

In this Moment

5 February – 14 April 2022

An immersive sensory environment of interactive sound works and soft sculptures exploring ideas around nature and the cosmos.

India Harvey, Gawain Hewitt and musicians from City of London Sinfonia and young people from Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital Schools.

Facilitated by classical music, sunlight and shadow and bespoke technologies, the exhibition reveals some of the processes used by artists working in psychiatric settings to encourage young people to refocus their attention away from illness and move towards immediacy, spontaneity and improvisation.

Artist and composer Gawain Hewitt has collaborated with classical musicians from the City of London Sinfonia (CLS) and young people from the Schools, as part of the award-winning Sound Young Minds music-making project. In the collaborations, musicians on harp, clarinet, violin, viola, double bass, cello, oboe, French horn, bassoon and other instruments drew on themes of bird song, the seasons and astronomy from CLS' repertoire and classical pieces by Vivaldi and JS Bach. The musicians responded directly to sounds made by the young people on bespoke instruments and digital platforms produced by Hewitt, who turned the hybrid compositions into sculptures.

Working in safe and gently exploratory ways with another group of young people from the Schools, artist and researcher India Harvey created new methods of making within multi-sensory environments. They wore drawing and painting tools attached to their bodies, utilised sunlight to make cyanotype prints with found natural objects, and cast shadows with aluminium sculptures on folded fabric to create fractal patterns.

Soft sculptures

India Harvey and young people from Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital Schools



In the gallery you will find two benches, a beanbag, an upholstered circular seat, some cushions and other huggable artworks made by India Harvey and the young people by dyeing, painting, drawing and using cyanotype on fabric.

Through workshops at the school, India and the young people explored different ways of making with support from teachers and teaching assistants. They created multisensory environments in which the young people could freely choose the processes that best met their interests and sensory preferences.

They made drawing tools that attached to their bodies to paint with, used sunlight to make cyanotype prints with feathers and found natural objects and made aluminium sculptures to cast shadows which informed how they folded fabric to become fractal patterns. The soft sculptures display the young people artwork in 3D interactive forms, supporting the bodies of visitors to the exhibition to relax and enjoy the soundscapes.

Sound sculptures

Gawain Hewitt and musicians from City of London Sinfonia and young people from Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital Schools

Hexagon



Created by Gawain in Autumn 2018 in response to City of London Sinfonia's (CLS) Modern Mystics series. Gawain worked with young people to create the core visual themes that eventually took the form of a number of hexagonal images. The final piece, Hexagon, features images made by young people involved in the project and plays music created with the CLS team. Originally etched and lasercut in plywood, the images had a tendency to warp. This new version has the same images etched and lasercut into acrylic.

How to use: Each hexagon plate placed onto the Hexagon allows the viewer to access different music created by the young people, interact with it by touching the circles on the surface.

Dawn Chorus



In 2019, CLS' concert series Absolute Bird featured repertoire based on bird song as well as audience participation. The workshops in Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital responded to this theme drawing on pieces from the concert as well as other music about birds and bird song. Dawn Chorus is an abstraction of a tree, based on a single slice of wood from a mango tree and hand selected in a wood yard in Puna, India, three branches float above on copper moorings.

How to use: Place a sculpture of a bird on a branch. Depending on which birds are present, and which order they are placed in, different music made by the young people is played.

Four Seasons



In 2020, CLS performed Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and workshops at the end of 2019 and early 2020 responded to extracts from the piece as well as the seasons of autumn and spring. In this sound sculpture, Gawain took an original 1930's gramophone and repurposed it into an interactive installation. In place of a record, a tree shows all four seasons simultaneously and, in place of a tone arm, a playable prayer bowl represents the sun.

How to use: Touching any of the thirty buttons on the front of the gramophone revolves the tree into a different position and plays a piece of music from the young people's series of compositions.