episode centres around Little Chef reflects:

"Most of my work begins in conversation with others, making me think differently about my place in the world and reminding me that everyone has a niche. It's these niches that often keep the world spinning, especially when they connect up and share out the knowledge with others. Holding these conversations has confirmed to me that art and conversation over everything else have the power to connect and form bridges of understanding and dialogue between different communities."

Episodes 1-4 are now available, via our website: <https://www.bricksbristol.org/projects/podcasts/> (and other platforms including [Spotify](#), [Apple](#) and [Podbean](#)).

Alongside musician Gwenno and artists Lucy Stein and Hannah Mugatroyd, lead artist Bo Lanyon considers the legacy of the St Ives school of artists in our first episode. From the British Modernist tradition, the Cornish fougou and living with the dead, to the lasting influence of his grandfather Peter Lanyon; he leads a fascinating discussion. Bo says:

"The podcast was a highlight of my creative opportunities in 2020, an unexpected chance to explore a whole new form and work through an idea in close, fresh detail. It was a chance to delve into something that wouldn't actually have worked in any other way, that was quite personal but needed opening out to give the subject room to breathe and be explored."

Olivia Jones crosses choppy waters to Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel in the second episode. She meets island wardens, geologists, artists and ecologists to delve deep into Lundy's volcanic history, revealing how the people there have engaged with the material of the island over time and how clues within it's geology can help us respond to our current climate emergency.

In Megan Clark-Bagnall's playful, yet surprisingly tender, podcast she asks what lessons a post pandemic artworld can learn from the rise and demise of former British institution Little Chef. She meets academics from UWE's



cultural economy unit (Tarek Virani), alongside Bristol's Wardrobe Theatre founders Jesse Matthews, Matthew Whittle and Bricks founder, Jack Gibbon. Megan reflects on the demise of what was once an integral franchise to our national travel culture. Inquiring into different communities and discussing social responsibility, Megan reimagines a new art world: one that is built on care, inclusivity and diversity.

In the fourth episode, Ben Hartley looks at the links between artists' role in gentrification and urban regeneration, alongside artist and cook, Sean Roy Parker, Professor Katie McClymont and writer, Henry Palmer. Comparing their ability to disturb lands to ruderal plant species, *Ruderal* is perceptive, timely and socially engaging.

Each episode is an artist's reflection on matters connected to their practice, creativity and life in the South West. They engage with a strange and increasingly isolating world. They bridge the gap between the social and the artistic. But most importantly: they place community at the forefront of the conversation.

Episode 5 & 6

To be released soon...

Cliff Andrade (release date: 28 December)

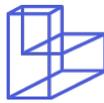
A walk to a place long forgotten becomes the basis for a rumination on memory, place, and the creation of personal identities. Cliff Andrade reimagines his experiences as a working class student of immigrant parents at the University of Bristol, and how identities emerge and morph over time. An internalised audio adventure into the unique mental state entered into when walking.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- All artists and producers available for interview.
- *Bricks is a charity with the mission to support local, creative and social enterprise communities thrive in Bristol. We believe in the civic role of artists and that through collaboration we can have a strong collective voice for inclusive growth in the city.*

For more information, please email jessica@bricksbristol.org.

Podcasts available here: <https://www.bricksbristol.org/projects/podcasts/>.



Instagram and Twitter: @BricksBristol.

Produced by and with original music by Rowan Bishop.

Commissioned and co-produced by Jack Gibbon and Jessica Akerman at Bricks.

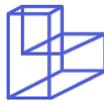
IMAGE CREDITS (see attached)

Credit Bo Lanyon podcast feat. Bo Lanyon, Gwenno, Hannah Murgatroyd & Lucy Stein

Credit Megan Clark-Bagnall - Little Chef Funeral notes

Credit Megan Clark-Bagnall - Little Chef

Credit Megan Clark-Bagnall - Peterborough North Little Chef



CONTRIBUTORS:

Episode 1 - A St Ives Legacy - by artist Bo Lanyon

Hannah Murgatroyd *Artist*

Lucy Stein *Artist*

Gwenno *Musician*

Episode 2 - Lundy - by artist Olivia Jones

Dr James Fox, *Academic*

Rodney Harris, *Sculptor, Printmaker*

Dougal Jerram, *Earth Scientist*

Morgan Jones, *Geologist*

Sophia Upton, *Assistant Warden of Lundy Island*

Dean Woodfin Jones, *Warden of Lundy Island*

Alice Cunningham, *Artist*

Episode 3 - Learnings from Little Chef for the New Art World - by artist Megan Clarke-Bagnall

Ollie Hyam, *Transport enthusiast*

Rich Cross, *Transport enthusiast*

Jesse Meadows, *Co-Founder of the Wardrobe Theatre*

Matthew Whittle, *Co-Director of the Wardrobe Theatre*

Jack Gibbon, *Director of Bricks Bristol*

Simon Alper, *Son of the Founder of Little Chef, Sam Alper*

Tarek Virani, *Associate Creative Industries Professor at UWE Bristol*

Episode 4 - Ruderals - by artist Ben Hartley

Sean Roy Parker, *Artist, Environmentalist and Cook*

Katie McClymont, *Programme Leader for MSc Urban Planning, UWE*

Henry Palmer, *Writer, Comedian, Activist, Labour Party Council*

Candidate