

THE FUTURE OF...

YOU

2024



THE
FUTURE
OF ...

**CREATIVE
MENTORS
FOUNDATION**

The Future of You Workshops (in a nutshell)

The Future Of You

Learn about labyrinths. Imagine what might happen in your future. Who will you meet? What kind of adventures will you have? Design and build a labyrinth about your journey.

The Future Of Precious Little Things

We love our phones, our watches, our jewellery, all our precious little things. What will they look like in the future and what will they be able to do?

The Future Of Sound

Do you ever listen closely? What does Falmouth sound like now? What might it sound like in the future? Make your own soundscapes and wrap them in sculpture.

The Future of Education (A Musical)

Using the songs you like, make up new words that tell us how the way people learn is going to change. Will anyone have to go to school? Will we all have our own robot teacher? Turn your ideas into a Musical in 3 days and perform it in the Theatre on the 4th day.

The Future Of Words and Meanings

Make amazing posters out of words and shapes you cut out of old magazines. Join the words together into mad poems or song lyrics. Make some new words up for the future.

The Future Of Life On the Edge

Build giant inflatable sculptures and make them breathe. You'll be able to see inside them. Collect things or make things to put inside that you think are really important for people to hang on to when the world is changing.

What is The Future Of You?

A four day "summer camp" of creative workshops and exhibition-making for school pupils aged 9 to 13 led by seven experienced mentors from the **Creative Mentors Foundation**. There will be 6 workshops, each with a future-related theme, and each running over 3 consecutive days. One of the workshops will involve writing and performing a musical about education. Another will involve creating Falmouth soundscapes (now and future). The other four will involve: making inflatable sculpture; designing and building labyrinths; making futuristic jewellery and creating powerful posters. On the 4th day, the pupils will work with the mentors to build an exhibition where everything they have made will be on show and those who have been writing a new musical will perform it. On the early evening of that day, there will be a **Private View** of the exhibition for pupils, their families, teachers and invited guests from the world of education. The exhibition will be open to the public at The Poly for two more days

Where?

In the Main Gallery on the top floor of The Poly in Market Street, Falmouth. If possible, there will be some supervised trips to the outside world e.g. to record sound and find "stuff" to use in the workshops. This will depend on appropriate permissions and supervision.

What's the schedule?

Each pupil will need to attend all 4 days of the event and arrive at The Poly for the first day at 10.30 am on Monday 29th July. They will have short breaks during the day and should arrive with packed lunch, healthy snacks and drinks for the day, which will finish at 3.30 pm. This will repeat on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st. On Thursday 1st August they will arrive at 1.00 pm to help build the exhibition and stay at The Poly for the Private View, which will start at 5.00 pm. Those pupils wishing to join the musical workshop will need to devote all 4 days to this activity. Other pupils will be asked to sign up initially for the workshop that most appeals to them but there will be possibilities to try out other workshops over the course of the event.

Who will be taking part?

Any school pupil in the 9 to 13 age group can participate. Our target is to have at least 40 and a maximum of 60 pupils involved from a variety of local schools and covering a range of ages. This means a maximum of 10 pupils involved in each workshop at any time. Each of the workshops will be led by one qualified and experienced Creative Mentor except for the soundscape workshop, which will be led by two Mentors. We will also be engaging volunteers from the universities and from the community for each workshop to provide pupils with more individual support. We understand the safeguarding responsibilities for an event of this kind and will ensure appropriately qualified and experienced staff are in place to ensure students have a safe, productive and joyful creative experience. All the Creative Mentors and the overall organiser/administrator of the event, Professor Alan Cummings, have annually updated DBS status.

Why are we doing this?

We want to give a rewarding experience to any pupil in the 9-13 age group who enjoys being creative and would like to think, imagine and make interesting things alongside other creative people. We particularly want to contribute to the education of pupils who are, for whatever reasons, struggling with aspects of the mainstream school curriculum and the school experience. Essentially our aim is to build the creativity, imagination, skills and self-esteem of young people so they can achieve more success in the school environment and thereafter.

How much will it cost?

The Creative Mentors Foundation is generously covering the majority of the substantial costs involved in running an event like this. However, there are still some areas of expenditure that are not covered. We would appreciate contributions on a flexible, "what you can afford" basis. This scheme will be managed by The Poly at the time of booking. Our greatest concern is that parents and carers who sign up for their children to participate make an absolute commitment to the event.

More information?

Now you have found this pdf document, take time for a serious look at the Creative Mentors website (creativementors.org.uk). This shows you the kind of work we have been doing with young people over the last decade or so.

The rest of this document tells you something about The Poly, something about The "Future Of ..." initiative at The Poly, something about the Creative Mentors Foundation and something about the Mentors who are coming to the Poly to run the workshops. They also give a little more detail about what they will be doing in their workshops.



The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society (The Poly) has a significant place in Falmouth's history. It was founded in 1833, primarily to encourage technological innovation for mining and associated Cornish industries. From the outset, however, there was a genuine commitment to the polytechnic idea. Achievements in art and "the useful arts" were valued, rewarded and exhibited alongside worthy examples of applied science and engineering. With the decline of the Cornish mining industry, the emphasis of the Poly's activities shifted progressively towards the arts. Today it is primarily identified as a community arts centre with a vibrant programme of art and craft exhibitions, cinema, performance and educational events.



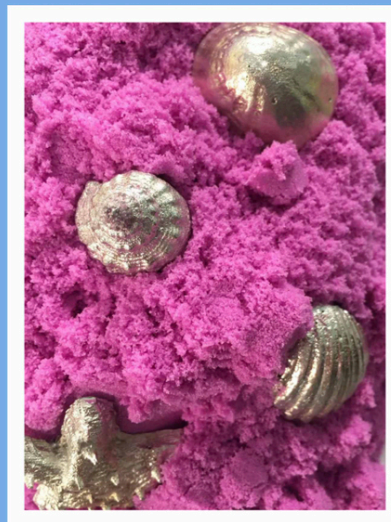
"The Future Of..." (TFO) is an exciting, new programme of events at the Poly, complementing its existing range of activities. In part, the aim is to re-energise the Poly's identity as a polytechnic institution. The bigger and broader aim is to create opportunities for local and regional communities to engage in a powerful way with the enormous social, environmental and technological challenges we are facing in the world today. The plan is to bring together people from education, commerce, industry and the community as a whole to address these existential challenges in a variety of ways. The Poly is ideally placed, geographically and historically, to host presentations, discussions, debates, screenings, workshops and exhibitions that focus on these challenges and how Cornwall in particular can respond to them. We will collaborate with the Universities of Falmouth and Exeter and attract contributors and participants from across science, technology, engineering, the arts, design, humanities and business. A core aim is to ensure an interdisciplinary perspective is brought to every TFO theme and event because we believe this is essential to finding ways forward for our region and our planet.

CREATIVE MENTORS FOUNDATION

The Creative Mentors Foundation (CMF) is a charity that has been working with schools for about 10 years. Its aim at the outset was to help students at school with learning differences to engage successfully with the educational opportunities they are offered in the areas of art, design, music and drama. In the beginning the focus was on dyslexia. All of the Mentors working for CMF had completed Postgraduate degrees in arts subjects and were themselves dyslexic. The range of engagement has now broadened to include students across the spectrum of neurodiversity but also neurotypical students who, for whatever reason, struggle with aspects of the school curriculum and the school experience. The core aim of CMF is to help build the creativity, imagination, skills and self-esteem of students so they can achieve more success in the school environment and thereafter

CREATIVE MENTORS FOUNDATION

SUMMER EXHIBITION OF WORK



FRIDAY 12TH JULY
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2PM-7PM
AT THE TABERNACLE.34-35 POWIS SQUARE,
NOTTING HILL, LONDON, W11 2AY

Workshop: The Future Of You

This workshop will be led by **Qona Rankin**, founder and leader of the **Creative Mentors Foundation (CMF)**. She has worked for many years with postgraduate students at the **Royal College of Art** who are dyslexic or have other learning differences. She has lectured and published her work in this field and taken a particular interest in the relationship between dyslexia and drawing.

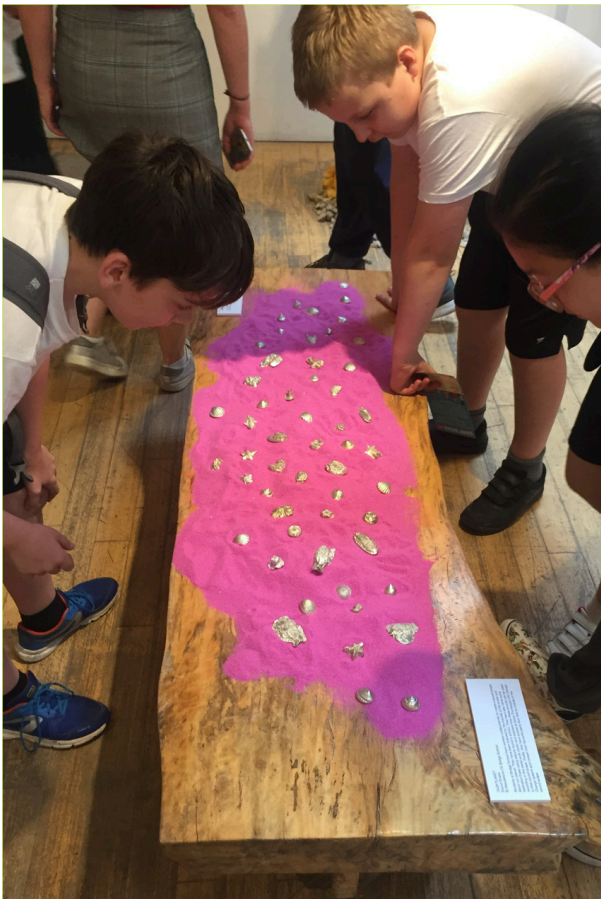
Qona has recently become fascinated by “**the labyrinth**” as a metaphor for the journey of life into the future. Her workshop will begin with a discussion about labyrinths and how they have been used over the ages. Participants will then be asked to imagine and research how their futures might be. What kind of people and places, experiences and things could they meet as the world changes? How will they live, work and play? Following a discussion of their ideas, they will sketch out plans for labyrinths and be encouraged to find and make things that represent these future encounters. They will use these to build labyrinths through which they and others can journey. Over 3 days, a series of labyrinths will be made for the exhibition and videos of the children’s journeys will capture their experience.



Workshop: The Future Of Precious Little Things

Alice McLean is an experienced member of the CMF team. She studied art and design at both **Falmouth University** and the **Royal College of Art**. During her early years at school, she struggled with some academic subjects and was finally diagnosed as dyslexic when she was 21. She has now been working with children in schools for over 10 years and also manages the activities of CMF alongside Qona. Like all the Creative Mentors, her own experience of dyslexia enables her to empathise and support children with learning differences to develop their creativity and self-esteem.

As we go through life we acquire (and often lose) small things that we carry or wear and that become important to us. These can be functional things like a phone or a watch (that we cannot live without!) or things like jewellery and charms that we develop an emotional attachment to. In the near future, there will be things that we can wear or carry with us everywhere and that will have an extraordinary range of functions as well as being beautiful and desirable. Alice will encourage the children to imagine what extraordinary, useful and beautiful things they might want to carry with them into the future, what they will be able to do and what they might look like. They will then be able to design their own "precious little things" using a range of materials and techniques including pewter casting. They will be able to wear what they make as they journey through one of Qona's labyrinths and show what they make in the exhibition alongside an explanation of their imagined functions.



Workshop: The Future Of Sound

JP Guerrier and **Nic Faris** both graduated from the MA Course in Sound Design at the Royal College of Art. They work as a team in producing both music and atmospheric soundscapes for moving image and art installations. They are very enthusiastic about working with young people in creative projects that develop their understanding and appreciation of the sound that surrounds them. For their TFO workshop they are going to take this idea into the future.

Their workshop will encourage pupils to listen more closely to all the sounds they experience around them, record sounds in the local environment and generate new sounds using a mixture of found or improvised instruments. With the sounds they capture, pupils will build soundscapes that represent their overall listening experience in Falmouth in the present and how they imagine that soundscape will change in the future. Their idea is for pupils to make a sculptural installation where the soundscapes pupils have been incorporated into physical objects and the sound changes as you move around the space.



The Future Of Education (A Musical)

Jasmin Wharmby is a Teacher and Head of Department at a school in London for pupils with severe learning difficulties (predominantly autism). She is also very enthusiastic about the work of CMF and has volunteered her services for our future-themed workshops and exhibition in Falmouth. In her job, she teaches all subjects but the thing she feels most passionate about is teaching a performing arts group where each year the pupils choose a musical to rehearse and perform in the summer term!

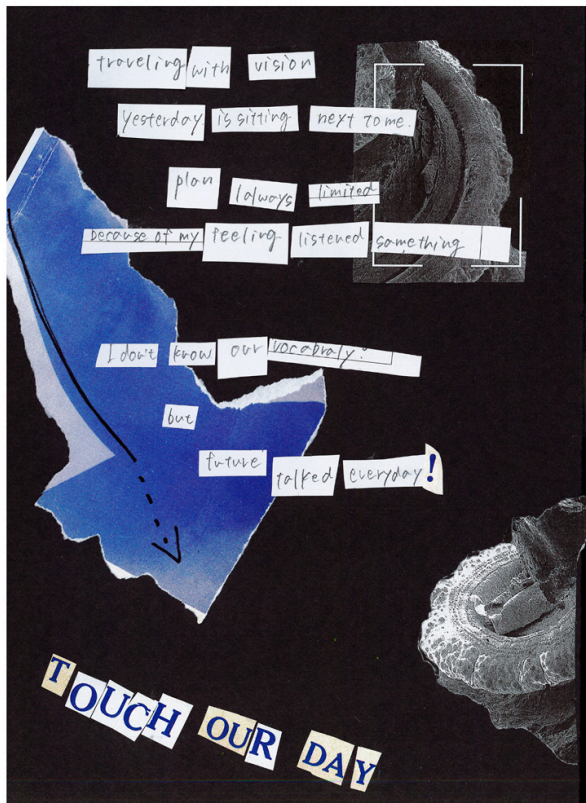
Jaz's ambitious workshop will begin by encouraging the pupils to think about their experience of education and how this might change for the pupils of the future. How would they like it to change? What do they think a day at school will be like for their own children? Will children have to go to school at all?. From what emerges in these conversations, she will help them turn their thoughts into lyrics that they can sing to the tunes of popular songs of their own choosing. These adapted songs will then be used to develop, produce and perform a piece of musical theatre in 3 days. Yes, a Musical in 3 days! The Musical will be performed during the Private View and filmed so that it can be shown in the exhibition.



Workshop: The Future Of Words And Meanings

Bethany Malcom is a recent recruit to the Creative Mentors Foundation. She is an experienced mould maker, technician and tutor with a diverse practical skill set. She is passionate about visual arts, design and special effects and currently working as Technical Instructor on the Graduate Diploma at the **Royal College of Art**. Before joining the RCA, Bethany worked on a range of projects from 2D design to 3D realisation, with work exhibited at Centre Pompidou, as well as at Madame Tussauds. She also created props and costumes for the West End stage, Channel 4 prime time programs and on BBC's *Doctor Who*.

Bethany's workshop will encourage children to think about language, words and meanings in the future. We know that language changes over the years with new words and new ways of using words constantly appearing. Adults find it hard to keep up with the language of the young, especially the language of technology, social media and gaming. Pupils will be asked to imagine new words and meanings for a future full of changes and possibilities. All of these words will be written down alongside hundreds of words and sentences cut from old books and magazines. Using the cut up method made famous by David Bowie, the children will assemble the words and phrases into future-sounding nonsense poems and make large graphic posters for exhibition combining these poems with cut out shapes.



yukiko shinkai and Yule Wang



Workshop: The Future Of Life On The Edge

In his first year at **Edinburgh School of Art**, **Stuart Macaffer** was diagnosed as dyslexic. Nonetheless, he graduated in 2004 with a first class degree and went on to study **Sculpture** at the **Royal College of Art**. The support he received at both institutions was invaluable so when Qona asked him to become a Creative Mentor, he was happy to get involved. He is now very experienced in working with children in creative workshops. His aim is always "to engage them in a way that shows how drawing, painting and sculpture, expressing themselves through art, can be a gateway to opening up their communication with the world (alongside spell-check!)".

One of the activities Stuart has used in his work with children in the past is building very large inflatable sculptures. His plan on this occasion is to encourage children to think about how environments such as temporary homes or hospitals or emergency structures might be increasingly needed in the future. Using thermo blankets and adhesive tape, pupils will build a large inflatable structure. This will be transparent on one side so that they and exhibition visitors can look into it. The structure itself will expand and contract as if it is living and breathing, reflecting our hopes and concerns about life in an unpredictable future. What will be seen inside will be whatever pupils have made or found to reflect their thoughts and feelings, about the future. What they will need to feel happy, safe and secure in a changing world?



More info:

<https://creativementors.org/>

<https://thepoly.org/whats-on/workshops>

Email:

thefutureof2024@gmail.com

