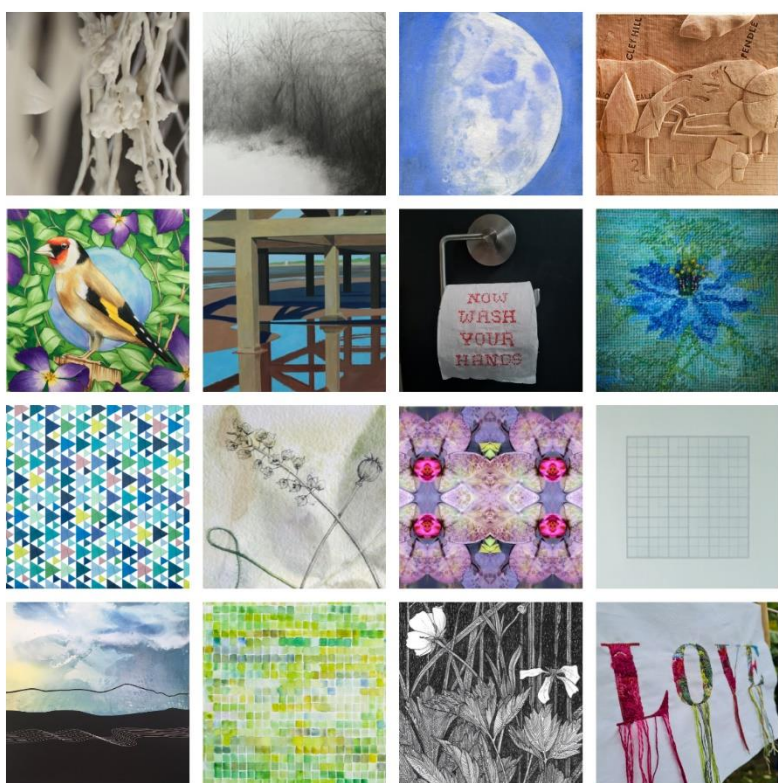




Somerset Reacquainted – Solace

2 November 2021 – 24 January 2022



Where can solace be found in a time of sadness? What is its source? How can artwork offer comfort and consolation to ease distress?

These questions were posed to artists who were invited to create locally-specific artworks which reflect, elicit and share notions of solace, cheer and calm.

As we tentatively emerge from a global pandemic, this exhibition offers comfort and hope to both the maker and the viewer. Immersion in artistic practice and the associated sense of becoming grounded has offered a place of relative stability for many artists during a period of great uncertainty. Well-being became more important than ever during the Covid-19

lockdowns. For some artists, the professional void created by the pandemic opened up time to focus on self-care and rediscover the meaning of their work and the importance of subjectivities. This exhibition showcases new works from Somerset artists which seek to provide a sense or a moment of solace, calmness and wellbeing for anyone who passes or spends a little time here.

‘Solace’ forms part of the ‘Somerset Reacquainted Tour’, an extension of Somerset Reacquainted, a project started during the first 2020 lockdown in which more than 63 Somerset Art Works members participated. Artists were invited to share their creative process on Instagram, responding to their own local environment, communities and landscapes. The project provided networking events and an exhibition of objects and images, some of which you will see in the parallel exhibition on The Wall. Somerset artists were encouraged to gain new inspiration for their work, create new connections and collaborate.

Participating artists: Gill Bliss, Jill Davies, Philip Dudman, Jess Egan, Pennie Elfick, Linda Green, Naomi Kendall, Pauline Lerry, Jenny Mellings, Jan Ollis, Sarah Rogers, Cameron Scott, Miriam Sheppard, Michael Tarr, Emma Tuck.

Somerset Reacquainted is part of the Artist Development Programme of Somerset Art Works, funded by Arts Council England. This 2-part exhibition, is co-produced by Sara Dudman and Somerset Art Works, in partnership with Art for Life.

