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barbican



PUBLIC PROGRAMME

Headway East London: *differently various*

The Curve, Barbican Centre

29 July – 6 August 2023

Media View 28 July, 3-5pm: [RSVP here](#)

Free admission

#differentlyvarious @barbicancentre

Supported by the Peter Sowerby Foundation, the Rix-Thompson-Rothenberg Foundation, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England. This exhibition is the culmination of a 4-year partnership between the Barbican and Headway East London.

Over nine days in summer 2023, members from Haggerston-based charity supporting people affected by brain injury, **Headway East London**, will take over the Barbican's iconic Curve gallery to stage *differently various*, a multifaceted exhibition and a rich public programme that together will create an immersive installation and a space to learn, create, and discuss.

Replicating Headway East London's centre within the 90-metre space of The Curve, *differently various* will showcase artworks as diverse as Headway's eclectic community of members, celebrating the complexity and creativity of people living with brain injury. The space will provide an opportunity to explore the invaluable work of the charity, learn about brain injury, and take in an astonishing collection of neurodiverse art.

An extensive public programme will run as part of the exhibition. There will be tours, talks, and workshops, as well as relaxed performances of music; creating spaces for sharing perspectives, challenging received understanding, and asking questions.

The full programme of events and ticketing details are still being finalised, more will be added to the [website](#) in due course.

WORKSHOPS

Handful of Clay

Sat 29 Jul & Sun 6 Aug, 12-2pm

The Curve

Free admission

Members from Headway East London lead a clay-making workshop inspired by the exhibition. Members of the Submit to Love studio will be on hand to assist, offering guidance through the process of turning a handful of clay into a miniature terracotta sculpture. The session will use air dry clay which does not need firing, so participants can take their pieces home after the event.

"So you say you can't draw"

Sun 30 July, 1-2pm

Fountain Room

Free but ticketed

Headway East London member and Submit to Love artist **Chris Miller** leads a workshop centred on (re)discovering the pleasures of creativity. There will be a talk from Miller on his own artistic practice, followed by drawing exercises and group discussions. No previous drawing experience required.

Meet the Artists: Jason Ferry, Brian Searle & Tirzah Mileham

Sun 30 Jul, 5-6pm

The Curve

Free but ticketed

A relaxed and informal opportunity to meet Headway East London members and artists **Jason Ferry, Brian Searle, and Tirzah Mileham**, with a Q&A facilitated by Submit to Love studio lead **Michelle Carlile**. Jason, Brian and Tirzah will introduce their work, discuss their artistic practice, and explore the importance of creative collaboration.

Drop in and Draw

Mon 31 Jul, 12-2pm

The Curve

Free admission – drop in

A chance to experience the chaos, creativity, and colour of the Submit to Love studio. Members from Headway East London will be in the space making art, and visitors are invited to sit with the group and make their own work, drawing inspiration from the artists and installation surrounding them.

Music Jam

Tue 1 Aug 1-2pm & Sat 5 Aug 4.30-5.30pm

The Curve

Free admission – drop in

A freestyle, spontaneous jam session in the style of Headway East London's much-loved day service music groups. Grab an instrument, use your voice, clap your hands – no experience or musical ability required.

Let's Move: An exploration of movement and dance

Wed 2 Aug, 12-1pm

Fountain Room

Free but ticketed

A relaxed and welcoming dance session led by the Headway East London team. The session will start with a brief introduction and a short video of a recent dance project from one of Headway's dance collaborations. There will be gentle stretches and body awareness exercises, followed by an opportunity for improvisation and partner work and later an optional moment to share the results of the session with the group.

Spice Mix Workshop

Wed 2 Aug, 1-2pm

The Curve

Free but ticketed

The celebrated Headway East London kitchen crew lead a workshop about herbs and spices and the connection between food and experience, culture, and childhood. All are welcome to make a unique spice mix or follow a recipe and brew one of the famous Headway blends. The session will be a chance to share food memories, make cultural connections, and exchange favourite recipes.

Collaborative Stitch Workshop

Thu 3 Aug, 12-1pm

The Curve

Free admission – drop in

Audiences are invited to add their own stitches to Headway East London's collaborative embroidery projects, with the chance to meet some of the Sew Bros and Sister Stitch artists in the space. Open to all, no sewing experience required.

Music Works

Thu 3 Aug, 12-12pm

Fountain Room

Free but ticketed

Nordoff & Robbins Music Therapist **Oliver Kluczewski** leads an improvisational music session, with the aim of making new music in a fun and supportive atmosphere. There will be opportunities to play a variety of instruments, sing familiar songs and learn something new. No musical talents or experience required.

Sensory Tasting & Conversation

Fri 4 Aug, 12-1pm

The Curve

Free but ticketed

This interactive session will look at the ways in which people's responses to food may be affected after a brain injury. Participants will explore textures, tastes, and smells alongside Headway East London members who have experienced changes in their relationship to food, perceptions of taste, or changes in their diets due to difficulty swallowing.

Queen of Wonky Drawing Workshop

Sat 5 Aug, 12-2pm

The Curve

Free admission – drop in

A family-friendly drop-in workshop led by acclaimed Submit to Love artist and self-proclaimed Queen of Wonky, **Sam Jevon**. An opportunity to explore mark-making and drawing techniques and embrace our inner wonkiness in the process. No previous drawing experience required.

FILM SCREENINGS

Relaxed Screening: *differently various* (15)

Wed 2 Aug 2023, 6.30pm

Cinema 3

£6

A special evening exploring the hidden experience of brain injury through the films of **Posy Dixon** and **Zara Joan Miller**, featuring members of Headway East London, a charity supporting people affected by brain injury.

Guests will have the opportunity to watch BAFTA-nominated director Posy Dickson's film ***Chaos/Quest***, filmed whilst an artist-in-residence at Submit to Love Studios in 2020, and hear from film-maker **Zara Joan Miller** about the inspiration behind her documentary short, ***Portrait of Tony***, and their collaboration behind the film.

The screening will include a Q&A with the film-makers and members featured in the films, sharing their experience of making the films together and representing the hidden worlds of brain injury through film.

TOURS

Exhibition Tour

Sat 29 July & Wed 2 Aug, 5-6pm

The Curve

Free but ticketed

This exclusive tour of the exhibition is led by **Yokabet Mekuria** and **Billy Mann**, members of Headway East London, with **Jennifer Lauren** and **Lisa Slominski** from Art et al., who led the curatorial advisory for *differently various*. The members will give their unique perspective on the show and offer a behind-the-scenes insight into the process of bringing together this pioneering exhibition.

Sensory Tour

Tue 1 Aug, 12-1pm & Fri 4 Aug, 1-2pm

The Curve

Free but ticketed

A guided sensory journey through *differently various*. This tour will offer opportunities to interact with and experience the exhibition through a range of senses in a welcoming and inclusive space for those with complex support needs and their carers. The tour will bring elements of the artworks to life using smell, touch, sound, and movement.

BSL Tour

Wed 2 Aug, 6.30pm

The Curve

Free but ticketed

A British Sign Language tour of *differently various* led by **John Wilson**, illuminating key artworks and points of interest in the exhibition.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

Ariane Oiticica – Senior Programming Communications Manager, Barbican

e – ariane.oiticica@barbican.org.uk

t – 020 3834 1181

m – 079 1719 0584

Georgia Holmes – Communications Assistant, Barbican

e – georgia.holmes@barbican.org.uk

t – 020 3834 1182

For information about Headway East London:

Claire Stone, Public Engagement & Comms Manager

e – claire.stone@headwayeastlondon.org

t – 020 7749 7790, Ext: 7810

Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional

artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We are the home of the London Symphony Orchestra, and a London base of the Royal Shakespeare Company. We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other partners and associates: the Academy of Ancient Music, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boy Blue, Britten Sinfonia, Cheek by Jowl, Drum Works, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and We Are Parable.

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