

Together, We Care

Virtual Giant Dolls' House Project
Refugee Week 2021, London Festival of Architecture, Oxfam

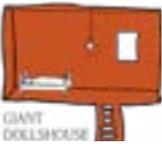


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Introduction

Welcome to the 'Together we Care' booklet that accompanies the installation. Over 200 people participated in the installation. Refugee and non-refugee families, students and professionals from different countries made dolls' houses that tell their stories of home, community and belonging. All boxes are linked with ropes and ramps and ladders to show that people cannot Walk Alone, and that 'Together we Care'. The project aims to explore the meaning of home and community after a year of COVID-19 restrictions and the isolation these caused, while highlighting the experience of being a refugee in an attempt to create solidarity and understanding across the political and socio-economic divide. The installation is in collaboration with Oxfam Education, Oxfam Campaigns and part of Refugee week and London Festival of Architecture.

4 For more than a year billions of people all over the world have had their lives and movements restricted or changed by the coronavirus pandemic. Everyone has been impacted in some way and has had to rethink their relationship with their immediate surroundings. At the same time people everywhere showed and continue to show care and compassion: they reach out to support others to show that we are never alone. For this 2021 virtual dolls' house project, in solidarity with 79.5 million refugees, whose lives have been upended by the virus, we asked participants to make a dolls' house in a shoebox of their personal experiences of the past year or hopes and dreams for the future. Through assembling all ideas, dreams and hopes in a community we show that together, we care.

'Together, we Care' is the second Virtual Giant Dolls' House, last year many people participated in 'Alone Together', also in collaboration with Oxfam and part of refugee week and London Festival of Architecture. This year we opened the website for submissions in March, when Oxfam education launched their home education resources, hoping that we would get a steady flow of boxes during the last weeks of lockdown and into the summer.

However, this year, in contrast to last year, the novelty of lockdown had worn off, schools were busy to catch up and people had become wary of on-screen and virtual activities. In short, it looked like not many people really felt like making dolls' houses. The online formula also seemed a barrier as people who made dolls' houses also had to photograph them, send them and write a story about them. This was more work for participants (especially for people who work with groups such as teachers who had to adapt to changing circumstances in any case), and possibly made some more self-conscious of their work. We couldn't visit groups that made dolls' houses so the 'making together' element, we feel is so important to the workshops, was also not there.

We are therefore extremely happy with the many submissions we received this year. The boxes and stories are all very thoughtful and a wide range of themes was broached.

We were honoured with the contributions from SCAN UK, who made dolls' houses with the playwright Anan Tello. Their dolls' houses show Syrian homes and lives.

The Oxfam sanctuary in Swansea organised their own exhibition during refugee week. Their group involved people from many different backgrounds and cultures and included refugees and asylum seekers. 'The group has strong links with the Chinese community, the Iberian and Latin American Society and the African Community Centre.' Blanca and Lino, who are currently seeking asylum, made the house that they had to leave in El Salvador.

Restrictions on international travel have meant that many people now understand what it feels like to be a refugee and to not be able to see your family for a long time. Lidwien from the Netherlands wrote about her box filled with Covid quarantine life:

'You can see a drawing of my husband, I am really missing him, as he is now living and working in China. I included a photo of my mother-in-law, who passed away in January. So difficult to say farewell without my husband and our son. My son is drawn standing with his girlfriend under the US flag. We are looking forward to meeting his girlfriend in real life.'

Children have contributed boxes through their schools and creative education programs. Archimake hosted a workshop. Two cats feature in the box from Kai from Archimake; during lockdown so many people have relied on their pets.

5 Other relevant themes that have been explored in the boxes include mental health. Jakub, from AUB looked at the effect of colour in his student room on mental health. Jessica from Farringtons pictured her emotions during lockdown and how they changed 'The misty and ambiguous atmosphere shows my confusion and the fear of the unknown for the future.' Izzy from Archimake made a lockdown box for Nelson Mandela, referring to black lives matter. Jason from Farringtons wrote about his box: 'It's about BLM and the killing of George Floyd by the police in America 2020.'

There were many more themes, also about the home: clutter, phones and screens and the home as a safe place: 'My home. Where I feel safe, has everything I need', wrote a participant in the Buchan day opportunities. Kids Kreate's participants provided the magical: a rainbow tent with grilled marshmallows as well as the practical, 'We have lots of chairs in my house so that everyone can talk together.' (Eddy, 6)

It has been a joy to receive the different boxes and texts, so we hope you enjoy reading this booklet as much as we have enjoyed reading all the stories and thoughts.





Jakub



This dolls house depicts my own Student accommodation, its a replica of a room with my own colourful twist which intends to show how these rooms can be improved to help students with acclimation. Colour is such an important aspect of everyones lives, and it has a huge impact on perspective and mood and so this project shows how Implementing colour can help with mental health.

Lorraine



I feel lucky to have had my art to get me through the lockdown. My day usually starts with a walk on the local meadows... There is new life springing up everywhere - the wild garlic patch, which we collected from to make soup has just started to appear - reminding me, it is over a year since the pandemic happened. As I look down in the pond, I can see new life, the frogspawn has appeared. Feeding the swans, ducks, and geese has been uplifting and funny at times, watching the hierarchy within the groups. As soon as I get home, I start working on my art. I have started working from my front room window - I was a little shy at first, but I have found it to be really nice. I have a little fan base, who wave to me as they go past my house. The postman has become very interested in my art, and we have now become firm friends. I have really enjoyed my days in lockdown, just making the most of what we have around us. However, I feel sad that others haven't got the same privileges or resources, and I do wonder how we can help the homeless in the future... A Manchester-based charity 'Embassy' has plans to make a community for homeless people - repurposing shipping containers. I think this is a wonderful idea, which I think is a step in the right direction. I am really looking forward to seeing it completed,

Georgia



I wanted my room to be warm and cosy and welcoming. I really wanted the room to show the thoughts of the person who would live there. That's why I put words like family, love, hope and peace on the walls. I wanted the room to have comfort. I wanted it to feel like home.

Lidwien



It has been a tough year, these past 12 months. How small the world has become, although we are lucky to be able to reach out and speak to family and friends far-away. There are so many people facing this pandemic in much more dire situations.

And let's face it, Covid 19 is not the only problem in the world.

This is a box filled with my Covid-quarantine life.

You can see a drawing of my husband, I am really missing him, as he is now living and working in China.

I included a photo of my mother in law, who passed away in January. So difficult to say farewell without my husband and our son. My son is drawn standing with his girlfriend under the US flag. We are looking forward to meeting his girlfriend in real life

The car in the dolls house is to symbolize that I have been driving more than usual, to pick up and drop off our daughter (also a drawn portrait of her) in Utrecht, where she studies. I have been driving to the south of the Netherlands, to visit my mother in law as often as possible in the last months of her life.

Our youngest daughter has been stuck home with me and our dog. Sometimes our other daughter will stay for a day or longer. I cherish the time we spend together too. Realizing this might not happen again for such long periods, to have ones adult children back home. We do creative projects, sometimes together. I try to read or puzzle and not binge watch too much TV.

Having a dog has been better than it already was, one of us is allowed out after curfew to walk the dog.

Sophie



My house explores my experience of being isolated in one space; my bedroom. I used bubble wrap to line the walls of my box to reflect my feelings of being trapped within a bubble of self isolation. While living in separate bubbles has allowed us to stay safe over the past year, it has also forced us to slow down and spend more time with ourselves away from others. This has at times made me feel alone and alienated from the world around me, trapped in my own bedroom.

Gim



The most memorable thing during the year of lockdown was the smell and texture of the masks, as if the whole world is covered by a mask. Thus, I decorated the doll house with masks- including curtain, carpet, table and sofa.

Sophie W



When I first made this box for the virtual Giant Dolls' House in 2020 I would never have thought we would be in and out of lockdown for the next year in the UK. I decided to revisit this dolls' house and add the different pieces that have made up my life for the past year. Much of the time has been spent at home and so I wanted to add elements as props and scenery to become the backdrop for this period of restrictions and lockdown. I got a kitten, started running and was able to keep working throughout the lockdowns. These pieces within the dolls' house from last year set the scene for the year ahead, hopefully as the world starts to open up again and reminds of the positive aspects of these unusual times.

Anan Tello



'My Syrian Room' workshop in Leeds provided a platform for a group of Syrian ladies from different backgrounds to express themselves through art and share stories to form strong bonds and communicate to the world the bright side of our beautiful country, Syria, the cradle of civilization.

Gim



During this special period, most of us are relying on virtue connection. This inspires me to make rooms without physical connections to each other.

Oxfam Castle Street



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The scene reflects my year switching between furlough and re-opening the OXFAM shop which I manage. I enjoyed the time furlough gave me to enjoy nature. But I missed the volunteers, the donors, and the customers. I wanted to get back to raising money and campaigning to support people who need our support now more than ever. But I was also saddened by the reality of how different our vibrant community hub of a shop would now be, with masks, sanitiser, limited numbers of customers and volunteers, and no events. The contrast between chilled-out furlough and uncomfortable re-opening (especially after the first lockdown) was too stark, and in my dream world I would have brought along some of my natural world to help us all through it!

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Oxfam Castle Street



I have good memories of lockdown. I spent lots of time with my family. My mum and I talked for hours, reminiscing about when I was younger, age ten and in year six at school. My living room is where the whole family come together. We have a big comfy sofa with cushions.

Sara



I have called this project "My Grandad's House." I am from Damascus, one of the oldest inhabited capitals in the world, and I'm very proud of my heritage. My city is also known as the city of jasmines. Souriya (Syria) means a beam of sunlight. Alphabets began in Syria, and my people were the first to press olives and grapes. Syria is the cradle of civilization and history.

Penelope



My dolls house is all about me and my family. We spent a lot of time at home or on walks. We had to use computers for our school lessons and we couldn't hug our families. I missed my family but I enjoyed time with mummy, daddy and my sister Norah.

Laura Honour



Working with children with disability I have seen how their medical and physical needs can overwhelm their normal childhood experiences and limit their peer interaction. Their medical vulnerability has made the pandemic very frightening and increased their isolation. I have tried to show this by depicting a child's bedroom with medical equipment largely taking over from the toys and the child looking out.

Nabeel



I live in sheltered housing, I am happy in my home. Pink is my favourite colour. All around my lockdown dolls' house I shaped and stuck pink cherry blossom made out of tissue paper and pipe cleaners. My bedroom is my pink sanctuary. I have cherry blossom wallpaper in my bedroom. My bed is soft and comfortable. I enjoyed making my tiny coffee table. I feel calm, relaxed and safe in my bedroom.

Nita



We've been enjoying spending time and eating three meals a day around our dining table. There have been tears and laughter around the table... Our son, who has grown into a toddler during the pandemic, is now bilingual. We've used ingredients from the community garden to prepare meals as a family. We've collaborated on artwork: abstract paintings, installations and sea life images. We made this 'dining room' box together and it's our first submission for an art exhibition. There's a framed photograph of an image of the Sangat at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Delhi (September 2007) hanging above our table. It reminds us of the impact of covid in India and on other low-income & middle-income countries. We've felt fortunate to spend so much time together as a family and watch our son develop and grow.

Faiza



Every human gets attached to certain fundamentals, which, as the days go by, become memories embedded deep inside us until they can never abandon our minds for as long as we live. Perhaps most of our sad and happy memories are made in the house in which we grew up. I could never show the world my house the way it is entrenched in my heart and memory. My house was turned into rubble. That house that once brought my family together under one roof. The war has separated us, and each of us is in a different country. I wish everything would go back to the way it used to be. I wish to see my children again... they are my home, my safety, my hope, my life, and my happiness.

Leo



I have made a vivarium and in it there is a lizard, a large spider and a smaller spider. There is a chair, a heat lamp, a magnifying glass and some food.

Ariane



My doll house is a representation of my room in general, but specifically during the lockdown. My room was my sanctuary. My only real contact with people from the outside world was through Zoom classes, hence the “laptop” on the desk. I spent time outside, as symbolized by the flowers, coming into contact with animals that somehow seemed less shy, yet unaware of the raging pandemic. I let my imagination run wild, finding new little projects to keep myself entertained. I also realized, as we took our family Sunday drives, that during a lockdown where home and stability are so important, many do not have that luxury, including refugees. I thought back to the family of Iraqi refugees that I had met. I was surprised by their optimism during such a difficult time in their lives, which was globally reflected by the sort of quiet peace I felt with the lockdown.

Jessica Boyle



My boxes are about the two main mental states I experienced during lockdown. My first box reflects the emotions I felt at the beginning of lockdown. Going through the same notions everyday left me feeling drained, alone and frustrated as time felt stuck. The misty and ambiguous atmosphere shows my confusion and the fear of the unknown for the future. My second box mirrors my gratitude for what I have. Slowing down made me feel grateful because I could finally reflect, re-evaluating my priorities and getting to know myself more. Before, I was always thinking about what was next instead of staying in the present and was never satisfied for what I had in front of me. Being in nature helped me see how much I disregarded the beauty of what was around me. Lockdown made me realise time doesn't stop for anyone and that we must enjoy our time on this earth while we are still alive.

Nadia O'Neill



My box represents my interests and preoccupations during lockdown and my hope for the future of being an architect. My dream job is to be within the Arts. My love for interior design and the fine arts combine in this piece. Most of the objects the chairs, vessels, cushioned have been formed using clay and are hand painted. I liked the feeling of Victorian living room giving a feeling of past yet it has been made in the present and signifies my future.

Eulalie



This dollhouse represents my room, during quarantine. I was lucky to spend time cozy and safe with my family. We played games, read books, made art, and did lots of baking. My family is home to me, and I am happy with them wherever we are. This is my wish and prayer for all children. (This time I resubmitted a better photo)

Beatriz Raggio Ludwig



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Decorated the front and back of this box and its lid with things I look forward to see and do again. Flowers, butterflies, take a taxi, walk through cobblestones, buy new shoes and clothes. Yellow is a happy for me. I used a plastic rules to give the box a stand.

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Claire



Growing Together is an allotment-based community project. We have been supporting each other remotely during lock-down and recently been meeting as small groups back at the garden. A group of us made this model together, and we were joined by some members of the group that are not yet able to return via video call. "It's a very good garden for me and my mind. I'm very happy to come here. It's good to be part of Refugee Week". "It's very good for the refugee and asylum people. We don't have family here but come here, see each other, make friends, communicate. It's good for happiness, mental and anxiety. When I joined I was not well with anxiety and depression, not with family, it was good to connect and be together." "We miss the garden" "I miss everything, eating together, growing together, planting together - doing carpentry - all that and the green environment" "I pray we will be together, eat together and share our moments"

Daniel Li



What I have designed here is an architectural model of a section of the Orpington high street, the high street of the town where I live. I wanted to describe the alien nature of a familiar place during covid, and express the empty and slightly desolate atmosphere, which was caused by covid restrictions and a lack of people. I expressed this through a more monochrome palette utilizing wood and cardboard. I decided to remove 2 faces of the shoe box, to create a clearer view of the model.

Penelope



It was very difficult in lockdown because most things were not open and the only shop that was open was the food shop. I missed all my best friends and I missed my teachers. We did not wear our school uniform and we did our lessons on the computer. My mum and dad became my teachers. Everyone except children had to wear masks everywhere. We have to keep safe. My dolls'house is my memory of lockdown.

Eman Tello



I'm a Damascus-based architect, and art is my life. I love photography, painting, crafts, and music.

With my camera, I trap the details and moments I wish to immortalize. My photos are sometimes simple, but they capture stories and intense emotions.

I have therefore created Weirdie, through whom I combined my love for crafts, photography, and self-expression. Through the day-to-day details of Weirdie's life, I express myself and savor the things and notions I hold dear. He also resonates with many people although he doesn't feel like he fits in with the world around him. He has a small number of friends, he is comfortable in his own skin, and he spend his time doing the things he loves. He wouldn't waste a moment on anything that doesn't feel right or doesn't feel like him.

When I first started capturing Weirdie's life, I introduced people to his character, hobbies, and interests. He plays the oud, reads, goes for long walks in Damascus, and does many other things. I then decided to build his first house. It was very simple but the perfect fit for his character. I shared the details of his life for almost two years before his life expanded and he needed a bigger house, so I built him a Damascus-inspired home full of the cultural details he loves. I also capture the moments in his life that reflect my deepest silent emotions.

After about a year of moving into his new home, Weirdie wanted to pursue a new hobby and turn it into a profession, so I built him a tannour bakery next to his house. Now the details of his life have expanded to this bakery.

David



Swallow's-eye-view of the 1/24 scale model of the Museum of Model Art emerging into its temporary role as studio and recreation space during the Covid-19 pandemic. For Tonic Arts exhibition 'Life under Lockdown'. #tonicartslockdown

Helen Hou



This is what my dollhouse looks like. I know it's very simple but all that makes me calm and safe during lockdown is my bedroom, my bed and my sofa. the draws and windows and doors can be opened, the pillows and the figurines can be moved.

Madeleine Knock



My shoebox is about doing everything from home (even birthdays) and using technology, not to mention all the covid side of things and the upsetting things about covid.

Jack Warde



My shoebox is about my 2020. I felt I could mainly explain the average day during lockdown. Room 1 was about schoolwork during lockdown. Room 2 was about how much TV I watched during lockdown. Room 3 was about the amount of food everyone ate during the pandemic. Room 4 was about my cat who sadly died recently.

Grace Buckingham



My box is a recreation of what happened in Lockdown so in my room 1 I have a sofa and TV so that is like a family room. In room 2 I have a Zoom room; it reminds me of all the gymnastics I did. There are also inspirational posters and hangers that were saying this is where I hang them up. The last room is a nature room and that is where I did all my walks.

Lucy Foord



My Dolls House design is in two parts.

The first part will be at the top and will look like my bedroom. I will create a bed, wardrobe, desk with a chair, pictures and a hedgehog. The pictures will be of my art and of positive quotes as I am a very positive person.

On my desk will be a laptop from Lockdown Learning and a stack of books as I love to read!

The hedgehog is there because, during lockdown, we rescued a hedgehog and we named it Tiggy as we didn't know if it was a boy or a girl!

I have also put gems on the walls and ceiling to be like lights.

The second part of my house is our living room. I will create a sofa, a TV and a mirror (not as exciting as the first floor!).

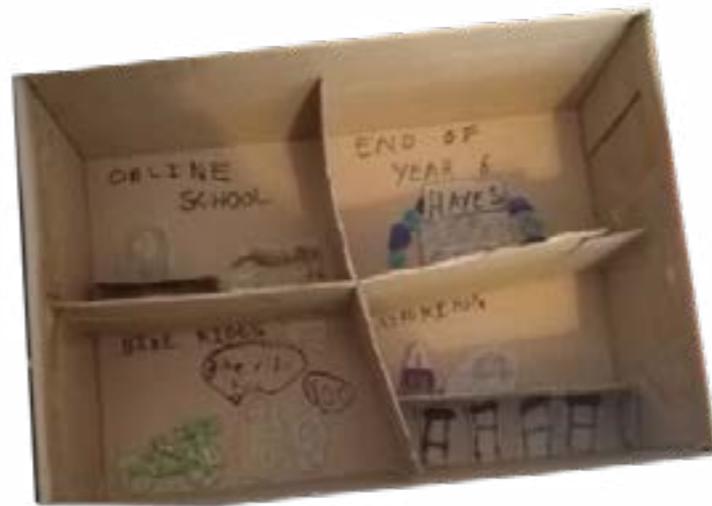
We watched many movies as a family during lockdown and my dad said that Lockdown was probably the most time we will spend together at once because of school and work, so it was very special. I chose these two rooms because I spend most of my time in Lockdown in them.

Jason Ekundayo



It's about BLM and the killing of George Floyd by the police in America 2020

Sophie Aylwin



I did 4 sections, one to show online school with me sitting at my desk, one to show my early morning bike rides, one was my end of year 6 and finally the fact that I did lots of baking.

Livvy Taylor



My shoebox is about my life outside of school, which is basically just my horses and horse riding and the thoughts about it that got me through lockdown.

Evie Tagg



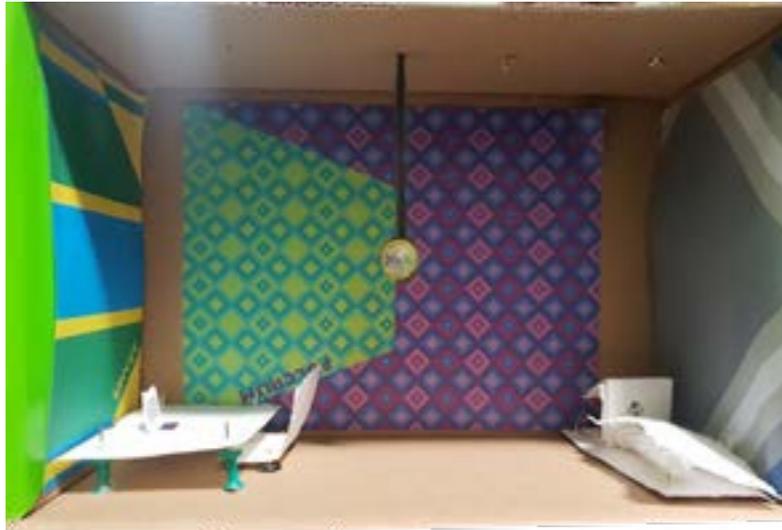
This is an art studio as I did lots of Art during lockdown, I wanted to show the activities I got up to. Because I enjoy art and it made me relaxed and happy.

Lilly Deller



My dolls house represents my room during online school while Covid-19 was spreading. It shows the change with all the masks and all the work we had to do to keep safe while also still learning without being at school and learning without all our peers and teachers to be there with us.

Titus Kennedy



I made a model that basically is my room which shows me sleeping. I made the room quite colourful as I felt quite happy in lockdown and included my desk and laptop to show my home learning experience.

Joseph Briffa



My shoebox is about my bedroom during the Lockdown because it was where I spent the most time.

Alex Martinez



My shoebox was about my life in lockdown where I used my phone a lot because I had nothing else to do and so I could speak to my friends instead of fighting with my sister.

Emily Hobbs



About a room and how it got so messy as we spent so much time in them during Lockdown.

Oliver McAnallen



My box is a room of my bedroom. I did my bedroom as I spent the most of my time in it during lockdown.

Emily Parry



My dolls house shows:

- Sofa – I was able to relax on it giving me good wellbeing.
- Birthday cake - I aged.
- Computer with TEAMS – I did online learning.
- Certificates - I did very good learning for online lessons.

William Grix



My box is about where I spent most time in lockdown. During lockdown I spent most of my time in my living room watching TV and making the attic room as my bedroom as I spent loads of time in there.

Shah H Syed

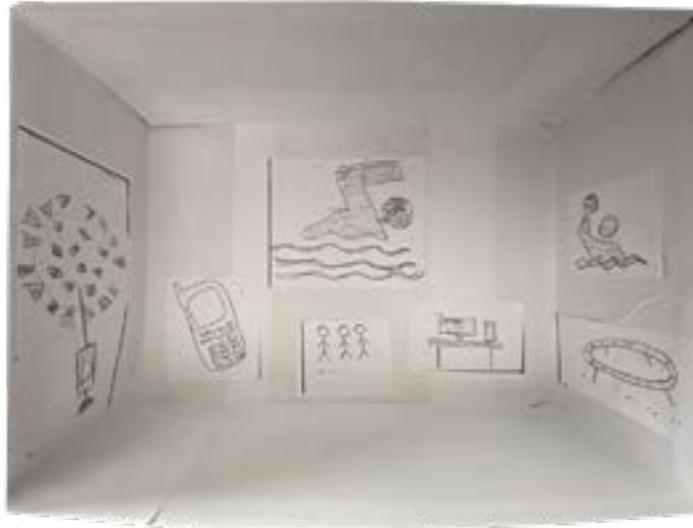


100

I made it and wanted it to look like being trapped in your room during covid. I made it look like a house as much as possible.

101

Oliver Daws



Realising how good and full life was before covid I wanted to use my shoebox to show my hopes and dreams for the future once the pandemic is over.

Stefan Lungu



Neena Muzawazi



Malek Sweis and Jack Guttman



Luca Spina



Kieran Gallagher



Joseph McAnallen



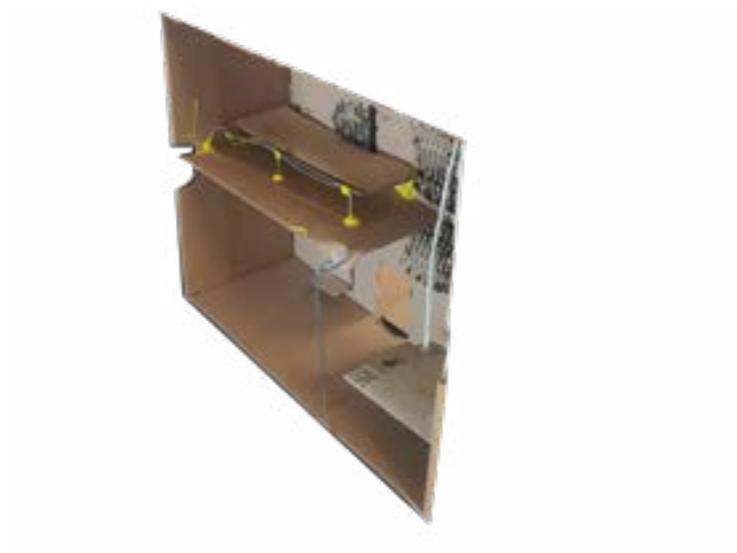
Jennifer Pike



Isabel Orchard



Dominic Wilson



Charles Delvin



Bethan Pritchard



Phil



Mary



My box developed into a beach hut, with round windows and skylights as I love to be by the sea. Mumbles Head is the view from the window. The round table is very important to me as I love to welcome friends and extended family into my home to eat, drink, chat and celebrate. It is wonderful to gradually be able to do that again! Unfortunately I broke my ankle and ran out of energy to make food for the little people, maybe that is why they are so slim!!

Mei



The group involves people from many different backgrounds and cultures, including refugees and asylum seekers. The group has strong links with the Chinese community, the Iberian and Latin American Society and the African Community Centre. They have created mosaics and paintings at the gallery and last autumn they worked at home to make patchwork for hangings, which are on show in the Glynn Vivian. Since last Spring they have kept in touch online using WhatsApp, facebook and Zoom.

They have enjoyed creating boxes for The Doll's House Project, and are delighted that they will be on display in the Oxfam Shop in Castle Street, Swansea throughout Refugee Week.

Mei is part of The Welcome Group at Swansea's Glynn Vivian Art Gallery. Mei, with help from her son Marshall, has created this beautiful home.

Blanca and Lino



Blanca and Lino are part of The Welcome Group at Swansea's Glynn Vivian Art Gallery.

Blanca and Lino are currently seeking sanctuary in the UK. Their box represents the home they had to leave behind in El Salvador. "We have a safe home in Swansea at the moment, but we miss our home in El Salvador very much."

Fruchsia and Sienna Allen



Our dolls house shows our hopes and dreams for the future. We wish that one day everybody will have a house or home to live in so nobody will be homeless or living on the streets and where people will care about our world and live happily with nature and animals, and the sunshine will light up our world but there will be no more global warming because there will be balance in our world.

Arthur Macdonald



My dolls house represents my room, with bunting around the walls and nice wallpaper covering the big walls.

Julia



The pandemic has put us all into a strange time warp, in which people felt trapped, framed, boxed in behind walls, remembering past events and longing for new activities. Though everyone learned the ways to prevent infection, much of our fate has had to do with luck and chance of where and how we live.

Julia



This is an update of my dolls house from 2017. The white figures - health care workers, or whoever they might be- are rolling through the green environment with plastic shields. One of them escaped to an upper level and removed the 'mask.' His/her sphere suggests a globe with the outline of a continent.

Lorna Soar



Before lockdown 2020 we had our house on the market to sell, so I spent a lot of time last year and during 2020 considering what kind of home I wanted. I already work from home, so that was not a change, but I did decide a modern, energy efficient home was a priority. But since people have been working from home there has been so much talk about how that feels and what it's like to be home day in and day out. So I made a little, light filled home to work from in my box, with cups of tea and a cat! I did manage to move and although my home and garden don't quite look like this, the spirit is there.

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



My home. Where i feel safe, have everything I need.

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



Home. A place to feel safe. A sanctuary where we can lock the world outside to reflect on our day and to just breathe before facing the world again and the ever shifting sands we are on.

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



Home where the heart is. a place to feel safe and warm, to talk through our worries.

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



A place to belong. and be supported and provide support. And just to be
xxx

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



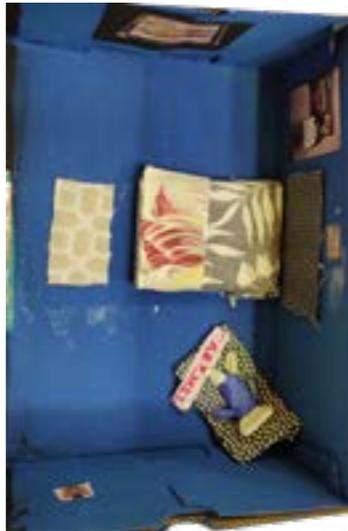
Being safe with families. Always an open door and a hot meal :-)

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



Home. Safe. Warm. Family. Memories

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



Home. Where my family live and where i can be looked after and supported.

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



An image of my bedroom where i have my best ideas and a safe space to chill and recharge my batteries.

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



A safe space to chill and have breathing space.

Member of Buchan Day Opportunities



My doll house represents my own room and is a cosy space, to feel safe and comfortable.

Patrick



I really enjoyed making this house, which reflects lots of things that I think are important about a home. I have used lots of fabrics that go together and make a tiny space that is welcoming and has things that are important to me like pictures on the walls, cushions and stories. I hope that one day everyone in the world has a house to call their own to feel safe in.

Edwin



My Doll's House is one from our imagination. We wanted to make a cosy space with books and food and even a TV. We wanted a lovely view out into the world beyond, and can you spot half the tree poking out from behind the curtain. We would really love to live in this tiny house and hope that it looks fabulous amongst the other houses in this exhibition.

Jenson



During lockdown we have been litter picking. Lots of rubbish gets dumped in rivers and oceans every day. I made an ocean to show what people are destroying and how much sea animals are in danger because of people dumping plastic and other objects in rivers and oceans. We need to stop it and help our animals.

Wendy



Finally, to also reflect the many years of friendship that started in childhood I recreated my bedroom. In it contains many mementoes, letters, posters and school photos representing the years that Lorna and I had at Balshaws High School

Frances



The box shows me in my crafting room, where I spent even more time than usual through lockdown, with my crochet, knitting, glass-making, reading... and a little bit of drinking once visitors were allowed! It was my crafting that kept me sane.

Fran's box is on display with others made in Swansea at the city's Oxfam Shop in Castle Street.

Katie



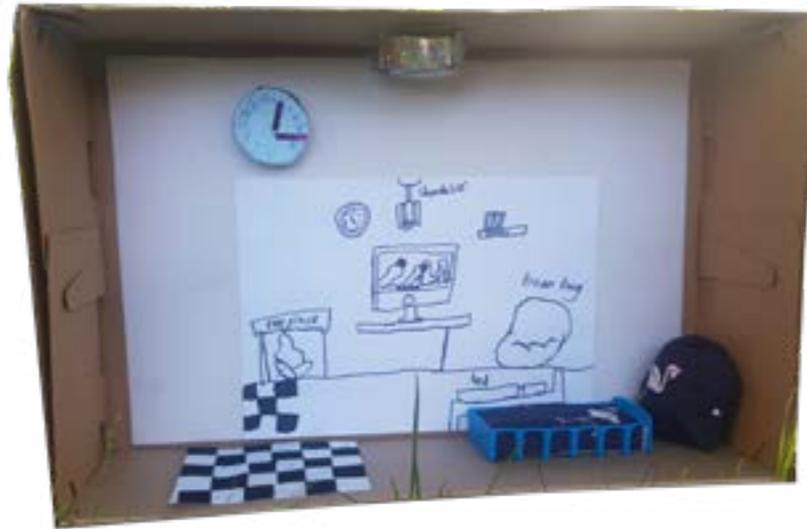
As CS Lewis once wrote, 'We read to know we are not alone'. Spending plenty of time at home during lockdown allowed me to put aside much more time to reading books. Particularly the stories of Pippi Longstocking, slightly dusted over on the bookshelf and not read since I was much younger. For this period, whilst I was stuck inside, I lived my adventures through Pippi and my shoebox reflects this.

Phoebe



I feel energised when I play football and want to encourage others to play with me, I make lots of friends. Playing football helps me work through my frustrations. The bed and chair are inspired by the clouds on the summer day in my new room.

George



My room is tidy and neat and I can be relaxed because I always do my homework. I like doing art here and I made a chandelier. Art makes me happy and I want to make papier mache because you can keep it in the freezer until you use it.

Adam



The wallpaper matches the door and the picture is special to see. Green is my favourite colour because it's like going to the park. The bed is comfy so I can go fast asleep. Having my own room makes me safe and happy.

Neferay



My room has the biggest mirror in the world and a vase of flowers. I didn't want to make a room today but Kimberley helped me and my friends are coming here to make art too.

Elise



This is my rainbow tent and we're having grilled marshmallows. I love sleeping in the tent and being with the trees.

Aubrey, Nano



We made this house because we thought every child would dream of this. We also did this because it was both of our dream houses put together. In our opinion, children deserve proper houses all across the globe. This is our version of a house worth living in.

Bessie, Erin



We made our house small and cosy because most people would rather have a small home with lots of memories than a big, empty house. It doesn't matter what your house looks like, as long as you feel at home.

Charlie, Zack



Our house is like a rich person's house with an Xbox 1 S in it. It inspired us to do it to show how some people feel like home and we thought to do a garden like mine as well.

Darcie, Edie, Tegan



Our group decided to base our design on emotions. We wanted to imagine and represent happy and angry as rooms and the states they would be in. We hope you enjoy!

James



My house is a cottage. It has a bed to sleep in and to keep you warm, a TV and an xbox with a controller. I have put all this in because this helps me feel at home.

Lizzy



My house is inspired by a dream. I imagined my future house and how I would like it to look to feel at home.

Mia



My house is just something out of my imagination. It is my vision of a home worth living in.

Rhys, Benj



We thought it would be cool to have a raised bed. Also we made a glass table using sellotape to make the glass effect. We also made a leaf rug to make it more like home.

Rory, Sam, Jacob, Toby, Joel, Jack, Oliver



We chose to make a music room, a gaming room and a bedroom because these are our favourite rooms that we could have brought to life. We decided that we would split into groups, create a room each and put the rooms together forming our dream home.

Skye, Ella, Sophia



We made our house a happy place because not everyone can express their feelings and have a happy place to live. In addition to this, our house is where you can be happy and have a voice that you can speak aloud and proud to the people around you. People can express themselves happily and speak up for what is right.

Zoe, Ellie, Maisie, Robyn



Our house was created by all of our ideas put together. We used a lot of different materials to make our house including our time and effort to make this building luxury. Would you like a warm, cosy house? This is your one. We put the bow there to ensure we were welcoming people in to our home.

Veer-Ram and Lucas



It is a DJ party place with lots of tech. I really liked it because you got to show who inspired you, but the reason I picked Alan Walker is because he is very family friendly and his music is super cool. The reason Alan would like that room is because it has a DJ platform and is very high tech

Maryam and Fatimah



We made our shoe box in memory of our baby sister Maria, our model shows 2 rooms in a hospital , 1 colourful displaying excitement of the new arrival and the other displays white walls displaying our sadness of our baby sister passing.

Sacha



My shoebox is for a school friend, Auden.
He loves biology so I made him a lab with a test subject, a reception and much more medical and biological equipment!
It needed more safety so I added a fire alarm and venting systems to prevent gas such as carbon monoxide poisoning.

Anton



I made my room for Flamingo. The reason I am inspired by flamingo is because I have started up a youtube channel in the last few months and it turns out it is a lot harder than I expected and he has shown me that it is possible and has helped me to persevere.

Amlica



[DOM U MENI] iz slojeva naizgled-leprsavosti bezbriznog neba neutazivo prazna izranjam naopacke necinjenja na pozornici igram se mrtvog cvijeta koji nikada nije uvenuo samoobjesenu o nit ne moze me se posaditi iz mene ne ispadaju sjemenke ne mirisem ruzicastost tolikih latica samo je dekor obmane to malo zemlje sa groblja kao da takva mogu poslužiti svijetu ako se recikliram.

Adam



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I'm inspired by car designers and the reason the back wall is plastered with photos of Mercedes cars is because I'm very passionate about cars and about Mercedes in particular. This is my model and inside it there's an armchair and a bed so the person can sit down and relax after a long day of designing cars.

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Kai



I created this room for my brother, who loves animals. If he was stuck in a room during lockdown, he would love to have cats for company and lots of birds to watch from the window. I have given him a desk and computer so he can research all the species of birds he sees. I made the cats out of clay.

Lena



The cosy living room in the house I grew up in, where my passion for reading started, and my interest in current affairs and world literature began.

Fadeke



This is a space which has been designed for a new bournemouth pier proposal, under my second unit project. It is one which I would love to experience— sitting underneath a concrete pavilion, on wooden chairs with food, drinks and a friend overlooking clear blue waters. Ever since lockdown started, I've become more intentional about making time for moments which truly matter, and not compromising on that. Life is too short for me to spend my days worrying, or being too focused on work and university so coming out, I look forward to curating beautiful memories, near and far with loved ones. A well rounded life is one that I desire, not merely designing grand buildings and spaces.”

Conor



I liked drawing 3D things in a 2D room.

Aayan



I made this room for my brother because he inspired me by teaching me to play cricket. I designed a cricket stadium that will blow you mind. I used matched for the wickets and made a silver foil cricket ball and a silver foil seating area above the stadium.

Jessica



A home for my dog who loves treat sticks, chairs and pillows

Monty



This is a room for my imaginary friend called Deez Nutz. It includes a TV a sofa and a poster.

Paige



I drew my twin sister with all the things she like and showed pieces of scrunched up paper to show how slime goes all over the place when she makes them and some of the things she likes like emoji pillows

Pippa



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My special person is my Grandad Alan. I liked how I got to do a model with me and my dad that I haven't seen since last year in a shoebox lid.

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Tristram

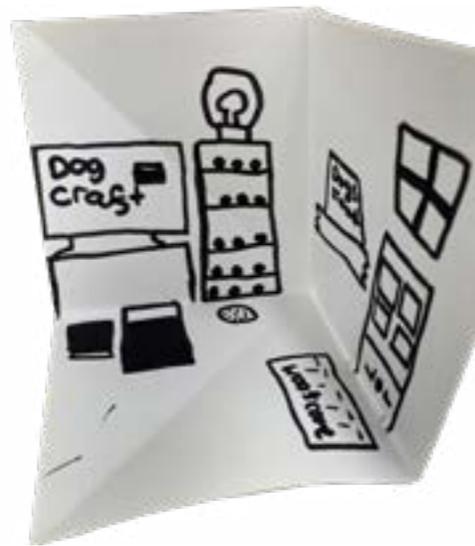


This is a room for myself. It has a bed, a bedside table and a lamp.

Haneef



Dash



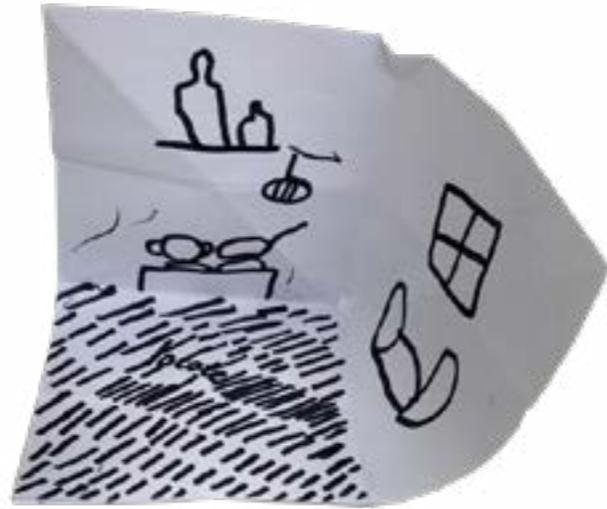
My room is for my dog because he is my best friend

Leo



My room was inspired by Stephen Hawking. I enjoyed making the head and coming up from the idea of the planet on the side and how to fix it on to make it look like a room

Luis



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I like invisible men.

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Nicolas and Milo



Pigs are my favourite animal and now they have somewhere to live which isn't on a farm. Working together was fun.

Rachel



Luna Lovegood is my favourite Harry Potter character and that's what I liked it.

Theo



Ella and Lucy



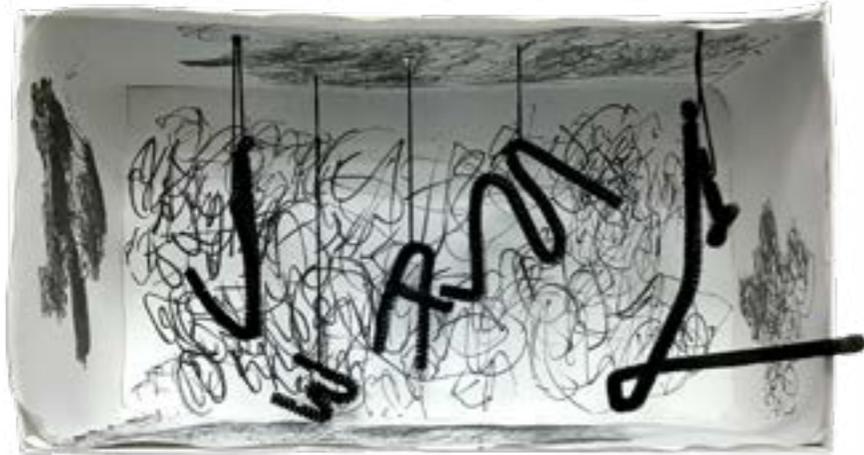
It was fun to make my box with Ella because we got to design a boarding school room for girls. We liked working together and making floorboards out of wood.

Izzy



I liked making my room about Nelson Mandela because I'm from South Africa and because of what he has done for BLM.

Andrew



My mark-making gives me a feeling of calm. I like using felt tips. I bent pipe cleaners for the first time and reproduced some of my marks using them. The shapes look good hanging in my box.

Gifty

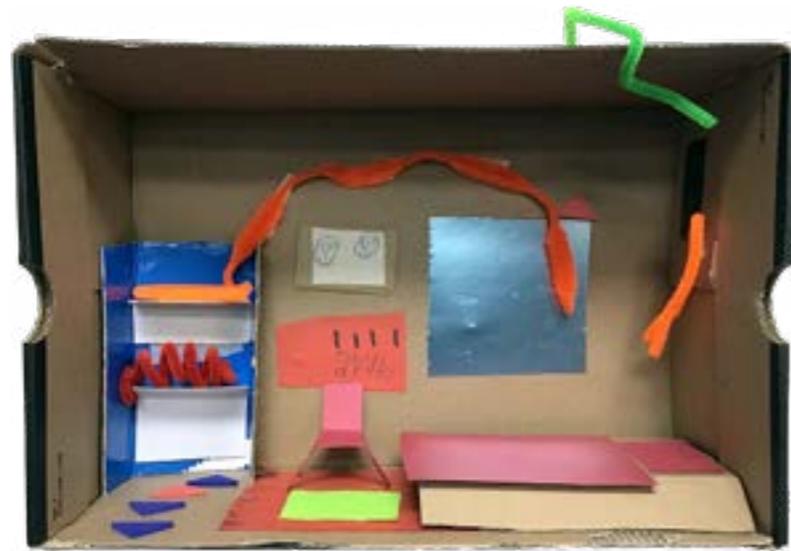


260

I love and missed my brother during lockdown. I know my brother loves and missed live football during lockdown. I created this box to show I care about and appreciate my brother, and to give us both hope that one day soon we'll once again be able to attend a live football match in a stadium together.

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Henry



During lockdown I spent a long time in my bedroom. I watched the news a lot. In my bedroom I have a bed, a chair, a cupboard, a framed photo of my family, a red rug, and a window. I like watching the rain and the rain drops falling on my window. Rain makes me happy.

Rehan



This is my bedroom. My bedroom is red. The carpet is red, the curtains are red and the walls are red. During lockdown I played games on my laptop. I have two lights in my room, and on the walls I have two picture frames with paintings of flowers. I like drawing. I like drawing flowers. I like to relax on my bed when I feel tired. I enjoyed making this lockdown dolls' house.

Cherelle



During lockdown I enjoyed listening to music in my room. Music makes me feel good inside. Music makes me happy. Here I am smiling in my bedroom because I am listening to reggae. There is a poster of Bob Marley on my wall. I have a black rug and a laptop in my bedroom too.

Vincent



This is me in my bedroom. I am holding the remote control in my hand. During lockdown I enjoyed resting on my bed and watch Total Drama on the TV. In my bedroom, I have a cupboard, which has a mirror, there is a lampshade and three small spot lights on my ceiling and I have a big window. My bed is very comfortable.

André



I spent the whole of lockdown at home with my mother and sister. In my bedroom I have a video camera, walkie-talkie, lots of light switches and sockets, and a computer. I like it in my bedroom, it's my space. I enjoy playing games and talking to my friends on Zoom. I don't mind lockdown because I am always busy, I have lots of work and jobs to do. I liked making this lockdown dolls' house. I am looking forward to taking my box home to show my family.

Sharon



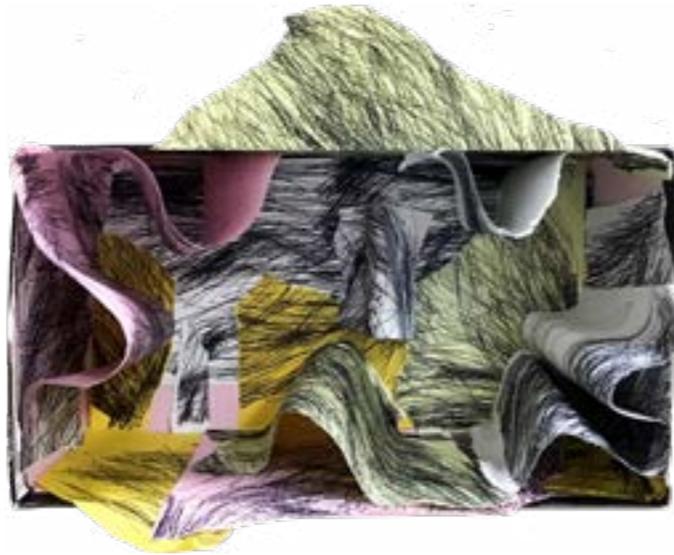
This is my sister and I dancing in the park. I remember spending happy times in the park during lockdown. I saw trees, grass, and the sun was shining.

Andrew



Swirls, shapes, curls and colour. This box represents a positive energy of happiness and hope.

Idris



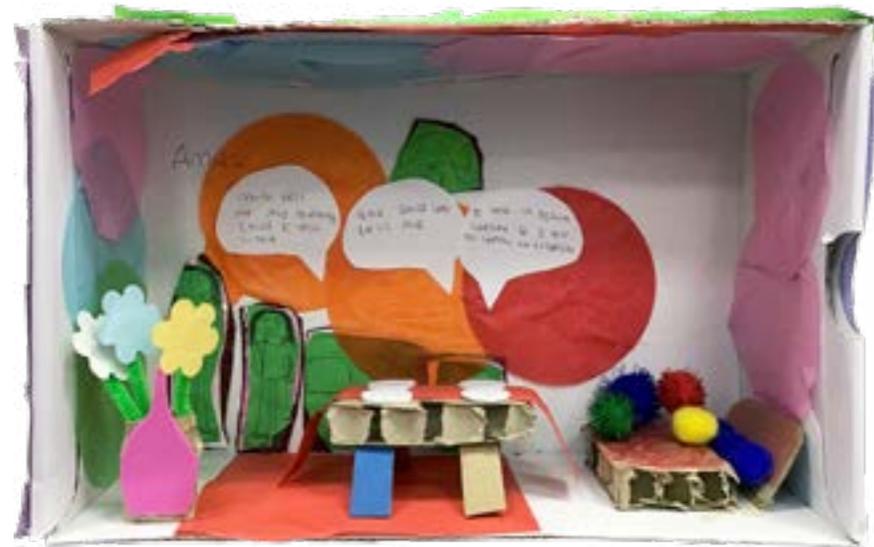
My creative energy invites you to join me on this lockdown journey. There are ups and downs, smooth and rough corners and tunnels, and hidden places you can escape into.

Sachelle



My favourite memory of lockdown was celebrating my cat George's birthday. I love my cat, I care for my cat and my cat makes me happy. I am there for George and George is there for me; we have each other. I had a special birthday party for George, there were balloons, cake and presents.

Amal



I have good memories of lockdown. I spent lots of time with my family. My mum and I talked for hours, reminiscing about when I was younger, age ten and in year six at school. My living room is where the whole family come together. We have a big comfy sofa with cushions.

Nicola



I like it in my bedroom. I am comfortable and happy in my bedroom. I spent a lot of time keeping busy in my bedroom during lockdown. I joined my lessons on Zoom, I practised my violin, I enjoyed reading my books and writing. I called my sister on video call. I made bread. Blue is my favourite colour. My curtains are blue. When I look outside the window, I see flowers. I like flowers.

Kelly



During lockdown it was just me and mum. I looked out the windows a lot. I put lots of windows in my dolls' house, these are all different views in time. I stayed indoors in lockdown. I watched TV. I watched Eastenders. I am happy I am back at Share Community with my friends.

Nathaniel



Lucy-Ann



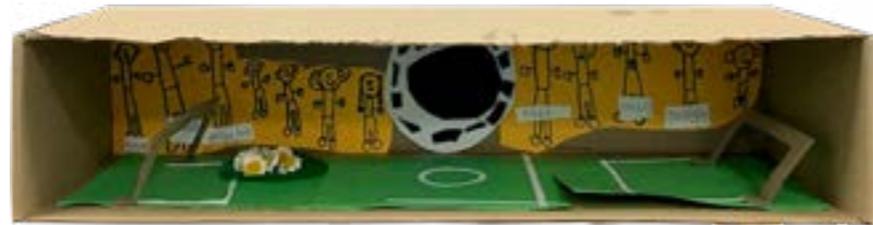
I live in sheltered housing, I am happy in my home. Pink is my favourite colour. All around my lockdown dolls' house I shaped and stuck pink cherry blossom made out of tissue paper and pipe cleaners. My bedroom is my pink sanctuary. I have cherry blossom wallpaper in my bedroom. My bed is soft and comfortable. I enjoyed making my tiny coffee table. I feel calm, relaxed and safe in my bedroom.

Georgia



This is me running in my Arsenal kit waving to a dog in the park. Running outdoors is the one thing I could control during lockdown. I enjoy my runs. My runs relax me and I feel happy. On my runs I see birds. I like birds. During lockdown I kept busy drawing and painting birds.

Haroon



I like football. I like playing football. My sister bought me a football during lockdown. I missed being outside and playing a game of football with others. So, I imagined a football match between my family and my friends at Share Community. This is everyone outdoors kicking the ball into the goals.

Shaun



During lockdown I spent a long, long time at home. I remember lying on my bed watching Britain's Got Talent on TV. I sometimes look outside my bedroom window. I see the sky, the clouds, and the sun. On my bedroom wall there is a picture of me smiling.

Kelly



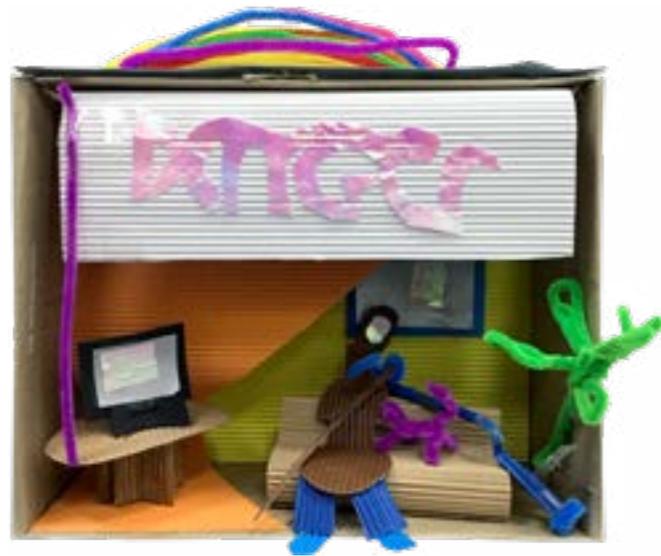
During lockdown I sat in my pink bedroom chilling and watching all the TV soaps. Eastenders is my favourite. I love my dog. My dog is called 'Blue', but he's not really the colour blue. My dog keeps me company.

Jackie



During lockdown I stayed indoors, I did not go out at all. I live in shared housing, we kept busy doing arts and crafts, quizzes, and watching TV. This is our communal room, with its sofas and cushions. My favourite TV show is Coronation Street.

Karen



This dolls' house is a surreal depiction of one lockdown memory. I tried to teach myself the violin during lockdown and this helped me keep things together. I had the company of a stray cat that came to visit me from time to time. The green plant is there to remind me of the outside and the importance of nature. The word 'danger' highlighted on the outside of the blind, represents the danger outside because of Covid-19. Danger was the message projected into every house. Danger was on the telly, on the radio, on the adverts, it was always there. The rainbow on the top of my dolls' house represents the NHS and having a feeling of hope. The rainbow to me shows a certainty when everything else went to pot.

Karen



I painted the inside of this dolls' house white to represent bareness, bleakness, and a sanitised feeling. I also added an image of empty supermarket shelves, which I and everyone experienced during the first lockdown. At the centre of the dolls' house there is a shopping trolley filled to the brim with toilet paper, this is a comical memory of the lockdown. This was our reality, people were worried, even scared going shopping, thinking would they find what they need? I recall a feeling of uncertainty, bewilderment, rage, and anger. To get away from this chaos, I took myself to a green spot on top of a hill. That's me on top of my dolls' house, sitting all alone. I enjoyed having that time alone. The tree is there to remind us of nature because it was easy to forget the benefits of nature when everything else was going on.

Karen



This dolls' house is about me thinking about pets during lockdown. Pets are just happy with the basics, they do not want or need much else. Look, they have their daylight coming in and all their normal comforts. This is showing us that 'simplicity' is so important; I feel people have forgotten to 'live simply'. This dolls' house shows you a cat, happy and comfortable in a world of its own.

Roy



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This is my living room at home. During lockdown I stayed in all the time. Sitting on my big sofa watching TV. I also kept busy colouring-in and staying in contact with my friends on my mobile. I really missed my girlfriend. I am so happy to be back at Share Community.

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The Giant Dolls' House Project
 Oxfam Campaigns, Oxfam Education, Oxfam Shops
 Refugee Week 2021, London Festival of Architecture



Organisations that contributed

Aberdeenshire Council, Buchan Day opportunities; Archimake Architecture Education for Children; Ashton Keynes C of E School; Colne Engaine Primary School; Farringtons School

Growing Together; Kids Kreate; Migration Yorkshire; Mala Otocka biblioteka; Museum of Model Art at MERZ; Oxfam Castle Street Arts; Oxfam Swansea; The Peanut Factory NC US; SCAN UK; Share Community; STAR; Swansea's Glynn Vivian Art Gallery; Valley Invicta Primary School at Kings Hill

The project is a collaboration with Oxfam Campaigns, Oxfam Education and Oxfam GB, who shared the project with their partner schools.

The Giant Dolls'house project is run by Catja de Haas Architects and is Part of London Festival of Architecture 2021 Refugee week 2021.

Contributors to the exhibition and booklet: Gim Kwok from Catja de Haas Architects; Jean Michel Dentand Ltd; Students of Arts University Bournemouth: Jakub Kelbratowski, Maxwell Wootton and James Langham. Booklet design: Sophie Walker.

The Giant Dolls' House Project is a social arts project. Each installation engages the participants by exploring their environment through making. The project encourages conversations and raises awareness of the importance of a home and community for all.

