

**Open School East
Year 5
2018**



About

Established in 2013, Open School East (OSE) is a Margate-based space for artistic and collaborative learning that is free, inclusive, versatile and brings together diverse voices.

We provide development opportunities and a workspace for emerging artists of all generations through our **Associates Programme**; we run short and seasonal courses for adults and young people, including the **Despacito Art School**; we commission international artists to develop participatory projects; and under the umbrella of our **Public Programme**, we produce and host a range of cultural events and social activities for and with everyone. In autumn 2019, we will launch the **Young Associates Programme**, a free, accredited 10-month long arts and design course for young people aged 16-18.

Open School East is committed to making the arts a more open sector and to fostering cultural and social exchanges between artists and the broader public. We do this by opening our programmes outwards, responding to our locality, and providing an informal environment for the sharing of knowledge and skills across all communities and generations. We equip artists at an early stage of their career with the tools to become resourceful and self-sufficient, and enable young people and adults alike to shape their experience and creative voice by becoming active learners and co-producers of OSE's programmes.



The Associates Programme

The Associates Programme is a **free** development programme offering a **critical, informal** and **non-competitive** environment in which to develop one's practice and expand one's networks. The programme is run according to principles of collaboration, experimentation and openness, and welcomes those who engage with these notions in different ways.

Starting in February and ending in December, the Associates Programme is non-accredited and principally self-directed. Our offer includes:

- Shared studio provision, accessible 24/7;
- Weekly tuition and mentorship from international practitioners;
- Regular opportunities to showcase work and carry out short residencies at local and national venues;
- Critical, practical and pastoral support;
- Seed-funding to develop, research or initiate a project.

The Associates come together two days a week (Mondays and Tuesdays) to receive tuition, meet their mentors, collaborate on projects, and plan public activities. Tuition is delivered through a combination of workshops, seminars, group crits and excursions, many of which are open to the public. Term 1 is about immersion and the realisation of a project through collective learning. For this, we invite an artist to design the curriculum. In contrast, Term 2 and 3 are shaped by the Associates who self-direct their learning around their practices and shared interests.

In 2018, we invited artist **Marguerite Humeau** to lead Term 1's curriculum with 'Emperor Qin's Mausoleum', a project on the quest for eternal life, which took as its starting point the hedonistic mausoleum that China's first Emperor Qin (259-210 BC) built. Marguerite Humeau and her guests Maki Suzuki, Owen Watson, Lucia Stuart, Sophie Mallett, and Dr. Philip Gore – who work in the fields of art, design, architecture, botany and embalming – led a series of workshops, talks, and excursions. These informed the collective making of a public project that took the form of a scripted walk at Botany Bay, in Broadstairs, during which one encountered sounds, poetry, sculptures, performances and objects of uncertain nature.

Mentors in 2018 were: Benedict Drew, Marguerite Humeau, Paul Maheke, Sophie Mallett, Sally O'Reilly, Trish Scott, and Maki Suzuki.



The Associates & Alumni

Associates at OSE are emerging artists from different generations, backgrounds and levels of education, who work in a variety of media. Following a yearly open call sent locally, nationally and internationally, prospective associates are selected according to the following criteria:

- Artistic quality;
- A recognised need to access free learning opportunities outside the formal structures of school, college or university;
- The ability and willingness to work collaboratively and to enter into a meaningful dialogue with local audiences and publics from further afield.

“OSE allowed me to engage in critical and challenging discussions that have enriched my practice and opened it to new ways of working. OSE has proven to be the most invaluable step in my practice so far.”

– **Sarah Karen, OSE 2018 alumnus**

“Being involved with OSE as a member of the public since July 2017 and an Associate in 2018 enabled me to experiment with core ideas in my personal work. It was instrumental in allowing me to question my practice, organise and promote public facing events and to develop a body of work throughout 2018. Questions, doubts and fears around participatory art, and attitudes towards representations of race and cultural identity in the arts, are themes I started to explore in my work and collaborations throughout the year, with help from mentors and staff at OSE.”

– **Dipesh Pandya, OSE 2018 alumnus**

Associates in 2018 were: Ian Bride, Coral Brookes, Rosa Irwin Clark, Katie Fiore, Una Hamilton Helle, Sarah Karen, Antonia Luxem, Dipesh Pandya, Lizzy Rose, Elinor Stanley, Tom Verity, Louise Webb and Melanie Wheeler.

OSE alumni continue to work collaboratively and often set up collective spaces at the end of the programme. For example, **Well Projects** in Margate was set up in 2018 by three 2017 alumni, and **Common Study** was set up by four 2016 alumni at Somerset House in London in 2017. Alumni have **gone on to exhibit and perform** at UK venues such as De La Warr Pavilion, Chisenhale Gallery, CGP, Tate Modern, Britain and St Ives, the Liverpool Biennial, the Whitstable Biennale, and internationally at the Venice Biennale, Apex Art in New York, the Baltic Triennial, and Palais de Tokyo, in Paris.

2018 Associates Projects Highlights

During her time at Open School East, **Katie Fiore** developed her research into modes of protest and ways of resisting the insidious slipping of ecological and social crisis. For 'Gut Feelings', Katie developed film, sound and performance work that used the fracking site in Lancashire to think about the echo of the ecological crisis and the spreading of environmental toxicity.



Tom Verity's year at OSE culminated with a research project investigating the theory and material of bacteria and fermentation. Tom built an installation displaying fermenting cabbage, coupled with an audio piece accessed through fermentation jars. The audio piece explored the different aspects of bacterial life and how speculative futures can be drawn from them.



Much of **Louise Webb's** work at OSE explored work ethics and administration within the creative industries and art practice. Her work is currently centred around communication and the mishaps that come along with it. For her final project, Louise investigated "tools of loneliness"; digital devices that are created to assist with communication yet, instead, create a growing sense of isolation.

Alumni Commission



In 2018, we initiated the **Alumni Commission**, to continue supporting the OSE alumni beyond their year at Open School East. For the first year, we teamed up with the **Whitstable Biennale**, offering alumni the opportunity to produce a work to be shown at the Biennale. The first recipients of the commission were Kris Lock and Josephine Sweeney. They developed a twenty-minute film titled **The Vase in the Container**.

Shipping containers distort space. They move from sea to road to rail, uninterrupted by the loading and unloading of cargo, smoothing out and homogenising geographies. As the container transports goods from increasingly distant places in increasingly vast quantities, global space is compressed. 'The Vase in the Container' maps these distorted and often hidden spaces. It tells the story of The Kolyvan Vase, a colossal jasper monolith entombed in the Hermitage Museum, hauled into place before the museum walls were constructed around it. 'The Vase in the Container' imagines a world in which the vase has escaped from static confinement to transitory existence inside a shipping container.

Public Programme

Our public programme enables interactions between the artistic community, the local neighbourhood and the broader public. It is conceived by the Associates, who work in groups around their shared interests, by OSE alumni and guest collaborators.

- **Thoughts on Space** was a series of talks, workshops and events that sought to explore perceptions of internal and external space through sound, material, and open dialogue. Guests included: musician and sound artist Matt Lewis; artist, curator, and educator Barby Asante; designer Yemi Awosile; and writer, curator and live art practitioner Imani Robinson.
- **Topics in Critical Thought**, a short course in collaboration with the University of Kent, was designed to offer an introduction to critical thought in general, and provide a series of engaging talks, discussions and activities related to topics of contemporary concern to critical theorists. The sessions were delivered by members of the Centre for Critical Thought, including: Iain MacKenzie, Connal Parsley, Maria Drakopoulou, and Jonjo Brady.
- **Skills-based workshops** around sound recording, website building, and writing were also organised by OSE Associates throughout the year.



Working with Young People

- **The Despacito Art School:** Started at the request of local young people, the Despacito Art School is a hands-on place to learn about art, craft, and functional object-making. Despacito takes place every Wednesday afternoon during term time, 4-6pm, welcoming up to 20 young people aged 6 to 11 every week. Despacito is taught and supported by OSE staff, alumni, Associates, and occasional special guest collaborators. Past activities have included: drawing, painting, sculpture, musical instrument making, filmmaking and acting.

In the summer we run the **Despacito Carnival School** where we make costumes and props so that the children can take part in Margate Carnival.

“My girls really enjoy Despacito and really benefit from it. They love the staff and have enjoyed taking part in the shows and art work they have created. One of my daughters is on the autistic spectrum; for her it is like a form of therapy and one of the few activities she enjoys and does not suffer from anxiety or behaviour problems while she is there, which is really a big thing for help. All the staff have been brilliant with her and really understand her. We would be lost without Despacito, all the children gain so much from it.”

- Lyndsey Casey, parent

- **The Young Associates Programme (YAP):** In 2018 we were busy developing the future YAP, a 10-month long, free and accredited art and design programme for young people aged 16-18, which is due to launch in September 2019. Through the programme and interaction with leading international practitioners and industry professionals, the Young Associates will develop life skills, confidence, and knowledge and techniques in art and design forms ranging from graphic design to music production, through to printmaking, sculpture and furniture design.

The YAP continues OSE’s commitment to increasing equality of access to education and to making the arts a more open sector. The YAP will work specifically with young people who experience disadvantage and/or disenfranchisement from mainstream education. It will seek to create a free, high-quality pathway for local young people with artistic aspirations, towards a creative career and/or higher education.



In Numbers

- A total of **2,491** people attended our activities in 2018.
- Open School East supported the artistic and professional development of **12** emerging artists selected out of **73** applications.
- The Associates received ongoing mentorship from **7** artists, curators and writers, and teaching from **32** international practitioners, delivered through workshops, lectures, seminars and site visits.
- The Associates developed **4** collaborative projects delivered in the locale as well as in professional settings, including the **Whitstable Biennale, Art Licks** and **Guest Projects**, attracting **245** visitors, while our final exhibition – showcasing the Associates’ work – welcomed **685** visitors.
- Our workshops and youth programmes have enabled **987** adult Margate residents and **49** young people to learn new skills in screenprinting, filmmaking, costume and instrument-making, and audio/voice recording.
- **525** emerging artists and art students have benefited from OSE’s public seminars and talks, and from direct contact with key practitioners.



Organisation

Team

Ayaan Bulale, Activities & Events Manager
Anna Colin, Director and Co-founder
Laura Owen, Head of the Young Associates Programme
Naami Padi, Deputy Director
Louis Palfrey, Administrative Assistant

Board

Sarah Griffin, independent curator of applied arts (Chair)
Richard Morsley, Director, Betteshanger Sustainable Park (Treasurer)
Ryan Gander, artist
Hadrian Garrard, Director, Create London
Colleen Harris, BBC reporter, presenter and producer
Marguerite Humeau, artist
Colin Johnson, Associate Dean of Sciences, University of Kent
Sarah McCrory, Director, Goldsmiths CCA and OSE co-founder
Zoe McLeod, Partner, Counterculture Partnership LLP
Justin O'Shaughnessy, independent producer
Owen Watson, Director, 6a architects

Contact information

Open School East
c/o Adult Education Centre
Hawley Square
Margate CT9 1PF

www.openschooleast.org
info@openschooleast.org
Registered Company No: 8396177
Registered Charity No: 1154104

Supporters in 2018

Maureen Paley (Fan)
Alex Farquharson (BFF)
Marguerite Humeau (BFF)
Zoe McLeod (BFF)
PEER (BFF)
Sam Thorne (BFF)

Core supporters in 2018

Arts Council England
Kent County Council
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust
Jerwood Arts
Sarah and Gerard Griffin



Support OSE

Want to support us? Join the OSE Fan Club

Fan Club members are generous enablers and ambassadors of our actions and values. Their ongoing feedback and involvement in our work is highly valued.

As an inclusive organisation, each and every member of our Fan Club enjoys the same close relationship with OSE's staff, trustees, mentors and Associate artists. Fans receive personal invites to a programme of receptions and events – in Margate, London and beyond – including special projects, artists commissions and our end of year show.

The only difference between our Fans is the level at which you are able to support us and the limited-edition token that you receive by way of thanks for doing so:

- **OSE Pinholder:** As a Pinholder, you make an annual gift of £3,000 and become the holder of a limited-edition enamel pin designed by a leading artist. We issue Pinholders with a new pin every year. You may also pass on the pin to someone else in your circle who will wear it against an annual gift.
- **OSE Fan:** When you become a Fan, you make an annual gift of between £1,000 and £1,500 and receive an OSE Mentor-designed limited edition fan as a marker of support.
- **OSE BFF:** Our BFFs make an annual gift of £150 and receive an OSE Associate-designed tattoo (it's temporary and washable, don't panic). We issue OSE BFFs with a new tattoo every year.

To join the OSE Fan Club, please contact Naami Padi, OSE's Deputy Director at:
naami@openschooleast.org

“When I applied for OSE I wanted to achieve three things: to make better work, connect with peers and make my practice sustainable whilst having a chronic illness. I feel like after this year I have grown so much in confidence and OSE has been really supportive in accommodating my access needs so I was able to stay part of the course when my health had to take precedence. This ranged from always Skyping me into meetings, or the Associates and staff carrying things for me, to live streaming me into our event for the Whitstable Biennale.”

– Lizzy Rose, OSE 2018 alumnus