Oblique Arts

ANNUAL REPORT 21/22

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Co-ordinator's Report

This year has seen delivery of some exciting projects. The World Roma Congress Art Exhibition opened in London, at the newly refurbished 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning Gallery from September 27th to October 3rd 2021. The exhibition toured to the Kai Dhikas Gallery in Berlin and remained open to the public until early February 2022. Both exhibitions were a big success with some renowned international Roma artists showing outstanding work.

In September we delivered artist's training for 6 UK artists and 6 Spanish artists at Sorobille in the North of Spain. 'Seeds for Change' training included earth connection and creative understanding.

Our work with Neuro-diverse, older/isolated and disadvantaged teenagers has continued with 3 projects supported by the Cambridge City Council. Our methodology of bringing together arts, nature and peer group support has really taken off with more support from the County Council for our Walk 'n Draw in Nature sessions, which have been really popular.

Traveller Advocacy work has expanded with research partners, Essex University. The Traveller Health Project will now continue into 2022/23. We are working toward a closer relationship with the Arts Council and continue to develop our arts team and their diverse and specialist skills.

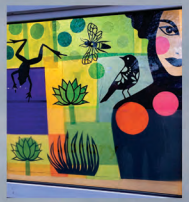
Finance Report

Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had a record year of funding, totalling £81,021. The lockdowns, as well as our charity's mission to reach vulnerable and isolated people in our locality, has resulted in a radical change to our methods. Delivery of online workshops took place for our increasing audience. Our largest funder was the Arts Council this year. Their grants have allowed us to support a range of projects including online workshops for neuro-diverse individuals and our work with Spanish EU Partners.

We have set up Oblique Arts South West with projects in Bristol and Glastonbury and an art exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Roma World Congress in London and Berlin. We have been Rethinking Fashion sustainably and offering Creative Curiosity Walks in socially-distant groups. We also received support from Cambridge City and County Councils, for our work with young people, disabled adults and Travellers living beside the A14. Lush have continued to support our advocacy work with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Critical to this has been the grant from the Network for Social Change (NSC) of £15,410 and the Funding Network (TFN) of £7,149. This has allowed us to cover our core costs, vastly improving our effectiveness in delivery and gaining funding, despite the pandemic and Brexit.

These are testing times for the artistic community, with Government making further cuts to the arts in education, leaving an unfair burden on charities like Oblique Arts to pick up the slack. Ultimately, this is unsustainable, but this year we managed to make a considerable and diverse contribution.

Art Box Exhibition Pages 12-13



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Projects

Spain - Seeds for Change - Empowerment training course
Roma World Congress Exhibition in London & Berlin
Art Exhibition - At The Box Cafe
Kaleidoscope workshops
Workshops divised for:
Teens - Neuro-diverse - Older People
Creative Curiosity Walks
Window Wanderland
Re-Think Fashion
Traveller Advocacy

Seeds for Change - Spain

We stayed in the mountains of Northern Spain in a village called Sorabile near Intza. The 'Seeds for Change' Empowerment training course included; Inspiration, Meditations, Art, Self reflection,Music, Sounds, Nature, Connecting, Walking, Dreaming, Singing, Dancing, Floating, Swimming, Sketching cross cultural discussions. We worked together to share metholodogies and develop new ways to engage, in order to benefit our communitises and create a better world using art as a tool.

Participants	*15*
Online Audience	*3,500*

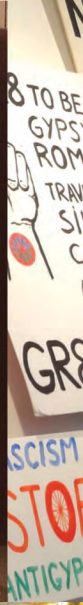
YAMAHA

Roma World Congress Exhibition in London & Berlin

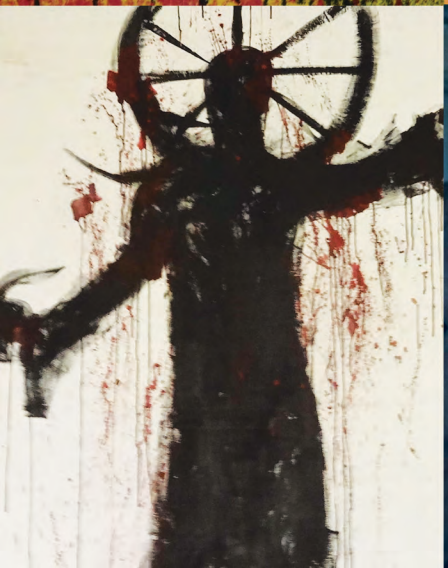
The World Roma Congress Art Exhibition moved from an online exhibition www.worldromacongressart.com to a physical space this year.
Oblique Arts worked in association with Stiftung Kai Dikhas
The exhibition was curated by Beverley Carpenter (Oblique Arts, UK) and Moritz Pankok (Stiftung Kai Dikhas).
Roma artists from across Europe were commissioned.
The exhibition was held at the 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning gallery in South London. September 27 to October 03.
In Berlin: Aufbau Haus am Moritzplatz Prinzenstraße 84.2 , 10969 Berlin. October 22nd to the end of February 2022.

Participants	*400*
Audience	*8,000*
Online audience	*55,500*

Roma World Congress Exhibition in London



Roma World Congress Exhibition in Berlin



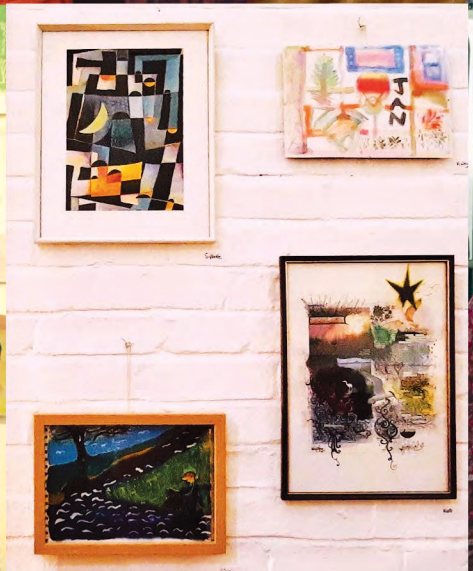
ROMANI
REVOLUTION
ROMA NATION IS NOT EXTINCT. ...YET
GR8 POWER

GR8 PEOPLE
EXTINCT. ...YET
STOP
GR8 POWER
#ARESELENOUGH
HIT

Art Box Exhibition - At The Box Cafe

Norfolk St Cambridge CB1

Participants	*50*
Audience	*850*
Online Audience	*6,000*



Kaleidoscope Workshops

Commissioned by Library Presents, Oblique Arts created a lively area for a new family experience.
Whilst visitors flocked to see the Giant Kaleidoscope Installation manned by Chris Free at the Coneygear Centre in Huntingdon, families made mini Kaleidoscopes with Penny Sobr and Dawn Burford .
Thanks to the Library Service for creating and funding this opportunity and to the Coneygear Centre for hosting the event.

Participants	*60*
Audience	*90*
Online Audience	*350*

Community Workshops: *Teens-Neuro-Diverse-Older People*

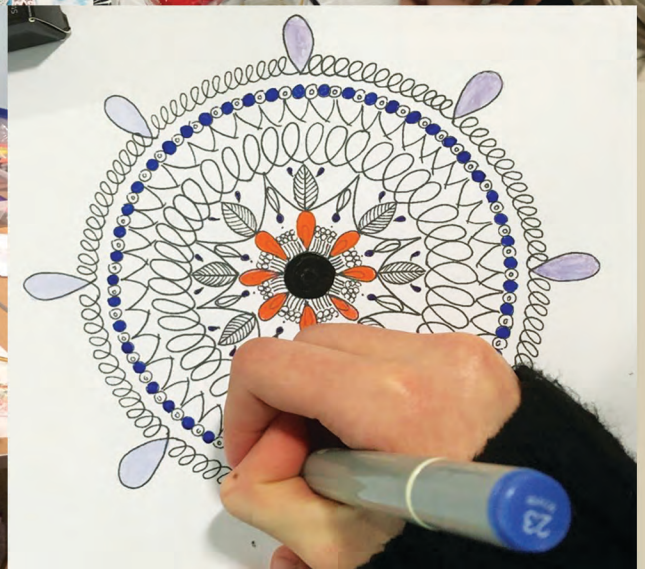
We offered socially distanced art workshops in Febuary 2021 at the Museum of Technology in Cambridge. Most of our participants struggle with neuro-diversity, mental health isues and/or isolation, exacerbated by Covid-19 anxiety and related lockdowns. Physical workshops began at Romsey Mill and Trumpington Youth Club, inspiring teens with mask decoration, marbling and mandalas.

A mandala is a symbol of the universe in its ideal form, and its creation signifies the transformation of a universe of suffering into one of joy. Well, we certainly had a joyful time creating these designs together in this workshop. We continued to have regular attendance of around 18 people. We offered regular contact, weekly 2 hour sessions and delivered free packs of art materials. We also looked at colour theory, drawing from observation and imagination and a variety of art techniques. These included collage, paper sculpture, drawing, painting and cut up poetry among others. For many it was a whole new experience and opened up a whole new world, especially exhibiting their work.

The project was very popular. Participants told us how much they enjoyed our workshops and how much they learned.

We are grateful to Cambridge City Council for funding.

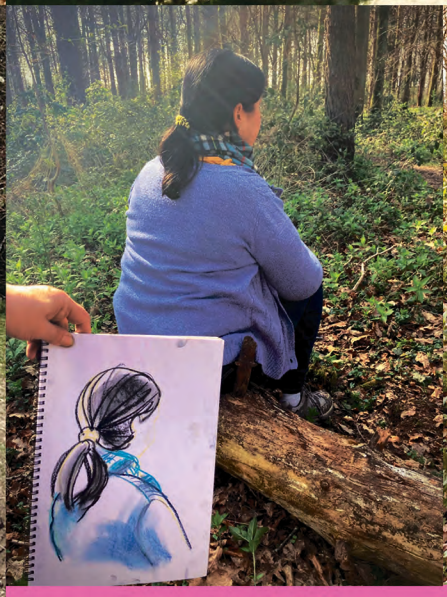
Participants	*72*
Audience	*180*
Online Audience	*350*



Creative Curiosity Walks

Creative Curiosity Walks is a project funded by the Arts Council. It is a peer support group, where we walk, create and connect through nature and art. It enables the beneficiaries to have social interaction and express themselves in a safe environment without fear or judgement.The benefits to their mental health and confidence have allowed them to become more independent. The weekly group meets at different locations within a 10 mile radius of Cambridge. The guided walks through beautiful nature are led artist, Penny Sobr with Chris Free and Dawn Burford in support.
There are stops for sketching, making land art or simply immersion in the therapeutic wonders of nature.

Participants	*850*
Online Audience	*350*



WINDOW WANDERLAND

Commissioned by Cambridge City Council for Window Wanderland. The Barnwell library window was designed by Penny Sobr & brought to life with help from artist's, Sibylle Hutter and Karen Kellet, for the benefit of the Barnwell and Abbey Community.

Participants	*6*
Audience	*200,000*
Newspaper	*3600*
Online	*8000*

RE-THINK FASHION

A Rags to Riches Fashion Happening at the Museum of Technology. Oblique Arts designer, Jamie Ashman, worked in collaboration with our partners, Oxfam, to devise an amazing collection. Diverse models and recycled clothing were used to create a dynamic showcase of glamour with a strong message. Jane Goodall endorsed our project, making a video that was shown at the event. Music by Short and Sweet (DJs) and The Sound of Pop Art (live).

Lets create a world where the Fashion Industry embraces a sustainable vision for a peaceful world of diversity with humanity living at one with nature.

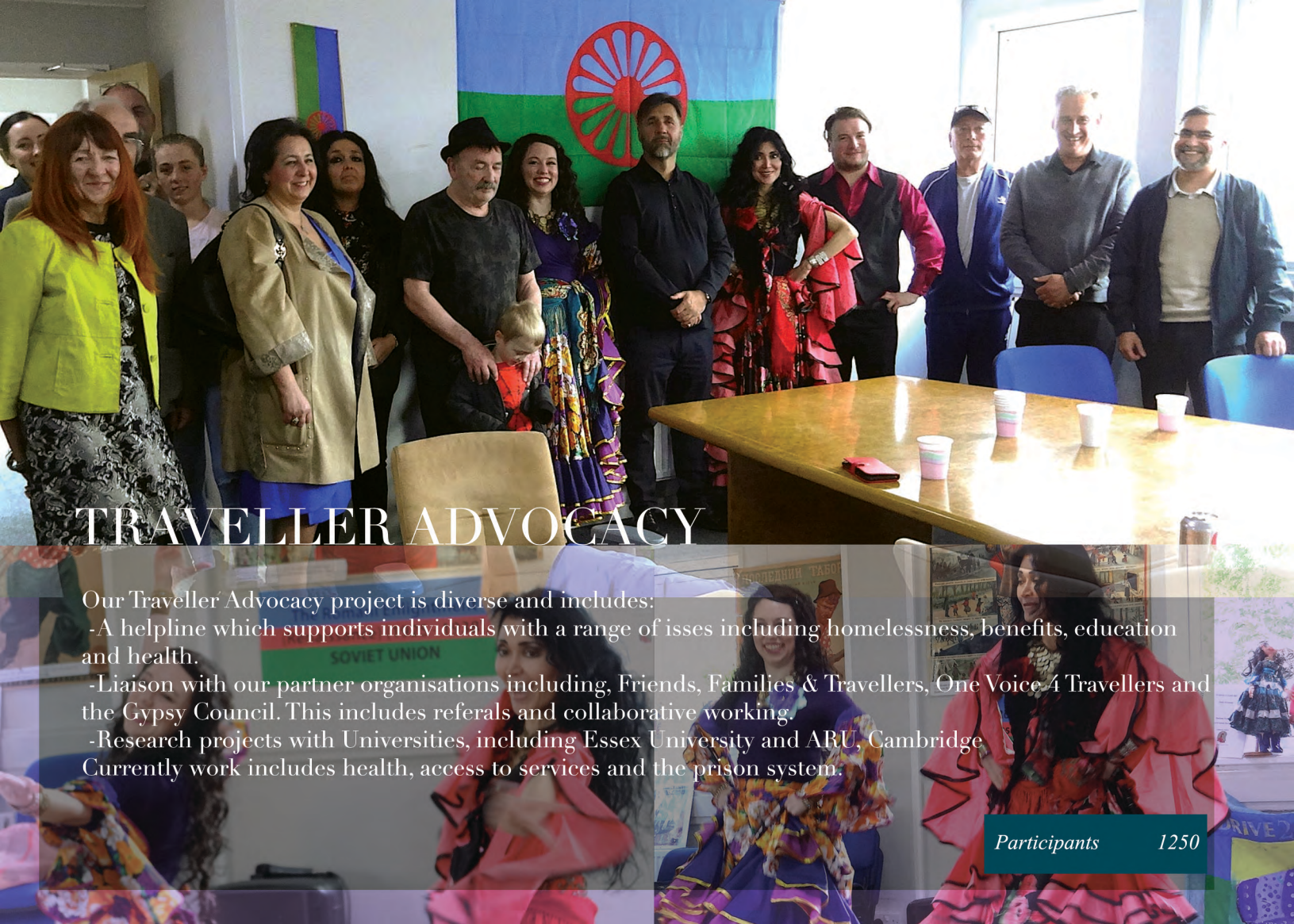
Participants	*30*
Audience	*600*
Online Audience	*4000*
Newspaper	*3532*

Oblique Arts presents Rethink Fashion at Cambridge Museum of Technology. Above, Ana Terriente and, right, from top, Regan Ashman, Beverly Carpenter and Duke Ingram. Below, from left, Sylvie Rose and Karen Kellet.
Pictures: Keith Heppell

Fast fashion rethink at Technology Museum

By Adrian Peel
adrian.peel@iliffemedia.co.uk

It aimed to inspire people to remember the 'DIY' punk ethos of the 1970s and second-hand 'grunge' damaging industry worldwide. Dyeing fabrics in India causes pollution, polyester in the materials



TRAVELLER ADVOCACY

Our Traveller Advocacy project is diverse and includes:

-A helpline which supports individuals with a range of isses including homelessness, benefits, education and health.

-Liaison with our partner organisations including, Friends, Families & Travellers, One Voice 4 Travellers and the Gypsy Council. This includes referals and collaborative working.

-Research projects with Universities, including Essex University and ARU, Cambridge

Currently work includes health, access to services and the prison system.

Participants	*1250*

TREE PLANTING

Participants 15
Audience 1200

In this time of climate crisis we are comitted to helping the planet by planting native trees at the lovely organic #FenEndFarm in Cottenham. A mixture of trees were donated by #woodlandtrust #climateactionnow #savetheplanet #rewilding

YEARLY TOTALS

Participants:	**2,748**
Audience:	**210,920**
Online Audience:	**70,050**
Newspapers:	**7,132**
Online Newspapers	**8,000**

Oblique Arts is an artist led organisation. We enable communities to work with us to explore their creative potential through high quality arts projects. We provide unique creative workshops, projects and multimedia installations for the public, individuals and groups to inspire and educate.

Contact details: mail@obliquearts.co.uk
For more information about Oblique Arts, please visit our website:
www.oblique-arts.com

Follow us on social media:
Facebook: obliquearts
Instagram: oblique_arts
YouTube: Oblique Arts Videos

Oblique Arts is a registered charity based in Cambridge, UK Charity no. 1142653

FUNDERS

Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Arts Council England — Supported using public funding by Arts Council England
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Cambridge Sustainable Food
The Funding Network
Network for Social Change
LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
Cows about Cambridge 2020
Wild in Art
Romani Cultural & Arts Company
Stiftung Kai Dikhas
ERIAC European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
Kettle's Yard
Queen Katharine Academy
Library Live
cambridge artworks
Compas Charity
Cambridge Museum of Technology
Fen End Farm
808
The Box Café

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