

Chris Poolman CV

Recent Work (2024 onwards)

- Artist-in-Residence, The The New Art Gallery Walsall 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 Grace Emily Manning.
Touring sculptural installation co-produced with local people / groups.

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General Public (with Elizabeth Rowe)

Current work - Compost Culture

- General Public are the lead partner on the Compost Culture project: compostculture.co.uk
- 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 Birmingham and District Allotment Confederation, allotment associations, plot-holders 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, UOB 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.

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

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