



Young Creative Awards
Nottingham

YOUNG CREATIVES NOTTINGHAM 2021



AFFINITY



Painting by
Emma Shaw (17)

Welcome

Once again it has been the creativity shown by Nottingham's young people that has floored us. Particularly when applying their huge imaginations and talent to powerful and important themes. In doing so, this year's Young Creative Awards entrants addressed issues that included racism, gender stereotypes, mental health, homelessness, female body image, climate change and, of course, the ongoing impact of Covid-19. And while humanity's challenges remain varied, and in many instances unresolved, it is heartening to see what amounts to the most creative and empathetic of responses coming from the next generation.

Young Creatives Nottingham continues to work hard with our partners in providing more opportunities than ever before for young people in the local community. The Postcards from Lockdown project (showcased on page 6) is just one such example.

Investment remains in former Young Creative Awards winners, seeing the development of more video tutorials, paid commissions, and also in our socially-engaged and youth-led Notts Creatives collective.

Headline sponsors CarShop Nottingham and Serif deserve our warmest of thanks. We remain proud to work with such creative and community-minded companies.



Thanks also to our category sponsors, supporters and donors for their ongoing commitment. To the YCA Operations Group for skilfully managing the individual award categories. To all of the expert judges who generously gave their time, care and knowledge. And to Notts TV in showcasing so vibrantly the work of this year's winners.

And as ever, our sincerest thanks are reserved for the nigh-on 600 young people that entered this year's Awards. I hope that every single one of those inspirational makers, thinkers, performers and creators finds the time to enjoy this truly remarkable report.

Andy Afford
Chair, Young Creatives Nottingham
(Registered charity number 1168804)

“It is heartening to see... the most creative and empathetic of responses coming from the next generation.”

Notts Creatives



Notts Creatives illustration
by Isobelle Farrar

RIGHT: Paint by
numbers – a portrait
of Kamala Harris, by
Lucy Moulton

@NOTTS.CREATIVES

In 2020 we launched our first ever Young Creatives Nottingham “youth forum” – a youth-led collective of YCA participants, designed as a stepping stone to support young creatives on their journey between education and employment. The aim is to provide a safe, supportive space for young creatives to develop new skills and experience as young producers, working together to harness their creativity and passion to create positive social action for the benefit of the local community.

Our first collective – a group of eight YCA winners and finalists, aged between 17 and 24 – began meeting in autumn 2020, supported by Project Facilitator, Gina Mollett. Together they looked at ways to use their own creative practices to tackle issues facing young people locally. They also gave themselves a name - **Notts Creatives** - and developed a visual identity.

Inspired by a series of creative workshops led by professional practitioners (Chris Lawton, Skate Nottingham; theatre designer/artist Eleanor Field; curator/cultural producer Saziso Phiri; Benjamin Kay, Dizzy Ink), Notts Creatives set about exploring how they could work together to develop a project using creativity for social good.

Given the ongoing impact of Covid-19, the collective decided that this should be their focus – particularly addressing the issues of mental health and loneliness in young people.

They worked together to develop a subscription-style creative activity box including a range of art activities and creative challenges for young

people to support wellbeing. Activities included stop-motion animation, paint-by-numbers (a portrait of Kamala Harris - pictured), mask sewing, colouring, creative writing, photography and graphic design.

To date, 350 Notts Creatives activity boxes have been produced and distributed for free to young people via community organisations in Basford, Clifton, St Ann's and Strelley. Plans are now to develop the project further and create more activity boxes – in partnership with these community groups – in autumn 2021.

Notts Creatives is: Charlotte Ashley, Isobelle Farrar, Ava Hemsley, Nasua Iyamah-Arbouin, Amitoj Kaur Nijran, Sarah Mensah, Lucy Moulton and Katherine Rankin.

Thank you very much to the following organisations who have supported Notts Creatives and the Activity Box project: #will Fund, Thomas Farr Charity, Lady Hind Trust, ChalleNGe, #danSOUP, Arnold Clark Community Fund and National Lottery Community Fund.



Postcards From Lockdown

In early 2021, as England entered its third national lockdown, Young Creatives Nottingham collaborated with artist Benjamin Kay of Dizzy Ink and four local schools on a new creative project: **Postcards from Lockdown**.

Over February half term, students from Bluecoat Aspley Academy and The Nottingham Emmanuel School were challenged to take photographs inspired by their lockdown experiences. Dizzy Ink then printed these images as special one-off postcards.

These postcards were sent to students at Bluecoat Beechdale Academy and Bluecoat Wollaton Academy, who were invited to write short, creative responses to the photographs on the backs of the postcards.

This unique collection of creativity – the result of a collaboration between 69 young people in 4 different city schools in the Archway Learning Trust – was then printed in a beautiful, limited edition publication, for all of the participants to own.

Postcards from Lockdown images included parks, trees, plants, windows, skies, masks and screens. Written responses included haikus, acrostic poems and prose. Together they give a unique insight into the thoughts of young people in Nottingham, after more than a year of Covid-19. *Postcards from Lockdown* provides a glimpse into the minds of “a generation like none before”, as one poem puts it.

Huge thanks to all of the students who took part, and to the school staff who made the project happen:

Grace Balchin, Clare Barnes, Lou Dee, Jess Highfield, Sinead Moynihan-Case and Martha Toogood.

Postcards from Lockdown was supported by the **Danielle Beccan Memorial Fund**.

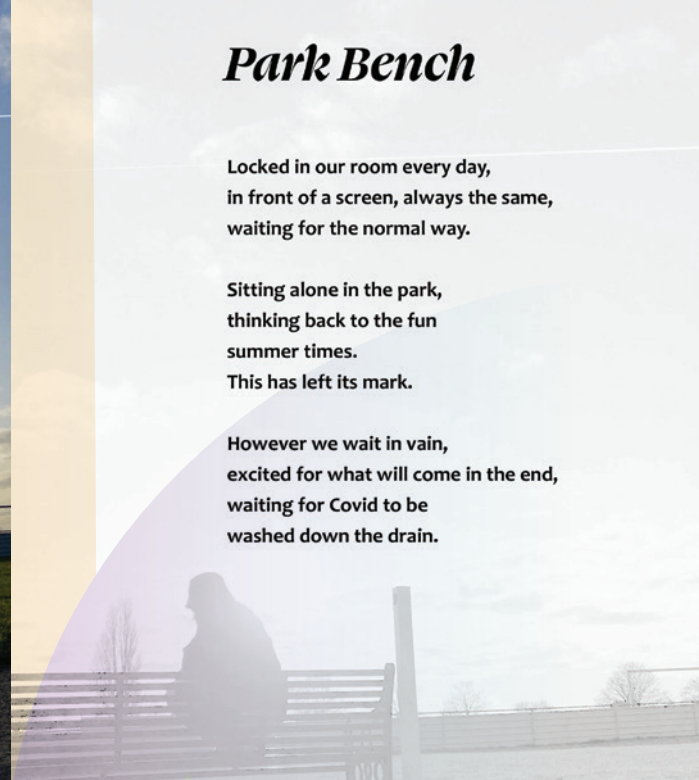


Park Bench

Locked in our room every day,
in front of a screen, always the same,
waiting for the normal way.

Sitting alone in the park,
thinking back to the fun
summer times.
This has left its mark.

However we wait in vain,
excited for what will come in the end,
waiting for Covid to be
washed down the drain.



The Stolen Year

Swinging in the absence of colour,
Waiting for the return of summer.
In the shadows all hope is burnt.
Now nothing is left to be taken.
Going outside is forbidden.





Inspiring, Supporting & Celebrating Young Creative Talent

Since its inception in 2009, Nottingham's Young Creative Awards has been an annual fixture in the city's calendar: a big, bright burst of originality; inspiring, supporting and celebrating young creative talent in Nottingham. Over 4,500 entries, more than 350 awards.

Run by Young Creatives Nottingham (registered charity number 1168804), the Young Creative Awards is open to 11-24 year-olds working, living or studying in Nottingham. The Awards champion creativity, celebrating achievements across 11 categories: Animation & Digital Media, Creative Writing, Dance, Design & Architecture, Fashion & Textiles, Film, Graphic Design, Music, Photography, Theatre and Visual Arts. This year nearly 600 young people entered the Young Creative Awards.

Past winners include successful musicians **Rob Green** and **Philip George**, writer and performer **Bridie Squires**, embroidery designer **Liss Cooke**, acclaimed dancer **Jamal Sterrett Phoenix**, social media star **R-J Tulloch**, award-winning theatre designer **Nikki Charlesworth** and published author **Rebecca Constable**.

Winners are awarded cash prizes and promotion, as well as mentoring, work placements and professional development opportunities. The Young Creative Awards provide recognition, encouragement and support for young people.

It is our aim to provide paid employment and commission opportunities for emerging Nottingham-based creatives, and to deliver free sessions for education, training and participation (including masterclasses, workshops and exhibitions).

In early 2021, for instance, we worked with our sponsors CarShop to commission 2020 Graphic Design winner Kate Sharp to design a special Nottingham-themed car wrap for one of CarShop Nottingham's courtesy cars (pictured).

To find out more go to youngcreativeawards.org

FACING PAGE: Photograph by Rosie Baird (18)





AWARD ONE

Animation & Digital Media

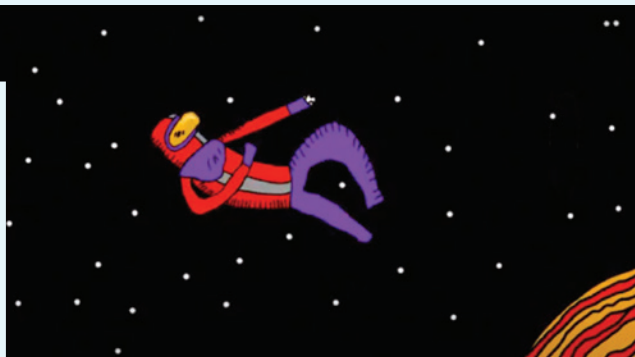
Judges: Allen Coombs (National Videogame Foundation),
Dan Doughty (Confetti), Neil Ladkin (Serif), Alison Whitlock (Confetti)

Sponsors:
 **confetti**
institute of creative technologies

WINNER, 11-15

JACKSON YOUNG (12)

Self-taught Jackson produced his animation "To Space And Back" - about a space hero fighting a mysterious enemy - using 3,000 drawings. The resulting film is a mature and accomplished piece of work demonstrating a huge commitment and very advanced level of visual storytelling for such a young age.



WINNER, 16-18

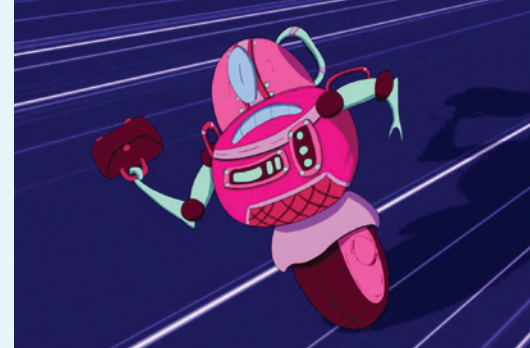
ELLIE EDWARDS (18)

"Fish Bone" - a mundane tale of an elf-like creature and their daily routine of picking flowers and fishing - is Ellie's first time producing animation, filmed entirely in her bedroom, with everything in each frame crafted by hand. The judges felt the unique visual style demonstrated excellent stop motion and digital animation skills and could easily mistake this work for a professional production.



AMY BRADBURY (20)

Physics Masters student Amy produced this animation in her spare time, with no previous animation experience, illustrating "The Belper Moo", a way in which town residents got through lockdown by mooing out the window at 6:30pm every day. Designed to be extremely silly, the DIY mixed media animation was charming, raw, brutalist and very funny, if a little ragged around the edges.



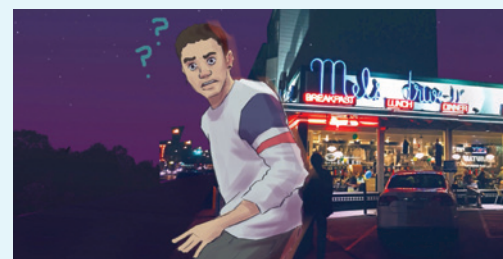
KARLTON DOLO (23)

The judges really enjoyed Karlton's animation, "Neon Karma", which is set in 2160, featuring a robot who wreaks revenge on an angry old man. The short story is complemented well by the aesthetics, accomplished animation, vibrant colour palette (inspired by 80s cyber punk) and character facial expressions.

WINNER, 19-24

ALFIE EYDEN (22)

Alfie responded to a brief from the Nottingham Festival of Science and Curiosity, learning to animate and write children's poetry from scratch. His animation, "What If Humans Had Tails Like A Monkey?" was produced in two months and is professional, complete, highly entertaining, with great pacing and soundtrack.



JAKE OJIKUTU (20)

"Slasher 198X" is Jake's promo animation inspired by shows such as Slasher, American Horror Story and Stranger Things. Its cinematic, aesthetically pleasing style impressed judges. The music choices and digital brush work mixed with photographic elements blend nicely, with some well applied techniques for transitions.

ELENA RUIZ (20)

Elena entered the first scene from her animated short "Orange", introducing main character Sammie. The judges were spellbound by its beautiful style and design, with great use of core animation principles. The simplicity of the lines fuse the animation together; the "nowhere to hide" quality of animation really shines through. Very promising potential.





AWARD TWO Creative Writing

Judges: Nigel Cooke (YCN Trustee), Lucy Hodge (Walkgrove), Khaya Ayomide Job (Femme Fatale Gals), Andrew Tucker (YCN Trustee & YCA 2019 Winner)

Sponsors:



NOOR AHMED (13)

Noor's inventive poem "Clock" brings us the world from a clock's perspective, which is no mean feat! A lovely piece of writing.

*"I wonder
What a life
Waiting for the next moment
Turning a full cycle before,
Bong!
And again.
I look around for the last time
The light is gone as dusk approaches"*

LIAM BROWN (12)

Liam's short story "The Silent Blades" is a slice of cryptic fantasy action that left the judges with bated breath and chewed nails. A writer with blockbuster ideas.

"I will show you what it is to evolve.

"Feathered wings emerge from my back and force me into the air, away from the mirrored room, which even now is melting and changing into a different shape.

"I will bestow on you my knowledge."

Photograph by
Abbie Wall (17)



WINNER, 16-18

AINE MULLAN (12)

A superbly imaginative and uplifting spin on a traditional theme, Aine's story "Christmas Eve" finds a reinvented Santa meeting a curious young girl at the dead of night. The judges loved its novel perspective and sense of joyfulness.

"Obviously, people began to wonder who was this mysterious person gifting nice things to everyone around the world, so they made rumours. People thought I was a man, a man!! And apparently, I was supposed to have a big white beard and wear this ugly red suit. Ugh. And besides why did people assume I was a man anyway? Like 'only a man would be nice enough to do such a thing.' This is all why I'm considering quitting. It's sometimes too much. Yes, I love doing it, to make people happy but some aren't grateful, some don't get what they want and I don't know, it's a little overwhelming."

LORENA THORLEY (11)

Lorena's story "The Last Tree" immerses the reader in its own universe, where ecstatic nature meets combat and drama. Thoroughly thrilling stuff.

"A tall oak stood to the right of the field giving shade from some of the beaming sun. She walked over watching the clouds begin to descend on the sun. When she arrived, she lay closely against the protective oak's trunk and listened to the gentle song of the birds until dusk. When dusk came, she began to rest herself against the tree as the clouds created curtains from the sun. The moon beamed down comfortably, overseeing the night."

WINNER, 16-18

EMILY CLARKIN (18)

The judges agreed that Emily's script "Spaghetti Sauce" was a stand-out piece of work - striking, imaginatively executed with wild logic and humour. A well-constructed and memorable piece. Readers will have no trouble imagining its absurdities on stage. Keep this talent on your radar.

MUM IS PACING AROUND THE ROOM. LIZ IS SITTING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.

MUM:

I don't know how it got there, I don't know who it belongs to, all I know is there's a leg.. in my kitchen.

THERE'S A PAUSE WHILE SOMEONE ON THE PHONE SPEAKS.

MUM: (SHOUTING, ANGRY)

I just got home, I was about to make myself a cup of tea and when I turn the light on, I find a leg in my kitchen. What don't you understand? Nope, just the leg. If there was an arm, I would've said there's an arm in my kitchen.

Photograph by
Arthur Hsu (23)

HOLLY JEWITT MAURICE (17)

Holly's romantic poem "The Rotting Oak" shows sensational control of the English language's stresses and rhythms. A writer with true potential.

*"Beneath the rotting Oak tree,
a heart is calling there.
Snaked by brush and Bramble,
Behind the mantle tear."*

WINNER, 19-24

SOPHIE CARROLL (23)

Read Sophie's poetry sequence "To The Province" aloud to savour it: its half rhymes, its painterly images and transporting sense of place. Few can make poetry seem so real or so effortless. A writer of prodigious talent.

*"Summer is missing in Mabini.
At some point, seven-thousand miles
became too far. I still feel the press
of wrinkled hands against a sticky
forehead. The air raining hot oil,
grounds permanently greased
during fiesta season. Lolo cooks
against the backdrop of the village
hum. Tagalog spoke around mouthfuls
of fluffy rice. The sound fades as I fade
into that hammock outside.
Summer is missing in Mabini. Adrift
somewhere around the hundred islands.
What if I go back and it can be found?"*

GEORGIA HAMBLETT (20)

"A Bird's Eye View" by Georgia is a work of carefully accomplished storytelling which sets out to prove that what is humane isn't necessarily what's human. The judges were moved, and readers will be engrossed in its chilly scenery; but most of all by its warm and genuine sense of empathy.

"Nothing in nature happens without consequence. Few winds blow without pulling leaves from trees, the tide rarely tickles the shore without stealing sand grains from it and a flower which blooms without a winged critter nourishing itself on the fresh nectar is in the minority. But tucked away under the overhang of the cliff, mother and daughter felt very much in their own bubble."

JADEN MORTON (23)

Jaden's poem "August 2017" is a lesson in how to build a character with craft and economy. Through wit and through razor-sharp imagery, a vivid moment from the past is returned to life. Put simply: it's superb writing.

**"Summer has aged wild and Scottish.
The flower lined dirt tracks in the forest are sun-blasted.
Fallen fruit from the berry trees,
sweltering on dry grass cause a
frenzy in the shed, where the wasp
nest is seething.**

**"On days like this, we eat outside
plates on laps, crooked garden chairs
facing arable hills and cattle fields."**

RHEA MANN (17)

Rhea's piece "Magnetism of Memories" is poetry by way of love-letter, which crooned to the judges with the sensitivity of its crisp images. In a word: fantastic.

**"The last Sunday.
Midnight mourners circle the moon
Whilst the dead doves talk.
Stars scribbling the sky with a
message of forever
Put to rest.
The pianos song, now muffled
silence.
Because the thought of you beckons
me still."**

Photograph by
Arthur Hsu (23)

ISABEL MARNER (17)

The judges hope to hear more from this author, whose short story "Charlie" succeeds at telling a warm story of friendship and renewal. Mature, affecting prose.

**"After nudging his
door open, she
padded over to the
bed in the corner of
the room and saw
his hand, tensed
up as it gripped the
edge of his mattress.
Impulsively, she
nuzzled her way
under his hand, which
startled him a little until
he realised what was
happening."**

HILDA BABIRYE-KAGABA (20)

Hilda's piece "I'll Rise Until I Have No One" is inspired poetry written with elegance and command. Full of lyricism, it's a joy and a necessity to read; for those who must often defy others' expectations, and for everyone else too.

**"Two different walks of life,
one I could have sailed through.
The other, I seem culturally chained
to carrying the convictions of foreign
fruits, through forests built with
twenty-first century roots."**

Photograph by
Caitlin Collins (15)



AWARD THREE Dance

Judges: Jess Ashley (Dance4), Jo Belton (YCN Trustee & Dance4),
Dwayne Church-Simms (Dance4),
Jonathan Wright (Nottingham CityCare Partnership)

Sponsors:



WINNER, 11-15

SOFIA COSTELLO (15)

Sofia choreographed and performed a strong and challenging solo, which exhibited her technical skills as a dancer. The judges felt that Sofia displayed a good sense of timing and musicality, with some very strong moments of flow and connection that really elevated the performance.



Photo by Josh Hawkins



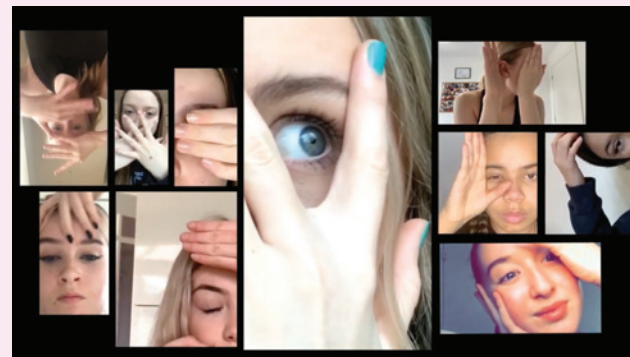
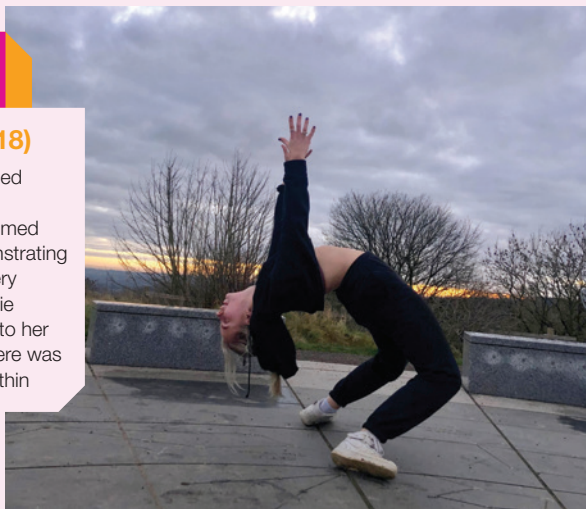
ISOBEL BENSON (17)

Isobel showed a strong sense of performance and energy throughout her solo, demonstrating some really interesting choreographic choices. It was clear that Isobel had really considered what she wanted to communicate to the audience; she danced with clear intention and expression.

WINNER, 16-18

MAISIE GREGORY (18)

The judges were very impressed by this piece, which was choreographed, performed, filmed and edited by Maisie – demonstrating a strong sense of style and very effective artistic choices. Maisie displayed a good connection to her movement vocabulary and there was a clear sense of ownership within her solo.



ELLIE-JEAN MIDDLETON (16)

Ellie-Jean choreographed and performed a site-specific solo and the judges were struck by her technical ability and her choices of location and music, which really contributed to the tone of the work. An emotive piece, which the judges felt was well thought out and executed.



BILBOROUGH COLLEGE YEAR 12 (16-18)

An imaginative piece of work for camera - the group developed some interesting choreography that transferred well to screen, as well as experimenting with camera angles and editing. The judges were impressed with how the students performed as a group, despite much of the work being performed in their own homes – it was clear the group had resourcefully made the most of their situation.



WINNER, 19-24

RACHEL BURBRIDGE (24)

Using a local landmark as the backdrop for her work, Rachel explores her theme through a solo dancer, soundscape of current news headlines and varied camera angles and settings. The judges were impressed with Rachel's vision for her video and felt that the work could be part of a longer dance piece. A strong, thoughtful and emotive entry.

HAL MAYER (24)

The judges agreed that Hal's entry was produced and performed to a high standard and portrayed a strong theme throughout. Hal's work feels authentic and the judges admired the element of risk-taking and the commitment to the overall performance and style.





AWARD FOUR

Design & Architecture

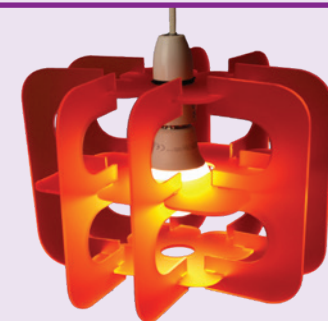
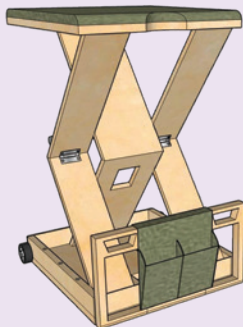
Judges: Catherine Lambert, Alex Lipinski,
Ruzha Sirmanova, Daniel Ursua (Maber)

Sponsors:



AIMA KAZMI (17)

The judges felt that Aima's entry – a foldable stool and garden kneeler to assist people with Parkinson's Disease – was a very good idea which has been executed well. With further design development this could easily make its way into production and prove to be a very useful tool for users.



ETHAN MARSHALL (17)

Ethan's opaque orange acrylic flat pack lamp perfectly captures the essence of the 1970s, as explored in the concept mood board. The judges agreed that the end product was well designed and carefully considered.

AMINAH SHUJAHAT (18)

Aminah's "Shadow Space" installation features silhouettes of Nottingham buildings. The judges could easily imagine this imaginative design being used to promote Nottingham College in the Old Market Square, with long winter shadows cast across the square, or illuminated from within at night.



WINNER, 16-18

LEANNE PLATT (18)

The judges really liked the simple yet effective industrial design of Leanne's standing lamp which employed a variety of skills to design and create the end product. A stylish design which judges could very happily see in their own homes.



WINNER, 19-24

SIMON ADAMS (21)

The judges were impressed by Simon's clear presentation style which shows real skill and a high level of detail. The concept scheme successfully connects the fractured urban fabric of this part of Nottingham, creating an excellent urban composition that the judges would be happy to see delivered in reality.



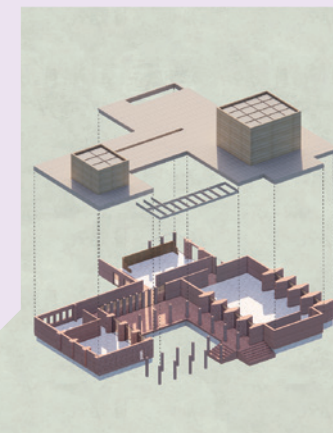
HOLLY CLARKE (20)

The judging panel liked the environmentally conscious design approach which is highly relevant to the climate crisis which we are facing. Holly's entry – an eco-friendly concrete brick – has been explored and developed well, creating a truly unique product.



LAUREN LEYVA (23)

The judges really liked Lauren's sensitive extensions for the University of Nottingham's Department of Architecture and Built Environment. The designs show a mature and sensitive application of a limited materials palette with some beautiful graphical representations of the proposals.



DARCY HILL (23)

Darcy's collection of beautifully crafted, hand thrown ceramic tea bowls show a high level of refinement and attention to detail. The judges agreed they would happily buy these for use in their homes and look forward to seeing more of Darcy's work in the future.



AWARD FIVE

Fashion & Textiles

Judges: Simeon Hartwig (Bantum), Hayley McAfee (Romo), Justine Moore (Romo)

Sponsors:

ROMO

HALIMA MAHMOOD (18)

Halima's beautiful corset bodice gown draws inspiration from the colour, shape and texture of an octopus! The judges were impressed by Halima's understanding of garment technology and the detailing of her design.



WINNER, 16-18

WERONIKA SZYMCAK (17)

Weronika's stylish, asymmetric top, made of cotton and taffeta, is inspired by winter and snowflakes. The judges were struck by Weronika's thoughtful and mature design, with great use of blank space and an elegant combination of two different materials.



AVELYN HAWTHORN BROWNLEE (19)

Avelyn has produced a printed and sewn miniature fabric book, collecting together powerful feminist quotes. The judges remarked on the strong concept - inspiring words presented in a unique, tactile format.

ELLIE STEPHENS (22)

A phenomenal amount of work has gone into the design and construction of Ellie's costume for her pantomime dame, Auntie Biotic. Representing an NHS ambulance (complete with flashing sirens!), the dress was commended by the judges for its fun concept, skilful construction and mixture of fabrics. A high impact piece!



WINNER, 19-24

SOPHIE SMITH (24)

Sophie's women's fashion accessories collection is bold, confident, stylish and commercially minded. Abstract and expressive designs draw on the beautiful patterns of butterfly wings. The judges particularly loved the softness and tactility of Sophie's contemporary pieces and the well-chosen colours.

CORISSA BELPREZ (24)

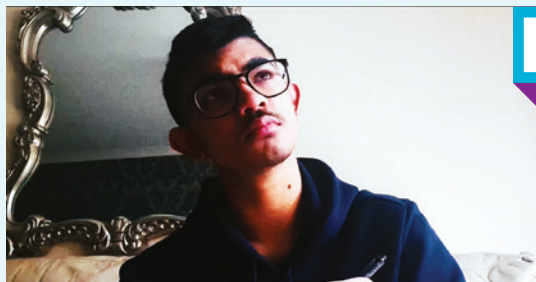
Corissa's intricate piece is inspired by goddesses, mythology and the sun. The judges appreciated the wide range of techniques used, exciting mixture of materials and textures, and warm, harmonious colour combinations.



AWARD SIX Film

Judges: Ella Townsend (Broadway),
Sharon Walia (YCN Trustee, Filmmaker),
Lucy Witts (Skeleton)

Sponsors:
BROADWAY SKELETON



WINNER, 11-15

ZEESHAN MAJID (14)

The judges very much enjoyed Zeeshan's spoof documentary, "Life of a Creator", which demonstrates his skill as an editor and his great potential as a comic writer. A talented young filmmaker.



DIOGO BARBOSA (18)

Diogo's short film, "Normal", is an intimate, black and white film exploring gender identity and what it means to be "normal". The judges thought it was a powerful and expertly made piece of work that is timely and relevant.



WINNER, 16-18

MOLLY CARTER (17)

The judges agreed that Molly's short film, "Anne's Recycling" – inspired by the isolation of lockdown – is a very clever piece of work, showing a great deal of technical skill. They were impressed by the mixture of props and costumes and the use of lighting and music. Film festival ready.

ALEKSANDR CHITRENKO (18)

Aleksandr's short, surreal horror film, "The Wedding Ritual", is very professionally made – beautifully shot and brilliantly acted. The judges were struck by the technical skill. An atmospheric piece of filmmaking.



CLAUDIA VACCARINI (18)

"My Beloved William" is a skilfully made short film about a pair of lovers who are separated by the Crimean War. The judges were moved by Claudia's storytelling, which shows that love can conquer all barriers.

MARINA APARICIO (20)

The judges were impressed by the stylish editing, strong poetic script, use of music and interesting perspectives of Marina's film, "Because White Moves First". Clever, impactful filmmaking.



WINNER, 19-24

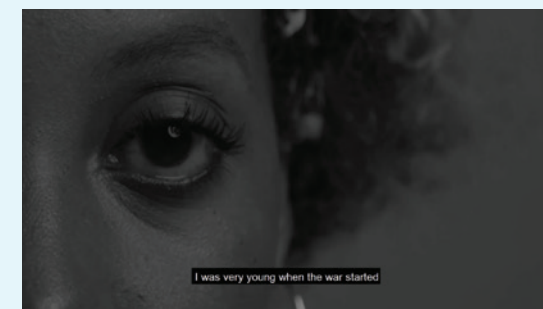
TOM HENNEGAN (21)

Tom's short, thoughtful documentary "Richie" is about Nottingham-born Richard, who has been homeless for over four years. The judges were struck by the intimacy and vulnerability of Tom's filmmaking, his clear storytelling and outstanding interviewing skills.



GODSFAVOUR INYANG (20)

Godsfavour's short, intimate documentary tells the story of her grandmother's experience of the Nigerian Civil War. The judges loved the clever use of stock footage and the way that the story is powerfully and clearly told, across generations.



BEN JOHNSON (20) & SAM HYDE (21)

The judges commended the professional production values and technical skill of Ben and Sam's short film noir thriller, "Odd". An excellent display of cinematography, editing and acting.



AWARD SEVEN Graphic Design

Judges: Jonathan Laud (Nottingham College), Matt Searston (Serif)

Sponsors:
NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE

JAMIE FISHER (15)

The judges agreed that Jamie's poster – inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement – was extremely well put together and impactful. The composition and text layout are highly effective and add greatly to the overall quality of the poster too.



WINNER, 11-15

ENA WILLIAMS (14)

Ena's comic - created to highlight the pressures and issues surrounding gender stereotypes and expectations - shows great maturity and relevance. The judges were particularly impressed with the positive message and the strong illustrative skills demonstrated.

LUCY VARDY (16)

Lucy's illustration really stood out and the judges felt the message behind the image and the overall quality of the final result was excellent. The use of colour and symbolism (which was clearly detailed in the written explanation) gave the image greater meaning and depth.



LOUISA PISATURO (20)

Louisa's "Perishable Goods" zine is designed to help people consider mortality – a strong, well-designed concept, sustainably produced. The judges were particularly struck by the visually pleasing mood boards created to back up the project, which showed the journey from concept to final piece very effectively.

WINNER, 19-24



PHOEBE ANDREWS (21)

The judges felt that the overall graphic design execution throughout Phoebe's project was truly excellent and the attention to detail was outstanding. It's clear how much time and work has been put in and the written supportive material effectively demonstrated how the project excellently tackles a complex and important subject matter, while also remaining fun and accessible.



PHOEBE EAVES (23)

Phoebe's striking ad campaign to bring greater awareness to volunteering was commended for the quality of illustration and overall effectiveness of the design. The judges particularly enjoyed the way in which the design directed the viewer's eyes to the main message in the top corner, due to the flowing nature of the highly enjoyable illustration.



WINNER, 16-18

SARA MAHMOOD (17)

Sara's Cancelled Exhibition book is a very well-constructed piece of graphic design and the idea to showcase her fellow students and their excellent artwork was particularly poignant under the circumstances of the last year. The judges were very impressed by the time and effort put in to produce the book, full of interviews, imagery and creative writing.

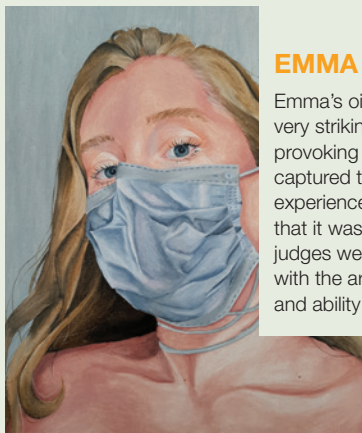
MADDY HERRIGAN (17)

The judges found Maddy's comic, which spreads awareness about autism, to be very effective and thought-provoking. Using the accessible nature of comics and graphic novels to convey feelings which can otherwise be difficult to express is particularly compelling.



EMMA SHAW (17)

Emma's oil painting is a very striking and thought-provoking piece which has captured the mood and experiences of the time that it was created in. The judges were very impressed with the artistic expression and ability shown.



ISOBEL ROBSON (19)

The finely detailed and dreamlike nature of Isobel's mixed media artwork was given even further meaning and gravitas thanks to her truly excellent written support piece. The judges greatly enjoyed the level of detail and the use of symbolism displayed throughout the image.



AWARD EIGHT Music

Judges: Graham Drummond, Claire Dyer, Mahalia Edwards, Rosemary Healy, Tony Lovell, Ian Marshall, Helen Murray, Faye Oakland (Nottingham Music Hub)

Sponsors:

NOTTINGHAM
musichub

WINNER, 11-15

OSCAR MARSHALL (15)

Oscar's track "2wenty4" is a complex dream-like composition, switching the melody between vocals and guitar to create atmosphere. He has clearly put a lot of thought into this song, adding layers that gradually increase in complexity, as the listener is drawn in and left to enjoy the creative payout.



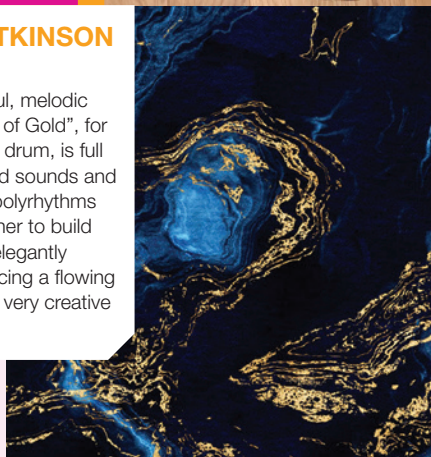
NATALIE KEAY (13)

Natalie uses some beautiful melodic phrases at the beginning of her song, "Goodbye To The Night", neatly intertwined with the vocal melody, to capture the listener's attention. The judges enjoyed her creative lyrics, stylish lilting intro and guitar/keyboard accompaniment which changed pace throughout, building to the centre of the song.

WINNER, 16-18

SAMANTHA ATKINSON (18)

Samantha's thoughtful, melodic composition, "Ocean of Gold", for saxophone and hang drum, is full of Celtic charm, varied sounds and ingenuity. Harmonic polyrhythms work intricately together to build a very atmospheric, elegantly building piece, producing a flowing and calming effect. A very creative piece of work.



VANESSA IHEAMA (17), RONIA IHEAMA (17), CLAIRE IHEAMA (12), MATTHEW COOK (19)

"Not Anymore" is a very well written song with a clear structure. This group entry is raw, organic and reflects the deeply personal subject matter. The piano tunes in the background build the listener's interest, while the vocals and rap are well delivered. Strong writing.

AMI SHARPE (17)

Ami's track "I'm Fine" has a beautiful melody, telling the story with a nice simple guitar accompaniment and a good mix of live and electronic sounds. The judges particularly enjoyed the syncopated Spanish guitar, trumpet sounds and use of duet vocals to focus the sounds. A very creative, well-textured piece of work.

HEATHER BLORE (22)

A sense of melancholy is communicated through Heather's lyrics for her song "Pipe Dream", supported by strong, beautiful vocals and an interesting instrumental backing, creating a memorable soundscape. Syncopated stab chords lend rhythmic interest and the drum part is well constructed to mirror the rhythms of other instruments.

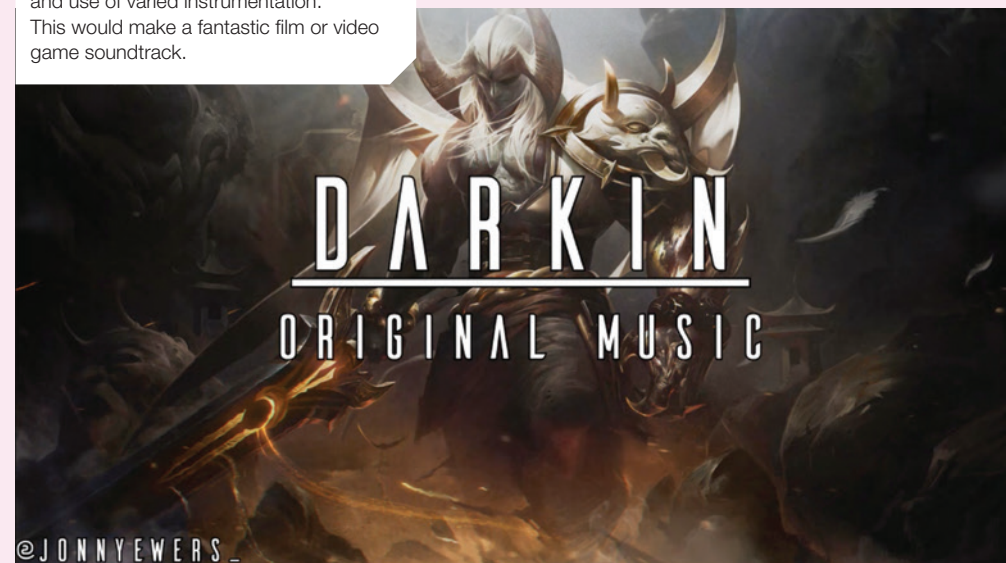
HEIDI PASHLEY JOHNSON (17)

Heidi's track "Glass Frogs" demonstrates an excellent melodic jazz feature on the trumpet and a good use of different mutes for sounds, giving simple but effective change in timbre. A good chord progression sits under the jazzy lyrical melodies keeping the listener's interest. Really nice playing and musical aesthetic.

WINNER, 19-24

JONATHAN EWERS (23)

Jonathan's piece "Darkin" has an atmospheric and evocative beginning which builds to a dramatic conclusion on an epic scale. Interest is sustained throughout, with developing textures and use of varied instrumentation. This would make a fantastic film or video game soundtrack.





AWARD NINE Photography

Judges: Mandi Chandler (Nottingham College),
Sarah Mensah (YCA 2020 Winner), James Ritson (Serif),
Rob Smalley (Scene Photography)

Sponsors:
 NOTTINGHAM
COLLEGE



WINNER, 11-15

DAISY BARTRAM (13)

By using a slow shutter speed technique Daisy has depicted the sentiment of loneliness felt by many people throughout lockdown. The judges commented on the contrasting colours created by light, which Daisy describes as the hope of a better, brighter future ahead. An exciting young talent.

CAITLIN COLLINS (15)

A stunning, sensitively produced set of landscape images that really capture the beauty of the coast. Caitlin's appropriate use of depth of field has allowed every feature to be in focus, further highlighting the beauty of these natural elements.



WINNER, 16-18

ROSIE BAIRD (18)

A beautiful set of fashion photography, demonstrating technical and creative flair and maturity. Conceptually strong and of the moment. The judges agreed Rosie's images would sit well in any style magazine – they are well executed technically, with a striking choice of composition and artistic direction.

LEAH HANDLEY (18)

A thoughtful and powerful set of black and white images that deeply reflect the feeling of loneliness during lockdown. Leah's careful use of shadow and light is well controlled to create atmosphere and bring focus on the facial expressions of the model, longing for a better tomorrow.

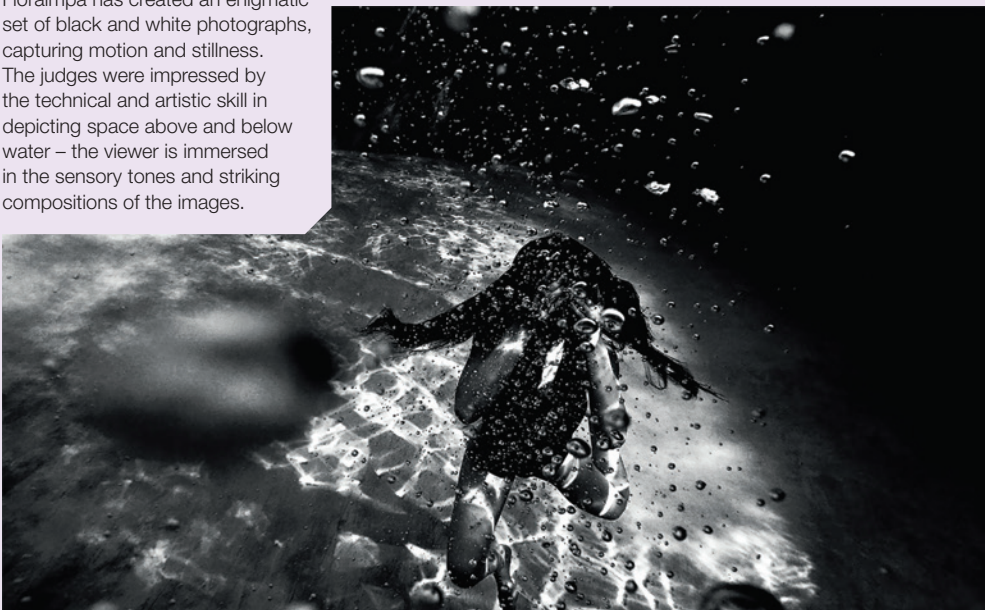




WINNER, 11-15

FIORALMPA BANOUSI (22)

Fioralmpa has created an enigmatic set of black and white photographs, capturing motion and stillness. The judges were impressed by the technical and artistic skill in depicting space above and below water – the viewer is immersed in the sensory tones and striking compositions of the images.



ABBIE WALL (17)

Abbie's evocative landscape photography is simply beautiful, with the blended barriers between the sky and the sea only defined by the alignments of the boats on sea. The greyscale ombre created by both the sea and the sky has been artistically captured.



SID FORD (21)

A powerful and cohesive series of images that effectively capture the vintage era of the 1960s, and the character and personality of the model. The judges commented on Sid's strong concept, composition and choice of location.

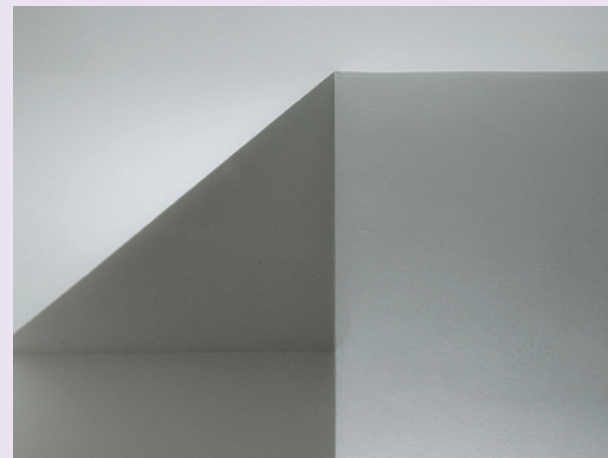
YASSEEN HARDCASTLE (23)

The judges were struck by Yasseen's stunning images of wild animals – especially the painterly quality created by the backlighting and movement of the hyena. Dynamic, intriguing and enchanting photography.



ARTHUR HSU (23)

Arthur's three images were commended by the judges for the striking simplicity of their bold, graphic compositions. A highly effective set of photographs that stood out for their subject, tone and composition.



Judges: Florence Avis (Nottingham Lakeside Arts), Cassie Bradley (Actor), Rachel Feneley (Nottingham Lakeside Arts), Ty Healy (Rapper/Poet)

Sponsors:



WINNER, 11-15

PHOEBE ANDERSON (15)

Phoebe created an original monologue inspired by the suicide of her friend – a very courageous piece of writing exploring grief. An incredibly moving and deeply truthful performance with powerful commitment to character. Raw, bold and brave.

CONNIE HARRISON (13)

Connie performed an original monologue written by her Mum which is the story of an older sibling dealing with the realities of living in a family who have a sick child. The judges were impressed by the open energy and flow of the piece and how Connie thoughtfully demonstrates frustration, confusion and worry.



SOPHIE WILLIAMS (12)

Sophie is a promising and bright young talent – her original monologue captivates the audience from the start. Her creative writing is bold and imaginative. Wonderfully raw, open and honest storytelling.

ELIZABETH BACON (18)

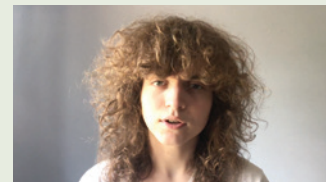
Elizabeth's original monologue, inspired by past experiences, is a provocative and deeply important piece of writing. Elizabeth's vivid creation of and commitment to character is captured in a courageous and powerful performance that stays with you long after it has finished.



WINNER, 16-18

TAWANA TONGOONA (17)

An ambitious and emotionally challenging piece which Tawana fully makes his own; truth reverberates through every line. A courageous performance which shows unwavering commitment to the character. A bright young talent.



LOUIS BARNES-CUPIT (17)

Louis's short self-written spoken word piece, about the failures of how sex education is taught in schools, is captivating and engaging from the start. A unique new writing talent; powerful subject matter navigated with intelligence and sensitivity.



SAFIA OAKLEY-GREEN (19)

A captivating and powerful performance with real intensity of emotion, courage and commitment to the story. Safia makes intelligent and creative use of the camera to tell this character's story. Raw emotion and vulnerability. A must see.



WINNER, 19-24

EMMA GRAY (24)

Emma inhabits every inch of the character in her piece, demonstrating shifts of tone, nuances of thought and a gritty vulnerability. The audience is taken on an emotional and powerful journey. An accomplished and courageous performance.

AWARD ELEVEN Visual Arts

Judges: Louisa Chambers (Nottingham Trent University), Huw Feather (Nottingham Trent University), Wingshan Smith (Nottingham Contemporary)

Sponsors:
NOTTINGHAM
TRENT UNIVERSITY

AIMEE EAST (15)

The judges appreciated Aimee's flavour and style and how she captured her brother, and inserted the whole piece into Nottingham; a really beautiful way to capture shared memories. It connected well with the locale and the brief, demonstrating emotion, human connection and a lovely atmosphere with the brushstrokes used.



VIVIEN HUGHES (13)

Vivien's exploration of mental health and contemporary concerns that affect young people was really poignant in this drawing; an example of how art can be used to overcome difficulty. The judges agreed the work had spontaneity and energy - a complicated, important piece.



WINNER, 16-18

BEKITHEMBA NCUBE (18)

The judges thought that Bekithemba's entry - inspired by Black Lives Matter protests - had a passion and energy, highlighting really important current issues. A dynamic, responsive and important piece of work - a great example of what contemporary art does, inciting emotion, empathy and understanding.

HOLLIE BETTS (21)

A technically stunning piece of work that really captured the feeling of the pandemic and the desperation to get beyond and outside our phones. The judges thought the work showed anxiety and isolation and a portrayal of what it's like to be a young person at this time. Simple but effective technically, subjectively, compositionally and emotionally.



CHLOE BURNS (21)

The judges found it interesting how Chloe had integrated dance into her practice, creating work that had depth and was complex and experimental. They liked that it was a personal response to current issues, exploring a student's perspective of the pandemic.



WINNER, 11-15

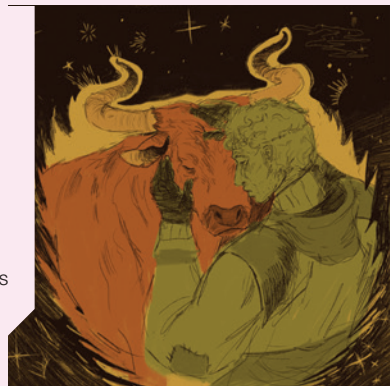
HOLLY SMART (15)

A technically staggering entry which the judges found joyous and exemplary - they admired the way Hollie had reclaimed and reimagined her history and connected to her roots. There is a sense of this being a pivotal moment in Hollie's practice, where she really gets to know her family.



SARA MAHMOOD (17)

The judges thought Sara's entry was technically brilliant - skilfully capturing emotion, painterly without being over-painted, with beautiful form and a vivid colour palette. They loved the highlighting and how Sara had managed to show an expression that wasn't cheerful, despite using so much colour.



WINNER, 19-24

YASMEEN THANTREY (24)

The judges appreciated the sentiment behind Yasmeen's work - a commentary on Eurocentric beauty standards - and agreed it is an important issue. They loved the presentation of the print hung on the washing line - the translucence and delicacy - and thought the urban setting really elevated it.





a choice of 1000s of cars
with complete quality &
safety checks, all backed by
our price match promise.

that's good **carma**.



Photograph by
Daisy Bartram (13)

Can You Help Young Creatives In Nottingham?

At the heart of the annual Young Creative Awards is Young Creatives Nottingham, a registered charity (number 1168804).

It is the aim of Young Creatives Nottingham to nurture and support the next generation of writers, musicians, designers, actors, architects, artists and entrepreneurs; helping young people to find ways into education, training and employment; and feeding the creative minds needed to help our communities flourish.

As well as organising the annual YCAs, Young Creatives Nottingham is working with local schools to inspire creativity in young people – creating projects such as “Postcards from Lockdown” (pages 6-7). We are also investing

in and supporting the careers of young creative practitioners, through the development of Notts Creatives and other programmes of support.

To do any of this we are reliant on the generosity and support of our sponsors and donors and the time and energy of volunteers – a growing community of magnificent individuals and organisations committed to investing in creativity and young people in Nottingham.

If you would like to find out more about how you can join this community, and help to inspire, celebrate and support the next generation of Nottingham creatives, then please get in touch by emailing info@youngcreativeawards.org.

Thank you.

“To do any of this we are reliant on the generosity and support of our sponsors and donors.”

Graphics software redefined.



Young Creative Awards
Nottingham

YOUNG CREATIVES NOTTINGHAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Andy Afford (Chair), Joanne Belton, Nigel Cooke,
Jonathan English, Michael Khouri-Bent, Ann Priest, David Tilly,
Andrew Tucker, Sharon Walia

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCERE THANKS TO:

YCA PATRONS:

Wolfgang Buttress, Rob Green, Jamal Sterrett Phoenix, Nina Smith

YCA OPERATIONS GROUP:

Jess Ashley (Dance4), Florence Avis (Nottingham Lakeside Arts),
Ian Burton (Nottingham Music Hub), Mandi Chandler (Nottingham
College), Dan Doughty (Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies),
Rachel Feneley (Nottingham Lakeside Arts), Helen Garrigan
(Nottingham Trent University), Jonathan Laud (Nottingham College),
Alex Lipinski (Maber), Cathy Mahmood (ChalleNGe), Alison Whitlock
(Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies)

YCA CO-ORDINATOR:

Nick Lawford

NOTTS CREATIVES PROJECT FACILITATOR:

Gina Mollett

YCA MARKETING:

LeftLion

BROCHURE DESIGN:

STENCIL

ACCOUNTANCY:

Audra Wynter, Wyntax Consultancy Services

Young Creatives Nottingham is a registered charity number 1168804.

Thank You To Our Sponsors & Partners

The Young Creative Awards would not be possible without the generosity and hard work of our amazing sponsors and partners. We would like to say a HUGE thank you to the following incredible organisations whose support for young creatives in Nottingham is so important:

BROADWAY

Nottingham's independent cinema, hosting a BFI Talent Executive supporting talented filmmakers from across the Midlands.
broadway.org.uk

CARSHOP

The UK's leading used car retailer. As part of the Sytner Group, CarShop boasts a choice of thousands of quality used and nearly new vehicles across 13 CarShop stores, including its flagship Nottingham store which opened in 2020.
carshop.co.uk

CONFETTI INSTITUTE OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Specialist creative technology education provider, delivering future-driven courses to support graduates into careers in music, gaming, TV, film, live events, graphic design and more.
confetti.ac.uk

DANCE4

An international centre for the development of extraordinary 21st century dance. A unique voice in the UK dance sector, supporting artists and practitioners who are interested in the development of dance.
dance4.co.uk

IT'S IN NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham's central hub for news, information and events. Whether you are visiting or a resident of our fine city, It's in Nottingham - brought to you by Nottingham BID - has all the inspiration you are looking for.
itsinnottingham.com
nottinghambid.com

LEFTLION

Nottingham's guide to the culture, art, music, food, sport and community of the city.
leftlion.co.uk

MABER

An architecture, interior and landscape design practice, aspiring to deliver great buildings for our clients and end users.
maber.co.uk

NOTTINGHAM CITYCARE PARTNERSHIP

Award-winning community health services provider, dedicated to improving long-term health and wellbeing of local people.
nottinghamcitycare.nhs.uk

NOTTINGHAM COLLEGE

Offering a comprehensive range of further and higher education training opportunities, including a wide range of expressive and innovative courses for those with a creative flair.
nottinghamcollege.ac.uk

NOTTINGHAM MUSIC HUB

Committed to broadening young people's access to music-making through life-changing programmes. Providing world class music education.
nottinghammusicclub.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

With its internationally recognised School of Art & Design, NTU is one of the city's creative cornerstones. University of the Year 2019.
ntu.ac.uk

ROMO

Market leader in designer fabrics and wallcoverings, Romo has six established brands which have their own unique character and style, and which sell worldwide.
romo.com

SERIF

Nottingham-based software company behind the award-winning Affinity suite of professional creative applications which have been adopted by over two million users worldwide.
affinity.serif.com

SKELETON

A creative video production agency helping businesses and brands to do remarkable things with video. Creating compelling content that captivates audiences, inspires action and drives results.
skeletonproductions.com

STENCIL

A vibrant and creative full service design agency, providing the best in creative and critical brand communications strategy and thinking.
stencil-agency.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Home to the country's only entirely student-run theatre – Nottingham New Theatre – and the internationally recognised multi artform programme run by Nottingham Lakeside Arts.
nottingham.ac.uk

WALKGROVE

One of the UK's leading learning consultancies, offering bespoke and generic learning solutions, learning management systems and a full consultative service across the learning lifecycle.
walkgrove.co.uk

We are also very grateful to the following organisations who have supported the work of Young Creatives Nottingham over the last year:

Arnold Clark Community Fund, ChalleNGe, #danSOUP, Green Hall Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, Thomas Wall Trust and the Wesleyan Foundation.

BROADWAY



To see more work by the 2021 winners and finalists (and to keep up to date with next year's Young Creative Awards dates) go to:

youngcreativeawards.org



Photograph by
Fioralmpa Banousi (22)



Supporting young people through partnership.

STENCIL

Creative strategy and critical-thinking;
branding; visual, audio and written content
– delivered across print & digital

STENCIL-agency.co.uk

 **confetti**
Institute of creative technologies



Young Creative Awards
Nottingham



@ycreativesnottm
youngcreativeawards.org

Cover image: Sid Ford (21)