

## On Margate Sands: Project Summary



*Creative Adults Project Workshop, Turner Contemporary © Jason Pay 2016*

### About the project

*On Margate Sands* took place from October 2015 to July 2016 and engaged new audiences in local and national heritage and the arts through artist-led outreach and in-gallery participation.

Through a series of workshops members of our local community explored Margate's history as a place of artistic creativity and restorative leisure and discovered archival material from the newly-digitised Tate artists' archives online and local archives at Canterbury Cathedral and in the South East Archive of Seaside Photography (SEAS).

Working with the project artists, Sara Wicks and Carlos Maria Romero, participants made connections between Margate's past and present, developed new research and creative skills, and formed new networks and friendships. The project was documented through a website ([onmargatesands.com](http://onmargatesands.com)) and the creative responses made throughout the project were put on display at Turner Contemporary in July 2016. A learning resource exploring the themes of the project has been produced and will be shared through the Turner Contemporary website and used to support future learning activity.

The project was delivered in partnership with Tate as part *Archives and Access*, a programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund which aims to open up the Tate Archive through digitisation, learning and participation. *On Margate Sands* was one of five archive learning projects that took place across the UK



*Garden Gate Project Workshop @Jason Pay 2016*

### **Who was involved?**

#### *Project partners:*

- Laleham Gap School, Ramsgate - Kent's specialist school for children with Speech, Language and Communication difficulties.
- The Garden Gate Project, Margate – A community garden working with people with mental ill health and/or learning disabilities.
- The Creative Adults Project, Margate – A community group which supports adults with sensory impairments and/or learning disabilities.
- Kent Foster Care Association, Maidstone – A charity that provides support to registered foster carers in Kent and the young people in their care
- 80-90% of participants from LG, GG and CAP considered themselves to have a learning need or disability.



*Kent Foster Care Association Workshop, Turner Contemporary © Jason Pay 2016*

*Project delivery:*

- Turner Contemporary – The Learning Officer led the project and the project funding provided a traineeship to support activity. Two freelance project artists (Sara Wicks and Calos Maria Romero) were engaged to facilitate the workshops.
- Canterbury Cathedral Archives.
- The South East Archive of Seaside Photography.
- Tate – staff from Tate’s Archives and Access team worked collaboratively with the Learning team to develop and deliver the project. An independent evaluator evaluated activity throughout.



*Kent Foster Care Association Visit to Tate Archives @Jason Pay 2016*

**What happened?**

*Timeline*

Summer 2015	Project plan developed with Tate and agreed with HLF. Learning Officer meeting with and developing new relationships with project partners and local archives.
Autumn 2015	Project trainee and artists recruited.
Winter 2015	Training and Practice Sharing days held with Tate, project artists and staff from all the project partners to set the scene for the project. Artists research period to prepare for the workshops.
Spring 2016	10 workshops held with each project partner.
Summer 2016	<i>On Margate Sands</i> exhibition held at Turner Contemporary. A celebration event was held for everyone involved in the project.
Autumn 2016	Production of learning resource.



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### *Workshop activities*

Activities were tailored to each group's need and themes. This included responding to archival materials using a wide range of techniques including casting, printing, gilding, moss graffiti and many more.

### *Impact*

"There were a number of pupils who before the workshops were not engaging with the subject or attending art lessons. Those pupils are now engaged in the subject and will be looking to take Art, Craft and Design as a GCSE option." (Teacher)

"Before this I wouldn't have spoken to anyone, but now I've made friends. I could never have taken part in group activities...but now I would." (Participant)

"I have a lot of things in my head. I couldn't talk to anyone – I'd have to cry or something. Now it's all a story. It's fine because I draw what I think – and I *show* in my drawing." (Participant)



*Garden Gate Project Workshop @Jason Pay 2016*

### What did we learn?

- We developed our understanding of effective and supportive outreach strategies, taking learning activities and archive materials outside of the gallery and working with people in venues and groups that they are already using and feel comfortable in.
- We learned more about how to plan and facilitate flexible and accessible activities for groups with a wide range of sensory, emotional and/or learning needs.
- We tested out new ways of working with digital technology as a tool for both research and creativity.
- We saw the benefits of having a professional photographer as part of the project team, in attendance at all sessions, providing intimate and creative documentation.
- We found that giving the young people from Laleham Gap School exclusive access to Turner Contemporary on a Monday when the gallery is closed was an effective way of supporting them to feel comfortable in the gallery as first time visitors.
- We discovered that there is huge appetite for engaging with Turner Contemporary and our learning programmes amongst local deaf and hearing impaired audiences and strategic links have been established with Action on Hearing Loss.
- We saw the positive impact of displaying project participants' creative work on the gallery walls.
- We found that archives and heritage are a rich starting point for conversations about personal journeys, and to make connections between past, present and each other's experiences



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### What next?

- Following on from *On Margate Sands*, all of the project partners would like to keep in touch with Turner Contemporary and seek out ways of collaborating again in the future.
- In the coming months, Turner Contemporary will work with Canterbury Cathedral on a HLF-funded project that the Cathedral are hoping to run with the Garden Gate Project. Turner Contemporary will provide support and expertise around engaging and supporting an artist to facilitate activity with different audiences.
- Turner Contemporary have continued their relationship with Laleham Gap School by hosting a pop up exhibition of GCSE artwork and will continue to encourage the school to visit and work with the gallery.
- Tate's Visitor Experience Manager/Curator of Access Projects, Marcus Dickey Horley will work with the Learning Officer to provide Access CPD for staff at Turner Contemporary.
- Through his work on the project the trainee has gone on to work as a freelance photographer for Turner Contemporary, Margate Pride, Margate Festival and Margate Coastal Park. He has also facilitated photography workshops for a refugee group in Canterbury.
- The project artists will contribute to the A Journey with the Wasteland project at Turner Contemporary.
- The Learning Officer is writing a case study about the project for the Engage website to share learning with wider gallery education sector.
- The learning resource will be shared with project partners through an event at the gallery.

**TATE**



On Margate Sands is part of Archives and Access  
led by Tate and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

# Turner Contemporary