



ANNA VAN DER POORTEN

📍 London

[Web portfolio](#)

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SUMMARY

I completed a degree in technical arts at Wimbledon in 2003, since then I have been using my skills in collaborative projects, a job that I love. I have devised, budgeted planned, and delivered art workshops with adults, young people and children in many different environments. I have also worked extensively in SEN environments making sure that workshops were inclusive to every ability. A key part of my work has been the participatory and meditative aspects of the arts, working with other artists, children, and families, enabling them to discover their creative inventive streak in a communal environment.

My broad range of practical skills means I'm able to encourage participants to explore their creative ideas in art projects such as carnival floats, puppets, clay models, casting, masks, mosaics, willow sculptures, shadow plays, props, backdrops, as well as 2-D skills such as drawing, collage, printing, and painting. I have worked with many organisations using varied techniques (see my web page).

As well as years of experience in running workshops my recent work consists of creating large site-specific pieces for events and parades, often based around the natural environment in urban spaces using sustainable materials such as willow and paper. My pieces involve celebrating the magic of natural landscape around us, one we aren't always aware of and exploring our relationship with it.

I have been commissioned to create large scale sculptures and devise themed workshops for the decoration of these artworks reflecting the thoughts and feelings of the local community. I found ways to allow all participants to contribute and create beautiful artworks, my decoration workshops are often inspired by different forms of folk and naïve art.

I have also worked and trained as a playworker. I'm interested in the cross over in play and art, I devised a family workshop weekend for Saddlers Wells in which the theme was play and brought the similar improvisational and creative aspects of art and play into the event, something I would like to explore further.

I'm interested in the important meditative, social, educational, and joyful aspects of the arts and its connection to wellbeing. As well as having an extensive range of arts skills, my focus on inventiveness, discovery, learning, play, and problem solving in creative practice enhances all my work.

EXPERIENCE

Community Artist - Visual arts facilitator, 11/2021 - 12/2022

The City of London, London

- Budgeted and devised 3 large scale willow and paper sculptures based on urban nature
- Devised, budgeted and facilitated workshops with local community groups and local schools, creating designs to decorate the sculptures that celebrated the natural environment in the city of London. Workshops also developed creative abilities and enhanced mental wellbeing

Community artist- Visual arts facilitator, 09/2021 - 11/2022

Emergency Exit Arts / Aldgate Bid, London, City of London

- Co-designed float for the lord mayor's show
- budgeted, devised and facilitating workshops in local schools workshops were tailored to a theme and devised to allow children's art works to become part of the float

Community Artist-visual arts facilitator, 05/2022 - 06/2022

Argent property, London, Brent Cross

- Budgeted and devised a large-scale willow and paper sculpture of a pond snail
- Devised, budgeted and facilitated workshops with the local community creating designs to decorate the sculpture that celebrated the natural environment in the new park. Devised willow and paper workshops for a community parade. Workshops also developed creative abilities and enhanced mental wellbeing

Maker, 05/2021 - 06/2022

Drake Music, London

- co designed 3 large willow teepees
- constructed 3 large willow teepees

Community Artist-Visual arts facilitator, 03/2022 - 05/2022

Graeae Theatre, London, London

- Devised, budgeted, and delivered workshops for a theatre tour, creating art works celebrating disabled artists

Community Artist-Visual arts facilitator, 03/2021 - 05/2021

Theatre Royal Stratford East

- Budgeted and devised a large-scale willow and paper sculpture
- Devised, budgeted and facilitated workshops with the local community culminating in a lantern parade
- Delivered Workshops to developed creative abilities and enhanced mental wellbeing, and community cohesion

SKILLS

- Technical artistry
- Artistic nature
- Planning, budgeting
- Diplomatic

EDUCATION

Hackney Play association, 2011
NVQ Level 3: Playwork

Wimbledon School of Art, London, ENG, 2003
Bachelor of Arts: Technical Arts

Kingsway College, London, ENG, 2000
BTEC: Theatrical Costume

CERTIFICATIONS

- First aid trained