

# SUE SHIELDS

## Personal details:

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## Education:

1990-1996 School of Art/University of Brighton – Printmaking Diploma part-time  
1989-1990 School of Art/Manchester Metropolitan University – Foundation  
1983-1986 Anglia Ruskin University. BA English Literature

## Projects/exhibitions/commissions:

### 2019

**Exhibition: Wind, Sea, Rock and Bone. Yarrow Gallery, Oundle.**

Exploring environmental pressures, stories and beauty of the Hebridean island of North Uist within the context of the crofting community and farming sustainability.

**Lecture: Taigh Chearsabhagh/University of the Highlands and Islands.**

An invitation to present and share my working practice in relation to Uist and abroad with both students and the public.

**Community Workshops: Anthony Gormley inspired schools workshop.**

Workshops with five schools introducing clay modelling taking inspiration from Sir Anthony Gormley's work 'Field' and the history and artefacts from the Iron age settlement, Must Farm, Cambridgeshire.

### 2018

**Exhibition and story-telling: Straw Bear Festival, Whittlesey Museum, Cambridgeshire.**

Presenting my new modern-day folktale based in the town of Whittlesey using the folkloric characters Black Shuck and Straw Bear, with text, prints and sketches.

**Photography commission: Photography backdrop for musical performance.**

A collaborative piece using my photographs of the fen landscape as a large-scale projection during singer Kerry Devine's performance, 'Away from Mountains'.

### 2017

**Performance of self-penned story: Hay Festival of Literature, Hay on Wye.**

Sponsored by the Woodland Trust to read my modern-day fairy tale 'Sorrow and The Sapling', and encouraging audience support for the Tree Charter initiative.

**Public Engagement Symposium: 'Once Upon a Time' exhibition concepts, Peterborough City Gallery.**

Public lecture on the concepts behind the exhibition, 'Once Upon A Time'.

**Exhibition: 'Once Upon a Time', art pop-up, Peterborough City Gallery, Woodland Trust, Natural England, Vivacity, The Ernest Cook Trust.**

A visual arts residency exploring folklore, fairy tales, and mythologies, siting these morality tales within contemporary contexts. Working with disaffected residents in Sheffield protesting against their council's urban tree-felling policy.

Producing a modern fairy tale, 'Sorrow and The Sapling' together with a large wall print of the story, and related prints. (This story was freely distributed in Sheffield, Peterborough, Hay and subsequent exhibitions)

**Art lecture: Art and Tree Conservation, Woodland Trust.**

By invitation I gave a presentation to employees at The Woodland Trust headquarters about the exhibition, Once Upon A Time.

**Schools workshops: 'Collective Response' – Rediscovering Sculpture Parks, Vivacity Culture, Peterborough and Ernest Cook Trust.**

A series of three-day workshops for school children, home-educated and special needs students to connect with Peterborough's sculpture park, using on-site sketching, history, making and exhibiting.

## **2016**

**Community event: 'Smoke & Mirrors' – An alternative Bonfire Festival, Peterborough Green Backyard.**

Commissioned by Jumped Up Theatre: Platform 8 to create an alternative and exciting new approach to bonfire night for the public.

**Exhibition: 'Beyond the Fold' – Paper in Art, National Centre for Craft and Design.**

Commissioned to make work showing the potential of paper. I hand cut a life-size paper dress and maiden's crown. Inspired by the local story of the death of chaste Mary Hill.

## **2015**

**Public engagement festival: large-scale Harvest Festival, Metal Culture Peterborough, Studio Orta, Paris.**

A celebration in Peterborough's Cathedral Square of the land, folklore, food production and people.

**Pop-up street gallery: 'Walk This Way' – Green Festival, Peterborough Environmental City Trust.**

Pop-up street gallery in collaboration with Peterborough Environmental City Trust, and the city's Green Festival exploring shoe consumption with audience participation.

**Public engagement workshop: 'Re-green Stamford', Stamford Arts Festival.**

Pop-up workshop during Stamford Arts Festival, working with the public to redesign their town with more green spaces and tree planting.

## **2014**

**Arts residency, 'Un-Earthed' – John Clare, John Clare Trust and Cambridge University, Arts Council.**

A group residency and exhibition at John Clare's cottage, Helpston, to encourage new dialogue and affinities with the poet, his village and associated landscapes. Touring to Northampton and Peterborough museums. Including poetry, talks and a book.

**Exhibition: '100; A Making of Trees', ONCA Gallery, Brighton.**

A joint exhibition at the ONCA gallery Brighton, inspiring people to think about trees in new ways together with the planting of 100 trees in central Brighton, east Sussex.

**Community engagement commission: 'WW1 Centenary Commemoration', Stamford Town Council and British Legion, Heritage Lottery.**

Oral history project to uncover and share home front family stories creating story sculptures and a public performance space for the residents of Stamford in commemoration of the Home Front effort in WW1.

**Conference lecture: 'John Clare in Space', Oxford Brooks University in affiliation with Cambridge University and The John Clare Trust.**

Presentation regarding my archival research and work for 'Un-Earthed' at the John Clare cottage.

**2013**

**Solo exhibition: 'Landed' – environment and conservation explored, Peterborough City Gallery.**

A commissioned solo exhibition exploring the vulnerability and our treatment of the natural environment using print, metal, paint and mixed media.

**Artists residency: 'Fresh Take' – site-specific historical exploration, Burghley House, Stamford. Arts Council.**

Art residency and site-specific exhibition at Burghley House, Stamford responding to the house's interior and its history within current contexts and uncovering new stories and perspectives of the house.

**School workshops: 'Local Heritage and Green Spaces' - The Rockingham Forest Trust.**

Workshops with three primary schools and the environmental charity RFT bringing wide ranging community benefit through conserving green spaces and exploring local heritage. Introducing historical traditional play to three schools with associated local crafts.

**Additional roles**

**Current:**

**Adult education tutor:** print making, City Peterborough College.

**2013/2016**

**Artist in residence:** Landyke Countryside Trust, Helpston.

**2012/2017**

**Co-chair for Creative Peterborough:** Independent group championing the arts with the city through a variety of public facing initiatives.

**2011/2012**

**Co-founder of a pop-up art venue:** The Old Still, in Peterborough city centre, promoting the arts to the wider community and encouraging public participation in the arts.

**2000/2011**

**Founder and chair for Peterborough Artist's Open Studios.**