

20/06/2023

**Press Release**

Sidmouth School of Art's latest billboard artwork **A Sidmouth Map** is currently being exhibited at the Sidmouth Wall space public art gallery over-looking the Ham East carpark.

The abstract artwork – a “map”- presents Sidmouth's rich and developing art and cultural scene. The colours and shapes with a complex web of interconnected lines creates a beautiful and intriguing image in its own right. The artwork is based on an original 12-layer screen print by East Devon based Artist Printmaker Emma Molony @emmamolonyprintmaker

At the start of 2022 Sidmouth School of Art commissioned artist printmaker Emma to explore the diversity of art, conservation and cultural organisations and spaces which make up some of Sidmouth's cultural life – to celebrate it and inspire future collaborations. Emma's original artwork was digitalised for display by Sam Eyre.

Over 40 conversations fed into the community research with the information plotted and overlaid with each screen print layer to build a rich cultural community picture.

Using layers of tracing paper, not only art but also the physical and human characteristics of Sidmouth were considered. Emma was inspired by the maps of Mark Lombardi and visualisations of data by Edward Tufte. Separate prints pulled out isolated connections whilst the final work maps the constellation of activity and myriad connections.

**David Shrigley, Visual Artist and Co-Founder/Trustee Sidmouth School of Art explained**

*“Having a map of the cultural connections in Sidmouth is a really valuable thing for us at Sidmouth School of Art. I think Emma's artwork has been a really great starting point and I hope that other people will find it equally intriguing.”*

**Emma Molony**, whose practice involves combining printmaking with interdisciplinary art forms, also works at Double Elephant Screenprint Studio, Exeter and has had a variety of residencies added *“I think this is a project that will grow, the content will grow. Different artists and community groups will input into it and that feels like the start of something special.”*

Digital Artist Sam Eyre is an artist @same\_year and Art & Design and Digital Media practitioner at Coombeshead Academy. In collaboration with Emma, he translated her screen print to digital format using an iPad and scanning in Emma's handwriting. Digitalising Emma's original screen print artwork for scaling up also helps to create a dynamic tool to develop understanding and inspire future collaborations and artworks:

*“The process of deconstructing Emma's original screen print, rebuilding it and putting it back together, you can start to push things digitally and in lots of different ways, that's a really exciting prospect.”* Sam Eyre

Phil Gibby, **Area Director**, Arts Council England South West, adds:

“It’s great to see projects like Sidmouth School of Art’s *Sidmouth Map*, be supported through the Arts Council’s National Lottery Project Grants. Thanks to Lottery players, communities in the coastal Devon town can enjoy a wall of creativity, exploring life in the town. The project aligns with *Let’s Create* - the collaborative approach taken with the community and creating opportunities for hundreds of fantastic artists. We’re pleased to see this happen for the people of Sidmouth, and the wider region, and can’t wait for residents and visitors to engage with it over its run.”

With the help of Sidmouth based videographer Seb Fitzhenry, the purpose and development of the project was captured and is available to watch in a short film which can be accessed via SSA’s website [A Sidmouth Map | Sidmouth School Of Art \(sidmouthart.org\)](https://www.sidmouthart.org)

More details about the project can also be found here [Cultural Community Mapping | Sidmouth School Of Art \(sidmouthart.org\)](https://www.sidmouthart.org)

This latest wallspace is part of a suite of new projects designed and delivered in partnership with Sidmouth School of Art and Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub through the Sidmouth Makes Art (SMArt) project. Fine Art prints of this artwork will be available to buy in the coming weeks – follow Sidmouth School of Art on Facebook and Instagram @sidmouthschool\_art for latest updates.

**A Sidmouth Map** photos – sent by Wetransfer, please photocredit photographer Sarah Hall.

There are a range of new billboard artwork projects in the pipeline ...Watch This Wallspace!

### Background Information

**Sidmouth Wall Space repurposes an unloved wall overlooking a car park in Sidmouth, Devon –** it showcases community/public art that residents and visitors enjoy and are inspired by and engaged with and that add sustainable social value in parallel:

- connecting and collaborating with arts and cultural groups/organisations
- focusing on engaging young people and adults to develop confidence in their creativity
- working with people to involve them and their ideas, discovering and nurturing talent
- building a sense of wellbeing through shared identity/belonging and creative place-making

Sidmouth School of Art is about creativity and wellbeing through art and culture. Co-founder David Shrigley, OBE: “Art is about discovering what something means to you and expressing what you think and feel.”

Each billboard has a process behind it, working with artists and young people or local groups to build confidence, create an open access platform for public art and share skills. This is because we value that: **Encouraging and engaging with art and our creative selves is a path to wellbeing and happiness.**

Sidmouth Wallspace is a physical public outdoor gallery for everyone at the Ham carpark, Sidmouth, where the work of different artists using a variety of mediums are presented. Our project website provides a digital platform where work is also presented in our online galleries [www.sidmouthart.org](http://www.sidmouthart.org)

The project is funded by the Arts Council England.

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in *Let's Create* that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19).



The project also receives support from Sidmouth Town Council and a variety of local funders.

Contact details: [louise@sidmouthcoastalcommunityhub.org](mailto:louise@sidmouthcoastalcommunityhub.org)

Mobile: 07881 585395

Sidmouth School of Art is a registered charity in England and Wales (1199539)

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