



# CREATIVE HUB

## MARCH EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. Our March edition includes a recap of Two Short Nights, shares an insight into Gallery 333 exhibitor Stephen Peart's practice, and hears from Beyond Face ahead of their Writing Scratch Night.

Last month we worked with Devon-based artist Will Cruickshank for the opening of his solo show here, screened 6 commissioned films at Two Short Nights, and hosted the first scratch night of the year!

### What have you been up to this month?

Have a piece of creative news or an opportunity you'd like to be shared? Send us a message on the [Creative Hub Facebook page](#) and we'll include what we can in future editions.

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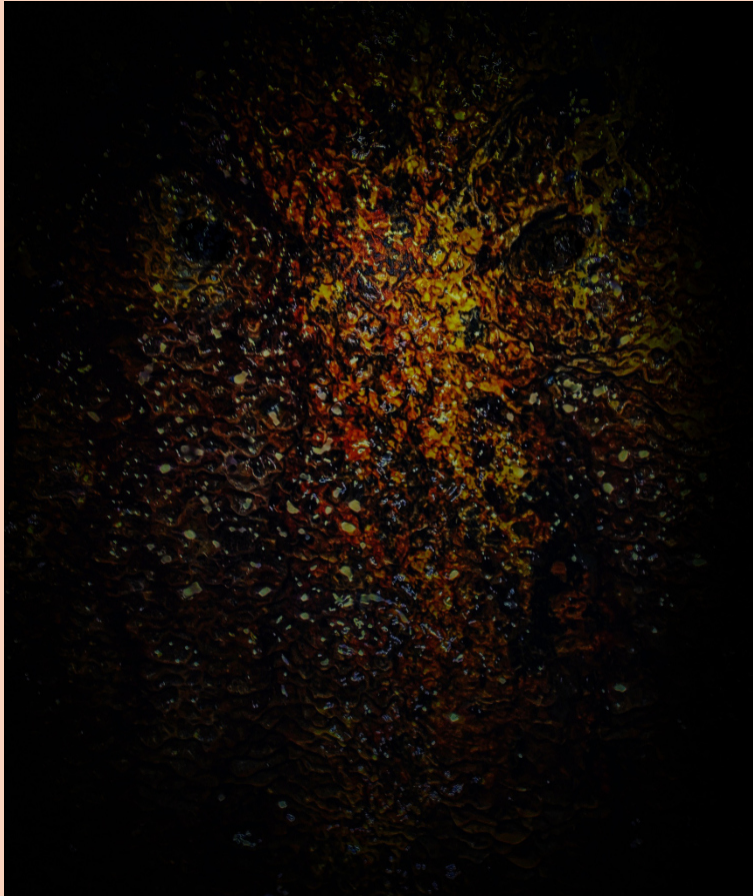
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## Stephen Peart: The Knocker



In partnership with Exeter Phoenix, South West-based artist membership group CAMP invited proposals from members for the imaginative use of Gallery 333. As an intimate exhibition space at Exeter Phoenix, this space displays small installations & contemporary art interventions in nine-week long exhibitions. Gallery curator Andy Cluer selected photographer Stephen Peart from the open call.

Stephen Peart's photographic practice focuses around Dartmoor, with a particular emphasis on what lies beneath its surfaces;

within its mines and rivers.

*The Knocker* is an image of oxidised mineral deposits on a mine wall, referencing the old south western mining superstition that tiny creatures called Knockers inhabited the mines of Devon and Cornwall and cause all sorts of mischief.

The exhibition runs from **11 Feb - 16 April**. Find Gallery 333 by the sliding doors on the ground floor of Exeter Phoenix.



'After years of wandering around Dartmoor, slightly mesmerised by the ever distant horizon and the sense of losing oneself within that landscape, I began to wonder if in fact I was missing something that was, in many cases, literally beneath my feet. That it was in fact just as possible to get lost in the detail of Dartmoor's key constituents, water and granite, as it was the broader, more traditional landscape photography view.'





‘The project is an examination of both water and the infinite worlds that it creates. I shoot in disused mines (where safe) and within the rivers on the Moor and really focus in as close as possible in order to, paradoxically, capture the infinite worlds that are created and exist, sometimes for only a thousandth of a second, when water meets rock. The interaction between water running down the sides of mine shafts and the minerals within those rocks is decades in the making and, presumably, is a process that carries on for decades after the images are taken. In contrast the river water flowing around and over rocks instantly creates, destroys, and never repeats.’

[www.intothehinterlands.co.uk](http://www.intothehinterlands.co.uk)





## Beyond Face Presents: A New Writing Scratch Night



Image credit: Dom Moore

Since April 2021, Beyond Face has run a group for global majority writers from across the South West called *We are Here to Write*. Now in its second year, this event showcases their work.

*Beyond Face Presents: A New Writing Scratch Night* will be at Exeter Phoenix on **Mon 27 March, 7.30pm**. Below we hear from their Artist Development Producer, Corinne Walker:

### About us

Beyond Face is a South West-based theatre company creating their own productions alongside prioritising work with Young People and Artists of the Global Majority. They do this through their artist development programme, creative offers and their *Regional Voices* project which hosts space for voices across the region who yet don't see themselves as artists but have stories to tell.

### About We are Here to Write

Established in April 2021, *We are Here to Write* is Beyond Face's Development programme for Global Majority writers as part of our Artist Development offer. Meeting fortnightly online, the group is a space for coming together, writing and developing as writers and artists. It has become a community for its members, a space where everyone's talents and strengths are celebrated. While there are often peer-to-peer group sessions, there are also often masterclasses given to the group from other established global majority writers such as Dipo Baruwa-Etti and Yolanda Mercy.



*We are Here to Write* meetup

## About the night

Where else can you enjoy tales of time travel, a West Irish boy who believes he's the reincarnation of Tupac, and a moth and a centipede attempting to escape a fly trap, but what are they really trying to escape?

Each short piece will be presented as a scripted rehearsed reading directed by one of 3 directors, Lau Batty, Lionelle Nsarhaza and Alix Harris, Beyond Face Artistic Director & CEO. So come along to our event on Monday March 27th and enter new worlds and be the first to witness these captivating, hilarious, poignant stories. Pay what you can tickets start at £3!

## Up Next for Beyond Face....

If you'd like to see some of Beyond Face's own work in action, discover our new production *Bigger than Lyrics*, debuting at Exeter's Barnfield Theatre on the 15th & 16th March.

The intention of *Bigger than Lyrics* is to present a visual concept album within a theatre space. Although it's not a musical, harmonies and songs are sprinkled throughout and you will be invited to listen and watch six themed "tracks". These tracks, just as music, are based on lived experience and shared emotions. They will explore subjects such as our environment, grief, hope, joy, wisdom and what it means to be our authentic selves. However, much like any work of art, more is yet to come as the show continues to develop throughout the year.'

*Beyond Face Presents: A New Writing Scratch Night* will be at Exeter Phoenix on **Mon 27 March, 7.30pm**.

**Two Short Nights** is our annual film festival celebrating shorts from international, national and regional filmmakers. Each year we commission members of the creative community to respond to the programme of screenings - from poetry to reviews, these pieces offer an alternative perspective and exciting precursor to the premieres.

## Two Short Nights Collaborations: Jacob Saul



Jacob's video essay explores short films' place in cinema, both in their production and exhibition.

Jacob Saul is an award-winning filmmaker working in the South West of England who has amassed an online audience for his film discussion and narrative fiction work. He isn't too fond of referring to himself in the third person and ponders if he'll ever get used to it... He's doubtful.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



## Two Short Nights Collaborations: Robyn Lawrence

### The Future's Bright, Isn't It? - Glimmer Of Hope

The films in the collection *The Future's Bright, Isn't It?* vary massively in style, tone, genre, language and aesthetics. We are taken through dustbowl petrol stations, housing estate Britain, and Toronto rooftops to city centre China. Despite their differences, these beautiful snapshots have a golden thread of commonality running through them.

*The Future's Bright, Isn't It?* speaks to a very specific and essential feeling: a glimmer of hope. Not just hope itself - hope is a blunt instrument, admirable but with no finesse or nuance. 'Hope' on its own is a labrador; it blunders in, full of joy, bringing smiles and slobbery, unconditional affection..

A glimmer of hope is something different. A glimmer of hope is the bag of crisps you forgot you bought when there's nothing in the house to eat, it's the text message you receive that gets you to the end of the day - just. It's the slither of light through a cracked door...

In these glorious slices of life, the glimmer of hope comes in many different forms. It comes in the moment you recognise empathy in another person that means you're not alone, even in the depths of struggle. It comes in the triumph of self belief despite the odds. It comes in carving out your space, from your people, your passion, your talent. It comes from learning you're enough, and being brave enough to tell your own story, learning your talent is worth more than their judgement.

The glimmer of hope that runs through these films often circles creativity, talent and passion; the inner drive to make, to create. In *I Am Good At Karate*, karate acts as a hat stand to hang self esteem on, or sometimes hang on to. In *We Went Out* the creative spaces created are a lifeline, a subculture and a community. In *Phoenix*, rapping is an outlet, a profession, and a fuck you to prejudice.

A glimmer of hope is essential. It needs to be there in the bleakest corners. If hope is a labrador of unconditional love, a glimmer of hope is an aloof cat that has always ignored you, but on your worst day comes over to say hi.



## Two Short Nights: 19-25 Devon Film Fund



Image Credit: Alex Toze

Pitchers (left to right): Harvey Isitt, Leila Lockley, Izzy A'isha Johnson, Jacob Saul.

At Two Short Nights Film Festival this year we had over 50 short films from around the world; 30% of which represented the South West, and six commissioned films by Exeter Phoenix!

Following a successful programme of screenings and events at the first day of Two Short Nights Film Festival 2023, Exeter Phoenix announced the first of this year's commissioned filmmakers.

Leila Lockley pitched her ideas to a panel and a live audience at the festival and was selected for the 19-25 Devon Film Fund, which offers £1000 and support to release her film. The 19-25 Devon Film Fund will be delivered in partnership with BFI NETWORK and Film Hub South West. The finished film will be premiered at Two Short Nights 2024.



Set against a backdrop of a contemporary black-comedy, Leila's film will explore female friendship whilst questioning what makes us bad and how far we might go to achieve closure. Leila went up against 3 other young filmmakers, who all presented a wealth of creativity.

Leila is currently in her final year of studying English Literature & Film at Exeter University, and is ready to kickstart her career in film! Leila has been performing from a young age and is signed with an acting agency in London. While acting is her first love, her degree has sparked an interest in behind the camera roles. She is writing her dissertation on the growing shift of women from in front of the camera to behind it and how this move is shaping contemporary cinema today. Leila is interested in telling stories that place emotion and human connection at the forefront.

*Leila said, "I am really excited to be offered this opportunity and can't wait to work with Exeter Phoenix to develop my idea."*



## Two Short Nights



Left: Dom Lee's film, *CROAK*, won the Audience Choice Award. His film was one of our commissions which premiered at the festival.

Congratulations to Carolina Petro who's film *SWEET LITTLE DESIRE* won Best Film.



Right: *The Funky Chickens* who won over the judges' hearts with their entry '*In Love With a Lobster*' in the 48 Hour Film Challenge.

Special mentions go to '*Tyre Troubles!*', '*Mojo Jelly*' and '*Doctor Jesse's Rope Vaseline*' in the 48 Hour Film Challenge.



Above: Discussion panel from *Shorts #3: South West Talent*

"Two Short Nights is utterly unique in the atmosphere you manage to cultivate and having been to many festivals yours stands head and shoulders above many. Very very lucky to have this festival in the south west."

- Quote from audience member

Want to get involved in next years Two Short Nights? Our **moving image commissions are now open!**

See 'Opportunities' page for more info



The finished awards by Georgia Gendall, who featured in February's edition



Audience members casting their votes for the Audience Choice Award



## An Interview with Darn Good Studio



Molly Rooke is an Exeter-based artist and owner of Darn Good Studio. She has previously exhibited work at Exeter Phoenix (*Correspondence 01*, 2021), was a guest speaker for *Wednesday Art Talks* (2021) and taught workshops in the *Summer Art Camp* (2022). After teaching herself to darn, Molly set up Darn Good Studio to give clothing a second life through colourful repairs, not only saving them from landfill but also creating beautiful, unique additions to each piece.

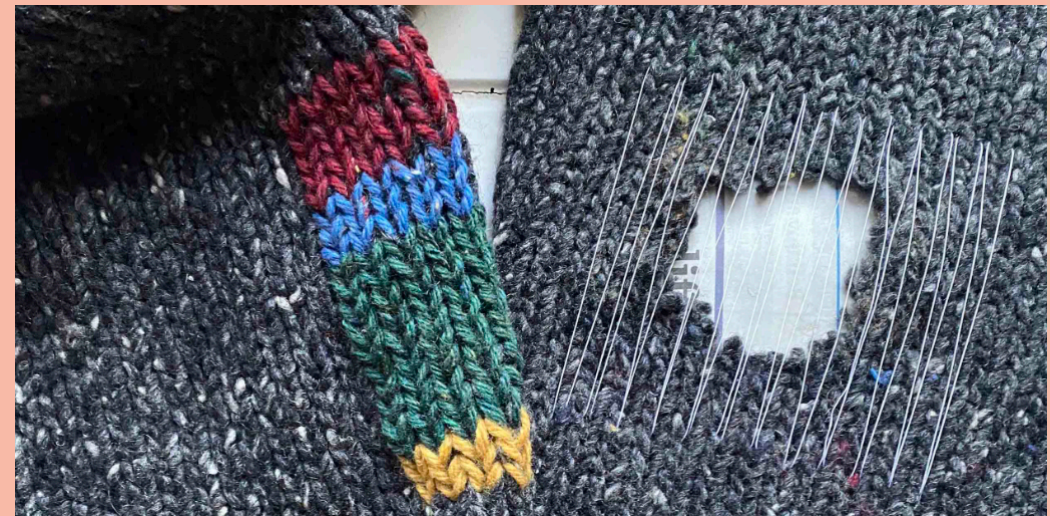
In association with Honeyscribe, Darn Good Studio will be in residence at Exeter Custom House at the Quay during the first week of March. We asked Molly what it has been like setting up her own creative business and what she's been up to!

### Why did you decide to set up Darn Good?

I set up Darn Good at the start of last year after teaching myself to mend clothes during lockdown. Initially, I took the skills I'd learnt from mending and applied it to my creative practice - resulting in my solo exhibition *This was bound to happen sooner or later* at Studio KIND. in North Devon. I found that I was becoming increasingly interested in slow fashion and sustainability, and friends were asking me to repair items for them and gradually it shifted into becoming a business in itself. What I love is that I bring the creative side of my brain every time I mend something, problem solving and creating a mend that is not only practical but visually interesting as well.

### How have you found setting up your own creative business in the South West?

I've really loved setting up my own business, it's very different from an artistic practice but it's a lot of fun! I've really utilised a lot of the connections I've made since moving to Exeter to help develop the business and although social media can be incredibly frustrating





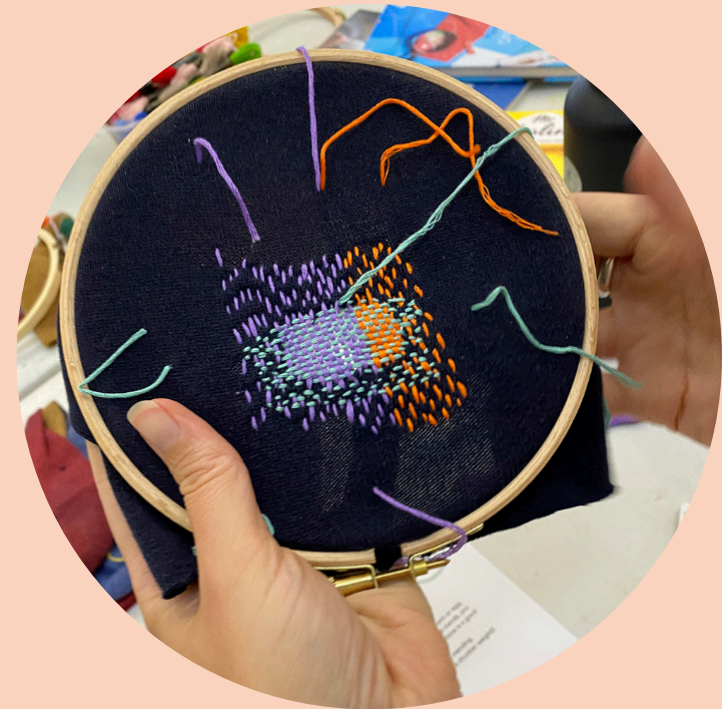
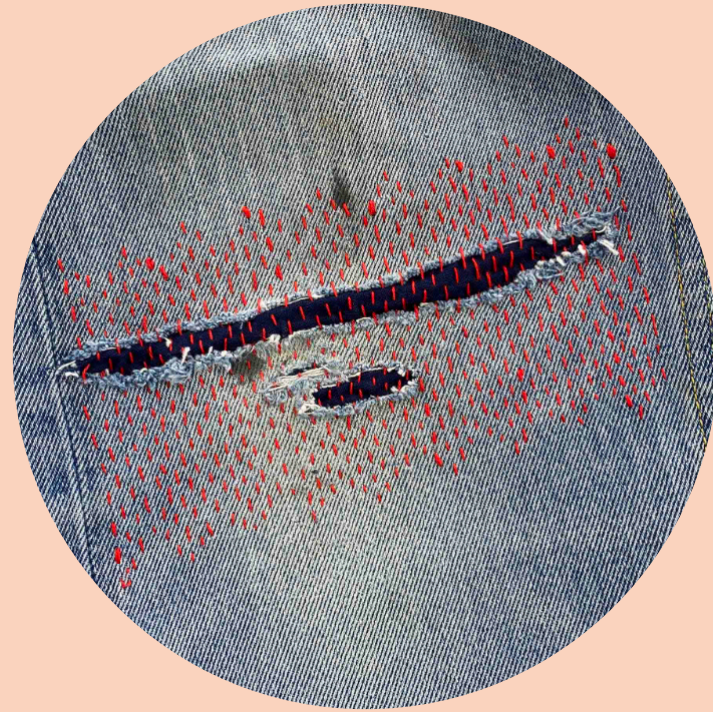
trying to get your name out there, it's meant I've found a lot of like-minded people in the South West such as Mend Assembly in Totnes, where I now run Darn Good from 1 day a week.

**What is the significance of working in community spaces across Devon?**

The sharing of skills and community is at the heart of Darn Good. I fell in love with the shareable, sociable aspects of mending that bring people together and get people talking. Anyone can mend and I really enjoy teaching groups how to keep their clothes lasting for longer. People choose to mend clothes that they care about, and have stories to tell about each item they want to mend. I think it's important we focus on the heritage of our clothing and by mending them we can add a richer history to these tales.

**What will you be doing at the Custom House in March? How can people get involved?**

I will be artist-in-residence in association with Honeyscribe at the Custom House on Exeter Quay from the 3rd March until 12th March, with the exhibition of mends continuing until May. I am running an introduction to visible mending course on the afternoon of Wednesday 8th March, and a free mending for parents (or carers / guardians) on Saturday 11th. I'll also be there holding mending surgeries where you can bring clothes and get advice, join me in mending or drop off clothes for repair.



# OPPORTUNITIES

## Art Vending Machine: Callout for artworks | Deadline 10 March

Located in Exeter, the exclusive Art Vending Machine (AVM) is a miniature, portable and approachable way of surprising the public with five different items stored and sold in groups of 25 each, all contained in cardboard boxes measuring 58x90x22mm.

Artwork is certainly not limited to any medium; miniature sculptures, zines, short stories and small artist books, DIY art kits, miniature paintings or viewing devices, audio work, live recordings of bands/poets/performances, short films, animations and digital artworks are all accepted. Each item will be sold for a surcharge of £1 to be used for packaging, machine maintenance and administration.

Work is sold in multiples of 25, with stock change happening annually in line with Art Week Exeter or when sold out. Items sell for £2 – £10. This year, the AVM will be curated by 发件人: Guolin Qin.

[Apply Here](#)

## Exeter City Of Literature: Graphic Designer and Photographer

Are you a graphic designer? Could you create a literary map of Devon? Are you a photographer who can take great shots of people in workshop, event, and performance settings in a sensitive manner? We're looking for freelancers to add to our books as new and exciting projects come up. Please send a sample of your work or your portfolio, your rates, and a short bio to us. Or email us to set up a chat about our work and what we're looking for!

[Get in touch](#)

## Community Engagement Opportunity | Ongoing callout

Headway Devon are offering an excellent engagement opportunity for artists to run therapeutic art workshops for The Moving Tribe, a group of individuals experiencing communication difficulties after brain injury. We welcome applications from **any art form background**, including visual artists and sound and movement artists. Please contact Hannah Blatchford at [hannahb@headwaydevon.org.uk](mailto:hannahb@headwaydevon.org.uk) for more details.



## Walkway callout: Exhibition opportunity for community projects

The Walkway Gallery is our community exhibition space, featuring the outcomes from a broad range of creative groups and projects. It's highly visible and accessible location at the heart of the building is perfectly suited to reflecting and celebrating the diversity of creative partnerships, activities and relationships we connect with here at Exeter Phoenix.

If you are working on a community-based creative project that you would like us to help you share, drop us a line at [art@exeterphoenix.org.uk](mailto:art@exeterphoenix.org.uk)

## Exhibition opportunity at Finch Foundry

Finch Foundry is a National Trust museum, and will be hosting an exhibition in the grounds of their garden. The theme is 'ecology' and forms a response to the climate crisis, focusing on the question 'what does it mean to be part of the material world and not separate from it'?

All mediums are accepted as long as they respond to the environmental concerns and messages of the exhibition. Works that are site specific and made in response to the Finch Foundry are welcomed as the site was chosen for the interesting relationship it has with humans and the material world.

[Find out more here](#)





# OPPORTUNITIES



## Two Short Nights: Commissions Callouts

**Deadline for DEVON, SW, MICRO & STING: 5pm, Wed 29 March**

**Deadline for ARTIST MOVING IMAGE: 5pm, Wed 05 April**

Exeter Phoenix has launched our 2023 round of short film commissions. We are inviting applications for **5 different strands** this year. We recommend you take a look at the guidelines before applying. The five commissions are:

- 1 x Devon Short Film Commission
- 1 x South West Short Film Commission
- 1 x Artist Moving Image Commission
- 1 x Micro Short Film Commission
- 1 x Studio 74 Sting Commission

We will be holding three open **Zoom Q&A sessions** online where you can meet some of the team behind the Exeter Phoenix commissions and hear a bit more about what the opportunity entails. You do not have to attend these sessions to apply, but we hope that they will be useful to you. Feel free to ask us anything and use it as an opportunity to find out a bit more about the process and what it is like to work with us. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please email [digital@exeterphoenix.org.uk](mailto:digital@exeterphoenix.org.uk).

[Find out more](#)

## Call for moving image visuals

Library Lates on 16th June is going to be produced in partnership with Art Week Exeter. We would like the Silent Disco in the Rougemont Room to have a (looping) projection of experimental film/ visuals. We're inviting people to submit their work to be included in the screening programme.

Send links of your work to [engage@artworkexeter.org.uk](mailto:engage@artworkexeter.org.uk)

## Submissions for Depict! 2023 now open | Deadline Sun 14 May

Depict is a super-short film competition running since 1998 as part of Encounters Film Festival (September, Bristol, UK). Depict is about creative freedom and imagination – it doesn't matter what your budget is or what genre you're working in as long as you show originality and are able to connect with audiences.

The competition is open to anyone from anywhere in the world, and entry is absolutely free – but there is ONE simple rule: your film **MUST** be 90 seconds or less in duration. Accept the Depict challenge and get creative in just a minute and a half to be in with a chance of winning!

[Find out more and apply](#)

## Downstage Write Actor Callout | Deadline Thu 02 Mar | £750 fee

Downstage Write are casting three actors to workshop a new play 'Onion Soup' by Michael Smith.

Email [info@downstagewrite.uk](mailto:info@downstagewrite.uk) / [find out more here](#)

## Call out for emerging writers of prose and poetry with a focus on the environment | Deadline Mon 06 Mar

The Writers' Block is seeking 3 emerging writers who are interested in creating new work around this theme. There will be an opportunity to share the work through readings, recordings or printed matter. You will receive £400 to attend the workshops, write new work and attend the sharing session.

[Find out more here](#)



## Events

- [Mary the Pigeon Family Fun Day Collage Workshop](#) | Sat 04 Mar | Exeter Library
- [Stalker \(PG\)](#) | Sun 05 Mar | Exeter Phoenix (in conjunction with *Witches of the Anthropocene* exhibition)
- [Sustainable Arts Gathering](#) with Theatre Alibi and Quirk Theatre | Fri 10 Mar, 3.30-5pm | Emmanuel Hall
- [Fashion Reimagined \(12A\)](#) | Sat 11 Mar - Thu 16 Mar | Exeter Phoenix
- [Will Cruickshank: Artist's Talk](#) | Sat 25 Mar | Exeter Phoenix
- [Beyond Face Presents: A New Writing Scratch Night](#) | Mon 27 Mar | Exeter Phoenix

## Exhibitions

- [Laura Porter: Compost](#) | 25 Feb - Fri 31 Mar | The Plough Arts Centre
- [With \(Y\)our Own Eyes](#) | 23 Feb - Sat 04 Mar | Maketank
- [Darn Good Studio: On The Mend](#) | Thu 02 Mar - 12 Mar | Exeter Custom House
- [Design for Life: Art and Architecture - Part 1](#) | Sat 18 Mar - 02 Jul | Hestercombe Gallery
- [Will Cruickshank: Three Moons](#) | Sat 11 Feb - 16 Apr | Exeter Phoenix
- [Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene](#) | Sat 11 Feb - 07 May | RAMM
- [Léonie Hampton, A Language of Seeds](#) | 14 Jan - 04 Mar | Thelma Hulbert Gallery (Honiton)



We are looking to understand our Creative Hub a bit better, so that we can better highlight news and opportunities that match the interests of our followers. Please scan to complete our short anonymous survey.

Have a piece of creative news or an opportunity you'd like to be shared? Send us a message on the [Creative Hub Facebook page](#) and we'll include what we can in future editions.





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