

Mel Day *Curriculum Vitae*

*Artist Wire sculpture Illustration Carnival arts Drawing Printmaking Community Arts Educator
Facilitator Curator Project Coordinator Exhibition programming Galanty Shows Textile design*



Community Arts

Mel has been involved in creating and working on community arts projects since 1987. She has run workshops from wire sculpture to Galanty shows across a broad range of contexts and places. She has a strong focus on Socially Engaged Arts.

Lanterns

2017- Co-creator of Light the Night Lantern parades

2020 Light The Night: Online lantern making workshops for Schools and community for Frome's Christmas lantern trail

*2019, 2018, 2017 Light The Night: Frome Winter parade. 1000 participants, 600 lanterns, community and schools workshops. Large scale sleigh and reindeer lanterns designed by MD. Arts Council and Awards 4 All funded
2019 Frome Carnival: 4 meter high Boudicca, horses and electric tricycle chariot designed by MD made with workers from Singer's engineering in community building workshops with Aliss Vaas. Arts Council funded*

2013-2014 Frome Carnival: Giant flying swans and costumes made with Frome Community College students

2011 Frome Carnival: Big Heads. Lead artist on design and realisation of 40 community built giant lantern puppets

2011 Activate, Don't Rain On My Parade Carnival conference: Seminar/ workshop co-facilitator. Lyme Regis

2010 Frome Carnival: Moving Home lead artist on design and realisation of 100 community built home lanterns and a huge home with moving shadow puppets and smoking chimney in honour of rebuilding of council estate

Other Community Arts Projects

Home in Frome Community Group lead artist 2010-2019

2016 Community Threads: Creation, fundraising and facilitation of cross generation personal story sharing and community building quilt project

2015 Working Memories Banners: Community workshops making 50 banners celebrating lost industries and design and creation of large banner for parade with Aliss Vaas

Bath Music Festival: 2006-2012 Schools parade workshops and venue dressing 2006-2012

Creativity works BANES. 2010-2014 Arts workshops for people with mental and physical health issues and their carers

Co-leader on Creative Facilitation for Socially Engaged Art workshops 2015-16

Whitechapel Art Gallery: Lead Hackney artist on London wide community arts project 1990

Curating and programming

2014-2020 Gallery programming team, Black Swan Arts, Frome Shows programmed by Mel include

A Winter Show with Jin Eui Kim, Pine Feroda, Hans Borgonjon.

Ricky Romain and Heather Fallows. Sandra Porter. Corinna Sargood

LISTEN: A Summer of Sound 2019. An ambitious season of events, exhibitions, installations, workshops, concerts, seminars and commissions around the theme of sound art. Invited artists included Errollyn Wallen and Scanner. Created by MD with art direction by composer Helen Ottaway. Arts Council funded



Exhibitions

Mel makes sculptural work using wire and mixed media. She is developing new work focusing on drawing and printmaking. Her inspiration comes from storytelling, circus, carnival and nature. Wire writing has become an important part of her work, creating short and long pieces of poetry. Mel has been exploring her own writing and making sculptural forms in words. Mel loves the connection of making wire word pieces which often have great meaning for the commissioner.

Solo shows

2015 Postcards From an Ordinary Childhood Black Swan Art Gallery, Frome
 30 watercolour and oil paintings based on early memories also Community memory quilt and mixed media sculpture
 2009 Wild Women and Other Beasts. Black Swan Art Gallery, Frome
 Wire sculptures around a theme of fun and powerful women

Selected Group Shows

2020 Sculpture in a Landscape, Aldbourne, Wiltshire. Featuring 70 sculptors including Henry Moore
 2016 Joie de Vivre, The Yew Tree Gallery, Morvah, Cornwall. Set of mixed media figures based on a carnival procession
 2015 Winter Show, Leeds Craft and Design Centre Set of mixed media figures
 Pressgang, Gloucestershire Printmakers Gallery, Stroud Etchings
 2014 Behold! The Yew Tree Gallery, Morvah, Cornwall Wire night birds
 2013 All Wired Up, Walford Mill Craft Centre, Wimborne Minster, Dorset
 Selection of wire sculptures
 2012 Out Of The Woods and Into The Wire, Ferrers Gallery, Ashby De La Zouch
 Selection of wire sculptures
 2010 All Wired Up, Society of Designer Craftsmen, London Selection of wire sculptures
 2009 A Winters Tale, Brewery Art Gallery, Cirencester Wire figures on the theme of storytelling

Selected shows pre 2009:

Fresh Air, Quenington, Wiltshire
 Black Swan Gallery, Frome, Somerset
 First Light, Stourhead, Dorset
 The Bishop's Palace, Wells, Somerset

Wolf at the Door, Penzance, Cornwall
 Feeringbury Manor, Essex
 Essex University
 Minorities, Colchester, Essex
 Conway Hall, London

Collections

National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth. Private collections

OWL Co- founder of collective art gallery in Frome 2010-2020

Textile Design For agencies. Sold work to Ralph Lauren, Paloma Picasso 87-97

Illustration National publishers 1987-2019

Education

1984-87 Higher Diploma in Illustration. Distinction. Harrow C.H.E

1983-84 Art Foundation. Hastings College of Art and Technology

professional development in printmaking and ceramics

Full DBRS 2020

Mental health first aid with Mind