

## Artist Statement: Artist

## Participatory Practice whatsthebigmistry [Priya Mistry]

My practice encompasses a strong foundation in participatory practice, play, working with children, young people, adults and communities. I like to diversify the experiences and people I work with and cultivate high quality artistic practices that inspire, provoke thought, creative responses, animate spaces and people. I work across art forms, encompassing visual art, craft, textile, sculpture, photography, drawing, digital media, as well as social performance practices, sound, movement, prop, mask and set making. My ability to work across visual art and performance practice brings alternative perspectives in working with play and participation.

I work with groups who meet regularly as well as drop in groups and events, facilitating a range of inclusion and social needs barriers, a spectrum of physical impairments and in/visible dis/abilities. I'm always looking to offer a greater variety of activities appropriate to the diverse needs of groups and individuals. I strive to form inventive opportunities to nurture inclusivity, well-being, present creative challenges and spaces to do something new. Whilst fostering best practice to devise activity that is more tailored to the whole person/s.

### Recent Portfolio

#### NAE (New Art Exchange) /Nottingham: *Invisible Things*

Last year I delivered a number of workshops themed ***Invisible Things*** about expressing *invisible experiences* in conjunction with *New Art Exchange Gallery, Framework, MySight, Red Cross with Opportunity Nottingham*.

#### Creative Health Westmidlands : *This Way Up*

Over the last year I formed a select group of artists working on ***This Way Up*** a new community workshop programme with *Creative Health Westmidlands*, in conjunction with *Wolverhampton Museum and Art Gallery, Libraries, Refugee Centre and Limewood a Staffordshire Dementia Care Home*.

#### DailyLife LTD /London: *William Morris Gallery/ Wellcome Collection*

I'm a regular collaborator with Daily Life Ltd, the pioneering Stratford-based arts and mental health. This includes, performing a group piece at the Wellcome Trust and Late Night Spectacular at the William Morris Gallery take over which was a combination of performance, music, poetry and participatory art that aims to widen access and inspire participation.

#### MK Gallery Associate Artist /Milton Keynes: *City Club*

From 2017-19 I have been appointed Associate Artist with MK Gallery (Milton Keynes) on *City Club*. This programme focuses on working with the Milton Keynes built environment to develop encounter and engagement with public space and people in the local estates, schools and families, so they might see their surrounding and interactions through a different lens. Most recently I worked with members of the elderly and *Age Concern* community on an alternative tour / promenade of MK centre. In November 2017 I will be attended the Engage Conference (advocacy/ training for arts educators) with MK on funded place.

#### IGC Associate Artist/ Consortium of Midlands Galleries and Theatres

>As Associate Artist with IGC/ In Good Company I deliver workshops on Leicester University's Medical Elective on arts and health, Attenborough Arts Education programme and other areas, as well as wider areas in their programming. As an IGC Associate I take up in house training across a range of areas-on technical scripts, tech information, risk assessments, and sound, light, and video control. I also volunteer with Bright Sparks Art & Mental Health ArtSpace at AttenboroughArts with NHS service users that have lived experience of mental health conditions

### Social Performance Practice

My practice includes a substantial body of work and collaborations with other makers on outdoor, roaming mobile pieces, promenades, tours, journeys that seek to engage the general public in conversations through playful and inventive exchanges. These works involve bespoke made objects, props and costumes to facilitate interaction. This feeds and closely aligns with my participatory and education work. In forming ideas I carefully consider and construct ideas, asking myself what interactions are valuable to the people I encounter.

## **My Process**

My artistic process is underlined by questions/stimuli that I respond to through play, experiment and eventually making lots of creative choices. Through my participatory practice I invite participants to go through their own journeys and offer up opportunities to explore through playful modes. Meetings with communities highlights the intelligence and complexities with which all kinds of people take in art.

## **Background**

Priya Mistry (U.K) Multidisciplinary Artist, Performer, Educator & Project Manager. Trained as a performance maker at De Montfort University graduating with BA Hons Dance & Theatre + film & photography(2003). Her practice straddles Visual Art, Dance, Theatre, Live Art, Social and Participatory practices in conjunction with Theatres, Galleries, Festivals, Creative Organisations and also Community and Education settings. Collaboration, exchange and critical dialogue are also central Mistry's practice.

## **Developing my Work with People & Training**

Often I work with and collaborate with other artists such as Puppets with Guts (puppetry), New Art Club (dance/comedy/improve), 2Magpies (Theatre). Wherever possible I take up any opportunity to attend workshop/training, recently this has included- The Misfit Analysis (Autism and Biography) by Access All Areas, Group Facilitation at Bow Arts, Understanding Dementia and Working Creatively with Older People, Using iPads Creatively with older people in care with Imagine/City Arts, Dis/Ordinary Spaces on disabled artists working with Architecture students to make accessible and inclusive designs a part of standard practices in the Build Environment.