

Lisa Risbec

Arts Facilitator | Artist | Creative Research & Project Coordination

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Profile

I am an artist and arts facilitator with over fifteen years of experience working across arts, health, wellbeing, and community contexts. My facilitation practice centres on encouraging creative expression, building confidence, and co-producing work that is genuinely led by participants. I bring a grounded understanding of barriers to creative practice, shaped by my own experience as an artist previously navigating chronic illness and I work with care, humour, and attentiveness to the people and contexts I am in.

Alongside my facilitation work, I maintain an active art practice rooted in material culture, objects, and archival thinking. I hold an MA in Fine Art and have exhibited across the north of England. I am also experienced in project coordination, digital, budgeting, funding applications, research, and writing, and bring these skills into facilitation and artist support roles.

Key Skills

- Arts facilitation across health, wellbeing, mental health, and community settings
- Resource development, co-production, and design thinking methodologies
- Workshop design and delivery for diverse groups
- Mentoring artists: practice development, CVs, websites, and written material
- Exhibition co-curation and production of artist statements, exhibition text, and press releases
- Research, writing, and synthesis, literature reviews, reports, facilitation notes
- Project coordination, budgeting, and administration
- Printmaking, bookmaking, animation, photography, collage, and mixed media
- Project coordination and administrative oversight
- Research, synthesis, and critical summarising
- Template-based website updates including advising on information hierarchy
- Digital archive organisation and documentation
- DBS checked | Full UK driving licence

Selected Facilitation Experience

Creative Resource Developer & Training Facilitator Cartwheel Arts | Jan 2016 – Sep 2023

- Lead artist on multiple Arts for Wellbeing programmes with groups experiencing mental health issues
- Developed the Art for Transition resource: a suite of 30 creative activities for newly arrived children in Rochdale schools, using design thinking methodology and extensive stakeholder consultation
- Co-created Wellbeing Dominoes, a creative game for groups now used widely across Rochdale and the UK
- Delivered CPD and train-the-trainer sessions for artists and organisations using creative methods
- Conducted research, focus groups, and consultation; produced written reports and facilitation guides
- Delivered sessions for Shelter, Rochdale schools, and Arts for Wellbeing conference

Studio Manager & Mentor POOL ARTS | Dec 2016 – Sep 2023

- Managed studio spaces supporting artists facing barriers to practice
- Provided one-to-one mentoring: portfolio development, CVs, websites, and written material
- Co-curated multiple Pool Arts exhibitions; produced exhibition text, artist statements, and press releases
- Coordinated studio systems, schedules, communications, and event logistics

Arts Facilitator Various organisations (ARC, Manchester Histories Festival, Burnley Youth Theatre, Cartwheel Arts) | 2007 – 2023

- Ran creative play and art technique sessions with adults managing mental health conditions
- Delivered animation workshops for Manchester Histories Festival (Picture Stockport); work shown at Stockport Art Gallery
- Delivered community outreach sessions for ARC; contributed to pilot programme development
- Ran 'Freedom to Create' independent courses for women — play, experimentation, and creative expression

Freelance Assistant Producer

Breaking Barriers | May 2023 – Nov 2023

- Created schedules and managed calendars for film projects with Rochdale Council
- Liaised with clients, directors, filmmakers, and participants; supported on-location filming
- Produced creative summaries and contributed to the creative direction of three documentary films
- Researched archival footage; conducted on-camera interviews with participants

Art Practice

I maintain an active practice rooted in material culture, objects, archives, and embodied experience. Recent work has explored weight, grief, and the domestic object through artists' books, textile, sculpture, and photography.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2025 'The Weight of it All' Ones to Watch 2025, Sunny Bank Mills, Leeds
- 2025 'The Single Egg (Everything is broken)' Best Eggs Show, Todmorden
- 2024 'Monument (in memory of)' Northern Connections, 9A Project Space, Todmorden
- 2024 'The Organised Body' Hanover Building, Preston
- 2020 Anne Brontë Exhibition commission South Square, Thornton
- 2018 'Good Luck Charm' The Art of Magic, The Horse Hospital, London

Residencies & Awards

- 2021/22 Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice grant
- 2020 South Square commission for Anne Brontë exhibition
- 2016 Doremifasolasido Residency, Florence Arts Centre, Cumbria
- 2015 Islington Mill Art Academy residency, Regents Trading Estate

Talks & Publications

- 2023 Artist talk: Imaginary Conversations with Aliyah Hussain and Sarah Eyre, Imaginary Wines, Todmorden
- 2016 'A Different Kind of Map' published in Stepz II: Between the Rollerama and The Junkyard
- 2012 Liverpool Biennial weekend talk representing Islington Mill Art Academy

Additional Relevant Experience

Imaging Coordinator/ Historical Photographer John Rylands Library Archive | Jan 2020 Present

- Managing and coordinating digitisation and imaging enquiries from researchers, students, and external clients
- Photographing archival material using high-end photographic equipment and digital workflows
- Managing digital image databases and content management systems (including LUNA, EMU, Preservica)

Marketing & Communications Officer Henshaws Society for Blind People | 2010 – 2014

Urbis | 2012-2014

- Managed website, blog, newsletter, social media, and email campaigns
- Researched and wrote content across multiple platforms and audiences

Education

- MA Fine Art, University of Central Lancashire (2022–2024) Distinction
- BA (Hons) Photography with Audio Visual Media, University of Central Lancashire (2002–2005) — 2:1
- Self-directed education, Islington Mill Art Academy (2012–2016)
- Safeguarding Adults at Risk (2013/2018) | Basic Child Protection Awareness (2013/2017)
- Level 1: Understanding Mental Health (2012)

Available for facilitation contracts, mentoring, admin and digital support and short-term creative project coordination