Collaborative arts practice is founded on principles of social engagement, co-design, creative enquiry and co-production. It places artists in direct interaction with communities of place and interest, and with civic life.

At its heart, it is ‘people-led’, which, against a powerful global context of increasing inequality, disconnect and isolation, brings with it an increasingly important and reciprocal role for the practice as a conduit for connectivity in people’s response to that context, and in the shaping and articulation of identity and place.

Heart of Glass, a national organisation dedicated to collaborative arts practice, is based – and embedded – in St Helens. As St Helens seeks to shape a shared vision of its future self, Heart of Glass and our partner organisations, within the cultural fabric of the borough, are driving a proposition and strategic commitment to establish St Helens as a recognised centre for socially engaged arts practice, working closely with the Local Authority. The genesis of this long-term vision began with our founding in 2014 through the Creative People and Places programme, an Arts Council England action research initiative.

Our forward programme February - September marks the end of our first phase of work under this programme, and we are delighted to present a snapshot of work that will be meeting a wider public in the coming months. As with all collaborative work, process is tricky to represent, and the programme outlined below represents the tip of an iceberg, with long term connections, interactions and relationships stretching deep beneath the surface…

We are delighted to co-present projects and initiatives with a variety of partners; working in solidarity with collaborators locally, nationally and internationally is a cornerstone of our work. From professional development opportunities and space for debate, to the presentation of ideas and perspectives, the programme outlined questions who gets to make art, and where it gets made, and places artists in direct interaction with varied areas of human life. It is of people, place and time.
IN PUBLIC:

UPCOMING PROGRAMME

Our programme highlights February - September includes a major new public art commission by Verity Standen, working with partners Situations and a newly formed choir of 50; an invitation to participate and speculate by Candy Chang in collaboration with SICK! Festival and St Helens Council; the culmination of a residency with Sophie Mahon working with young people across the borough and the presentation of the set of projects from Mark Storor and collaborators from the first 18 months of his 12-year residency in St Helens. Our programme also includes the premier of a newly made in St Helens film commission by Michelle Wren and Jack King, a screening programme at St Helens Rugby League Football Club as part of our long term collaboration with the Club, and the invitation to host a unique performance in your home or workplace with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Further reading:

In March we launch Praxis Vol.1 - Of People, Place and Time, our first publication co-edited by Chrissie Tiller and Patrick Fox, featuring critical reflections relating to our work and the field of social and collaborative arts practice.

For more information about Heart of Glass, our 10-year development plan, A Modest Proposal 2027 is available to download here.
**BEFORE I DIE**
**Candy Chang**
**27th February – 27th March (24hr - Public Realm)**
**Church Square, St Helens**

Before I die is a participatory public art project that invites people to contemplate death, reflect on life, and share their personal aspirations in public. After losing someone she loved, Chang channelled her grief and depression into this project covering a crumbling house with chalkboard paint and stencilled with the prompt, “Before I die I want to ______.”

The project has now been created in over 70 countries, including Iraq, China, Brazil, Kazakhstan, and South Africa. Revealing the community’s longings, anxieties, joys, and struggles, it explores how public space can cultivate self-examination and empathy among neighbours and compassionately prepare us for death and grief.

Presented in partnership with SICK! Festival & St Helens Council

Visit www.candychang.com and www.sickfestival.com

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**BRAVADO**
**Scottee**
**Friday, 24th February, 7.30pm**
**St Helens Rugby League Football Club, McManus Drive, St Helens, WA9 3AL**

Scottee grew up around strong, brave and violent men and boys. **Bravado** is his memoir of working class masculinity from 1991 to 1999 as seen by a sheep in wolves clothing. **Bravado** explores the graphic nature of maleness and the extent it will go to succeed: Blood, spit and tears are set against the drunken backdrop of aggressive sensitivity and Oasis songs. This ‘work-in-progress’ show is not for the weak hearted, and will take place in close quarters in a rugby club dressing room setting - it includes graphic accounts of violence, abuse, assault and sex.

www.scottee.co.uk

Over 18’s only.
Come at your own expense
We will be continuing our collaboration with St Helens Rugby Football Club by presenting a pre-match and half-time programme of artist film and video at two home games this March and April. Working with partners including Abandon Normal Devices and FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology), we will utilise the in-stadium screening facilities to reach audiences of 10000+ with a specially curated programme of work.

Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk for screening details
Tickets for the matches can be purchased by visiting www.saintsr RFC.com

**SCREEN GRAB**
Various Artists
Friday 24th of March &
Friday 28th of April
St Helens Rugby League Football Club, Langtree Park, St Helens

**REFRAIN (WORKING TITLE)**
Verity Standen
May 19th and 20th
St Helens Town Centre

Heart of Glass is delighted to be working with Situations and Verity Standen Projects on REFRAIN.

The histories of conscientious objection in England require a sensitive and respectful approach. Heritage stories such as Ernest Everett, a teacher in St Helens and a World War One Conscientious Objector, are often left unheard and misunderstood, viewed as irrelevant and in isolation instead of part of a national, contemporary story. This story and others form the backdrop of a new immersive choral experience by composer Verity Standen.

More details, including ticketing information will be announced shortly.

Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk
and www.situations.org.uk
SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH P
Michelle Wren & Jack King
Location to be announced

Something Beginning With P is a new short film written and directed by Jack King and Michelle Wren. This highly original short is a coming of age story that follows a young girl on her way to a fancy dress party.

The film was commissioned by Heart of Glass as part of its Prototype Projects strand, supporting locally based artists to experiment and develop their practice. Starring a cast of local talent, the project was developed, built, and filmed in St Helens. A private screening for participants was held in December 2016 at FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology) in Liverpool and this June, the cast and crew will present the work in St Helens for the first time before submitting the film to national and international film festivals. Join us for this intimate screening.

For further details visit www.heartofglass.org.uk

REFLECTIONS
Sophie Mahon with young people from across St Helens
April / May

Since late 2016 Artist Sophie Mahon has been in residence in St Helens, working with young people across three locations, Fingerpost, Four Acre and Parr. Sophie has led digital art workshops at schools, libraries, youth groups and boxing clubs, engaging with a group of young people to produce a series of artworks that will be presented within the local community. The project asks what is it to be a young person in St Helens today while reflecting on the social history of the town and looking towards the future. Sophie is working with a free running group based in Parr, a self starter group of young people who will perform a choreographed scene on a projected backdrop of artworks.

Reflections is a project produced in partnership with Helena Partnerships.

This project is supported through our participation in the Collaborative Arts Partnership Programme (CAPP).

www.sophiemahon.co.uk

Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk and www.cappnetwork.com for updated details
**ON THE WATER**

idle women
Summer / Autumn
Sankey Canal, St Helens

**on the water** is a travelling arts centre via the canals on board Selina Cooper, a tailor made narrow boat conceived, designed and built by women. Selina provides a place for ideas and friendship. Arriving in St Helens she brings a range of arts activities, opportunities and social events for women and girls to come aboard and join a creative process.

The project is by idle women - an organisation that initiates and creates contemporary art with and by women founded by its two caretakers Cis O’Boyle and Rachel Anderson in 2015. idle women takes its name from the nickname given to the women that worked for the Inland Waterways during the second world war.

Visit www.idlewomen.org for more details

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**BAA BAA BARIC: HAVE YOU ANY PULL?**

Mark Storor and collaborators
September and beyond

A quiet revolution is taking place. Baa Baa Baric: Have You Any Pull? is a 12 year residency with artist Mark Storor in collaboration with the people of St Helens. The project poses the question: Is the most brutal act of barbarism civilisation? Confronted by its own set of negative statistics, St Helens is a town symbolic of national inequality. In a radical act of rebellion Baa Baa Baric harnesses the powers of creativity, imagination and possibility, refuting labels and challenging the status quo. Mark has been in town for the last 12 months working with a group of older men, primary schools, Rainford High Technology College, young carers and the police. He will navigate through these communities redefining the story of St Helens with a series of artworks in September.

This project is supported through our participation in the Collaborative Arts Partnership Programme (CAPP)

Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk for updated details or follow @baabaabaric on Twitter
IN MY PLACE
Apply to host a unique performance in your home or workplace

Throughout 2015 and 2016 we worked in partnership with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra to create unique performances opportunities in a location of your choosing. In 2017, the orchestra returns and we are inviting you to play host to a unique concert in your home / workplace this Summer.

There is no catch, the performance is free, and to apply we are asking you to tell us in around 150 words why you wish to host a performance. You must also meet the following hosting criteria:

Are you interested in hosting a world-class ensemble from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in your home?

Would you have an audience of between three (minimum) and 30 (maximum) that you could invite to attend?

Would you be willing to work with the Heart of Glass team to make an event in your home happen?

Do you have permission to host such an event? We can work with you to secure permission from a landlord or parent, for example.

Applicants that meet the criteria will enter a lottery, with successful hosts selected and announced in May/June. Closing date for applications is May 1st 2017.

To apply contact info@heartofglass.org.uk or call 01744 623290

SELFIE-STICK
Ian Brownbill and Jai Redman (Engine) with young people

Artist duo Engine have been working with young people from the Sherdley Road traveller site. Through a series of workshops they have explored the notion of identity and what it is to be a young traveller in St Helens and the misconceptions that often surround this. Collaboratively they are producing an artwork that will tour St Helens later this year.

www.weareengine.co.uk

Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk for updated details
Our In Dialogue strand was born out of a recognition of the limited professional development opportunities available to artists and creative practitioners within the context of social and collaborative arts practice. Our ambition is to support the training and development of artists working in social and community contexts, with the aim of deepening engagement and participation in the arts. We wish to explore ‘learning models’ and examine some of the critical limitations and lack of relevant, accessible or affordable training opportunities currently on offer to this growing community of practice.
GRANTS FOR THE ARTS SURGERY
April, date tbc
Old Beecham’s, Water Street, St Helens
(Heart of Glass Workspace)

Led by Anna Hassan (Arts Council England), this session is ideal for artists, creatives, producers, and organisations who want to know more about ‘Grants for the Arts’ - Arts Council England’s open access funding programme offering awards of between £1000 and £100000 to individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. Anna will provide information about the scheme and how to apply, offering valuable advice and answering any questions you might have. A small number of brief 1-2-1 sessions with Anna will also be available.

For further details or to register interest please contact info@heartofglass.org.uk or call 01744 623290

THE CONVIVIALIST* TOOLBOX
Susanne Bosch
Tuesday 28th February, 10.30 - 17.00
Old Beecham’s, Water Street, St Helens
(Heart of Glass Workspace)

Workshop for artists who work with or are interested in working with communities of place / interest, led by Berlin based Artist Susanne Bosch.

With various artistic experiments and formats we will explore the nature of our interdependency and what every individual brings to the table. The day offers open space between workshop, practice, constructive dispute, action and re-action. Experts of the everyday - as all participants are - are invited to share their knowledge and questions. We start the day at an agreed time, but will leave the end open for formats to emerge from the process. If one idea manifests in reality afterwards, a convivialist contribution has been made. A reporting back of manifested ideas and a documentation is highly welcomed. We are interested in the consequences of the NOW for TOMORROW. The toolbox day offers an experimental format of approaching a human, societal or globally urgent topic.

convivialist* from the Latin ‘con-vivere’, to live together. The term is meant to point up the fact that the main task we face is that of working out a new philosophy and developing practical forms of peaceful interaction.

HOW TO WRITE AN ARTIST STATEMENT:
Back-to-Basics Writing Class
Laura Robertson
Wednesday 15th March, 10.00 - 17.00
Old Beecham’s, Water Street, St Helens
(Heart of Glass Workspace)

Taking part in an exhibition soon? Think your website’s ‘about’ page could do with a revamp? Being able to clearly communicate and contextualise artwork is essential for any practicing artist. Yet writing about your own work in your own way can be difficult and stressful. This practical and friendly day-long workshop welcomes artists wishing to get to grips with their work, ideas and wider intellectual concerns through writing.

Led by The Double Negative magazine co-founder/ editor and freelance art critic (frieze, ArtReview, Art Monthly) Laura Robertson, we will discuss the motivations and essentials of a good artist statement; understand the difference between critical and descriptive language; practise writing and communication skills; and leave with a first draft artist statement.
WITH FOR ABOUT:
Art, Activism & Community
Tuesday 2nd May, 10.30 - 18.00
Friends Meeting House, 20B George St,
St Helens WA10 1BU

Book Now!

In May we will host the second iteration of our conference series With. For. About. We invite you to join us for three conversations on the fierce and urgent questions facing collaborative and social art today. Using the following statements by leading thinkers as provocations, we will explore collaboration, language and our role in an ever changing socio-political landscape.

ON COLLABORATION
‘If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.’
— Lilla Watson - Artist / Activist

This conversation will look at the questions: Who are our collaborators? Why are we working together?

BEYOND THE RHETORIC
‘There is no art practice that avoids all forms of co-option, compromise, or complicity’
— Grant Kester - Academic

This conversation will ask how we avoid the co-option of the language and methodology of collaborative and social art practice by neo-liberal agendas and move towards a ‘vision of social justice’ that excludes ‘over simplification’ and ‘quick fixes’.

SOLIDARITY AND ACTION
‘Useful art (Arte Util) is about transforming people’s lives, even on a small scale. It is art as activism and activism as art.’
— Tania Bruguera - Artist

This conversation will look at the role of art and artists in this time of political and social urgency. Where should we be working? What do we need to be doing? How can we work in solidarity with partners and collaborators to ‘convert our fears, findings and conversations, into plans, projects and results’?

Copies of our first publication
Praxis Vol.1 - Of People, Place and Time
cOmed by Chrissie Tiller and Patrick Fox
will be available at this event.

Presented in partnership with Axisweb and idle women
More announcements to follow,
visit www.heartofglass.org.uk for updated details
An artist working collaboratively connects with a variety of voices to author work whilst also exploring their own relationship to contemporary society. The artwork produced can take many forms and due to the collaborative nature of the work there is strong emphasis on the artistic process, so the creation of an ‘art object’ is not always appropriate/necessary-desirable, an event, a situation or a performance might feel more intuitive. Indeed the process itself can be the artwork. We wish to share some projects ‘in process’ that will meet a public in some form during this period and beyond, they include a long term collaboration with members of the disability community, former workers in some of St Helens most recognised industries and residents living in supported housing. We are also delighted to announce a new set of research commissions with local artists exploring a variety of themes, topics through a range of artforms.
WHERE THINGS ARE DIFFERENT

Stephen King
Project Announcement

Heart of Glass is commissioning a new major artwork by photographer Stephen King exploring the connections between the many varied industries to have resided in St Helens and the workforces that have made them function. Employees make a work space into a work place, but what remains once a sizeable workforce vacates a site after many years of service? Microcosms that reflect cultural patterns and social orders, the miniature characteristics of something much larger? Places now exist in the social experiences collectively built and held in the community - memories and stories carry the space now; both factual and mythological.

This work will meet a public in Summer / Autumn and is being produced as part of Culture Shifts, a new socially engaged photographic programme led by Open Eye Gallery.

www.stephenkingphotography.co.uk

Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk for updated details

SPARK (WORKING TITLE)
Simon McKeown & collaborators
Project Announcement

St Helens has a fantastic and rich history as a site and location for invention and innovation. This energy is still present today, taking form through artistic and cultural experiments, making St Helens a fertile ground for community and collaborative based arts practices. To cement this status Ignite St Helens, a new commission led by Artist Simon McKeown, will work with the local community and in particular, disabled artists, to create a series of works which will not only reflect on 150 years of the town's history but also project into the future, exploring St Helens and its people as a creative force. McKeown will develop, through a co-production programme, a number of events leading up to a mass outdoor video projection finale. Working throughout 2017, and culminating in 2018, this bombastic artistic endeavour; including massive video projection, will temporarily manipulate the townscape, blurring reality and space and presenting new and alternative realities for our consideration.

www.simon-mckeown.com

Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk for updated details
WITH THE PAST IN FRONT OF ME,
I WALK BACKWARDS INTO THE FUTURE...
(WORKING TITLE)
ANU Productions, idle women and Heart of Glass

In 2016, Heart of Glass, along with project partners idle women and ANU Productions were awarded a special funding award by Arts Council England under the Ambition for Excellence scheme. The award was made to develop a ‘once in a generation’ project with the women of St Helens. Between now and 2019 we will use genealogy, unconventional practices and historical research to explore the personal everyday histories of the women of St Helens as the basis for a new set of ambitious productions in 2018 - the year the borough celebrates its 150th birthday. In the coming months we will announcing details of how you can get involved in the project.

If you wish to register an interest email info@heartofglass.org.uk

...DO I DARE TO EAT A PEACH...?
Heather and Ivan Morison
Project Announcement

Heather and Ivan Morison are growing a peach tree in St Helens. This will take many years, many people and much attention to detail. Peaches are a delicate, beautiful, and decadent fruit and need very particular conditions to grow and thrive, especially in the UK.

To do this they are working with Heart of Glass on a series of commissions putting art, making and civic life central to the future of St Helens. They will be working with the property developers and businesses of St Helens to reignite a culture of civic responsibility, St Helens Council on reimagining the town as a centre for socially engaged practice and the people of St Helens on a series of civic projects, one of which will house a peach tree.

International artist duo, Heather and Ivan Morison, work in a vastly expanded field, transcending traditional divisions within the arts, acting in collaboration with many other areas of creativity, thought and commerce, directly addressing major societal questions through their practice. On a societal level they work to re-establish aspects of civic life through art questioning whose responsibility it is and on a human level they look to bring meaning, beauty and purpose into everyday life.

www.morison.info
Visit www.heartofglass.org.uk for updated details
We are delighted to announce that we will be supporting the following six projects through Prototype Projects (Round 5), our commissioning strand which supports artists and communities in St Helens to develop new ideas and creative explorations:

**Wendy Mumford (R&D)**
Wendy Mumford will spend the next six months developing her professional practice as a textile artist and her recently established collaboration with St Helens based agencies who support people experiencing mental health difficulties. To support this Wendy will benefit from mentoring, networking and research opportunities.

**Cath Shea (R&D)**
Artist Cath Shea will work closely with London based writer and performance artist Ursula Martinez to explore the potential of a longer-term collaboration to transform a series of monologues created for alter-ego Kitty O’Shea into a live art piece.

**Mike Lindley (R&D)**
Mike Lindley will focus on developing his fledgling practice as an artist and performer inspired by his ongoing collaboration with artist Mark Storor as part of the Heart of Glass commission Baa Baa Baric: Have You Any Pull? Using a portrait of himself created with Storor as a starting point, Mike will develop a live performance (which will be debuted at St Helens Library on 20th March) as well as ideas for new participatory work exploring notions of regret.

**Jacqui Priestley (R&D)**
Jacqui Priestley will spend the next six months accessing research, workshop and networking opportunities that will enable her to develop her artistic practice, specifically in relation to socially engaged arts practice and an investigation of memory and lost narratives through collaboration with dementia sufferers.

**Fiona Sterling & Amy Russell (R&D)**
Artists Fiona Sterling and Amy Russell will undertake a period of research and development to explore the position of women with children in the workplace and the contemporary art world. To support this they will receive mentoring from one or more female artists / curators / producers whose practices address similar ideas.

**Reading Hacks**
Reading Hacks, a group of young volunteers aged 13 to 24 years based at St Helens Library, will work closely with Heart of Glass to commission, and work in collaboration with, an artist to create a clearly identifiable, animated and engaging space within the Library for young people to use.

**SOMETHING FROM OUR ARCHIVE...**
Heart of Glass Highlights (2015)
watch now!

**THE INVISIBLE CITY**
A live cinema experience with Abandon Normal Devices (2016)
watch now!