

## **Denise Hickey**

### **Statement of Intent**

I strongly believe in the possibilities of art, education and community to change lives and therefore change the world. I feel passionately about the role of pedagogical acts in creating active participants, acknowledging and responding to fields, not only in formal settings but also in approaches outside of the institution. In particular, when developing engaged, critical thinking research can develop and create alternative lines of enquiry to imagine other possible futures.

My work and research take a variety of forms but at the core is an understanding that art is an intrinsically pedagogical act. Assembled with a philosophy rooted in Brechtian theory, and a deliberately playful approach, the work is an exploration of how we occupy space and gives a means to play in this arena.

I have worked as an artist educator for more than 20 years. Working as an artist in residence in a variety of community, schools and educational settings. I am interested in exploring contested spaces of institutions within institutions to research the possibilities of community building and boundary transgression.

[Denise Hickey – between something and nothing](#)

### **Curriculum Vitae**

#### **EDUCATION**

2024-2028: PhD The Materiality of Meaning Making in Gallery Learning. CDP Studentship with National Gallery x Goldsmiths University  
2022-2024: MA Art Education, Culture and Practice, UCL Institute of Education. Distinction  
2015-2016: QTS Schools Direct Teacher Training, UCL Institute of Education  
2006-07: BA Fine Art London Metropolitan University (year 3) 2:1  
2004-06: BA Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork, Ireland (years 1&2)

#### **RECENT EXHIBITING AND PROJECT SHARING**

The icing room collective. 2016- ongoing throughout London.

*The Wicker Arms*

Summer 2025

Icing room x ha.lf x Staffordshire Street

*New Wave*

2023

Spitalfields Studios

London

*Procreate Project Archive*

2023

Mother House Studios, London

Manchester Art Trail and Online

*Who Holds the Sword?*

2023

Hypha Studios

London

*Finding Space*

2023

OPEN Ealing Arts Centre

London

*Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize*

2021

Trinity Buoy Wharf

London

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

The Design Museum, Kensington High Street, London

**Senior Learning Manager: Schools and Young People**

Strategic development of the schools and young people offer  
Project management, including funding reporting and budget management  
Allocation of resources and development of a strong freelancer team in line with the department objectives.  
2023-present

Big Creative Training, Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow E17

**Lead Teacher UAL Fine Art level 2**

Teaching vocational fine art programme to high risk young people aged 16-18  
Responsible for planning, development and implementation of all aspects of learning.  
2023

Normanhurst School, 68-74 Station Road, London, E4 7AB

**Head of Art & Design**

Teaching Art, DT, Fine Art & Graphic Communication across KS 3 & 4  
Leading the art and design department and responsibility for all aspects of planning, implementation and evaluation of a range of engaging Fine Art, DT and Graphic Communications schemes of Learning across KS3 & 4.  
Working in support of and in collaboration with the junior teachers to develop embedded art and design learning.  
2016-2023

Loxford Academy, Loxford Lane, Ilford, IG1 2UT

**Art Teacher**

Art taught across KS 3, 4 & 5  
Extra curricular and support interventions devised and maintained.  
Evidence based department and whole school working strategy development.  
2015-2016

Highbury Grove School/ Cubitt Gallery Education, London, N5 2EQ

**Artist in Residence and Arts Programmer**

Development of engaging art workshops in response to the needs of the whole school community. Managing Arts Council funding.  
Interagency collaboration lead.  
2014-2015

Bromley-By-Bow Centre

**Artist in Residence- After hours Women's project**

Co-development of arts projects in collaboration with the women attending the group. Exploring making , place and meaning.  
2015

Bow Arts

**Artist Educator**

Various arts projects developed in collaboration with Bow Arts and Teachers at primary and secondary schools in East London  
2010-2016

Frances Bardsley Academy, Romford, RM1 2RR

**Artist in Residence and Educational Programme Curator**

Development of artwork, projects, exhibitions and student-led programmes.  
Evaluation, funding applications and budget management.  
2008-2014

Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS) Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland

**Youth Worker**

Implementation of a broad range of youth work programmes, including return to education for early school leavers.  
2001-2003

Samhlaiocht Arts, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland

**Community Artist and Programmer**

Development of community led arts projects for a cultural Easter Festival.  
1999-2001

**References**

Laura Copsey  
Illustration Lecturer

Kingston University  
[l.m.copsey@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.copsey@kingston.ac.uk)

Annie Davey  
Lecturer in Art Culture and Education  
IOE - Culture, Communication & Media  
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Artist Collaborator  
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