



# Close Knit

A Celebration of DIY's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday in textiles and photographs.



Core Company

A Celebration of DIY's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday in textiles and photographs

1 to 4pm Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024. The Angel Centre, 1 Saint Phillips Place, Salford M3 6FA



Salford City Council



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**





# Welcome to DIY's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations!

We are very excited to be celebrating our 30th birthday with you.

There will be lots to see and do in our Close Knit event that knits together DIY's history, present and future plans.





## When things will happen:

1pm	Welcome to the event in the Ballroom
1.15pm	Picking up the Threads Film (6mins 17 secs)
1.25pm	Close Knit Film (9 mins)
1.40pm	Unveiling of Close Knit Textiles Piece
2.15pm	Refreshments. At 2.15 We will move into the cafe area downstairs where there will be drinks and birthday cake!  <b>Please take part in the visual arts activities and give us your ideas for DIY's future.</b>
2.45pm	Unveiling of 30 Portraits Photography Exhibition in the Ballroom
3pm	An Audience with DIY – a chance to chat with members of DIY's Gamechangers Group and artists Claire Hignett, Audrey Albert and Hilary Easter-Jones.



Beka Haigh will be doing a live illustration of this 30<sup>th</sup> birthday event.

Bekka will be present throughout the afternoon and will be capturing discussions and ideas using drawings rather than words. This will be in real time, across the afternoon.

We have so much to share that we had to spread our exhibitions and activities across two areas.

Here is what you will find in each area:

## Upstairs in the Ballroom

This is where DIY will welcome you to the Event. Here you will see images from our past looking across to images of our present. We will be sharing films, holding an Audience with DIY and Beka Haigh will be creating a Live illustration of the event.

Works which show DIY's present include:

**Close Knit** – a textiles piece that DIY members have created with visual artist Claire Hignett. (See page 4)

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**30 Portraits** – a photography exhibition that members have created with photographer Audrey Albert. (See page 6)

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Works which show DIY's past include:

**Picking up The Threads Textile Piece** – a textile piece made ten years ago to celebrate our 20th birthday! (See page 14)

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**Doing it...Our Way** – Part One - an exhibition of photos documenting DIY's performance work up to 2009.(See page 16)

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## Downstairs in the Café Area

Along with drinks and cake we will be focussing on the past and present of DIY.

Works which show DIY's past include:

**Doing it...Our Way** – Part Two – an exhibition of photos documenting DIY's performance work up to 2009. (See page 16)

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**Back Together and Together in our Separateness** – complementary artworks about the Covid pandemic. (See page 15)

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To look at DIY's future:

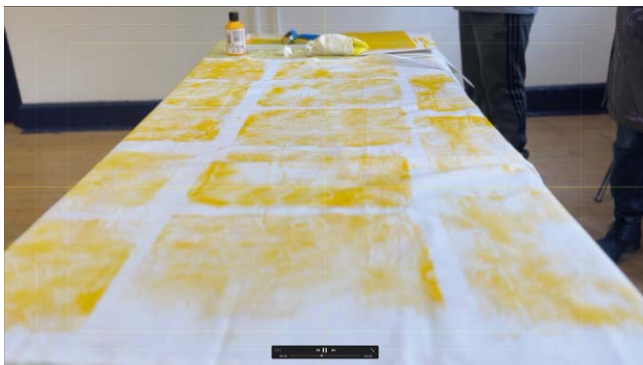
**A making workshop** exploring DIY's future with Associate Artist Nerissa Cargill Thompson and DIY artists.

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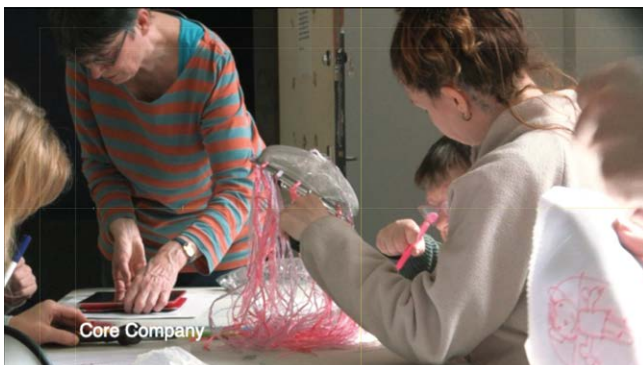
# Close Knit

Visual Artist Claire Hignett has been working with DIY Artists and participants who have printed self-portraits and illustrated their memories and their favourite moments at DIY on fabric. These elements have brought together by Claire to create a textile piece that celebrates the history and identity of DIY.

The centre of the piece is split into five sections that reflect 4 DIY shows – Following the Thread, Give me Space, Following Patient 36 and Hanging by a Thread – and DIY’s activities during Lockdown. A border of triangles created by DIY’s Thursday Visual Arts Group forms a series of directional arrows around the piece. Cubes standing on the mat represent members of the company. They are part of the “game” which is yet to be invented by DIY members.



Hilary Easter Jones has been working alongside the company to create a film that documents the process of creating the Close Knit Textile piece, which will also be shown at the event.





# 30 Portraits

'30 Portraits' is a photography exhibition created by photographer Audrey Albert working with DIY Artists and Leaders. Audrey held a photo shoot with each member to create their individual portrait which represents their unique personality and passions.



**Ange :** “The bird being in the tree makes me feel happy.”



**Amy :** “I am very proud that I managed to achieve my Gold Arts Award despite completing it during lockdown. I have swam with dolphins, so I have used the colour blue and dolphins in the background.”







**Martin :**

“I did Jailhouse Rock. It’s good – it’s Elvis Presley.  
“I was singing”



**Anna :** “I love Outdoor Theatre and being around the trees and flowers. At home, I have fish, so I wanted to include fish in my photos.”



**Laurence and John :**

“My name is Lawrence, I like copying”  
“I’m John. I like art.”



**Marcus and David T :**

Marcus and David working together.



**Scott :** “I love the fact that my photo shows that even in a wheelchair you can still do what other people do and you shouldn’t be left out.”



**Viv :** “I love to do arts & crafts in my spare time - especially sequin art. In my photo, I really wanted to show how proud creating this piece made me - so here is me showing it off!”



**Mike :** “I am a Reiki practitioner. I wanted my picture to represent different parts of my personality and my interests.”



**Marcus :** “I’m Marcus, I like being creative.”



**David A :** “I did a scene from Gone with the Wind. I was playing Clark Gable’s part and Amy did Vivienne Leigh’s part. She said ‘What am I going to do? Where am I going to go?’ and I said ‘Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn’.”



**Michael :** “I look forward to my dreams coming true.”



**Charlotte :** “My picture is about me directing – I was making a statement about how if someone is deaf they can’t hear traffic coming.”



**Chloe :** “I like doing the dragon pose to represent the Welsh dragon, I like going to Wales on holiday. I felt confident in that pose and I am a confident leader.”



**Cathy :** “My picture is me and the mamma bird. I’m coming out of the lift with my mamma bird. I feel proud.”



**James :** “I love magic & Harry Potter, so my picture is me being Harry Potter...I love thinking of myself as a wizard.”



10 **Robert OH :** “I’m singing ‘You’ll Never Walk Alone’.”



**Paul :** “I’m holding the black star fabric. I like throwing it up in the air.”



**Georgia :** “Pink flowers remind of spring and I love that time of year – and the sensory smell of the flowers. I can be myself in my own garden. When I see the photo I feel happy and calm and those are the feelings I want to represent in the photo.”



**Becky :** “I am an opera singer in a choir. My top says ‘Art is my superpower’. Art is my escape from any negative things around me.”



**Charlotte :** “I chose Super Mario because it’s a battle between two halves, and sometimes drama and leadership can be like that; sometimes you have a good day, sometimes you have a bad day.”



**Robert N :** “I like bingo – I like getting prizes for being very lucky.”



**David A :**

“This picture is of me with the binoculars. We’re using them in our latest play ‘Hanging by a Thread’. I’m the singer in the show.”



**Lynn :** “laughing.”



**Amy :** “I really enjoyed it when DIY asked me to do a voice-over for the film. So that’s why I’ve done this picture to represent me doing a voice-over.”



**Adam :** “I really wanted my photo to be all about my favourite Ice Hockey team...Manchester Storm!”



**David T :** “I like drawing flowers and showing my work.”



**Anna :**  
“Clouds – Lights – Torch – Blackpool – Lights”



**Ange :** “My favourite thing about being a Gamechanger is... getting out of my flat and supporting other DIY members.”



**Cathy :** “The bird puppet is my favourite puppet from the ‘Hanging by a Thread’ show. I am pointing at the puppet because I am the person who leads with the puppet during the show and workshop.”

# Picking up the Threads

## Textile Piece & Film

Over 10 years ago, during 2013 and 2014, DIY members developed a textiles project with Claire Hignett called "Picking up the Threads" which looked back at the history of DIY Theatre Company. Each person that had been involved in the company up to 2014 is represented by a different thread and together they form a knitted timeline which maps the history of the company. The hanging was on display in the Angel Centre, Salford for 10 years.

A film crew of DIY members worked with Hilary Easter-Jones to create a film documenting the process of making the textile hanging. We will be showing this film as part of the Close Knit event.





# Back Together and Together in our Separateness

Together in Our Separateness and Back Together and are complementary artworks about the Covid pandemic.

Together in Our Separateness was made as a response to Claire's experience of the Covid-19 lockdown, and her relationship with DIY. Back Together is a piece of participatory art created by members of DIY working with Claire. When Covid restrictions were relaxed, company members and freelance artists met with Claire in Peel Park. DIY members and staff were invited to share what it meant to them to meet in person after such a long period of separateness.



# Doing it...Our Way

An exhibition of photos created with photographer Nigel Hillier. It documents DIY's innovative ways of making theatre up to 2009.





Our thanks to the funders who are supporting the projects which are helping us celebrate DIY's 30th Birthday.

Exploring our Past; Shaping our Futures, our Film project, events and our Thirty Profiles photography project, were funded by the **Whose Art, Whose Culture Fund**, managed by Salford CVS on behalf of Salford City Council; monies from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund via Greater Manchester Combined Authority.



Close Knit, our telling our stories through textiles project, was funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We would also like to thank the funders who are currently supporting our work.



As an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), DIY Theatre Company is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.





## Keep in touch :

Take a look at our website, sign up to our newsletter.

[www.diytheatre.org.uk](http://www.diytheatre.org.uk)

email [diytheatre@gmail.com](mailto:diytheatre@gmail.com)

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The Angel Centre, 1 Saint Phillips Place, Salford M3 6FA

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