



This is a Leeds Arts University Repository copy of: Lullabies in Lockdown

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Abstract

The output is a creative project which explores the collective storytelling power of illustration to uncover the experiences of new parenthood during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project includes a co-curated group exhibition, a publication, and a touring pop-up exhibition.

Research process: The original group exhibition featured the work of 19 artists, showcasing varied illustrative approaches exploring the experiences of new parenthood in lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic. Through analysis of the exhibition artwork, artist statements, and audience feedback, a reflective account was written considering the role of collectivised authorial illustration in shaping our understanding of lived experiences. The analysis explores how sharing this form of illustrative work within public spaces offers the opportunity to recollect and bring together people who may benefit from reframing their own hardships as being experienced “on their own, but not alone.” A pop-up show was then developed which can easily be transported and added to. This enabled further collaborations with communities and spaces that can host the work, extending beyond the traditional artistic world.

Research insights: Through this research, insights were gained into the transformative potential of illustration as a medium for capturing and validating lived experience, particularly in times of crisis. The research promotes alternative approaches within authorial illustration storytelling which complement singular perspective accounts commonly encountered in the genre of ‘lived experience illustration’ (visual diaries, comics, graphic novels etc). The project offers up a more diverse, multiple-perspective, collective and ‘holistic storytelling’ method for further exploration. The findings highlight the importance of collective storytelling in nurturing empathy and solidarity within communities, while also emphasizing the relevance of human-centred approaches in illustration amidst technological advancements and societal challenges.

Dissemination: Exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills Gallery, 1-30 October 2022; paper presented and pop-up show exhibited at ‘Blind Spots’ International Illustration Research Symposium, Washington University, St Louis, 2-4 November 2023; Comic Con, educational institutions, galleries, and other DIY creative spaces.

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LULLABIES IN LOCKDOWN

**2022-Ongoing
Creative Project**

REF Submission: Beth Duggleby

Vessel



Lullabies in Lockdown

1 October – 30th October

A group exhibition of illustration exploring the frontiers of new parenthood during the Covid pandemic and stories of the babies that stayed at home. Curated by Beth Duggleby.

Exhibitors

Nele Anders, Jenna Lee Alldread, Ruth Batham, Pia Bramley, Lizzie Bhushan, Charlotte Dryden-Kelsey, Beth Duggleby, Isabel Greenberg, Jessika Green, Matthew Hodson, Kim Jihyun, Lorna Johnstone, Sabba Khan, Benjamin Mills, Kate Pankhurst, Bryony Pritchard, Alice Socal, Joanna Spicer, Lily Williams.



Sandsgate Building, Sunny Bank Mills, Fansley, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS28 5UJ

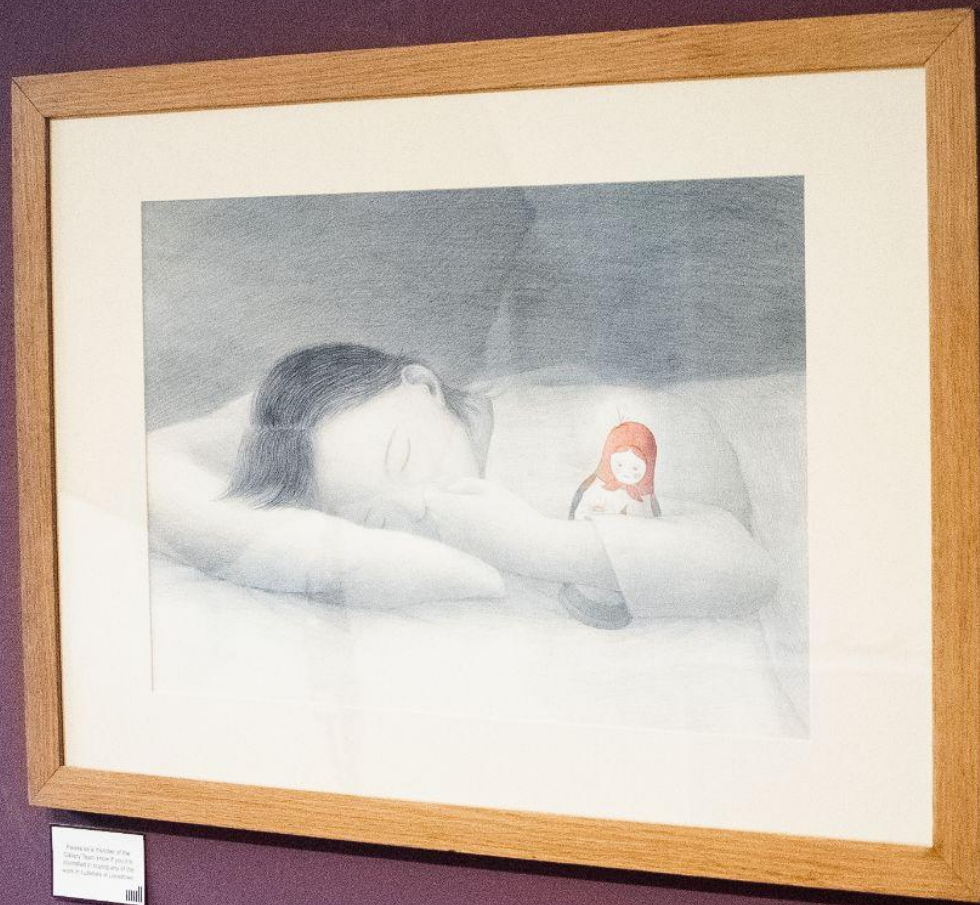


SUNNY BANK MILLS

www.sunnybankmills.co.uk

Original Lullabies in Lockdown poster : Sunny Bank Mills

Illustration: Pia Bramley



Presented as a part of the
gallery's "New Art" series, this
work is a collaboration of the
work of Hodson & Kim Jihyun.

L-R: Work by Matthew Hodson & Kim Jihyun



L-R: Work by Jo Spicer, Kate Pankhurst, Lilly Williams



*L-R: Work by Nele Anders,
Jessika Green*



L-R: Kim Jihyun, Matthew Hodson, Pia Bramley





Playspace Objects : Play Explore Art & Zoe Eady

Playspace Objects : Play Explore Art & Zoe Eady



*L-R: Work by Isabel Greenberg,
Jenna Lee Alldread, Charlotte
Dryden-Kelsey*



Playspace Infrastructure by Play Explore Art



Small text block, likely a label or description, mounted on the white wall.





Work by Ruth Batham



Small text label on the wall, likely providing information about the artwork.

Work by Lizzie Bhushan

EXHIBITION LOFT

**NON
MUM**

by
Jessica Green





I want to see little hands
Casting shadows
around and along lines on the other side
telling me how dead we

There seems to have been the first time
and an incredible feeling that everything might suddenly make
sense for me to go to the very heart of nature that felt

The first time I saw the first time
and the first time I saw the first time

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Toenail Calendar

The last orange varnish clings on to the ends of my toenails
10 weeks, 12 weeks, 14 weeks - since you were born
I remember so well how proud I was to be able to bend down and paint my toes
Declaring
"I'm ready now"

I wasn't ready
there could only ever have been trying on

Probably at best,
there could only ever have been trying on



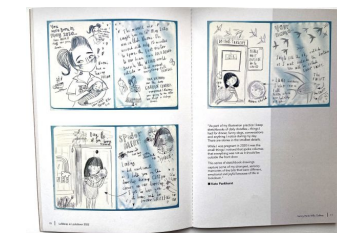
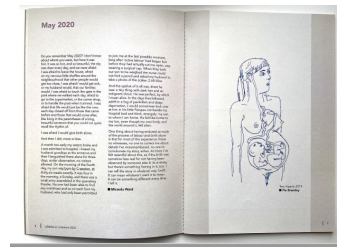
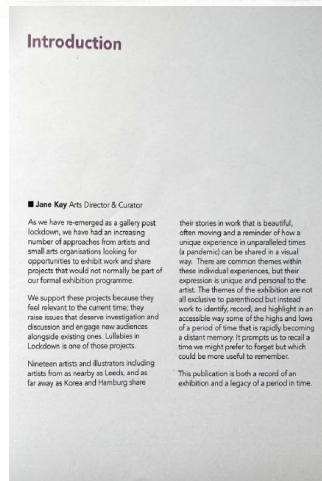
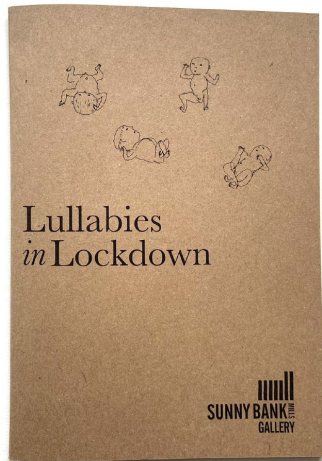


Pop-up exhibition @Sam Fox
School of Design & Visual Arts,
Washington University: As part of
the 13th Annual Illustration
Research Symposium,
St Louis, US. November 2023



Pop-up exhibitions : 'Playful Anywhere' Playboxes with Eleri Harp performance, Kirkstall Forge, December 2023 & Sound Play Projects with lullabies played through the project's sensory 'sound beds', Glasgow, January 2024

Cover illustrations : Pia Bramley



Lullabies in Lockdown Publication: Introduction, Selection of spreads. (Sunny Bank Mills, 2022)



@LullabiesinLockdown

Photography: Michael Duggleby, Sunny Bank Mills, B.Duggleby