



Image credit: Gorton Visual Arts: Log End, 2015

## HOME PROJECTS

# Gorton Visual Arts: **OV GORTON**

Sat 13 Nov 2021 – Sun 9 Jan 2022. Granada Foundation Galleries 1 & 2.

The volunteer run and led organisation Gorton Visual Arts present a retrospective exhibition featuring work from several visual arts projects carried out with the groups over 15 years.

This exhibition brings together textiles, paintings and prints to celebrate the rich history that Gorton and the surrounding areas have. The projects developed explore this rich social history, drawing inspiration from the Whit Walks, the Munitions Workers, Peterloo, Bradford Pit, the 53-bus route, the pubs of Hyde Road and the once many picture houses.

These projects provide opportunities for engagement in local sheltered housing schemes, community Centre's, libraries, tower blocks, local organisations, local Secondary and Primary schools. Their projects have a significant impact on the community, promoting intergenerational collaboration between young people and groups who are experiencing isolation and vulnerability.

The workshops are an opportunity to explore Gorton's history, share personal experiences and stories, develop new skills and learn from one another. The projects are guided by the values of social inclusion and cohesion, demonstrating the power of art as a tool to connect with the community, reflect and learn from one another and different generations about Gorton's shared history.

This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of local Historian Frank Rhodes known to us as "Mr Gorton", who sadly passed away earlier this year. Frank shared his wealth knowledge about the local history which provided the inspiration for many of the projects undertaken by Gorton Visual Art.

The projects exhibited have been developed and delivered by Artists Ian McKay and Andrew McKay.

### About Gorton Visual Arts

Gorton Visual Arts have been creating artwork in and around Gorton and Manchester since 2006. The Group meets once a week at the Aviary Community Rooms in Debdale Park and is made up of 18 local residents and Lead Artist Ian McKay.

#### FUNDED BY



#### FOUNDING SUPPORTERS



## Granada Foundation Gallery 1

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### 1. Whit Walks, 2010

The 'Whit Walks' project was an intergenerational project developed with a group and young people from St Francis Roman Catholic and St James Church of England Primary Schools. The banner represents the Gorton Community's experience of the Whit Walks occasion, and it was the group's contribution to the 100-year celebration of the urban district of Gorton becoming part of the City of Manchester. The image is taken from a photograph kindly donated by a member of the Gorton community.

### 2. Our Ouse, 2011

'Our Ouse' is a visual documentation using traditional woodcut block printed wallpaper to depict the increasing movement of people throughout the East Manchester area. The work symbolises the coming together of older communities and the new communities that have made their homes here. Over the duration of the project, the Group members have developed an individual image that serves as a special memory in their lives. Almost all repetitive imagery is connected to living or working in the East Manchester area.

### 3. An Opened Door, 2019

For many, life exists behind a door that leads to a corridor or opens out to another door. The experience of living in sheltered accommodation or a tower block disconnects people from daily contact and interaction with the outside world. This work considers the absence of a front door that leads to the street and the outside world. The doors bring together imagery and text responding to the question "what you would like to see if you opened your own front door to the outside world?".

## Granada Foundation Gallery 2

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### 1. Beer Mats and Log Ends, 2015

The closure of thousands of Pubs Nationwide is a loss to our culture, the pub is a community hub, a place where friendships and social connections are made. Along Hyde Road, Gorton there was once 27 Pubs, and now there are only 6. This decline in the existence of Hyde Road pubs is documented in the knitted and crocheted beer mats. Featuring quotations from people's stories and memories of the pubs. The embroidered dartboards are a full-size

representation of the Manchester's Famous Board, the "Log End". The embroidered colours used are inspired by the Breweries corporate colours of the 27 pubs along Hyde Road.

### 2. "Crikey we're back", 2021

This project depicts people's thoughts and feelings about returning to the group after a 17 month break due to the covid-19 pandemic. Using quotes from the group members' written thoughts, this collective piece features text in Screen and Lino print form, influenced by the Artist Corita Kent's work.

### 3. "So, we finally meet", 2020

The full-size painted street signs, feature older people's past and present memories of their local area. Bringing together places and things they value and are important to their lives, such as buildings, shops, leisure activities, and street maps. The work uses the surnames of each participant combined with a colour palette connected to people's individual memories.

### 4. Munition, 2015/16

Created over a six-month period, the banners pay homage to the effort of the local munition workers of Beyer Peacock and Kendall & Gent Engineering Workers in Gorton during the First World War. The project was developed with the Gorton Primary Schools, All Saints Church Of England School and St Francis Roman Catholic School. Both schools received an insight into the Wars conditions and local involvement through supplying the front line with weapons and shells.

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### The displayed Work at Home involves

Gorton Visual Arts Group Members, St Francis Primary School, All Saints Primary School, Residents of Thomas Regan Court - Sheltered Hosing Scheme, Residents of Patrick Roddy Court - Sheltered Hosing Scheme, Gorton Rainbow Haven Asylum Seekers Group, Levenshulme Inspire, Levenshulme Inspire Task Force, The Oasis Centre, Residents of the Tower Blocks - Abbey and Cornwall Courts, Gorton Library, Group Volunteers: Rebecca Davy and Danusia Good, Gorton Local History Group, James Bloomfield & Frank Rhodes.

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### Want to find out more about Gorton Visual Arts?

Head to [www.gortonvisualarts.wordpress.com](http://www.gortonvisualarts.wordpress.com)

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