

SHIFT

What is it all about?

This is an Easy Read resource
about the project SHIFT



WHAT IS SHIFT?



SHIFT is a project to help raise the profile of learning disabled and neurodivergent artists across the UK, through a new website



SHIFT was set up in 2020 by Jennifer Lauren Gilbert, and launched in 2021 (delay due to Covid-19)

JENNIFER LAUREN
GALLERY

Jennifer runs the Jennifer Lauren Gallery. With the Gallery, Jennifer works with disabled and self-taught artists from around the world



Jennifer is a passionate voice for artists who may not be able to speak up for themselves, and is keen to provide opportunities for artists to share their voice in any way they feel comfortable doing.



SHIFT was set up following conversations between Jennifer and learning disabled and neurodivergent artists about the issues of where and how their work is currently shown in galleries and museums



And how they and their work is displayed and discussed



Jennifer has witnessed their issues first hand, with their work not displayed to the same high standard as other pieces in galleries and museums

And this needs to change!



SHIFT exists to help get artists and their voices centre-stage



This means not just their voice, but their artwork. For artists who are non-verbal, their art is their voice, and is just as powerful

HOW DOES IT WORK?



SHIFT looks at the lives and art works of learning disabled and neurodivergent visual artists from across the UK



Their stories are documented through:

- short accessible films
- artwork presentation on the website
- written text



Where possible, each artist (or someone that knows them well), shares their life story, their experiences, what motivates them and a little about their art



These artists were chosen as their artwork has been shown outside of their supported studio setting



Alongside these artists, Jennifer has recorded talks with other learning disabled and neurodivergent artists, about:



- how they feel others see both themselves and their artworks
- what they believe needs to change in the art world to gain more acceptance of both of themselves and their art

WHY DOES IT EXIST?



SHIFT exists to continue to talk to curators of galleries and art collections around the lack of events and exhibitions for learning disabled and neurodivergent artists



It aims to promote these artists in a non-judgemental way, through online and in-person events



In future, gatekeepers and curators at galleries and museums will form part of these conversations

By this we mean there will be a discussion with the people that make the decisions, on the work shown on the walls in these places



These conversations will be used to look at areas where changes can be made, in meaningful and inclusive ways

CONTACT US

If you want to know more or have any questions at all, please contact Jennifer via the below:



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