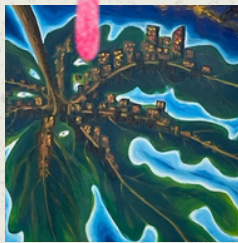


Culture Solihull
CORE CREATIVES



GALLERY TAKEOVER

19 - 30 August

Courtyard Gallery, The Core Solihull



Alfredo Hau - Catherine Holland - Cris Wong - Fiona Carr - Hannah
Smith - Michael Clulee - Richard Rudge - Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV

JOIN CORE CREATIVES

Core Creatives is for artists and creatives who live or work in the Solihull borough. Core Creative members can access fantastic support including:

- **Meeting & collaboration spaces** in a central location
- **Bookable agile desk space** and access to Apple Macs
- **Rehearsal room**
- **Project support and advocacy**
- **Free training** tailored for creative and cultural professionals
- **Business to Business support**
- **Exposure to new audiences**
- Opportunities to apply for **exciting creative projects**

The Core Creatives Hub is based on the first floor of The Core in Solihull town centre (adjacent to Touchwood). This exciting creative support network aims to support Solihull's creatives to grow and develop their practice by supporting collaboration, experimentation and business growth.

Membership is **just £50 per year**.

To find out more or register, email corecreatives@solihull.gov.uk

MEET THE ARTISTS

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues 19 Aug | Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee, Hannah Smith, Alfredo Hau |
| Wed 20 Aug | Michael Clulee, Hannah Smith, Alfredo Hau, Catherine Holland |
| Thurs 21 Aug | Michael Clulee, Hannah Smith, Alfredo Hau |
| Fri 22 Aug | Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV, Richard Rudge, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee, Hannah Smith, Alfredo Hau |
| Sat 23 Aug | Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV, Richard Rudge, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee |
| Mon 25 Aug | Cris Wong, Richard Rudge, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee |
| Tues 26 Aug | Cris Wong, Richard Rudge, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee, Fiona Carr |
| Wed 27 Aug | Cris Wong, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee, Fiona Carr |
| Thurs 28 Aug | Cris Wong, Richard Rudge, Michael Clulee, Fiona Carr |
| Fri 29 Aug | Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV, Cris Wong, Richard Rudge, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee, Fiona Carr |
| Sat 30 Aug | Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV, Richard Rudge, Catherine Holland, Michael Clulee, Fiona Carr |

Participating artists will be present and painting in the gallery on the dates noted above. Please come along to chat to them and find out more about their work.



ALFREDO HAU

Alfredo Hau (b. 1958) is a Mexican visual artist and professional chef based in Birmingham (UK). His practice and medium is predominantly in abstract paintings, community murals, poetry and spoken word. Hau's artistic practice is deeply rooted in his Mexican heritage. His work reflects ancestral forms linked to the symbols of the mighty Mayan civilisation; elements enriched with passion can create signs more familiar with modern times. Alfredo Hau is Artistic Director of ITZATNA Arts, a dynamic arts organisation based in the Midlands, dedicated to cultivating cross-cultural collaborations between artists and diaspora communities from México, Latin America, and the UK.

For his Artist Gallery Takeover, Alfredo Hau will explore the concept of 'The Myth of Return (Dream and Reality)' through painting. Hau describes his project as involving "...dreaming and living in past glories above an uncertain future. A symbolic, iconographic, experimental way to approach the idea of 'The Myth Of Return', as a means to create a conceptual existence of home. The immigrant experience of 'I am migrant'; the life-changing journey and the culture shocks that create new human experiences."

Website: www.itzatna.org

Whatsapp / SMS: 07813479945





CATHERINE HOLLAND

Catherine is inspired by momentary vistas, mainly in the countryside, to create traditional landscapes with a modern twist. She can often be found cycling around the lanes in Solihull on the lookout for an image to joyfully present to you.

Here is how she describes 'Lightning Struck': "I see this tree with the dramatic sky while out on my bicycle. The shape of the clouds seems to echo the stark skeleton of the tree where it has been struck by lightning many moons ago. Upon closer inspection, the lower branches still have new leafy growth. What an incredible survivor after being hit by lightning. The position on the hill seems to make it likely that this happens a lot. The top of the trunk is split, and the bark has burned off leaving pale wood showing. The shadows of the trees are cast over the freshly harrowed field. It is late spring and the leaves are still opening."

She has found her medium with Sennelier oil pastels, so deliciously tactile. They have the depth of colour of oil paint, but are drawn and blended on the paper.

Website: www.catherineholland.co.uk



@catherinehollandart



Catherine Holland Art



Catherine Holland Art





CRIS WONG (Sze Ting Wong)

Cris Wong is a Hong Kong artist and experienced art educator with over 20 years of teaching Visual Arts at secondary school level. She holds a Master of Education with a specialization in Creative Arts.

After relocating to the UK, Cris began a new chapter in her artistic journey by founding Cris Wong Art Studio, where she now shares her expertise with students ranging from young children to adults. The studio offers a wide variety of art media, fostering creativity across all ages and skill levels.

The artwork 'Disappearing Nature' reflects Cris's deep concern for the rapid urban development in her home city, Hong Kong. The image of a papaya leaf floating in the harbour serves as a poignant symbol of nature being swept away by the relentless rise of high-rise commercial and residential buildings.

Cris chose the papaya as a symbol of the natural environment, inspired by a visit to a small private farmland - now a rarity in Hong Kong. The artwork highlights not only the beauty of nature but also the loss of agricultural land and green space in the face of urban expansion.

Website: <https://criswongartstudio.wixsite.com/crisart>



@cris_wong_art_studio



Cris Wong Art Studio





FIONA CARR

Fiona Carr is a local artist, drawn to the imagery of domestic spaces: patterned wallpaper and vintage fabrics. By blending traditional media with fabric-lined canvases and motifs of the home, the artist explores her own personal journey and the wider collective female experience.

Through her painterly process, using oil paint, Carr allows the surface to build up slowly before erasing or reworking compositions to craft layered landscapes of the mind. Using handcrafted stencils, she adds textured, floral motifs, which evoke forgotten memories and histories held by the home.

Her muted palette of soft, pastel tones echoes whispers of the past, working in small scale series from her own home. She is interested in the handmade. However, her paintings also carry notions of oppression in the neatly lined walls, where women's lived experiences linger beneath the surface and where floral prettiness has a life of its own.

Fiona Carr has a degree in Fine Art Painting. Recent commissions and exhibitions include 'Surreal Solihull' and 'Belongings', a group show held at The Core.

Website: www.fionacarr.co.uk



@fionamariecarr





HANNAH SMITH

Hannah Smith is a contemporary abstract artist based in Solihull. Inspired by the quiet, grounding presence of the natural world, her work draws on a deep connection to nature as a place of calm and renewal. Through intuitive use of colour, texture and mark-making, she relives the sense of peace and stillness found in those outdoor moments. Her expressive, abstract landscapes invite reflection, offering viewers space to slow down and find their own emotional connection within the work.

Hannah's creative process is led by curiosity, layering and play, allowing room for spontaneity as well as considered intention. Alongside her studio practice, she runs a popular 'Relax with Abstract Painting' workshop. These are welcoming, pressure-free sessions that help others reconnect with their creativity, regardless of experience.

In 2025 Hannah's work featured in two public outdoor exhibitions: Birmingham Open 25, displayed in the heart of the city, and Surreal Solihull, a touring exhibit currently on show in Shirley Park. She will also be taking part in Birmingham Open Studios this autumn.

Website: www.hannahsmithstudioworks.co.uk



@hannahsmithstudioworks



Hannah Smith Studioworks





MICHAEL CLULEE

Michael is an illustrator with a focus on the fantastical and surrealism. Creating stories and characters is a speciality of his. Michael has exhibited at various events and galleries in central Birmingham and Solihull and is currently exhibiting work as part of the Surreal Solihull exhibition.

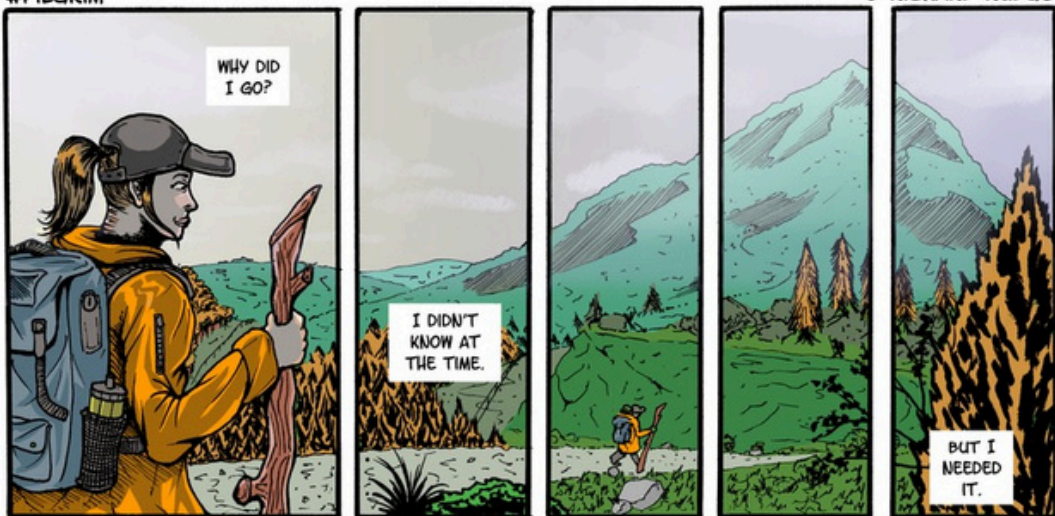
Michael's work is largely influenced by sci-fi and fantasy illustrators from the 1970s and 80s, ranging from the likes of Chris Foss and Moebius to surreal artists like Leonora Carrington, Remedios Varo and The Birmingham Surrealists.

Website: michaelclulee.carrrd.co



@michael_clulee





RICHARD RUDGE

Richard Rudge is a creator of comics and illustration inspired by the intersection of nature, culture, and technology. While self publishing his stories he produces private commissions of portraits and illustrations as well as producing works for art trails and public display. Richard has a distinct graphic style developed from his comic book inspirations that uses traditional pen and ink techniques.

In 2020 Richard took part in the 'Burton Swan Trail' as well as the 'Big Burton Carousel Trail' in 2022, organized by 'Making Trails' (www.makingtrails.co.uk)

Richard currently has work on display in the Surreal Solihull exhibition and is currently working on a abstract graphic novel project, 'It All Comes Together, It All Falls Apart'.

Website: www.richardrudge.com



@richrudgeart_



richardrudgeart.etsy.com





VICKY ARTSANDCRAFTSV

Vicky is a practicing artist and art lecturer in FE. She celebrates nature's colours through painting, mixed media and textiles.

She has exhibited in the esteemed Ikon Gallery, Birmingham as well as the Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry. This year her Pear painting was exhibited in Victoria Square, Birmingham as part of the Light public art display. In Solihull, her submission for the Surreal Solihull public art tour has been on display in the town centre and is now in Shirley Park, entitled 'A Story about Emmy, her Birds, the Prancing Horse, and the Growth of Solihull'. Last year she celebrated opening her solo show entitled 'Beautiful Open Spaces'.

Vicky is thrilled to be taking part in Gallery Takeover for the second year.

Website: www.artsandcraftsv.com



@artsandcraftsv



Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV



