

A Moment in Time

A Covid 19 Residency



MAMHOUS A COLLABORATION



Shetland September 2020

The Booth, WASPS Shetland Arts Development Agency

The Residency



MAMhouss were awarded a Shetland Arts Residency entitled *A Moment in Time* in September 2020. There was a focus on a local creative response to the Covid 19 Pandemic, and a final public destination of a Greenhouse called Perimeter.

The residency took place at The Booth in Scalloway, A purpose built Artist Studio space, which sits on the waterfront of the village.

This was a collaborative residency. Altogether there were 3 adults and 5 children with the ages of 3,4,5,6 and 7. Not all members of the collaboration were living in Shetland at the time. The residency took place over the full month of September.

The Greenhouse





The Conversation

A *Moment in Time* tried to capture a gist of the lockdown conversation that was being had at the time, we asked people about hopes for the future, things that had surfaced during the lockdown. Had there been any positive effects?

Perhaps there was value to be had in the asking, the connection repeatedly elicited the same answers.

contact, a cuddle, a hug

noticing nature

spending time with family

clear priorities

no longer feeling the need to buy what isn't important

kindness

slower pace

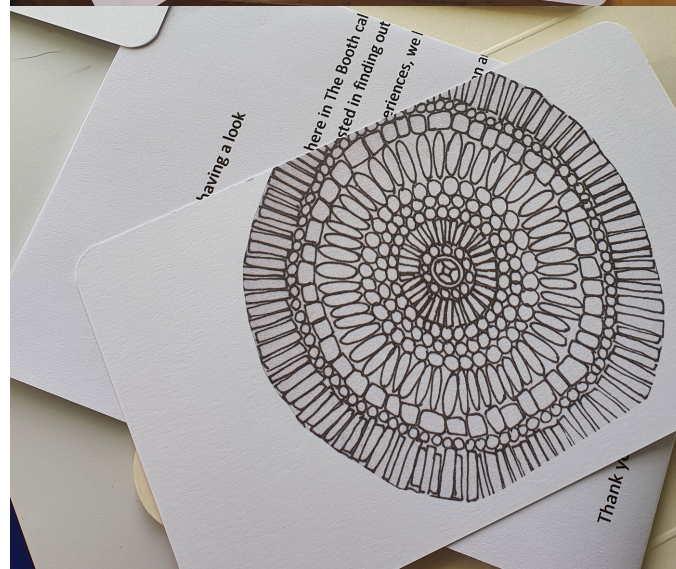
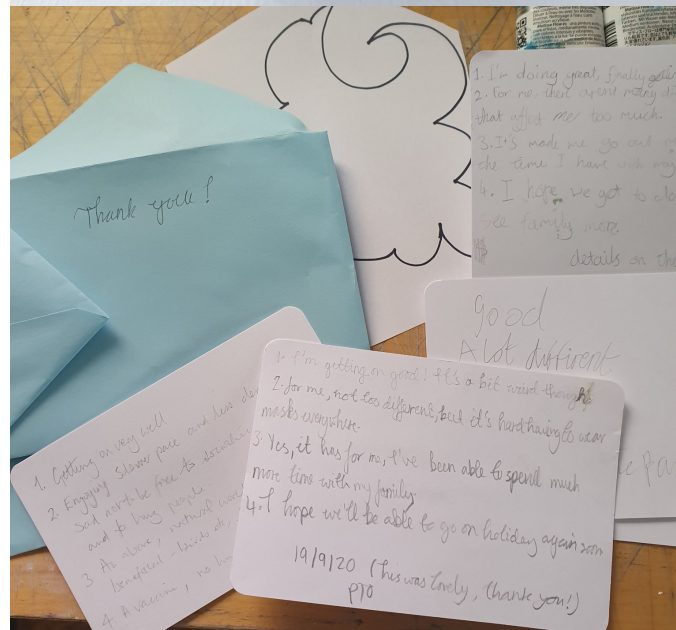
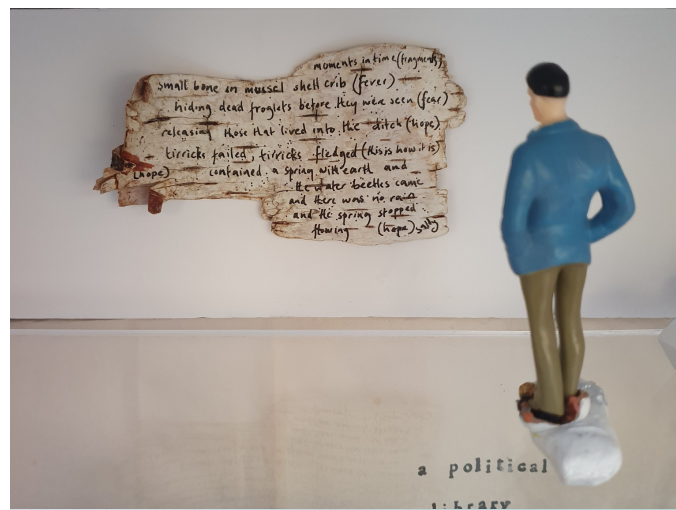
The answers were gathered together. Some of them we made into voice recordings - these are accessible on our website by a QR code. We made small resin records, encased in a miniature album cover for sending to our participants, the idea being that you could bring out those thoughts again let them spin then for a time then put them away again

There was a lot of artwork generated by the mini MAMhouss members + invited guests

Elements were extracted and made into a collaborative poster which was distributed at our socially distanced participatory event outside *Perimeter*

The MAMhouss installation at *Perimeter* was built up of exploded drawings, key collaborative shared items and a series of small animations stitched together alongside an abbreviated walk through the residency

It felt appropriate to return some of what was shared with us to Scalloway as small discoveries to be made, in much the same way that the participants had originally found the kiosk.



Residency Outcomes

*Collaborating with the children is like
collaborating with the wind*

This was always an experiment in collaborative working, a chance to examine the dynamics of working with children as collaborative partners

It was fantastically chaotic

The kids loved the Booth and used it in a wonderful way making work and commanding the space. Left to their own devices the children collaborated effortlessly, without the introspection that can put the brakes on an adult.

A Moment in Time successes

The Public interacted, connected and left us messages, we realised the significance of discovery in our own collaborative practice. Associate members had dropped along and engaged with the residency. We all became familiar with stop frame animation! The Perimeter installation was deemed a Joyous piece of work by the arts organisation that awarded us the residency. Importantly, we returned the conversation to the village.

Time is always an issue - It was why we had been working collaboratively in the first place, a recognition of the juggling and squeezing that goes on to make things happen. Initially we found it difficult to make a responsive work in the four weeks set aside for the residency and reflective work only started to come through as we were rounding up. What we chose to carry forward to the public installation space was a feeling, an authentic representation of the layered creative chaos that had gone into the making of the work during the residency, it was after all our own *moment in time*.





www.mamhouss.com