

About the Residency Project

"The motivation behind the Criw Celf residency at Bodelwyddan Castle was to provide an opportunity for all members to experience the challenge of being artists-in-residence and to think and work collaboratively in a site-specific manner. Through research, observation, discussion and experimentation, their works make associations and connections with both history and the present and are responses to the site's history, architecture, forms artefacts and people. Each participating Criw Celf group has considered and reacted not only to site but also built on the work and ideas developed by other members during the residency." *Lisa Carter*

"Excellent, really exciting. We have learnt to express and use all sorts of information in making art." Criw Celf, Year 9

Denbighshire Year 9 Criw Celf group, now in their third and final years led the project, researching and devising ideas with artist Lisa Carter over the course of three workshops. Members from years 7 and 8 and from Criw Celf Bach have each undertaken one masterclass at the castle.

Art Forms

Drawing, collage, extended drawing, installation, sculpture and photography.



Approach

Research, creative play, improvisation, risk-taking.



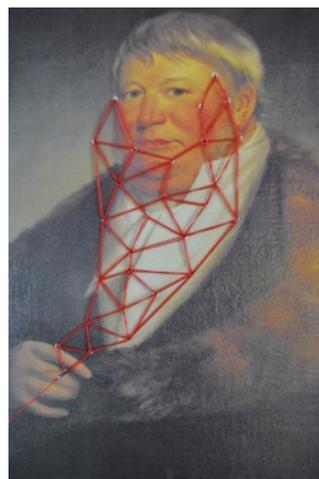
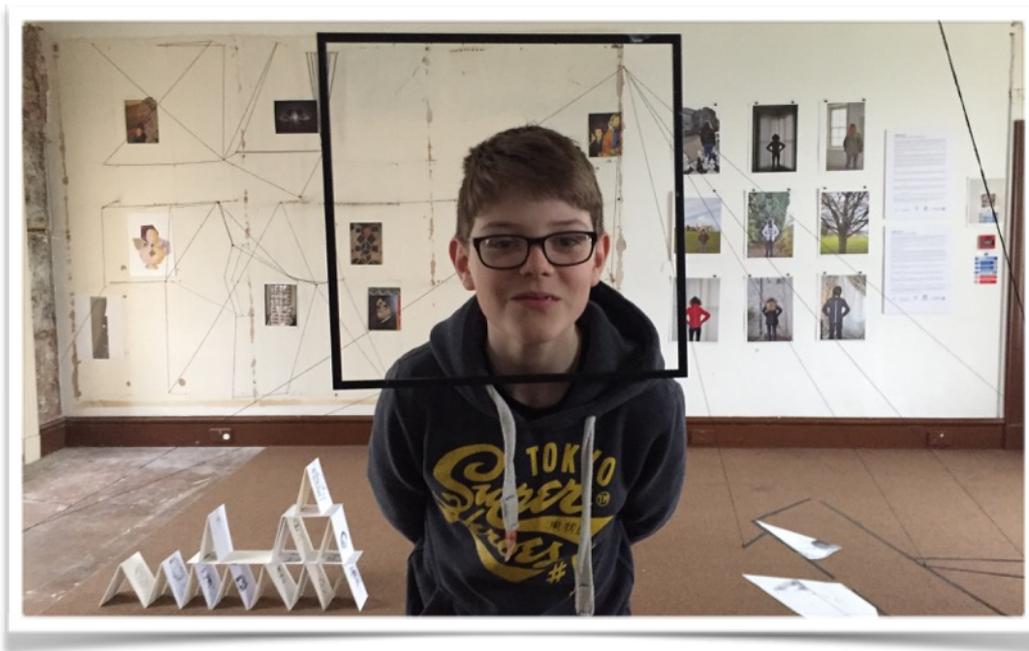
Installation

Presentation, spatial response, audience interaction.



Artist Inspiration

Marcel Duchamp, Clemens Behr, Julie Cockburn, John Uriate.





“ The site’s history is long and complicated. Various hands and periods can be seen in its impressions of interiors, museum and recreational spaces. Our residency room is partially undecorated and was once a former play room. ‘Going upstairs to play’ became our starting point, supporting a transition through the formal rooms and staircase to a space where new interpretations of the castle experience could be explored and presented, without any hierarchy of material, object or person.” Lisa Carter

In 1817 David Brewster, (portrait in library) invented the kaleidoscope, an optical instrument that creates ever- changing view of fragmentation and pattern. The Victorians used it to aid design of decorative wall and floor coverings. Kalos means beautiful, Eidos means that which is seen as in form and shape and Skopeo to look at, examine in this case beautiful forms. Our installation of works takes these three words as its titles.

Skopeo *To look, To Examine*

Marcel Duchamp’s 1942 surrealist twine work ‘Sixteen Miles of String” helped to inform our wall drawing dictated by spaces in the undecorated walls of our residency room. Duchamp’s work by some was interpreted as a barrier to viewing art work, the spatial drawing here suggests the touch don’t touch sensations experienced by the groups whilst exploring the castle.

Kalos *Beautiful*

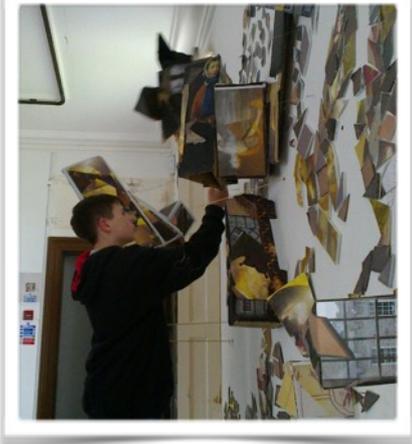
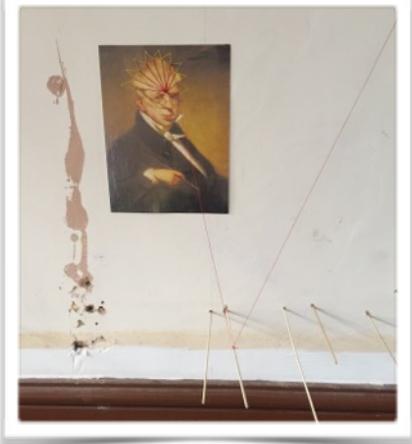
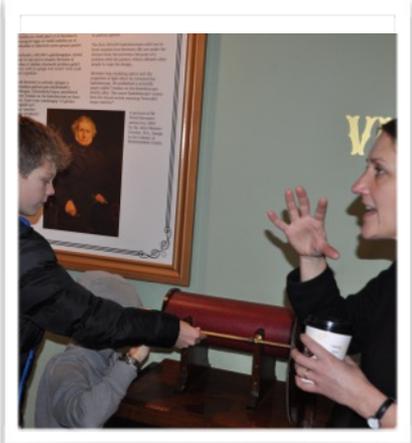
Many of the decorative patterns in the Castle Hall’s ceilings and tile work echo the geometric shapes that our wall drawing created and the fragmentation experienced by looking through the kaleidoscope. Using collage, photo montage and stitch work, aspects of the castle’s architecture, decorative coverings and portraits have been manipulated, juxtaposed and altered. The popular Victorian Tangram dissection puzzle seen in the Castle’s collection inspired the wall collage.

Eidos *That Which Is Seen*

Portraiture, exhibitionism and the supposed self - obsession of youth, seeing and not seeing informed the de-faced portraits which have been developed photographically and in drawn and three - dimensional forms. The sculptural masks were developed from observational drawings of the spatial wall drawing. A three-dimensional shape whose faces are polygons is known as a polyhedron. This term comes from the Greek words poly, which means "many," and hedron, which means "face." A poly-hedron is a three-dimensional object with many faces.



THE PROCESS



AND FINALLY.. DEAR PORTRAIT.....

Criw Celf Bach posed a number of questions to Bodelwyddan Castle's illuminati. Innovators of their time. Did they shed any light for our youngest members of the residency team? Many thanks to Lowri Jones, Bodelwyddan Castle's Education Officer for her introduction to the famous residents.

"Dear Queen Victoria, Why don't Monarchs do more to stop war?"

"Dear Arctic Expedition, Do polar bears really have smelly breath?"

"Dear Florence Nightingale, What were hospitals like?"



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION..

About this and other Criw Celf Projects, contact Jo McGregor Criw Celf Co-ordinator on 07799 582766 / jo.mcgregor@denbighshire.gov.uk.

Criw Celf is an art project for gifted and more able children and young people. The Criw Celf initiative is delivered by all local authorities in north Wales and is the first pan-north Wales visual arts project. Participants undertake a series of masterclasses with professional and experienced artists in various art genres.

Lisa Carter is a Welsh born artist, working in North Wales. Her work is rooted in drawing and painting sometimes combining these processes with three-dimensional works to connect with the physical surroundings, inviting viewers to explore. www.lisa-carter.co.uk.