

24 September 2014

## Press Release

### A look at life behind closed doors

- What:** **Behind Closed Doors: Four Artists, Four Doors Opened**
- When:** Friday 3 October – Sunday 12 October 2014 in association with The Times and Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival
- Where:** **Jacqui Grange with Gillian Cambridge**  
5 Edward Wilson House, Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham, GL51 0HB  
10 – 11am  
'Dust – trauma and recovery, a narrative of domestic abuse.'
- Claire Witcomb with Laura Bosley and family**  
30 Pates Avenue, Cheltenham, GL51 8EQ  
12.30 – 1.30pm  
'Let it go...exploration of childhood and memory, keepsakes and treasures.'
- Annemarie Wright with Lynda and Coral Ward and Dianna De La Mar**  
22 Terry Ruck Close, Cheltenham, GL51 0XR  
4 - 5pm  
'Love is the glue that binds us...a family story.'
- David Grange with Zach Nicholas**  
Axiom Arts, 74 Edinburgh Place, Cheltenham, GL51 7SD  
5.30 – 6.30pm  
'A look into the inner workings of a remarkable mind.'

A unique Cheltenham-based art exhibition offers the opportunity to view creative work within the homes of those who inspired and created them.

Artists Annemarie Wright, Claire Witcomb and Jacqui and David Grange have worked with members of four families in the Hester's Way neighbourhood of Cheltenham to draw upon their experiences of their everyday lives to create a series of very personal pieces. The families are inviting the public over the threshold into their living rooms and kitchens to view the work within their living space for an hour every day.

Jacqui Grange, co-ordinator of the project with husband David, said: "We've been working for the last few months with four families and four artists, to create a number of artist in residence projects in domestic spaces. The project has been born out of our passionate belief that people have more in common than differences, and this project aims to explore, question and celebrate that commonality through drawing, film, photography and installation, and literally open doors to private spaces.

“The resulting artworks will be shown in situ, which means that these families have consented to opening their doors to the public. Creating and viewing art work in the home of the subject/collaborator brings a whole new sensitivity, context and audience experience – the work created will have to be the result of true collaboration. The artists and families chosen have parallels in life experiences or interests but the process of collaboration may well result in different themes or areas to be explored.”

Poets Brenda Reid-Brown and Peter Wytton are engaging with the project to produce a response to the work which will be shared at the exhibition venues. A video of the reactions and interactions of the public with the art works will also form part of a retrospective exhibition planned for the future at The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum in Cheltenham.

Behind Closed Doors is a collaboration between Creative Solutions, Axiom Arts and The Times and Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival and is supported by Arts Council England.

The exhibitions are open during the Festival from Friday 3 October to Sunday 12 October.

A blog documenting the progress of the project and commenting on the collaboration can be seen at <http://www.creativesolutions.org.uk/> For further information, please contact Jacqui Grange on 07899 727027 or email [jacqui@creativesolutions.co.uk](mailto:jacqui@creativesolutions.co.uk)

## ENDS

### Notes for Editors

**Annemarie Wright** is working with Lynda and Coral Ward and their daughter Dianna. She creates portraits using handwritten text. She is best known for her portrait of Tony Blair created using the names of fallen British soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. Her work has also hung in the reception of Abbey Road Studios and features a handwritten list of artists that have recorded at the venue. Her image of Boris Johnson was featured in Westminster tube station as part of the Art Below exhibition in 2011. More information about Annemarie’s work can be found at <http://www.annemarie-wright.com/>

**Claire Witcomb** is a public artist and play space developer working with Laura Boseley and her young family. She is currently artist in residence at Bloomsbury Nursery School in Birmingham, and has previously had residencies leading to sculptural play areas in schools nationally, as well as working with Museums and arts organisations including winning the Clore Award for Museum Learning 2012.

**David and Jacqui Grange** from Creative Solutions have brokered the relationships for the residencies and have worked with the artists and residents on previous projects. They have previously collaborated on site specific arts projects in Cheltenham at Sandford Park Lido and the Moors estate and last years Common Ground project, and have been commissioned to produce artworks by clients including Red Cross, Groundwork UK, Creative Partnerships, English Heritage and Arts Council England. Jacqui also chairs the Axiom Arts organisation which has opened a creative space in Edinburgh Place, Hester’s Way. More information about the work of Creative Solutions can be found at <http://www.creativesolutions.org.uk/>

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