

The background is a dark, textured surface covered with a collage of various materials. There are several bright, solid-colored geometric shapes: a large yellow rectangle at the top left, a blue rectangle below it, an orange rectangle to the left of the center, a large pink triangle at the top right, a green triangle below it, a blue triangle at the bottom left, and a pink triangle at the bottom right. Several zippers are visible: a yellow zipper at the top left, a red zipper running diagonally across the upper right, and another red zipper at the bottom left. There are also smaller pieces of fabric, including a white rectangular piece in the center-left and a small blue square with white polka dots on the right. The overall composition is abstract and vibrant.

# **Not Just Black and White**

**A Loudspeaker project  
Autumn/Winter 2020**



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**“The exhibitions were very different and new for me.  
I started to see the art and understand inside of this art”**

The Loudspeaker programme is delivered by Nottingham Contemporary as part of the Opportunity and Change project, which is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery, through the Big Lottery Fund.

The programme is offered in 10 week projects of which there have been 11 so far.

Women are offered a supportive, caring environment to help see things differently, feel positive about the future and move away from challenging circumstances.

Loudspeaker sessions are an opportunity to take a break, build confidence, become inspired, and meet new people.



**Nottingham  
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This book presents the outcomes of creative explorations made by a group of eight women from the East Midlands in Autumn and Winter 2020.

This was the first time a Loudspeaker project was unable to take place at Nottingham Contemporary. Due to COVID-19 all activities took place though video meetings.



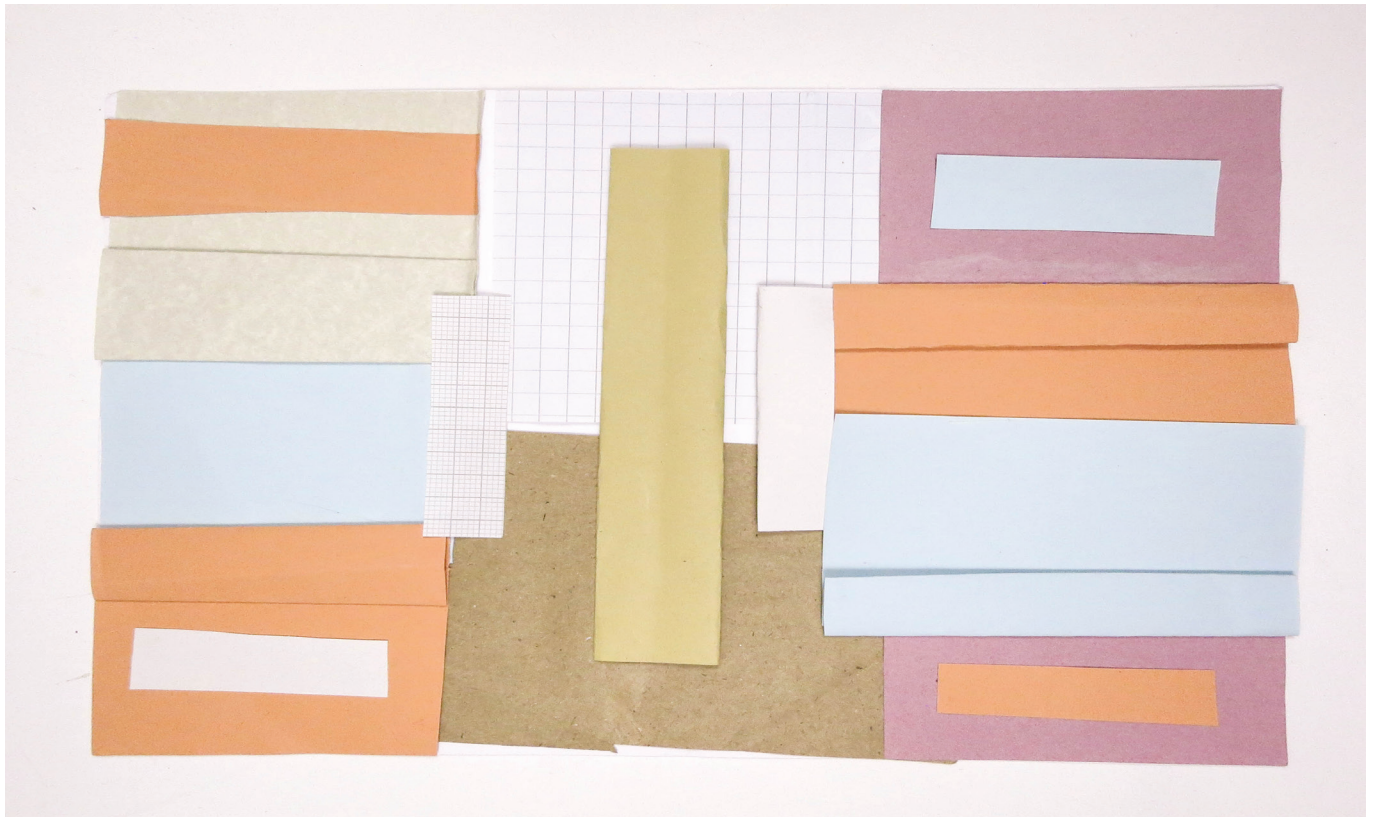
Through Virtual Reality, the women experienced the exhibitions **Jimmy Robert: Akimbo** and **Grace Before Jones**. Together they discussed their responses and experimented with a range of art materials and methods to make their own interpretations.

Materials were sent out by post for the women to get creative with. They took photos of their work and shared them through a messaging app and email.

The women also received a weekly activity to do between sessions.

Through taking part, the women have discussed ideas about art, feminism, race and identity.





## Shape, Texture, Layers

We visited the gallery through Virtual Reality and looked at 'Untitled (wall)' by Jimmy Robert, made in 2015.

We laid down pieces of different coloured and textured papers onto a larger sheet of paper and stuck them down. Some of the papers were rolled up. They were arranged and layered to set each off and complement each other.



Untitled (Wall), 2015 by Jimmy Robert.  
Courtesy of the artist and Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin

**"I enjoyed doing collage work the most and sharing different artwork with others."**







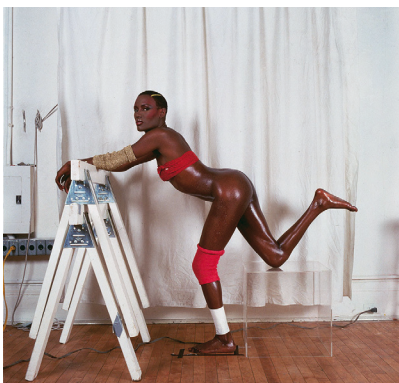
## Constructing an Image

We looked at how Jean-Paul Goude created the iconic but faked image of Grace Jones for her 'Island Life' album from 1986.

We cut out an image of Laura-Jade in an active pose. We then cut up the photo into separate body parts and rearranged them into an image that made her body appear in a more extreme and unnatural position.



**"I had heard about Grace Jones before and enjoyed some of her music. It was interesting hear more about her and see her exhibitions."**



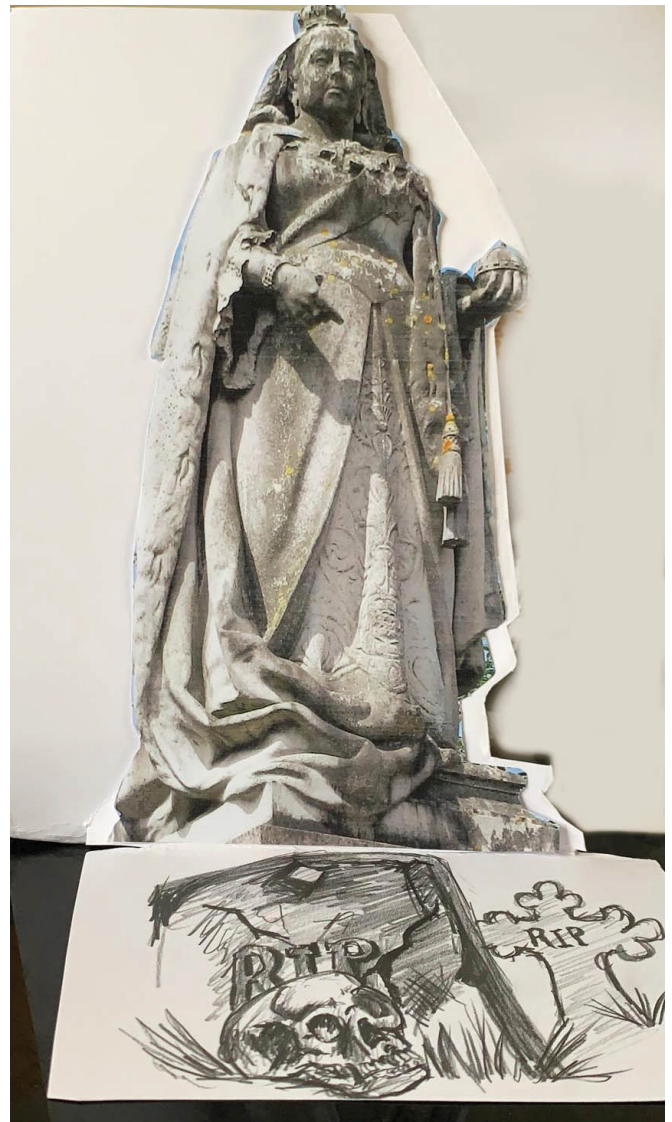
GRACE REVISED AND UPDATED.  
PHOTO, 1978  
Jean-Paul Goude



GRACE REVISED AND UPDATED.  
PAINTED PHOTO, 1978  
Jean-Paul Goude



GRACE REVISED AND UPDATED.  
PAINTED PHOTO, 1978  
Jean-Paul Goude



## 21st Century Monuments?

We looked at Jimmy Robert's work 'Untitled (Ompdrailles)' from 2013, where he was photographed becoming part of a public monument in Brussels. We discussed if public monuments of famous people represent the people and values of modern Britain.

We cut out images of local public monuments, including Queen Victoria, Robert Peel, Bonny Prince Charlie, Florence Nightingale and Robert Booth. We glued the images onto thick card and made them more 3D by making a stand for them. We then added to them so that they became models of monuments more relevant to today.



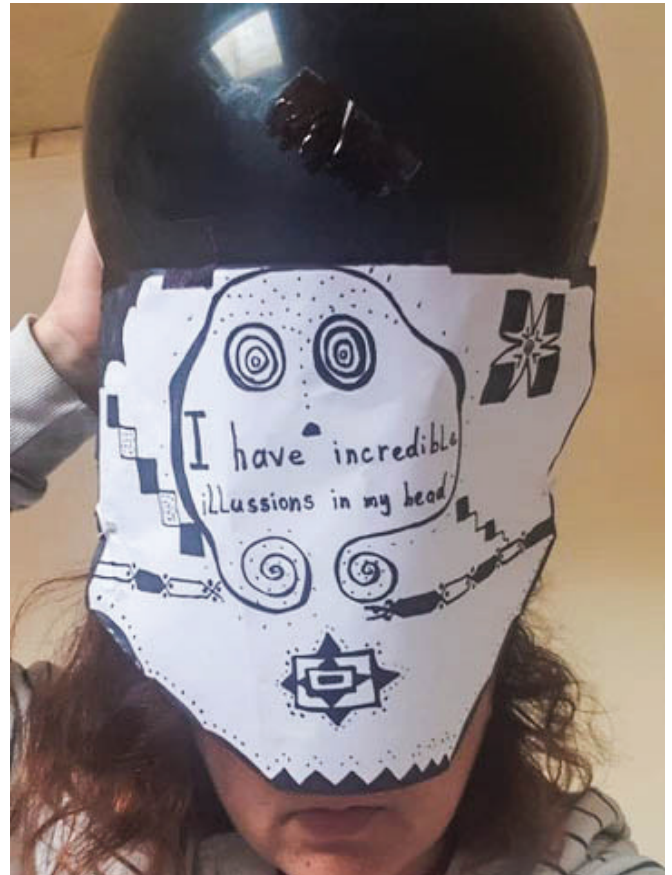
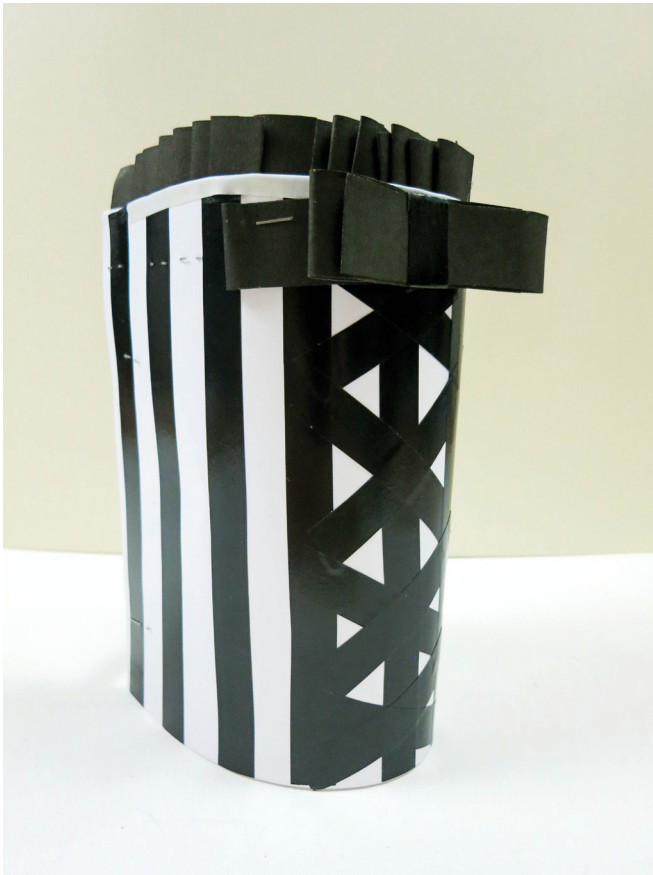
Untitled (Ompdrailles), 2013  
Jimmy Robert.

Courtesy of FRAC Grand Large, Dunkerque



**"I hadn't heard of Jimmy Robert  
but his exhibits were interesting."**







## Black and White

This work was inspired by photographs of Grace Jones by Robert Mapplethorpe, where her body was painted by artist Keith Haring.

We were put into separate breakout rooms to discuss which body accessory each person would make.

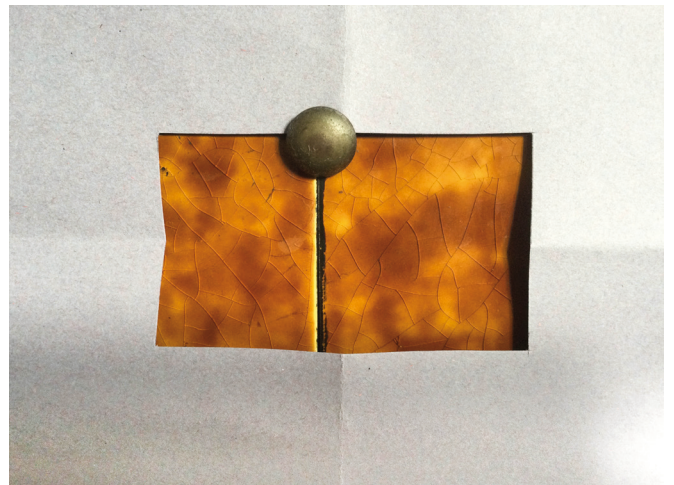
We then made our accessories using black and white card, and tape and photographed ourselves wearing them.



Grace Jones, 1984 by Robert Mapplethorpe.  
Copyright Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation,  
used by permission



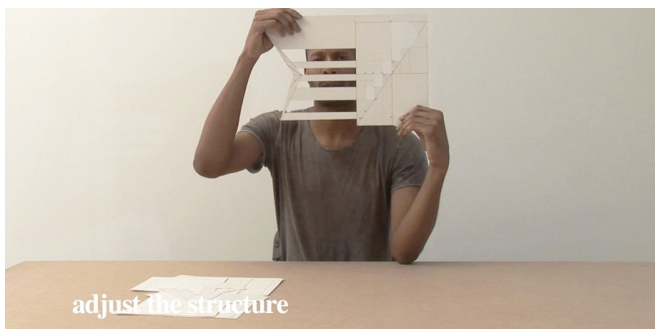
**“My favourite thing was making things to do with the exhibition - making new friends.”**



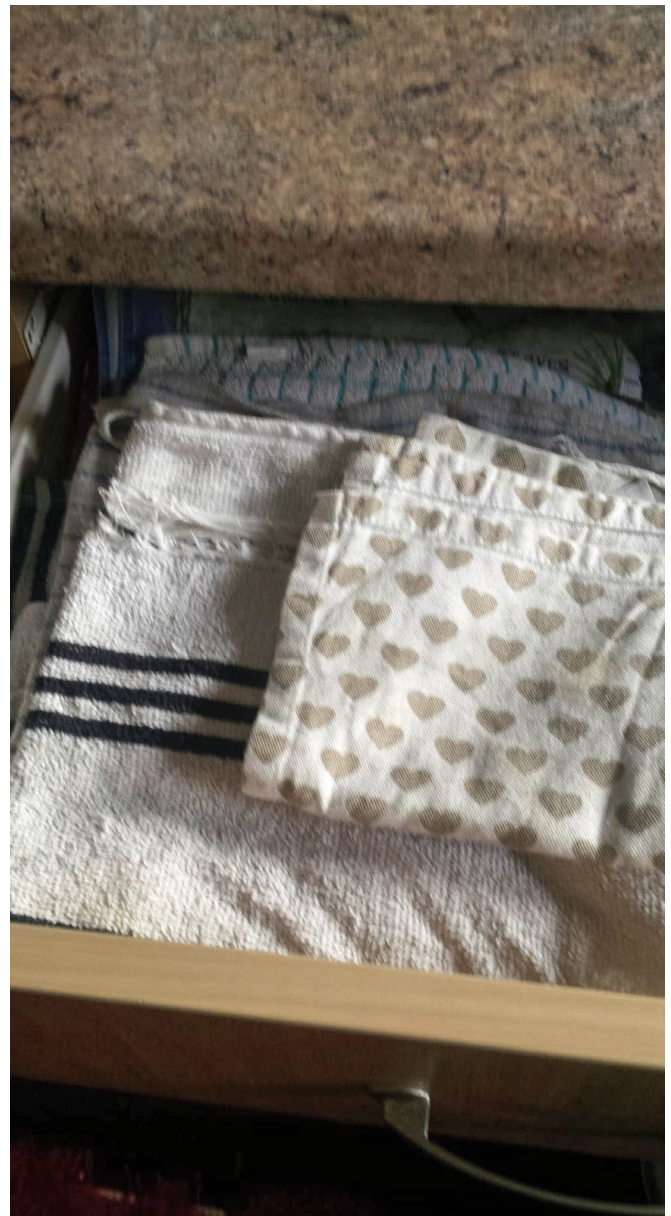
## People in Space

We watched 'Paramètres', a video by Jimmy Robert. Jimmy fits his face into cut-out spaces in architects' plans of buildings, looking at how he fits into society as a Black, gay man.

We used our phones and cameras, and took photos, some through a hole cut in a piece of card, of places in our houses which are not well-designed for our lives, and to express our dreams of escape.

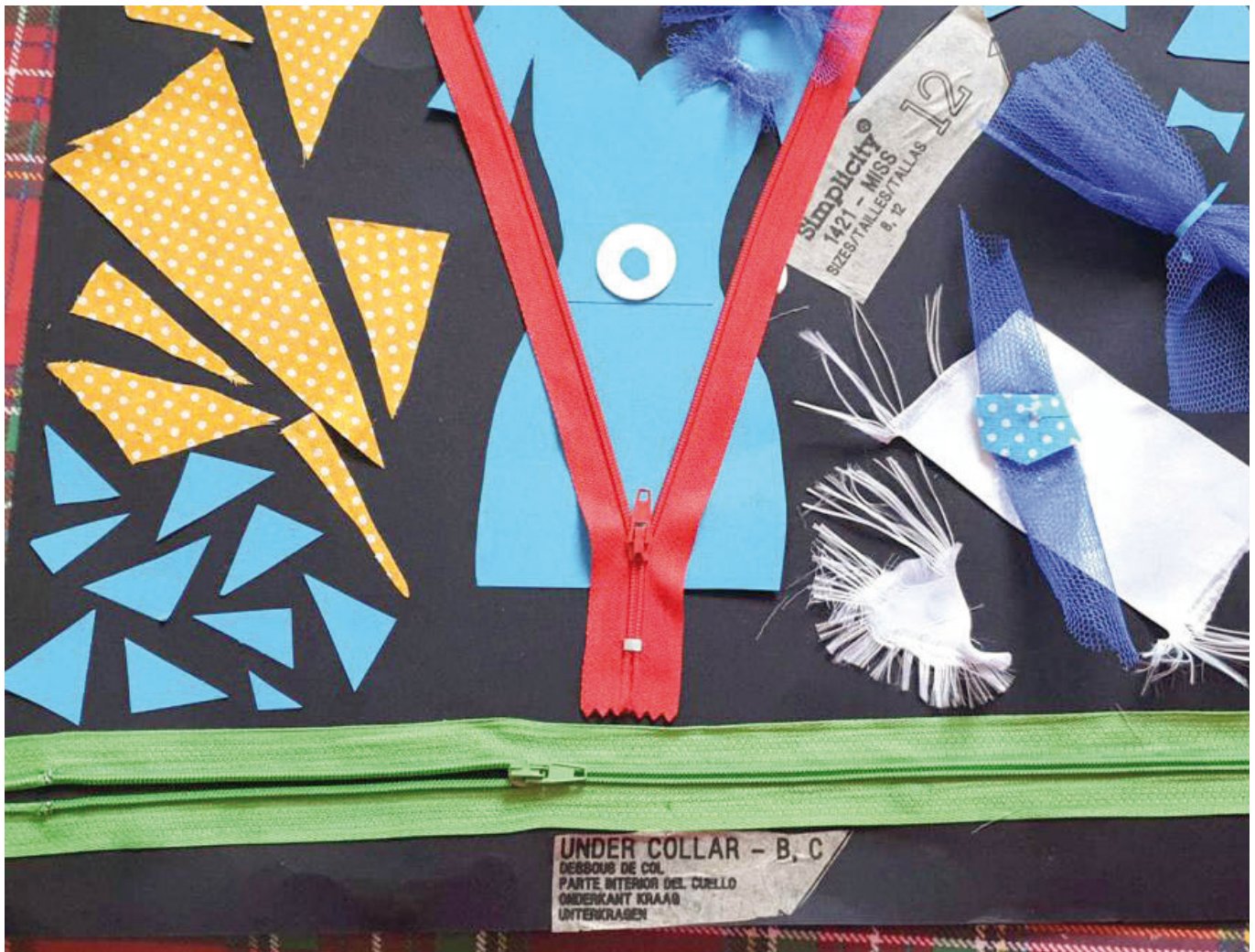


Paramètres, 2012  
Jimmy Robert.  
Courtesy of the artist and Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin



**"I thought the exhibition was very interesting and thought provoking. It did stimulate my creativity and helped me to look at art in a different way."**







# Fashion Collage

We looked at two artworks by Derrick Adams – paintings and collages on paper that include clothing patterns, fabric and metal zippers.

We cut up different fabrics, papers, bits of dress patterns and zips and made collages, inspired by the colours and shapes of fashion clothing that help express our identity.



Dress Rehearsal 4, 2018 by Derrick Adams.  
Courtesy Gallerie Anne de Villepoix



**“My favourite thing was meeting with new, talented people and the session with the variety of cloths.”**







## Captured Moments

We looked at artworks by Nicole Wermers, Ming Smith and others that capture people and objects in unexpected moments, and encourage us to imagine a story.

We then took photos with our phones of objects at home. Some were taken without rearranging anything, and in some we arranged objects to create clues to something we might be about to do.



Untitled Chair, 2015 by Nicole Wermers.  
Private collection, London



**“I thought the exhibition was very interesting and thought provoking. It did stimulate my creativity and helped me to look at art in a different way.”**



**“I think doing the course made life during lockdown easier to cope with as the artwork we studied dealt with some real-life issues like the uncertainty we are all facing”.**





**It was great meeting all the team – they are simply wonderful and kind and caring. I enjoyed connecting with the other ladies on my course too.**

# Thank you

## The Participants

Caroline  
Debra  
Diane  
Gunel  
Heather  
Jasmin  
Samantha  
Sarah

## The Loudspeaker team

Associate Artist Gillian Brent  
Programme Manager Katy Culbard  
Support Worker Veronica O'Callaghan  
Head of Learning Amanda Spruyt  
Marketing Manager and 'model'  
Laura-Jade Vaughan







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