Three Percent - A project with Phakama, October/November 2014

It is said that you only need three percent of the population to start a revolution – that’s all it takes to wake up, change things and make a difference.

Drawing inspiration from Tunisian artist Nadia Kaabi-Linke’s new exhibition, The Future Rewound & The Cabinet of Souls, Three Percent responded to the themes of the artist’s work: restriction, confinement and freedom. The resulting performance explored ideologies of capitalism and colonialism and the unseen systems that control our daily lives.

Visit our blog to find out more.
Mogadishu: Lost Moderns, Photography and Poetry Workshops, March/April 2014

The programme invited reflection on the issues raised in the Mogadishu: Lost Moderns exhibition as part of the annual research theme Disappearing Cities.

Photojournalist Kate Holt of Aretestories led a series of photography workshops with young people aged 14-17 from Baraka Youth and Making Communities Work and Grow. The project explored their attitudes to their local area, and developed their composition and editing skills, encouraging them to look differently at the world around them.

Somali poet Warsan Shire, Young Poet Laureate for London 2014, led a workshop with a group of young Somalis at Baraka Youth, exploring Somali poetry and stimulating creative writing from participants.

You can view the resulting works produced as part of these workshops here.

Home - a project with young people in the RBKC, 4-10 July 2013

In response to the annual research theme, young people in the borough were invited to discuss what home means to them and what it means to feel ‘at home’ in oneself and in society. Working with artist duo kennardphillipps, they created photo-montage artworks to express their ideas on home using collage, scanning, photoshop and printing techniques.

This project was ran in collaboration with: Making Communities Work and Grow, Chelsea Youth Club, Earl’s Court Youth Club, and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Youth Support and Development Service.

Domesticity and memories of home - in collaboration with Chelsea College of Art: Spring-Summer 2013

Students on the FDA Foundation Degree in Interior Design course explored the notion of home by collaborating with a member of their family to uncover memories of domestic practice. Following their research, students designed furniture and artefacts that express characteristics of home and tap into cultural understandings of domesticity.

Led by Fernando Rihl and Reem Charif.

Capturing oral histories from the Yemeni community in London: 2-3 March 2013

To accompany the Last of the Dictionary Men exhibition, BAFTA nominated filmmaker Tina Gharavi led a weekend workshop for members of the Yemeni community in London. Participants were invited to share their own personal, family and collective stories and learnt to interview and film one another. The oral histories captured during the weekend were edited into a new short video work by Bridge + Tunnel, commissioned by The Mosaic Rooms. The video was screened during the latter weeks of the Last of the Dictionary Men exhibition, adding stories from the Yemeni community in London to the voices from South Shields.

Survival Kit For The 21st Century, Spring 2012

A way of rethinking the experience of contemporary culture from the perspective of young people in London; a personal tool for highlighting and selecting the most essential ingredients and values needed as the basis of an alternative new society. What would you take with you? What can you not live without?

Students selected relevant artefacts and wrote/created new ones, then collated them together into a survival kit. The new kit was hidden or camouflaged, in order to be discovered and put into use at the right time and place. The project was delivered by artist Dia Batal at Sion Manning RC Girls School and South Camden Community School in Spring 2012, involving students aged 12-13.

The Great Expression Workshop, Spring/Summer 2012

Developed out of her residency at The Mosaic Rooms in February/March 2012, artist Laudi Abilama worked with students at Sion Manning RC Girls School aged 12-13 over a 3-week period. Using screen-printing techniques, the students responded to issues explored by Laudi in her project The Great Depression/Expression and made prints out of their written statements on t-shirts and other materials.

An exhibition of work arising from the Survival Kit For The 21st Century and The Great Expression Workshop took place at The Mosaic Rooms on 14th June 2012.

Transforming Narratives: Stories of a Diverse City

Taking inspiration from a previous Mosaic Rooms exhibition Poetic Inspirations by Mona Saudi, students explored what contributes to the concept of belonging, and the idea that communities can come together through drawing, photography, cork board printing, mixed media collage, and text. It explored the notion of identity in relation to the wide cultural diversity of the student body. The students collected stories from their own families and daily lives to capture how they experience their hybrid identity and how they negotiate these different parts of themselves. For their final piece the students created 3D story cubes forming a sculptural piece. The project was run by Dia Batal and Reem Charif at the local St Francis of Assisi primary school, with students aged 8-10.

If you are interested to find out more or to get involved please email us at education@mosaicrooms.org