

# AN artSOUTH PROJECT: 'DISCOVER IN A DAY 2'



## The People

artSOUTH in partnership with  
John Hansard Gallery  
Southampton City Art Gallery  
Southampton Arts & Heritage  
Solent Showcase  
Portswood Primary School  
Kane's Hill Primary School

## The Project

Building on the success of Discover in a Day, an event for secondary schools, Discover in a Day 2 was created. Its aim was to provide young people in primary schools (from Year 4 groups) with an opportunity to discover the artSOUTH programme through the new Discover Arts Award. Young people from Portswood Primary and Kane's Hill Primary School explored artist commissions of contemporary visual art, supported by the arts organisations affiliated with the project.

De Vries was the artist selected to work with the City Gallery for the artSOUTH project. De Vries' work concerns itself with the theme of 'destruction meets reconstruction'. Working from broken archaeological objects, such as ceramics, De Vries takes the 'worthless' and rethinks it. His beautiful and intriguing final pieces lend themselves extremely well to learning that investigates both historical and artistic themes.

**Solent Showcase** is a contemporary visual art gallery supported by Southampton Solent University. It commissioned artSOUTH artist Annika Strom to create a new piece of performance art for the gallery and Guildhall Square. Her work connects with the history and heritage of the docks in Southampton and the people that work in this ever-changing space.

### Kane's Hill Primary School

Working closely with the school, Lead Artist-Educator and Arts Award Advisor Joel Papps, (supported by artists Josef Hill and Jo Willoughby) met with the School Art-Coordinator Gemma Terry, to discuss and plan Discover in Day artSOUTH focused workshops with a Year 4 group. In order to be flexible, in-school workshops were planned and held on the 12th and 13th June 2013. Working with 37 Year 4s, these workshops explored all three artistic commissions at the partner arts organisations, with a particular focus on the artSOUTH artistic commissions of Annika Ström and Elpida Hadzi Vasileva. Taking their inspiration from these artists, pupils looked at how language is used to describe nature and natural objects, creating their own pieces from press moulds using clay.

I had fun and learnt that I can be an artist. I had a really good time.



Joshua, Year 4, Kane's Hill Primary School

**The John Hansard Gallery** is a contemporary visual art gallery, a national portfolio organisation of Arts Council England, supported by the University of Southampton. The Gallery is an experienced registered Arts Award centre at all levels. artSOUTH commissions included a performance/archive project entitled *An Audience with Willy Little*, referring to cultural events and histories and led by artists Mel Brimfield and Dickie Beau.

**Southampton City Art Gallery** is a visual art gallery with a designated art collection and temporary exhibitions programme of both contemporary and historic work. The Learning Team are experienced in delivering Arts Award at Bronze and Silver level in response to both art and heritage collections. Bouke

Thank you so much for providing the children with this opportunity! They thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and were incredibly creative.

Gemma Terry, Art Coordinator,  
Kane's Hill Primary School



As well as exploring the work of other artists (reflected in individual Arts Award portfolios), this workshop enabled all pupils to discover and identify with the work of Strom and Vasileva by contextualising their own lives and personal objects/toys to the artists' works. As

a result, pupils created their own individual clay moulds which expressed their personal identities.

### **Portswood Primary School**

Based on the success of the workshops at Kane's Hill Primary, workshops were scheduled for the whole Year 4 group at Portswood Primary too. After consulting with Sarah Amer, the Deputy Head Teacher, workshops took place on the 22nd and 23rd October 2013 with two Year 4 groups (total 62 pupils). Although using the same media format as the Kane's Hill Primary School workshops, this time pupils explored the work of Bouke De Vries whose commission re-constructed broken ceramics to give them new meaning and discovery. Inspired by the artists' work, pupils created imprinted images and words associated with the meanings of their toys.

### **Successes**

- Arts partners successfully worked in collaboration with new teaching (Portswood) and alliance (Kane's Hill) primary schools.
- The project creatively engaged Year 4 pupils conceptually and in a practical way, exploring the work of selected artSOUTH commissioned artists, Annika Ström, Elpida Hadzi Vasileva and Bouke De Vries.
- All pupils successfully completed the Discover Arts Award.
- All participating schools/teachers learned how the Discover Arts Award can be delivered in practice.
- After the workshops, both participating schools indicated they would visit the artSOUTH commissions with their year groups.

**Art is creativity that inspires other people...I enjoyed the day, I learned a lot.**

Aiden, Year 4, Portswood Primary School

### **Statistics**

- 99 Year 4 pupils took part in the programme with all pupils successfully completing the Discover Arts Award.
- 9 teachers in total collaborated with the project with positive feedback gained from both schools.
- 3 Artist-Educators supported the project, all being trained Arts Award Advisors from Discover to Bronze/Silver levels.

**It was a pleasure to work with the artist – he delivered the material so well and the children were really engaged.**

Sarah Amer, Deputy Head Teacher,  
Portswood Primary School



### **Legacy**

- A template workshop plan for delivering the Discover Arts Award was created in partnership with schools for potential replication in other schools.
- The John Hansard Gallery organised a special Arts Partnerships in Action showcase exhibition on the 27th November 2013, which included images of works created by Kane's Hill Primary School and Portswood Primary School. On until the 4th May 2014, the exhibition will help support participating schools with their future applications for Artsmark status.

## Credits

**Taken from: The Audience Agency's 2014  
artSOUTH Phase 2 Report.**

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