



Welcome

It's been another great year of activity at Pyramid.

All of our Discovery and High Rise Groups continued to make great projects, some of which were a means to develop and explore the groups' own creative skills, and were shared with Pyramid (such as the Eden Group's **Pyramid Detective Agency**). Other projects were shared with a wide audience in Leeds and beyond. Our Ribblehead and Next Step Pyramid groups created props (including a giant shark made out of recycled wetsuits) for a theatre performance called **Meet You at the Mansion?** by A Quiet Word, celebrating 150 years of Roundhay Park. Our High Rise Music Group worked with Opera North to write and perform a response to **La Traviata**, their piece, **The Soul of a Soldier**, was composed and performed by the group to a large audience at the prestigious Howard Assembly Room.

We worked with many individual artists to develop their skills, artwork and creativity through out Development Teams. Our Arts Council funded **BEYOND Artist Development Scheme** worked with five artist during this year (Adam Cox, Andrew Towse, Ella Schofield, Howard Haigh, Jem Clancy and Stephen Harvey), supporting them to create new work and to share their work with public exhibitions at Archive.

Ultimate Thunder finally released their eponymous debut album, getting air play and coverage, and selling records across the world. They launched the album with a fantastic gig at Sheaf Street in Leeds.

We continued to run projects which explored better ways for Pyramid and other institutions to support the development of artists with learning disabilities, autism, or both. Our Irregular Art School project allowed for an extended meaningful exchange of ideas between our artists and Assembly House (an artist-led studio space in Armley) and the School of Fine Arts at the University of Leeds. The Irregular Art School artists created an amazing exhibition as a response to their research which was shown at the School of Fine Art.

Pyramid continually looks for ways in which we and others can support, celebrate and share the amazing work of artists with learning disabilities, autism, or both in Yorkshire.

I'd like to thank all our artists, staff, workers, volunteers, trustees and funders for everything that they do.

James Hill, Director



Aspire

Pyramid has members who attend each of the three Aspire Fulfilling Lives Centres in Bramley, Rothwell and Potternewton, who meet weekly to work on a range of creative projects.

This year we ran extra sessions in Bramley, as part of the High Rise project: the Mess Club and the Noise Club.

Projects included collaging from natural materials, felting, was-resist painting, sensory painting, creating soundscapes, music making and singing.



YoYos

Summer term: Exploring Mexican Art

Working with Alice Burford, the group looked at traditional Mexican art and made some beautiful craft-based art works including, box shrines, nichos and piñatas.

Autumn term: Hygge

Hygge is a Danish term meaning a sense of cosiness or contentment, or enjoying simple pleasures. The group crafted using items found in nature, tried out traditional Danish embroidery techniques and made very personal work in response to everyone's individual interpretations of Hygge!

Spring term: Assemblage

Assemblage is a work of art made by grouping together found or unrelated objects. The YoYos worked with Bea Knowles to examine the process, taking everyday objects found at Pyramid and bringing them together to make experimental stand-alone sculptures.



Legends



Summer term: Pyramid Garden

With Leigh Bowser, the group spruced up the Pyramid backyard. Together they made and painted planters to grow wild flowers in, and explored upcycling and mosaic making.

Autumn term: Chapel FM

Legends worked with Matthew Bellwood to write 'The Search for the Lost Keys', an audio story which they then recorded at Chapel FM. You can hear it on our website.

Spring term: Julia's Piano

An old piano belonging to Pyramid's founder, Julia Piggott, was repurposed and each member used a panel from the piano as a canvas to share part of their own life story. They also used parts of the piano to create an interactive sound sculpture, which is available for everyone to use in the Pyramid Studio.



High Rise Music

The Pyramid View On... La Traviata

The High Rise Music Group collaborated with Opera North to produce a new piece of work in response to the opera La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi.

Musicians and performers from the show visited for some live music sharing sessions, and the group also took a backstage tour of Leeds Grand Theatre. They then produced their own piece in response, a short musical titled, 'The Soul of a Soldier'. The group performed their work to over 100 people at the Howard Assembly Room as part of the Encore Festive Show.

A recording of the performance is available on our website at: pyramid.org.uk/high-rise-music-la-traviata



Eden

Summer and Autumn term: Twinklebooom

Eden Group were commissioned for a heritage project, making work in response to the renovations at Leeds Town Hall, and in particular the work to restore its Victorian organ.

Working with Rosie McAndrew, the group made an interactive musical sculpture, Twinklebooom, and a short film to accompany it. They worked with Dawn from Inspired Workshops to learn new digital film-making skills.

The sculpture and film will be used as part of the celebrations when Leeds Town Hall reopens.

Spring term: The Pyramid Detective Agency

Matthew Bellwood guided the group through an improvised, drama based project, which focused on character development and solving fictional mysteries around Pyramid HQ.



Next Step Pyramid

Summer term: Roundhay Park / Litter Shark

The group worked with theatre company A Quiet Word to create site-specific artwork for an interactive performance called 'Meet you at the Mansion?' The group's larger than life kinetic shark sculpture, made from recycled materials, was created to encourage people not to litter in public green spaces.

Autumn term: I Am An Artist

During this self-directed project, the group explored and developed their own creative practice. This included digital mark making, weaving, storyboards, conceptual installations and illustrations. The work was exhibited at Swarthmore Education Centre.

Spring term: Puppets and Performance

Nicky Lines worked with the group to explore how the art form of puppetry can be used to tell important stories. Together the group built a pop-up puppet theatre, and worked on creating their own puppet shows, with a performance taking place in May 2023.



High Rise Movement

Summer term: Under the Sea

The group made a selection of 'under the sea' themed artworks to decorate Bramley Community Centre in preparation for the celebration day.

Autumn term: Bramley Celebration Day

The group devised and hosted the Bramley Project Celebration Day for friends, family and the general public. Together they explored the 'under the sea' theme through sensory storytelling, art installations, intensive interaction workshops, and musical improvisation.

Spring term: Sensory Storytelling

Inspired by their love of sensory storytelling, the group created their own personal stories, focused on each member's creative interests and favourite things.



Why Don't We?

Why Don't We? is our Bradford-based group. They explore different visual arts, and often work in collaboration with local arts organisations, galleries and museums.

The group spent the first part of the year exploring their own creative practice, learning different techniques and working on individual projects.

They then expanded their solo work to each make a map of Bradford, sharing their personal interests. This work formed the basis of their exhibition, 'Places and Spaces: My Bradford', which was exhibited the following year at Kala Sangam.



Ribblehead



Summer term: Roundhay Park / A Picnic

The group worked with theatre company A Quiet Word to create artwork for an interactive performance called 'Meet you at the Mansion?' Ribblehead members visited the park at the beginning of the project, explored site-specific spoken word poetry, and made a large picnic blanket piece, which was exhibited as part of the performance.

Autumn term: Projection Play

Guided by film artist Lauren Harrison, the group explored projection play in the studio, experimenting with light boxes and sculptures, and making work with fluorescent liquids using overhead projectors.

Spring term: Bones

Working alongside sculptor Edward Mortimer, the group explored skeletons. Inspired by a visit to the natural history collection at the Discovery Centre, the members went on to create their own reimagined animal-based skeleton sculptures.



Ultimate Thunder

Ultimate Thunder released their first album, which received many excellent reviews in the music press, and has sold copies worldwide.

The band launched their album with a live gig, performing to an audience of around 150 people at Sheaf Street in Leeds.



Development Teams

Adam Bainbridge



Aidan Sullivan



Development Teams

Alfie Fox



Ben Malcolm



Development Teams

Heather Kelly



Jenny Robinson



Development Teams

Josh Pedley-Cook



Kenneth Stainburn



Development Teams

Liam Hirst

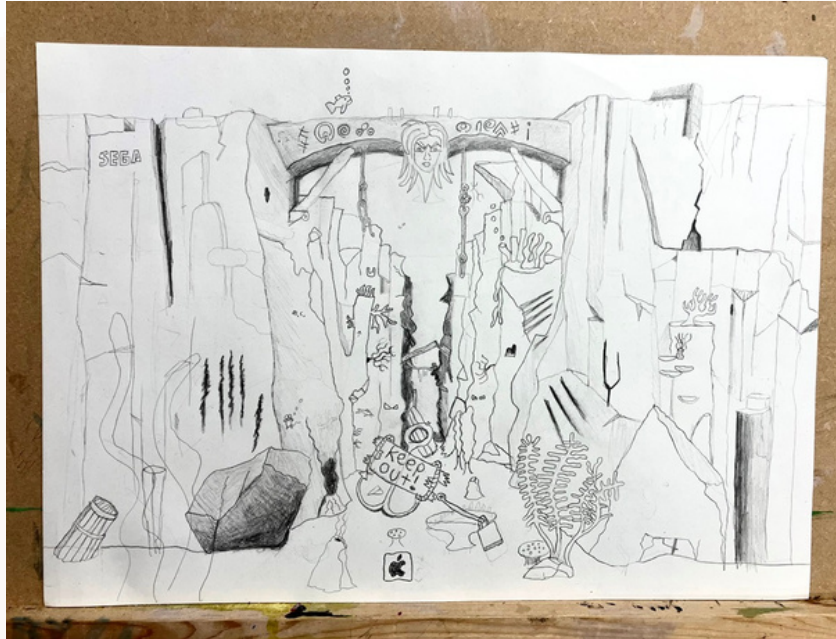


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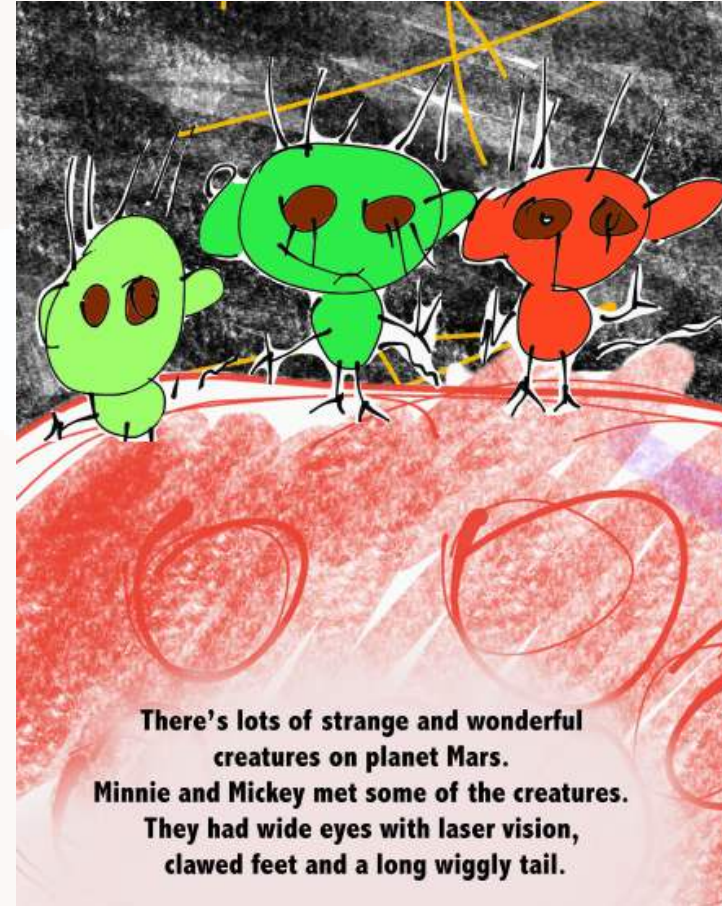


Development Teams

Ross Bolland



William Stapleton



BEYOND

The BEYOND Artist Development Scheme (BADS) supports artists through a year-long programme of personal creative development. The project was co-ordinated this year by Penny Lewis and Jenny Robinson.

Jem Clancy

Jem is a choreographer, dancer and visual artist. She worked on developing her film-making skills, and one of her films was nominated for an award at the Oska Bright Film Festival.



During the year, Jem Clancy and Stephen Harvey completed their BADS projects, and we began work with Adam Cox and Ella Schofield.

Stephen Harvey

Stephen worked with text, letterpress and textiles and focused on protest art, and specifically on conveying the challenges people with learning disabilities experience in getting the right support. His BADS work culminated in an exhibition at Archive.



BEYOND

Adam Cox

Adam collaborated with Leigh Bowser to work on developing his model making skills, and learning animation with filmmaker Rozi Fuller.



Ella Schofield

Ella worked with Rosie McAndrew to develop characters and storyboard her plans for a comic book and audio story.





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