

Join us

**Giant Dolls' House installation with Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees
at Battersea Arts Centre , Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN from 10-18 June 2025**

The Giant Dolls' House Project in collaboration with Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees is making an installation as part of Refugee Week and the London Festival of Architecture. We are asking members from the rich and varied community that makes up Wandsworth to share their experiences, hopes and aspirations by creating a miniature space of their own in a shoebox.

These will be mounted on black canvas at Battersea Arts Centre and linked by ropes, ladders and ramps to form a colourful patchwork of the different voices that make up the borough of Wandsworth, highlighting the importance of home and community for all.

We are excited to invite as many voices as possible from the different community groups to make the dolls' houses. All of you together make Wandsworth the vibrant community it is.

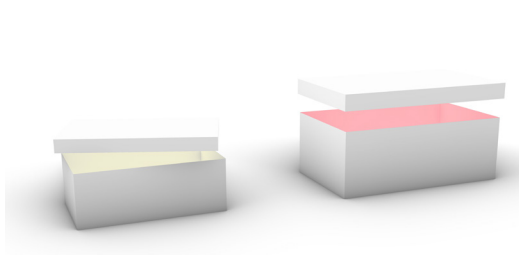
This year's theme for Refugee Week is 'Community as a Superpower': this installation created by children and adults living in Wandsworth will be a perfect celebration of the contributions, creativity and resilience of people living and seeking sanctuary in the borough.



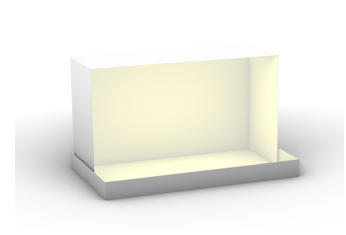
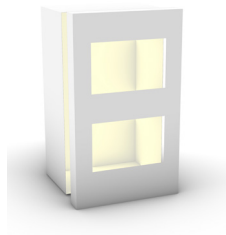
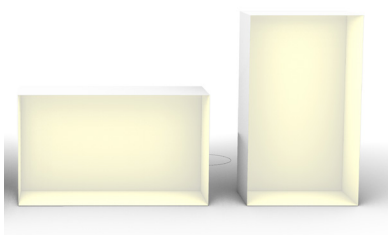
The Giant Dolls House is a collaborative arts project led by artist and architect Catja de Haas. Participants may be children or adults. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the importance of home, safety and community for all and to celebrate a united diversity. Since 2016, Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees has been building and supporting a more welcoming Wandsworth for people forced to flee their homes. Starting as a grassroots community group, and now a registered charity, we believe everyone who seeks sanctuary should be provided support, dignity and welcome.

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To make your doll's house you need a shoebox without a lid. You can decorate the box with anything that you find in your home or your environment.



Think about natural materials such as bark, plants and natural fibres or re-used materials such as old magazines, fabric scraps, loo rolls, scraps of wallpaper, bottle caps, old newspapers, sweet wrappers, plastic bottle caps, lolly-pop sticks, paper and card, pencil and paint as well as old pieces of jewellery, anything you can find. You can make whatever you like in your box. You'll also need glue and scissors (be careful with sharps and ask for help if you need it).



Please make sure your box is oriented as one of the above. The back of the box needs to be stapled to the canvas frame so make sure you decorate the box in such a way that that is possible, and don't make them too heavy.

If you drop your box off on Monday 9 June at the Battersea Arts centre please fill out the attached consent form.

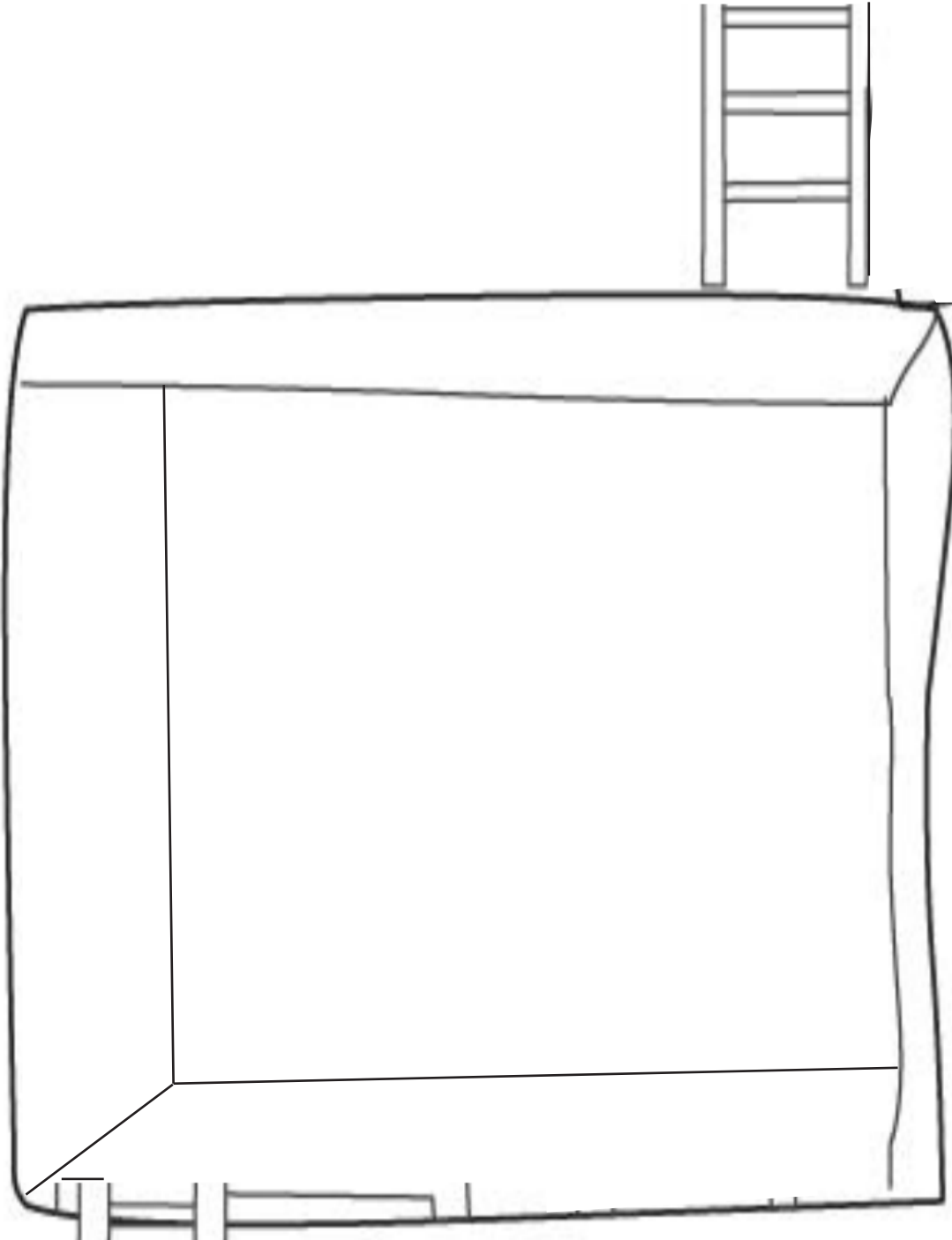
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Voices of Wandsworth

Sketch your idea



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A Dolls' house made by a student in Kharkiv

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Title: Ice cream

With this layout, I want to tell about the everyday life of Ukrainians through my story. I remember chatting with my mom in the kitchen and eating ice cream. It was tasty, but then the ice cream ended up on the floor, and tears welled up in my eyes. My mom and I both panicked and fell to the floor, not because of the ice cream. A military plane flew over the house, and the sound of its engine sliced through the silence like a knife. We lifted our heads and met each other's gaze, filled with fear and confusion. The world seemed unreal, as if we were being watched on TV, and someone was mocking our helplessness. Every day we felt like our lives had become a cruel reality show, where we were just helpless actors who could die at any moment, without even getting a chance to say goodbye... I miss that ice cream because it was a little ray of light that brought some joy during the days and nights of explosions. But even that was taken away by the Russians..

Box made by Anastasia 18 years old. Part of LFA 2024 'Reimagine your neighbour'

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