Chris Poolman CV

Recent Work (2024 onwards)

- Artist-in-Residence, The <u>The New Art Gallery Walsall</u> June November 2024.
- The Sanctum of the One-Eyed Toad (& other Spirit Animals of Walsall), Earthbound, The New Art Gallery Walsall November 2024 - June 2025.
 Greening Your Practice Talk, The New Art Gallery Walsall, May 2025.
- Commission, Holiday Club Mutant Hydra Turtle, Sparkhill A Child's Eye View, The Springfield Project, April - November 2025.
 Commission to produce a sculptural installation for a Children's Festival working with Park Road Nursery Holidays Clubs.
- The Golden Valley Sundial Project, May 2025 May 2026.
 Meadow Arts 'Our Place' commission in the Golden Valley, Herefordshire with <u>Grace Emily</u> Manning.

Touring sculptural installation co-produced with local people / groups.

General Public (with Elizabeth Rowe)

Current work - Compost Culture

- General Public are the lead partner on the Compost Culture project: <u>compostculture.co.uk</u>
- 5 year grant (2024 2029) from the National Lottery Climate Action Fund to roll out composting facilities in third sector organisations across the city.
- Multi-partner project involving General Public, Incredible Surplus, Balsall Heath City Farm / St Paul's Trust, Crick Gardens, TAWS & Birmingham Friends of the Earth.

Solo Exhibitions

- The Birmingham Allotment Project, Library of Birmingham, Sept Dec 2023.
- The Endless Village, Eastside Projects (Birmingham) 2 June to 21 July 2018.
- The Endless Village, Aspex (Portsmouth) Aspex (Portsmouth) 30th March 10th June 2018.
- The Hop Project, mac Birmingham 9 Sep 12 Nov 2017.

The Birmingham Allotment Project: 2019 - 23

- An oral history project celebrating one of Birmingham's greatest hidden assets.
- Funded by the Heritage Fund.
- Working closely with <u>Birmingham and District Allotment Confederation</u>, allotment associations, plotholders city-wide and a committed volunteer team, the project presented an alternative social history of Birmingham via its allotment culture.
- The Birmingham Allotment Project Exhibition, Library of Birmingham, Sept Dec 2023. http://www.thebirminghamallotmentproject.co.uk/

Let Us Play: 2017 - 2020

- An investigation of the 'state of play' in Birmingham the collation of an archive of material & oral histories to capture the Birmingham adventure playground movement of the 1960-1980's.
- Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- Working with Professor Peter Kraft, UOBI on Plastic Childhood research.
- Exhibitions at Meriden Adventure Playground & Balsall Heath City Farm.
- Flatpack Festival 'Time Machine' Event.

The Pomology Project 2019 - 21

 The Pomology Project was a contemporary art project that explores & celebrates contemporary UK diversity through reimagining British orchard traditions & customs in an urban context. It featured a

- range of large scale participatory artworks, including Mummers Plays about the Windrush scandal & new Wassails developed with mental health groups across the city.
- Artists in residence at University of Birmingham over 2018/19 as part of their Artist in Residence scheme.

Heathland Festival: 'A Children's Festival of Ideas' 2018

 Heathland Festival was an innovative programme of art activities, literature, music and artworks for children and their families across the 2018 summer holidays at Balsall Heath, Kings Heath, Druids Heath & Small Heath Community Libraries.

The Endless Village 2017/18

- The Endless Village was a satirical sitcom set in Kingdom#3 of an imagined future post-Brexit Britain. Investigating life, localism and trade relations, the sitcom pilot ('Banana Day') presents a satirical meditation on future daily life in NFKATUK the Nation Formerly Known As The UK.
- Written and produced by General Public (visual artists Chris Poolman & Elizabeth Rowe) & filmed by Oli Clark, a former BBC director/producer whose TV credits include the BAFTA award winning series 'Coast', the film was presented as solo exhibitions at Eastside Projects (Birmingham) & Aspex (Portsmouth) in 2018.
- Solo Exhibitions at Eastside Projects & Aspex Portsmouth.

Longbridge Light Festival 2016: 'Very Civil' Rights March

 Large Community Parade - 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter'.

The Hop Project - 2016/17

- The Hop Project was a contemporary art project that toured Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Birmingham and the Black Country in 2016/17.
- Funded by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Programme, the project used the historical migratory movements of hop-pickers as the conceptual basis for a touring exhibition.
- Alongside an extensive supporting activity / engagement programme, the project toured to 15 different exhibition venues including The Hive Worcester (Nov 2016), The Courtyard Centre for the Arts Hereford (Jan 2017) and mac Birmingham (Oct 2017).
- Funded by Arts Council England, Ernest Cook Trust, Worcester City Council & Birmingham City Council.
- Reviewed by Lucy Lopez in Art & Public Sphere, Volume 6, Numbers 1-2, 1 September 2017.

Handsworth Currency Competition 2014/2015

2014 / 2015 commission as part of New Expressions 3, a major nationwide Arts Council initiative aimed at unlocking the creative potential of museums. General Public drew upon Soho House's history as a mint as a context for producing a set of new Handsworth coins.

Longbridge Light Festival 2014

 In November 2013 General Public were commissioned by public art agency WERK to develop the artistic proposition & curate the inaugural Longbridge Light Festival 2015.

The Balsall Heath Biennale / 2011 - 2013

- The Balsall Heath Biennale was a two-year contemporary art project in Balsall Heath, an inner city area of Birmingham.
- The project featured as a case study in two conference papers and two journal articles as part of Birmingham University's AHRC-funded Cultural Intermediation: Connecting Communities in the Creative Urban Economy.
- Biennale Publications:
 - The Balsall Heath Biennale (2014). Featuring essays by cultural geographer Dr Saskia Warren & Derek Horton.

- Biennale Newspaper (2013).
- Balsall Heath A-Z Colouring in book (2012).

BAZ (with Matt Westbrook)

Events / Performances / Commissions:

- The Regeneration Game, Newbridge Project April May 2016.
- Vote BAZ Pigdogsandmonkeyfestos, Airspace Gallery, Stoke.
- The Quartic Rides Again, Longbridge Light Festival 2014.
- There Ain't No Party Like A Polytunnel Party, Rhubaba Gallery & Studios, Edinburgh, November 2013.
- Artworld Raffle, Eastside Projects 5th Birthday Party, October 2013.
- Blackmarket Biography Auction, Pitt Projects Worcester, July 2012.
- Blackmarket Biography Auction, The Caretakers Flat (Tether), Primary, Nottingham, May 2012.
- Curate Me Out, The Event, Birmingham Contemporary Art Forum 2011 (Curate Me Out + Mills & Koons).

Writing & Publications:

- Art World Primitivism, writing for '<u>The Hecklers</u>' publication, The New Art Gallery Walsall, July, 2013
- Take London (Regional Art Scene Hooliganism), <u>Art & Music Magazine</u> (Saatchi Gallery), May 2013.
- Mills & Koons The Event 2011.
- BAZ #1 The Event 2009.
- The British Artists Football Cup tournament fanzine.

Exhibitions:

- A3 Works, A3 Project Space, Birmingham, June 2013.
- The Fiction Show, Tramshed, London, April 2013.
- Frieze Art Fair (Eastside Projects <u>'Bread and Cookies'</u>) / October 2012.
- <u>Liverpool Biennale 2012</u> (Birmingham: the Magic City) / September 2012.
- Where's the Toilet? Glasgow International (ESP Castling project) / April 2012.
- Shit Show / Malgras|Naudet, Manchester / February 2012.
- The Event, Birmingham, October, 2011.
- Rude Britannia, Tate Britain, July 2010.

Other:

The British Artists Football Cup 2009, national artists football tournament organised by BAZ.

chris+keir (with Keir Williams)

Solo Shows:

The Rob Ring Foundation, The Stephen Lawrence Gallery, London 2009.

Group Shows:

- Video Progetto, 26cc Rome / Grand Union Birmingham, May 2010.
- I Heart Video Art, CAFKA, Kitchener Canada, February 2010.

Other Projects, Grants etc:

- The Rob Ring Foundation (collaborative project with Canadian artist Rob Ring).
- Perform Or Else (chris+keir V Melville Mitchell), Grand Union, February 2011.

- This Fish is Reversing, Conference paper (& video), Gobsmacked: Getting Speechless In Performance, Queen Mary's University, 2010 (see Sounds and (Non)sense, <u>Contemporary Theatre</u> Review, Volume 22, Issue 1, 2012.
- Action Research Bursary, Longhouse / Multistory, June 2008.
- FADE Research Grant, Sept 2008.
- R & D Grant, Arts Council England, Aug 2008 Flatpack Film Festival, March 2009.
- Unity Panda, Coventry Art Space Bursary, August 2009 (with Jonnet Middleton).
- Project Our Pubs (pub nationalisation project at The Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath) and Digital is Dangerous (residency at Jibbering Records, Birmingham) 2008. Supported by Arts Council England.
- Flat / Screen, New Generation Arts, (residency in a city centre flat), 2006. Supported by NGA & BBC.

Workshops:

- Roland magazine 7 features as interview with chris+keir and Louis Moreno from Urban Laboratory exploring workshops they devised in response to the ICA's main programme during 2012/13.
- chris+keir have also run workshops at UAL (Camberwell & Wimbledon), Greenwich University & Tate Britain.

Chris Poolman - Archive

Projects & Commissions 2012:

- Fear & Loathing in the West Midlands / Road Trip West Midlands Commission / Supported by Turning Point West Midlands & Writing West Midlands.
- Hooky Street Press a series of programmed talks and events that explored the use, value and potential of humour within art-writing. Supported by Arts Council England. Including:
 - Symposium: seriousness & humour in art writing / Nov 2012 / Eastside Projects / David Burrows, Andrew Hunt, Gavin Butt.
 - One Applination Under A Groove (12 hour application writing all-nighter / 'extreme writing event'), Friday August 31st 2012, Grand Union.

Papers / Talks:

- Stray Cats of Balsall Heath: Origins, History, Usage, Balsall Heath Biennale, August 2013.
- Fear & Loathing in the West Midlands & Incongruity, A Comic Darkly: Art and Humour Symposium, October Gallery London, January 2013.
- EUFRAD, Glasgow School of Art, September 2009.

Selected Group Shows:

- The Artists Wakes, Bury Art Gallery, August 2010.
- Headers & Volleys, Jaguar Shoes (curated by Rhys Coren), July 2010.
- Marxism 2010, University of London, July 2010.
- SALE, The Royal Standard, Liverpool, January 2009.
- Art Sway Open, December 2008.
- Rhys and Hannah present, Bristol, December 2008.
- Zoo Art Fair (with Eastside Projects, Royal Academy, London, October 2008.
- North and South, Southampton City Art Gallery July 2007.
- Stink Bomb, Limbo Arts Project Space, Margate, April 2007.
- Art Vaults, aspacearts, Southampton, July 2007.
- What Do People Do All Day?, Mailbox, Birmingham. Birmingham Artists Show, May 2006.
- PEACE CAMP, Brick Lane Gallery, December 2006.

Education:

- Fine Art MA, Distinction, Birmingham City University, 2006 2008.
- Film Studies BA, 1st Class Honours, Warwick University, 2001 2004.