

New Practice



South London Gallery launches public art project with local housing estates

Laura Rutkowski, 09.08.2017

Open Plan will commission artists over the next three years

The South London Gallery (SLG) has launched a project to create public art with and for residents of three nearby housing estates.

Over the next three years, Open Plan will commission UK-based and international artists to create artworks for the Elmington, Pelican and Sceaux Gardens estates.

The project was launched on 2 August with the opening of Art Block, a free space on the Sceaux Gardens estate where local children and families can play and take part in creative activities.

Artists will be asked to reimagine Art Block twice a year. For the first commission, award-winning artist and designer [Morag Myerscough](#), who was responsible for the Design Museum's exhibition design, has created The Club Under My House.

The installation, which was inspired by workshops with local children, explores pattern making, poetry and 3D design. Children's designs will be showcased in a gallery space inside. Myerscough has previously revamped hospital wards, schools and public spaces with her work, which is characterised by bright colours and geometric shapes.

Margot Heller, the director of the SLG, said that Open Plan "will enable the gallery to take its work with artists and local residents to a new level of reach and impact, building on the range of artist commissions we have delivered over the last ten years and deepening our commitment to collaborating with our neighbours".

Each year on Pelican estate, which is located behind the former Peckham Road Fire Station, two artists will create public artworks for the area. The station will become an annexe to the SLG's main space in 2018.

"We hope that Open Plan will result in a sense of pride in the work achieved on the three participating estates, encourage more residents to become regular visitors to the SLG and build excitement in the lead up to the launch in 2018", said Heller.

Residents will help to produce the artworks. The first will be created by [Jessie Brennan](#), who has been in residence on the estate leading up to the launch of her project Your Words. Residents will be encouraged to share their thoughts so their words can be transformed into sculptural word installations across the estate.

On Elmington estate, the SLG is working with emerging artists to deliver free outdoor after-school activities on Wednesdays during term time. [Felipe Castelblanco](#) has been working with children to create collapsible, mobile, mini gardens and [India Harvey](#) has run workshops inspired by slime, which encouraged children to learn about physics.

Open Plan is also offering a full-time gallery traineeship for young people, which will focus on the gallery's work with artists and residents on the estates.

Comments