

## ART NOW Project - innovatively creating new artwork with Castle School

**Celebration Event:**  
**31 January 2023, 1.45pm,**  
**Castle School, Cambridge**



Kettle's Yard, Castle School, Cambridge and artist Georgia Akbar have worked together to deliver an innovative creative project focused on identifying and amplifying student's creative voices.

For 18 months students from Castle School, an inclusive school supporting SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) students, have worked with Kettle's Yard and artist in residence, Georgia Akbar to collectively develop a new artwork for the school. Students have visited Kettle's Yard for inspiration and collaborated with artist Georgia through participating in experimental workshops. This experience has been used by the students to inform their decisions for the final artwork; considering its location in the school and how it can be engaged with.

The result is a participatory artwork which is inspired by the play of light and windows within Kettle's Yard. The artwork encourages visitors to look up, to interact and play with light and notice how light can change the nature or appearance of a work or space. The students have combined their interest in film-making, projection, painting, drawing and installation to create the final artwork situated within the school hall. Students have also been inspired by the artwork, to create a new music composition which will play alongside the work at Castle School.

The ART NOW project is the first of its kind for Castle School and Kettle's Yard, celebrating and being led by student voice. The project has involved students across the school, from early years up to sixth formers.

Anne Haberfield, Acting Head at Castle School says:

*"This has been such an amazing project. The project has been so accessible for our students, with each one taking their own unique learning and inspiration from a shared stimulus. Georgia Akbar has facilitated this with her creative flair, attention to detail and positive relationships with each of our students."*

*"We are so grateful to Georgia, Kettle's Yard, the Ragdoll Foundation, and everyone that has supported the project, it is a great creative partnership."*

Georgia Akbar says:

*"It has been incredibly inspiring to spend time with students and staff at Castle school, learning what motivates the students and captures their imagination. One of the most exciting moments has been taking the work we've been creating 'on tour,' experimenting with light and projection in the hallways, library, and various rooms that students have chosen to explore throughout the school. It's been fascinating to highlight these spaces and look at them from different angles and for students to document this process. I'm looking forward to sharing our work and this spirit of experimentation in 2023!"*

**For further information  
and images**

Please contact Helen Dickman  
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Helen Creber, Learning and Engagement Coordinator and project lead at Kettle's Yard says:

*"The ART NOW project has been an incredibly inspiring project for Kettle's Yard, extending the legacy of Jim Ede, our founder, of inspiring young people through contemporary art. The project demonstrates the power of art to empower and celebrate student voice, especially for those who traditionally may not have been provided this opportunity."*

A student who took part in the project says:

*"It was really good. I like how it has all come together as one and everyone has done their own design [to contribute to the final artwork]."*

Nicola MacLarty, Art Lead, Castle School says:

*"It has been an incredible journey from start to finish. Together the students and Georgia have facilitated a unique multimedia student led project that can engage and excite a wide range of ages, needs and abilities."*

The artwork will be on display during the school's annual celebration of creativity - WonderWeek (30 January – 3 February 2023) - and following this the work will be displayed at Kettle's Yard for Twilight at the Museums on Thursday 16 February, 4.30 – 6.30pm. Visitors are welcome to explore the work during this free event. Following the Twilight event, Castle School will permanently display the artwork at their school as a proud legacy of this project.



All images: Castle School students experimenting with light, drawing and projections as part of ART NOW

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**Notes to Editors**

For all PRESS enquiries please contact Helen Dickman  
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**About Kettle's Yard**

Kettle's Yard is part of the University of Cambridge and is one of Britain's best galleries - a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two-year development by architect Jamie Fobert. The new Kettle's Yard includes exhibition galleries, education spaces, a café and welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.  
[www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk)

**About ART NOW**

This project has been generously supported by the Ragdoll Foundation, an organisation that supports the creation, appreciation and awareness of imaginative work, reflecting the world from a young person's point of view.

In 2022 Kettle's Yard invited applications to become ART NOW Artist in Residence at Castle School. The students were central to the selection process and chose artist Georgia Akbar.

Georgia Akbar is an artist and facilitator who specialises in film, animation, and participatory installation. Her professional skills as an artist and collaborative, inclusive approach to her practice enabled her to be closely attuned to students' sensory preferences. This helped her to create sessions that gave students the creative space to help shape the project's direction.  
[www.georgiaakbar.com](http://www.georgiaakbar.com)

**About Castle School**

Castle School is a special school for children from 3 – 19 years. It is a warm and welcoming community, working together, to provide pupils with a bespoke and therapeutic experience utilising their excellent staff and facilities.

Castle School have developed a coherent curriculum based on a range of compelling, creative learning experiences, which excite and inspire their learners. They aim to develop in each pupil aspirations to succeed and achieve their best, while providing a foundation for lifelong learning. The school believes that children learn best when they are happy and secure, so they strive to foster fun and an enjoyment of learning.

[www.castleschool.info](http://www.castleschool.info)