



★ TURF PROJECTS GALLERY, WORKSPACE & STUDIOS, WHITGIFT CENTRE

Founded in 2013 by Croydon locals, Turf Projects is the first entirely artist-run contemporary art space in Croydon, South London. A registered charity, Turf has supported the work of over 300 artists to date through a programme of free public exhibitions, workshops and events. Turf also run vocational skills workshops for artists, MOSS (a collective of learning disabled adult artists), Art Press (a young peoples collective of Croydon locals aged 14-21), a support & residency programme for Croydon School of Art students, family workshops, projects with local schools & more. Established by creatives with a personal connection to the borough, Turf currently exists across two ex-retail units.

● TURF PROJECTS STUDIOS, KEELEY ROAD

■ Fungus Press Pond Poster Structure

◆ Fungus Press Community Garden Poster Structure

*** Fungus Press Reeves Corner Poster Structure**

*** Fungus Press Walled Garden Poster Structure**

○ EXCHANGE SQUARE

Featured Turf's first exhibition 'Putt Putt' in October 2013

▶ RUSKIN SQUARE

Area designed by MUF featured Turf's exhibition 'Putt Putt #2', 2014. Ruskin Square was the starting point for Vincent Lacovara's 'Seven Hills of Croydon' a walking tour of Croydon's multi-level car parks.

FUNGUS PRESS is an ever evolving artist poster project, which started in 2014

As concerns grow regarding the privatisation of public spaces across London, and elsewhere, Fungus Press invites artists, designers & writers to respond to Croydon's public spaces through a series of newly commissioned billboard artworks. The text-based posters aim to discuss and celebrate the importance and potential of Croydon's public spaces, offering alternative ways to navigate the area; both geographically and temporally. They speak of Croydon's untold past and its yet to be written future; reasserting the essential role that green spaces play throughout civic life: from articulating our sense of place, to encouraging democratic engagement.

The Reeves Corner structure was designed by George Chinnery. The Park Hill Walled Garden noticeboard was designed and made by artist & woodcarver Esme Toler.

RUTH BEALE // #DFTBA // 5 September - 24 November 2019

Applying enthusiastic hashtags to vintage postcards, Ruth Beale's #DFTBA (Don't Forget To Be Awesome) connects Croydon's public spaces to sites across time and space. The images are a mix of better-known tourist destinations and (quite literally) pedestrian and everyday sites – parks, beaches, streets, promenades, squares, lanes, churches, markets, car parks, bus stops, housing estates and footpaths.

The acronyms and initialisms on the posters - FYA (For Your Amusement), ICYMI (In Case You Missed It), FUTAB (Feet Up Take A Break), YOLO (You Only Live Once) – semi-plausibly describe images of Margate, Plymouth, Wittering and Welwyn, but at the same time, reflect back on the public spaces they inhabit in Wandle Park, Reeves Corner and Park Hill. They point to the digital public spaces we share and the rules and conventions we follow on social media, from sharing our whereabouts, to using filters to make images look more analogue, to shorthand, mildly conspiratorial hashtags.

The postcards are selected by the artist from a much larger collection accumulated by their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, many sent to addresses in Leicester, Andover, Surrey and Manchester, or like one featured in the #BBS (Be Back Soon) poster, forwarded to an RAF base in Karachi. The selection defines a very physical understanding of public space, and a form of commemorating and communicating that is noticeably pre-mobile phone, pre-social media and pre-text message.

Ruth Beale has launched a new Instagram account @postcardsofpublicspaces for the project, using both popular generic acronym hashtags and those used to describe public, civic and common attributes (#grass, #view, #air, #concrete, #quiet, #calm, #play, #relax #forage #skate #walk etc). The account will accumulate over the project and beyond.

The text is in an open source typeface commissioned by the artist and developed by designer Saria Digregorio using notcouriersans, based on cattle brands used by farmers to individualise marks on cattle grazing on common land.

It is available to download at www.ruthbeale.net/everydayresourcefulness

For more information about current & forthcoming artist commissions and related events visit: www.turf-projects.com // email: chris@turf-projects.com // instagram: @f_ng_s

