Hands On Art Workshops

In 2015 artist Lisa Milroy initiated Hands On Art Workshops with the support of the Vodafone Foundation and UNHCR. Hands On Art Workshops offers a programme of practical art workshops for primary and secondary school students in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. Hands On Art Workshops is facilitated by Vodafone Foundation and UNHCR’s Instant Network Schools programme, which utilises digital video conference technology. Lisa travels to Kakuma Refugee Camp annually to deliver Hands On workshops, working with UNHCR Education.

The aim of Hands On Art Workshops is to support and encourage creative and imaginative thinking, engagement and exchange globally and intergenerationally between artists and students. All Hands On Art Workshops are devised by artists, and based on the artist’s practice. Through Hands On Art Workshops, students can develop their creative skills through drawing, painting, performance, object-making and writing, and aspects of functional design.

Hands On Art Workshops is grounded in Lisa’s artistic practice. The programme grew out of a practical drawing workshop “Everyday Objects” that Lisa developed in 2004 based on her approach to still life painting, first delivered to secondary school students in London.

To encourage more students to take part in independent art practice sessions across Kakuma Refugee Camp, Lisa devised the Hands On Self-Directed Art Workshops Manual, an ever-evolving set of practical art workshops devised by artists, based on the artist’s practice. The manual provides illustrated instructions on A4 sheets that outline the focus of a workshop, the art materials and venue required, and the workshop’s guidelines. Using these instructions, any workshop can be communicated and shared through email and printed locally to facilitate workshops delivered by other teachers and artists in Kakuma Refugee Camp and beyond.

In 2019 Lisa set up the Hands On Art Scholarship Fund to support secondary school education for Hands On students. The Hands On Art Workshops Scholarship is administered by Windle International Kenya.

Hands On Art Workshops receives generous support from Colart, a large international supplier of art materials, with donations of art materials to facilitate art workshops in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Hands On Art Workshops is supported by Vodafone Foundation, UNHCR, Colart, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL and Windle International Kenya.

Lisa Milroy

Lisa Milroy was born in Vancouver, Canada and lives and works in London.

Still life is at the heart of Milroy’s practice: in the 1980s her paintings featured ordinary objects depicted against an off-white background. Subsequently her imagery expanded to include depictions of objects within settings, as well as landscape, architecture, people and the body. As her approaches to still life diversified, so did her manner of painting, giving rise to a range of stylistic innovations. Throughout her practice, Milroy has been fascinated by the relation between stillness and movement, and the nature of making and looking at painting.

Milroy won First Prize in the John Moores Painting Prize 1989, and was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2005. She has worked at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL since 2009 and as Guest Advisor at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam since 1995. Milroy was Artist Trustee of Tate from 2013-17 and Liaison Trustee to the National Gallery from 2015-17. Her work is held in many public and private collections, including Tate; Frac Occitanie Montpellier, France; Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany; Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA; Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan; and East Africa Visual Arts Trust, Kenya. A major exhibition of Milroy’s work, Here & There: Paintings by Lisa Milroy was held at Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art, London in 2018.

www.lisamilroy.net


Hands On Art Workshops – ‘Dresses’ workshop. Wearable paper dresses designed and painted by students at Morneau Shepell Secondary School, April 2018