

UP

PROJECTS

- COMMISSIONING ARTISTS
- COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITIES
- ENCOURAGING LEARNING
- ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACE



*Making Space, Jessie Brennan, 2019.
Image: Alastair Fyfe*

ABOUT UP PROJECTS

UP Projects curates and commissions public art. The organisation was founded in 2002 by Emma Underhill, with a mission to support artists to make new work that has social relevance, engages communities, encourages learning and enriches the public sphere.

We work collaboratively with artists, communities and partners to create extraordinary projects. Our outlook is international, activating spaces across the globe and in the digital domain. Our work explores the multitude of ways in which people can encounter and connect with contemporary art in unexpected places. UP Projects reaches millions of people through ambitious public commissions by a diverse selection of artists, informal learning activities, artist-led community engagement and events.

We believe art and artists play a vital role in stimulating debate, shaping our environment, encouraging participation, and effecting social change. UP Projects is therefore committed to nurturing artists' and curators' socially-engaged practice through our [learning and development programmes](#) as well as through our [projects](#).

OUR CHARITABLE MISSION

UP Projects commissions contemporary art for public places. We support artists to make work that has social relevance, encourages learning, transforms places and activates the public realm. We believe that public art has the greatest potential when the process is considered as important as the final project outcome. Our work is rooted in meaningful engagement to ensure credibility and support from the outset.



*Laid to Rest, Serena Korda, 2011
Image: Dave Sayer*



*Newham Trackside Wall, Sonia Boyce, 2021
Image: Benedict Johnson*



*Beach Hut in the Style of Nicholas
Hawksmoor, Pablo Bronstein, 2014
Image: Hydar Dewachi*

OUR CORE VALUES

All of our work is underpinned by
our five core values:

1.

Artistic Excellence

Representing the height
of ambition, talent and
skill

2.

Relevance

Responsive to
contemporary life and
engaging for our diverse
communities



*The Terrarium VR experience, Shezad Dawood, 2020
Image: Thierry Bal*

3.

Learning to Learn

A collaborative and non-
hierarchical approach to
learning for all

4.

Openness

Making our work
as accessible as
possible: conceptually,
intellectually, physically,
geographically,
economically, considering
disability and barriers to
access

5.

Innovation

Challenging convention,
supporting risk taking
and testing new ideas in
the physical and digital
realm

COMMISSIONING ARTISTS

UP Projects has 20 years experience of curating and commissioning progressive art in the public domain working with a diverse pool of artists. Our projects that take place across the UK, online and beyond, engage thousands of people each year.

Since 2016, UP Projects has also been leading the way in commissioning art online through our [This is Public Space](#) programme. *This is Public Space* considers the online realm as a site for public art and creates space to investigate how we navigate between the online and physical worlds, exploring the impact of digital media on our relationships with people and places.

We work with both emerging and established names in the world of contemporary public art with past collaborators include Sonia Boyce OBE, Shezad Dawood, Jasleen Kaur, Mark King, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Somewhere, Pablo Bronstein, Cooking Sections, Helen Cammock, Shu Lea Cheang and Zac Blas.



Newham Trackside Wall, Sonia Boyce, 2018
Image: Alastair Fyfe



Globe Head, Yinka Shonibare CBE, 2017
Image: The Royal Opera House



Custom House is Our House, Jessie Brennan, 2019.
Image: Thierry Bal



Still from *The Terrarium*, Shezad Dawood (feat. ecoLogicStudio and Graham Fitkin), 2020
Image: UBIK Productions



*Rotherhithe Public Living Room, public works, 2019
Image: Monika Szolle*

COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITIES

People sit at the heart of all of UP Projects' work. Public engagement shapes the artworks we curate and commission as we believe that this contributes to positive transformations, benefitting the communities with whom we work. We commission artists to listen to communities and respond sensitively to ensure that an artwork not only challenges perception but is relevant to the space it inhabits. It is this emphasis on public art for people that sets us apart from our peers.



*Flat Pack Park, Laura X Carle, 2014
Image: UP Projects*



ENCOURAGING LEARNING

[Learning to Learn](#) is one of UP Projects' five core values and is imbedded across all aspects of our programme. We create opportunities for people to participate in the development of new commissions, working directly with the artists through workshops and artist-led activity. Through Learning to Learn we encourage an experiential, participatory, collaborative and non-hierarchical approach to learning. UP Projects delivers learning and development programmes for artists, curators and public art practitioners who are interested in socially engaged practice.



Umbra Penumbra Antumbra event,
Constellations 2020-21
Image: UP Projects



Look on me and be renewed activity
workshop at Science Gallery London, 2018
Image: Chiara Dalla Rose



*Triangular Pavilion, Dan Graham, 2008
Image: Amanda Smethurst*

ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACE

UP Projects recognises the role public art can play in shaping a place and contributing to the development of a vibrant neighbourhood. Our artworks are always site specific and are developed out of an in-depth investigation and exploration into the places in which they are situated. We are guided by the five capitals framework that involves identifying and mapping the social, cultural, human and ecological capital of the places we work in.



*The Floating Cinema: Extra-International,
Open Air Weekender, 2014
Image: Hydar Dewachi*

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