



www.b-side.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE 27 JULY 2020

THE POWER OF ART TO CALM A RESTLESS MIND

During lockdown many of us found comfort and joy in rediscovering forgotten creative talents or learning new skills – b-side put out a call to Portland residents and workers to send in images of their creative lockdown projects, and since the end of May these wonderful creations have been made into huge posters hung in the large street level windows of b-side's project space on Portland. For every artwork displayed in the windows the b-side team have made a donation to Portland Food bank, Sandy Kirkby from b-side said

" We had a fantastic and overwhelming response to our call out and have been truly amazed at the creative talents of those that sent work in. It's not just been artists that have contributed for many people it's been the first time they have ever picked up a paintbrush or shared their artwork. The results have been wonderful and really brighten up the high street, we hope that other shops in Fortuneswell join in too and display these posters to create a Fortuneswell outdoor gallery"

Next up to have their work displayed is Portlander Ray Mayall who has made some incredibly ingenious model houses repurposing and transforming the stuff we throw away into quite amazing model houses some with smoking chimneys and lights!

"I struggle with extreme OCD, amongst other disabilities, and a disruption to my routine such as this lockdown has been, can be very detrimental to someone like me. It was important to find something to focus my restless mind on and make a new routine. Having done some modelling in the past, mostly on a much smaller scale, I began to rummage through the rubbish and recycling. Instead of seeing t-bag boxes, plastic pots, bottles and cans, I began to see roof tiles, towers, chimneys and terrain.

I spent many hours, days and weeks transforming rubbish into buildings, meticulously cutting and shaping cardboard, polystyrene, plastic and metal and attaching it together to make these creations, never truly knowing what might appear at the end. I gathered anything I could find and incorporated it into each new piece.

It has been a calming and focusing experience for me and it's really special to be able to share my creations with others and hopefully a chance to put a smile on people's faces."

Ray Mayall

Ray's work can be seen in Outpost Project space on Fortuneswell, Portland until 12 August.



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Editors Notes

- b-side is a Dorset based arts organisation working with artists, residents and young people to make new site-responsive work revealing the marginal, often forgotten and less commercial aspects of Dorset's coastal towns and communities.
- b-side produces the b-side biennial festival a 9 day programme of events in visual art, text, sound and installations all in unusual places and spaces over the Isle of Portland. The festival generates thousands of visits to the many artworks uniquely created for the island.
- The next b-side festival is 11 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021
- b-side is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation
- **Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk
- Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council has developed a £160 million **emergency response package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19

Download images for this press release [HERE](#)

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For all press enquiries: Sandy Kirkby producer@b-side.org.uk



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