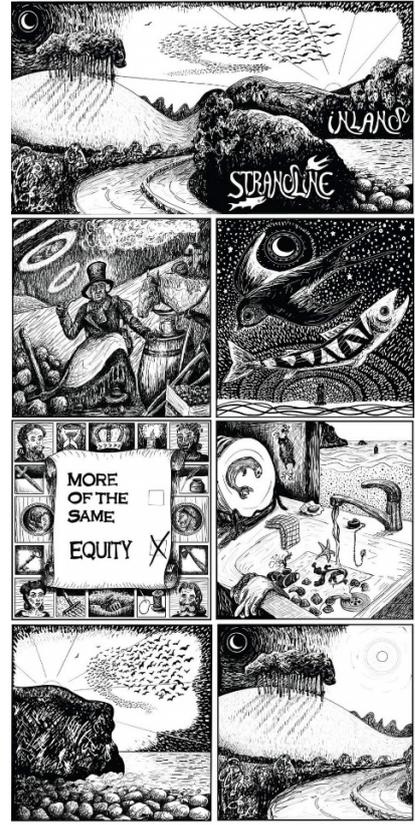


Kat Blockley

ARTIST|MUSICIAN|TEACHER



Contact: kat@katblockley.com 07790002232
www.katblockley.com

Links to social media: @a.common.treasury



Links to social media: @strandlinesongs



A Common Treasury: Kat Blockley

Artist·Musician·Teacher

Statement

With stitch, paint, print and song, Kat archives the interface of tradition and modernity in everyday life. How do we, consciously or unconsciously, situate and ground ourselves between old and new, past, present and future as we narrate our own life stories and model our surroundings in a rapidly changing world? What do we borrow from history, heritage, craft and memory? What do we discard, and what do we adapt? Kat's fascination with social narrative and how the ephemeral and eternal intermingle leads her to document the complexity of human culture across artforms.

Kat's practice begins with the serendipitous collecting of news cuttings, photographs, prints and drawings. The physical collection and archiving of items in her 'shoebox files' is fuelled by Kat's engagement with community and tradition and the parts memory and nostalgia play in our experience of the world. Subjectively cataloguing both the familiar and idiosyncratic Kat mines her collection to create new stitchwork pieces, paintings, songs and illustrations under the title 'A Common Treasury'.

The material archived in the shoebox files spans personal and political aspects of cultural identity. Material is selected for its formal qualities, historical reference, emotional content and community concerns both serious and seemingly frivolous. Items collected, often in typological variations, adapt to archive cultural shifts that bring new concerns and approaches to the communities served by local newspapers from food banks to changes in weather and gender roles. Kat is interested in how we present ourselves and how subject matter may have been treated differently in the past or elsewhere than it is here and now. This is fertile ground for the creation of new artworks and songs which emerge from the archive to take their place within the Common Treasury.

Viewers regularly recognise something of themselves and consider the viewpoints of others in works from Kat's Common Treasury. Through elevating the ordinary and drawing viewers' attention to its complexity, Kat's invitation is to embrace the broader spectrum of humanity in fine detail whilst acknowledging the absurd and appreciating the whimsical. The domestic scale of the works provides an intimate experience; exploring the vitality of line, colour, image and text gives viewers the space to look below the surface to consider how we celebrate and question life and what humour, incongruence, hypocrisy, and self-deprecation might coexist in our representations of ourselves. Drawing viewers in to explore reminders of cultural shifts can be comfortable and uneasy; Kat asks us to take a closer look and consider where the thresholds lie between what we venerate, criticise and ridicule. As we wonder at human diversity and similarity, expectations of gender, age and place we can ask Is this serious or funny? Is this consigned to our past, or does it reflect how we operate here and now? Should it be this way? This acknowledging of threads of continuity through conversation between old and new and the discovery of the exceptional in the everyday challenges viewers to wonder, connect, critique, and smile in recognition as they are beguiled by vignettes from life.

As an experienced teacher, Kat is a highly effective communicator of ideas and artistic skills. Kat works with people of all ages to build enthusiasm, knowledge, skill and confidence within the realms of art and craft both in groups and on a one to one basis.

A Common Treasury: Kat Blockley

Artist·Musician·Teacher

Biography

Kat spent her childhood in North Cornwall and after completing her secondary education she moved to Falmouth to complete the Art & Design Foundation Studies course. From Falmouth Kat was accepted as a direct entry student to the second year of the Drawing & Painting degree course at Edinburgh College of Art. Drawn to creating figurative works that suggest narrative, Kat developed her observational and expressive technical expertise working in oil paint, drawing, and printmaking. During her degree studies Kat created the shoebox files to archive and organise her growing collection of clips from local newspapers and other print media. This archive has grown over the years and some of this imagery is available online as 'A Common Treasury' with artworks it inspires.

From Edinburgh, Kat moved to study at the University of Exeter for the PGCE to teach Art & Design in secondary schools. Following qualification, Kat taught English in China at a summer school before taking up a post as Art and Photography teacher at Chenderit School in Middleton Cheney north of Banbury. Whilst teaching at Chenderit, Kat worked with students on a range of extra curricular arts projects including intergenerational and participatory projects and completed her MA in Education part time.

In 2015 Kat returned to the West Country to teach at Honiton Community College and lead the CreATE faculty there. At this time, Kat reconnected with folk music and dance and this led to her realisation that writing and performing her own songs and interpreting and arranging traditional song were a natural addition to the Common Treasury. Kat continues to live in East Devon where she runs her studio and teaches Art and Textiles part time in schools as well as tutoring adult art classes.



Qualifications and Training		
2022-2024	National Professional Qualifications -Senior Leader	Learning Schools South West
2014	How to Teach Success	Barry Hymer - Osiris
2013	Educational Visit Leader	Plumsun
2008-2010	MA Education and Art	Oxford Brookes University
2009	Arts Award Advisor (Bronze, Silver)	Trinity College London/Arts Council England

A Common Treasury: Kat Blockley

Artist·Musician·Teacher

2007-2008	PGCert Advanced Educational Practice (Artist Teacher)	Oxford Brookes University
2004-2005	PGCE Secondary Art & Design	University of Exeter
1998-2001	BA (Hons) Drawing & Painting	Edinburgh College of Art
1997-1998	Foundation Studies in Art & Design	Falmouth School of Art
Selected Projects, Exhibitions, Career History		
Sept/Oct 2025	Devon Open Studios: awarded exhibiting space and artists in residence days at Thelma Hulbert Gallery for Devon Open Studios.	Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Honiton
Jul/Aug 2025	THG Open Exhibition. Exhibited stitched drawing 'UFO Sighting'	Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Honiton
Oct/Nov 2024	South West Academy Open Exhibition. Exhibited 'Women Harvesters'	Kennaway House, Sidmouth
Sept 2024	Devon Artist Network: Winner of an emerging artist bursary for Open Studios.	Devon Open Studios
Aug 2024	Interconnected: Group show of work exploring people and their connection with the land (exhibited two stitched pieces and two digital drawing giclee prints)	Kennaway House, Sidmouth
Aug 2024	Summer Open Exhibition: Exhibited 'A Filling, Easy Meal' stitched drawing.	Studio KIND, Barnstaple
May-July 2024	Upper Gallery: Devon Artist Network group exhibition, exhibited a selection of stitched pieces and giclee prints.	Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Honiton
2024-present	Teacher of Textiles (part time) (secondary school)	The Spires College, Torquay
2024- present	Art Tutor (part time) (adult tuition)	Seasons Art Honiton
2024-Jan-Aug	Teacher of Art and Textiles (part time)	Churston Ferrers Grammar School, Brixham
2023 –present	Talaton Wassail: community event led by Kat who composed the wassail song and designed artwork.	Talaton, East Devon
2017	Beyond Surface: (group exhibition) exhibited three pieces of stitched work.	The Glass Tank, Oxford Brookes University.
2015-2023	Head of CreATE Faculty, leading creative and performing arts and design technology subjects. Teaching Art, Photography, Textiles.	Honiton Community College, Honiton, EX14 1QT

A Common Treasury: Kat Blockley

Artist·Musician·Teacher

2011	Food Stories: a project culminating in a shared dinner with students interviewing guests and creating food story drawings for them.	Chenderit School
2010-present	Pearson: GCE and GCSE exam moderator for Art & Design	Pearson, ONE90 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BH
2010	Limited Edition (group exhibition) exhibited 'A Town with Plenty to Shout About'	Arlington Arts Centre, Mary Hare, Snelsmore
2010	Art from Conversation: an intergenerational project working with local elders and students to create artworks inspired by shared memories. These were printed on T shirts from a local charity shop and auctioned to donate back to the charity. This formed the basis of an MA research project.	Chenderit School
2008	Capturing Water in a Sieve (group exhibition) exhibited 'Annals of Agriculture' which included recorded memories from Cornish women who were young in the 1930s	OVADA, Oxford
2008	Correspondence: Uganda/UK photographic exchange project with KS3 & A Level students https://www.katblockley.com/uganda/index.htm	Chenderit School
2005-2014	Teacher of Art, Photography, Three Dimensional Design	Chenderit School, Middleton Cheney, OX17 2QR
2001	Kat Blockley and Katie Lowery (joint exhibition)	Patriothall Gallery, WASPS, Edinburgh



Contact: kat@katblockley.com 07790002232