

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ART, BUT I KNOW WHAT I LIKE

VAP CIC DIRECTORS' CHOICE

I Don't Know About Art, But I Know What I Like - ever heard anyone say this? Maybe yourself? This pathway exposes a mix of artists who work in familiar media and/or recognisable subject matter contrasted with those whose work challenges our notions of what art is, what its purpose is, and deals with contemporary themes.

Narrowing choices was very difficult! Whether you think you know about art or not, we hope you will find something you 'like'; something that challenges and makes you think; and experiences that help demystify contemporary art.

You can start your tour at any geographic point. Some of the locations have multiple exhibitors, but watch out for these. We'd love to know what you think! NB many of these have timed entry - please see listings and online for details.

Stonehouse has become a hub of creative activity and is a great place to start plotting your route, starting with the newest venue Nudge's **The Plot at 80-84 Union Street**. There

you can look out for Jane Athron's **COVID19 PROJECT** ²⁷, a series of paintings produced during lockdown. Can you relate any of the responses Jane expresses to the pandemic to yours? You'll find a number of other artists in this reclaimed space.

Next you can head to **Leadworks at 170 Rendle Street**, another historical space transformed for arts and community activity. Here you'll find contemplative **Ham Woods in Lockdown Paintings** by Michael Battley ¹⁸, which will transport you to this oasis of calm. But don't stop there! Also in this space is a collaborative exhibition **Borderland** ²¹ by 4 artists; Sovay Berriman, Alice Mahoney, Dean Knight, and Patrick Lowry. This multimedia, multi-sensory work will challenge your perceptions. What collaborative conversation themes might have led to this work?

Your next Stonehouse stop is **The Clipper at 65 Union Street**. Here you will be transported by Port and Starboard, an exhibition of new maritime paintings by Ed Tapper ²⁹.

From Union Street head down the Stonehouse peninsula to **Ocean Studios in the Royal William Yard** for the Open Studios of a number of artists and makers ³⁵. Keep a particular eye out for massive textile installation **GLMC - 'In Extremis'** Zsa Mason, Henry Salvini, Megan Lockwood, Megan Wright, Tina Kutter, Ellie Bruce, Teresa Stabb, Leah Jewitt ³⁶ bringing together their rich and varied skill-sets, working remotely and connecting virtually.

Heading West, stop in at the Mayor's Parlour, **Devonport Guildhall, Ker Street** for the **Cine Sisters** ⁴⁰ film programme. This screening programme is the launch of a network of 'women messing with moving image' and displays a range of technique and vision. In the city centre, more moving image is on show at the **Levinsky Gallery, University of Plymouth**. The video installation **Narrenschiff** (German for 'Ship of Fools') by renowned artist **Kehinde Wiley** ⁵⁸ and presented by **The Box**. What's in a name - what might the title of the work signify?

If you do like to be beside the seaside, there are fabulous views from **Tinside Lido, Hoe Road**, the site of **ALL AT SEA**, the collaborative work of Rhizome Artists' Collective ⁴¹. This outdoor drawing performance and installation is a response to the impact of ever-lasting plastic on marine environments. Can art make a difference?

What themes and observations inspire these varied artists? Why not have a conversation? Distanced of course!