

CREATIVE HUB

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NOVEMBER EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. In our November edition we hear about local new alt-folk artist Dominie Hooper's influences, find out about Scratch Artist Mattie Konig's experience performing on our stage last month and hear more about an exciting new exhibition by Exeter artist Adam Garratt.

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 and we'll include what we can in future editions.

We have a new Instagram account!

Follow us @exeterphoenixcreativehub to get even more updates, stories and opportunities in Exeter.



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Film Commission Update: Micha Colombo



Update on 'I Want This' film commission:

The whole project has been a series of firsts for me: pitching an idea, gathering a team, organising a shoot, shaping the edit. I felt pretty overwhelmed on the shoot day itself as I was juggling so many hats - director, actor, producer, writer. Too many, in retrospect. I also had my kids on set for some of the scenes so that by the end of the day, I didn't quite know what to think about anything! I remember looking at the mountain of kit on the shoot and thinking 'I am completely out of my depth'. But once the dust settled, it felt brilliant to have made it happen. And it was kind of incredible to see how the DoP Alister Malcolm translated ordinary household moments into such beautiful shots. I feel excited for the next stage of editing. I know we have lots of bits of the jigsaw, but

will we be able to make it come together cohesively? The storyteller in me is excited to tinker with this stage and make the story really flow. One big general highlight for me has been the incredible support of the Phoenix team and the wider film-making community in the Southwest - people were so quick to circulate my callouts, recommend crew, volunteer their support with the project. It's been life-affirming.

- Micha Colombo



Adam Garratt - Embodied Labour REWORKED

Exeter-based artist Adam Garratt has a new exhibition coming up titled *Embodied Labour - REWORKED* at Maltings Taphouse in November. Adam has previously exhibited work at Exeter Phoenix in Platform Gallery (2022), Correspondence 01 (2021) and Gallery 333 (2016). We interviewed Adam in our [April](#) publication for the Embodied Labour Exhibition at Studio KIND. This upcoming exhibition is a reworking of some of the elements from Embodied Labour, plus added works that are evolving in Adams' practice.

Lucinda Elliot reflected on the Embodied Labour exhibition in the text below, giving an insight into the importance and interest in themes of reworking in Adams' practice.

Garratt's practice responds to the construction of civic architecture. He engages a brutalist aesthetic and environmental consciousness to draw attention to acts of concealment and display that occur during urban development. Initially using the Exeter Civic Centre as both a subject and substrate, Garratt silkscreened its signature window design onto discarded cardboard boxes and tarpaulins. These items became installations that were exhibited in a variety of reconfigurations between 2016-2022. Black and white prints of the window motif were added to in 2018, with more flamboyant layers of fluorescent yellow and orange ink. These colourful often misregistered prints, help to enhance the impression of high visibility evident during a building's construction process. Through his use of architectural prints on found objects, Garratt's sculptural installations perform both the augmentation and erasure of brutalist civic architecture.

*Garratt playfully critiques the consumption and disposal of construction materials used in the building industry without attributing blame. Garratt addresses everyday environmental consumption and waste with an even hand. Every bag of crisps he has consumed since 2006, has been carefully folded and stored in a Kilner jar. These serve as a continual reminder of his own part in the consumption and disposal of non-recyclable materials. In his exhibition, *Embodied Labour, 2023*, Garratt presents a sophisticated critique and re-evaluation of the materials of production and consumption, that are used within the construction industry.*

[Visit Embodied Labour - REWORKED](#) throughout November at Maltings Taphouse & Bottleshop in Newton Abbot.



**Embodied
Labour -
REWORKED**

**Throughout
November**

PV Sat 11 from 3

Maltings Taphouse & Bottleshop,
Newton Abbot, TQ12 4AA
Tues - Fri 4-8
Sat 12-8
Sun 2-8
If the space is closed, see the bar for access

5 Minute walk from Newton Abbot railway station.
Access to the exhibition space is through the bar
& up 2 short flights of stairs.

Adam Garratt

An Interview with Dominie Hooper



You mention visiting Exeter Phoenix growing up - who did you see?

I remember dancing a lot at Exeter Phoenix. I was going there a lot in my late teens, and have brilliant memories of dancing, fun, friends and happiness. I saw Baka Beyond which was mesmerising - I'd never seen African dance before and I was completely in awe - looking back on it there wasn't a lot of multiculturalism around so I'm grateful I got to see that at the Phoenix. There was also the folk inspiration from Sheelanagig in their early days, and I was very into drum n bass and breakbeat at the time and I know I had some epic nights seeing DJ's though the details are hazy.. ha! Memorable yes. Details no. Good times.

How has the South West influenced your sound?

Growing up on Dartmoor, I was surrounded by abundant nature and wildlife from a young age, instilling in me a fascination with things that grow and live and an unharnessed imagination for

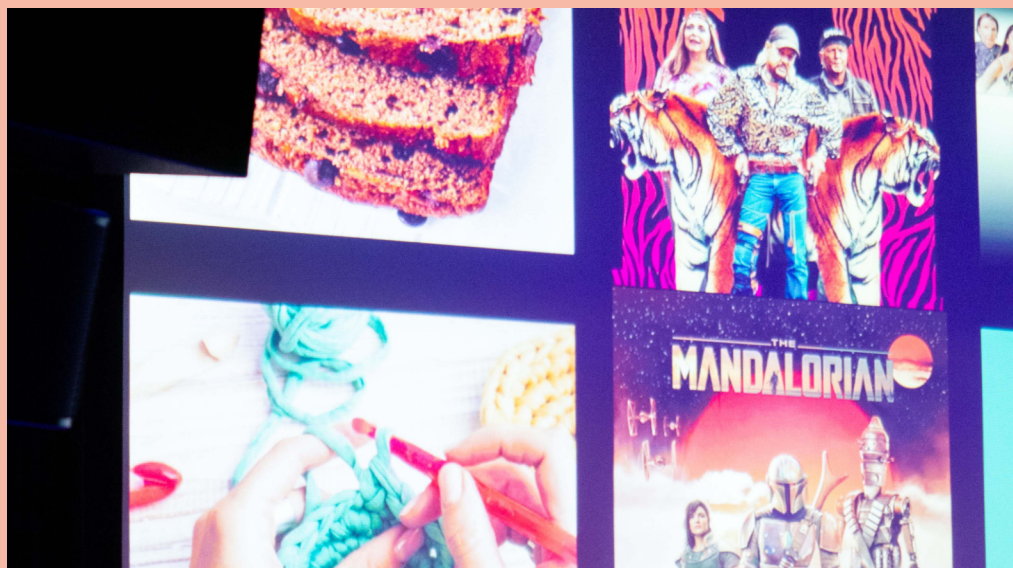
faeries and folklore. I grew up near to Chagford where there is a big community of artists and makers, and I definitely developed a strong sense of doing my own thing and not being led by the mainstream (sometimes to my detriment perhaps). I moved to Bristol at 19 where I got deeply involved in trad folk music, songwriting, poetry and circus. I think the South-West has long been home to people making alternative styles of art and performance, and it all just feels part of my DNA - all of it feeds into my music and performance no matter what I do, from writing songs, making records, doing shows, and devising concepts for music videos. I love it and I'm grateful to have all those influences.

What advice would you give to aspiring musicians in the South West?

My biggest bit of advice would be to create your own scene - don't wait for the gigs and opportunities to come to you. Create them. That means - contact your local pub and ask if they'd have live music. Find out who has a PA. Fundraise so you can pay for stuff. Create a music night once a month and book artists from across the South-West who inspire you. Make the world you want to inhabit. Connect with artists, musicians and people who are doing their thing and making things happen, and don't be afraid of the word "networking" - become part of the mycelium and not just a passenger. Most of all go towards what scares you. If it makes you feel terrified, you must do it!! It will enrich and expand your life beyond what you can imagine.

[Catch](#) Dominie at Exeter Phoenix on Wed 29 Nov.

Mattie Konig's Scratch Night Experience



Those of you who were there to watch “Cleft in Twain”, my performance at the October Scratch Night event, witnessed the spinning of an outrageous multimedia yarn, the story of an exaggerated version of myself uncovering the secrets of a mysterious parallel world, losing her grip on reality in the process. But the show’s central through line, the repeated phrase “I can do anything”, was more than in-character braggadocio - it was a reflection of my very real aptitude for multidisciplinary creative work, one that encompasses music, graphic design, video editing, game development, and more.

I’ve always felt that the intersections between mediums, the liminal zones where unlikely genres combine in strange and unique ways, are where the most interesting art happens. But I’ve had limited opportunities to experiment with form in front of an audience; even before the pandemic my output rarely ventured beyond the lonely glow of my computer monitor. Only recently have I started

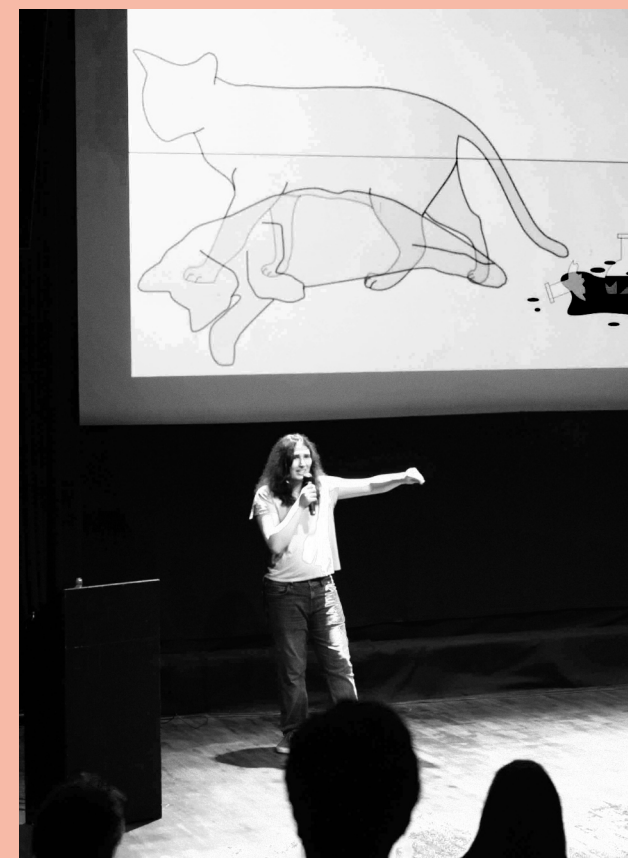
coming out of my shell, working hard to bring these dabblings up to a professional level, reinvigorating passions first stoked by early experiences performing at open mics and college music gigs in the 2010s. Old flames indeed - but from their ashes a Phoenix has risen...

Performing in the same auditorium that some of my favourite bands have played (shoutout Everything Everything) was exciting enough - but comprehensive guidance from the Scratch Night team every step of the way? Monetary support for future artistic endeavours? Flattering stage lighting? I couldn’t have asked for a better chance to formally kickstart a career in creative performance, and if that’s a road you feel like travelling down,

applying to an upcoming Scratch Night event could be just the ticket. Hey, my bonkers shaggy-dog-story slideshow got a look-in - what creative spectacle might you bring to the stage?

- Mattie Konig

Check out Mattie’s work
[here](#)



Un-Mute - Walkway Exhibition

Our upcoming community based exhibition in the Walkway gallery has been made in collaboration with Devon Youth Justice Service children in support of World Children's Day. We asked the organisers what it was like to complete the project and the importance of presenting the work made by the young people to the public.

What is the exhibition about?

For the Un-mute exhibition we challenged our Young People from the Devon Youth Justice Service to take a photo that showed their life through the lens. We were interested to see images that meant something to them or represented their life in some way.

What did the young people get up to on the workshops?

Young people within the YJS team were challenged to think about their place within our community and the world around them. In order to capture these thoughts we used photography, music and writing.

How is creativity important to the young people in the Youth Justice Service?

Creativity is important in the work we do at the YJS because many of our young people struggle to communicate with words alone. We often use a variety of art and creative based mediums to engage our young people.

What's the significance of exhibiting the work the young people made at Exeter Phoenix?

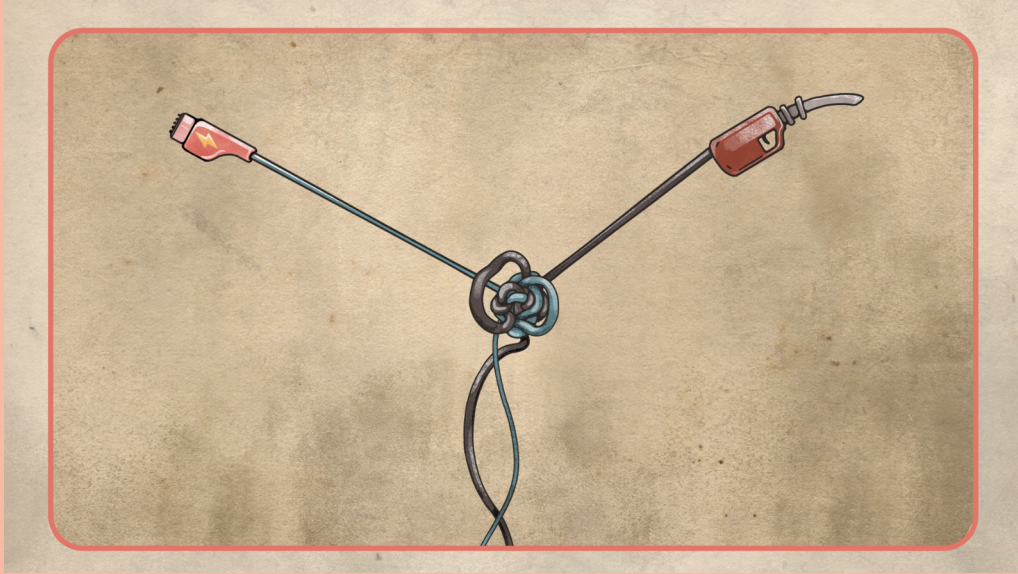
Giving our young people a voice to express themselves is important because it encourages self esteem and worth. We want the young people engaged with the YJS to feel empowered to take ownership of their lives.

Here is a sneak peek of some of the images produced by the Young People.

You can see the exhibition in our [Walkway](#) Gallery from 07 Nov - 10 Dec.



Kindle - Disconnected Together



For the final part of the Kindle project playwright Hattie Collins produced a short illustrated film from oral history interviews, around the themes of her play. Kindle was shown at Exeter Phoenix earlier this year, and we interviewed Hattie in our [April](#) publication.

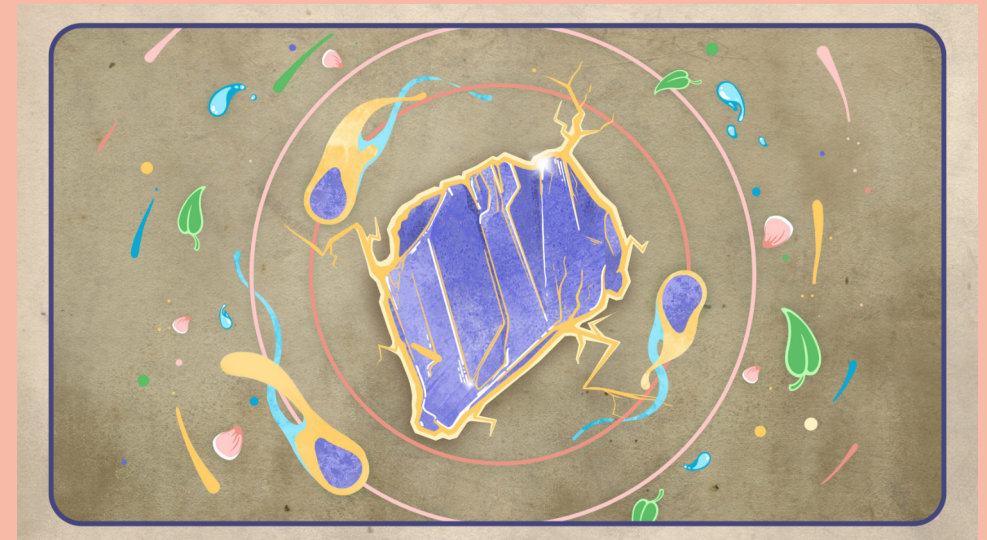
The idea behind Kindle was inspired by the area of the world that I grew up in, and as a writer, I want to champion voices and stories based in the South West. Back in 2019, I began thinking about how the move towards greener infrastructure will impact rural areas more than urban areas.

Eventually, after many drafts, Kindle has become a play that explores rural vs. urban community, climate change, and the cost-of-living crisis all weaved together with beautiful music by Bristol based composer Rowan Evans.

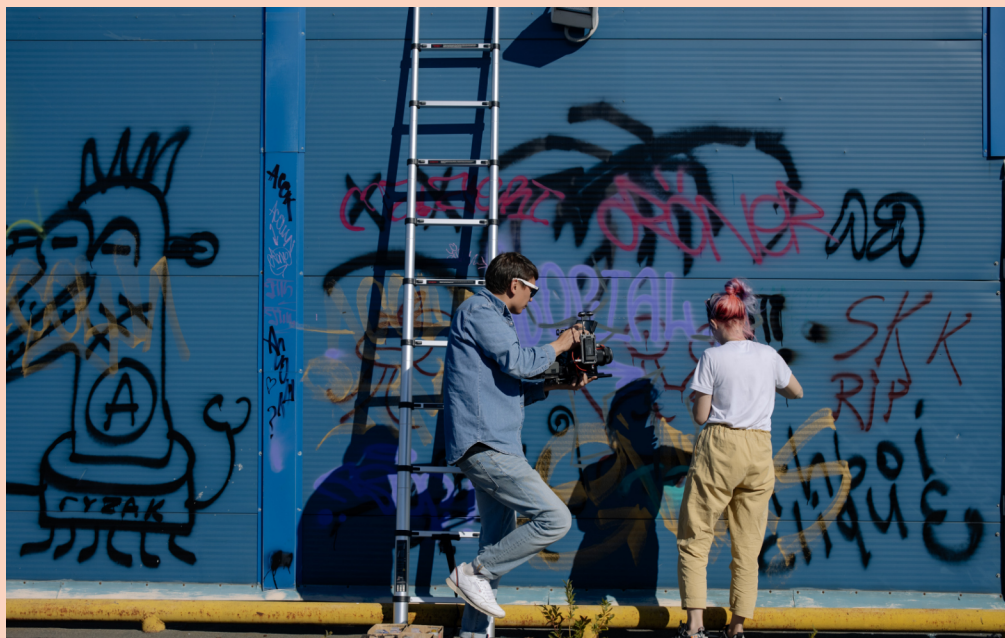
Image credits [Clara M. Cornish](#)

Throughout the process of touring my play, Kindle, I have been talking to people in Devon and Cornwall, some who have seen the play and others who haven't, about some of its themes - rural living and the sustainable energy transition.

The short film *Disconnected Together* has been illustrated & animated by Clara M. Cornish, with interviews & audio by Hattie Collins. You can watch the film [here](#).



DOCLAB 23



We're really excited to be launching our new DOCLAB 23 initiative, in collaboration with OSBD Media Charity.

DOCLAB 23 is a documentary making pilot project that seeks to bring together novice and emerging filmmakers from across Devon who currently, or aspire to, make short and longer form documentary films. The aim of this pilot scheme is to inspire and enable participants to create new work through networking, film screenings and workshops and ultimately discover who is out there and what is needed regionally to support documentary filmmakers.

OSBD Media Charity have developed a wealth of creative talent across the UK through their documentary film fund, and have invaluable experience supporting and creating documentary films. They've already helped get DOCLAB23 off to a great start by hosting a sold screening of A Year In A Field in Studio 74, so we're

looking forward to working with them further to support regional documentary.

DOCLAB 23 officially launched with a networking event at Exeter Phoenix on Wed 11 Oct, and the scheme is accepting signups for its **first Lab session** on [Wed 08 Nov](#).

These Lab sessions are a safe space to talk about, workshop and develop documentary film projects. They offer peer and professional support and feedback, giving filmmakers a chance to hone their documentary ideas. To find out more about the Lab events contact luke.hagan@exeterphoenix.org.uk or check out the event on our website.



OPPORTUNITIES

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Experience Newquay Cultural Commissions | Deadline 03 Dec

Experience Newquay is looking to commission a range of organisations to deliver cultural events, workshops and activities as well as create permanent installations across Newquay town centre. The work will contribute towards the creation and promotion of off-season experiential tourism products and sustainable year-round tourism.

There are 2 grants available:

Project Grant 1: Cultural Activities

up to £7,500 (multiple awards) – this grant is for cultural activities (workshops, exhibitions, events, performances) with an element that has a lasting legacy.

Project Grant 2: Permanent Installations

up to £30,000 (2 awards available) – this grant is for permanent installations in Newquay town centre. This could be murals, sculpture, lighting, creative play, street furniture or any other intervention that celebrates Newquay and improves the local infrastructure. Workshops and/or events for participants to take part are required in the process of conceiving and/or making the installation.

Find out more and apply [here](#)

Pod 5: Immersive Art Residency 2024 | Deadline Fri 03 Nov, 5pm

This is an exciting opportunity for an emerging artist to come and live and work at East Quay in Watchet, Somerset, for up to two weeks in early 2024. We are looking for a hands-on individual with exemplary creative vision to realise an artwork in Pod 5 that can inspire our visitors and guests throughout 2024.

Practitioners from any creative background are welcome to apply and we are open to proposals from artists working in all mediums. We are seeking artwork which creates an immersive atmosphere within the space, engaging both physically and conceptually with the surroundings. We welcome wall-based proposals, but are also open to 3D concepts and ideas.

[Apply here](#)

Beyond Face: We are Here to Create Workshops

Join Beyond Face for an autumn of creative workshops. These workshops are designed for people who want a chance to connect with other people and explore their creative side. You do not need to be working in theatre or the arts to attend the workshops. No previous performance or writing experience is required, just a willingness to give tasks a go and a desire to create and connect with others. These workshops have been designed as a response to various conversations with artists with an aim to offer a space for collaboration, play and to see what organically evolves from this space. Find out more and book below:

[Artform Collab and Connect \(Plymouth\)](#) | Sat 18 Nov

[Poet to Playwright? \(Plymouth\)](#) | Sat 09 Dec



OPPORTUNITIES

Dreadnought Southwest Residency Week

Join us as we celebrate 10 years of creativity in Exeter and beyond 7-11th November, 11-2pm daily, alongside guest artists, to contribute to and create a large scale multimedia textile work. Come along to find out what that means. The workshops are being held at Exeter Library, click below to find more details:

[Do Your Dance with Chloe Whipple](#) | Tue 07 Nov

[Shaping Your Future Through Stories with Sandhya Dave](#) | Thu 09 Nov

IMMERSIVE THEATRE SCHOOL: SPECIALISTS - Writing & Adapting Greek Myth | Mondays 20th Nov, 27th Nov, 4th Dec, 11th Dec at Exeter Phoenix

Following our extremely rewarding Immersive Theatre School at Beer Quarry Caves, it seemed like there was a real appetite for more year-round opportunities. Four of Swords is therefore teaming up with Exeter Phoenix and The Beehive Honiton to offer a unique course in adapting Greek Myths into a compelling, supercool theatre scripts.

We will be using the myth of Odysseus and the Cyclops as our starting point, weaving in other inspirations and analysing different versions of the myths, and culminating in a table read with a selection of professional actors, giving direct and tailored feedback to the students on their scripts.

[Find out more and book here](#)

BFI NETWORK: Early Development Fund | Deadline 30 Nov, noon

Supporting writers who do not yet have the first draft of a script (or equivalent format for immersive work), to produce an initial treatment – a piece of writing that outlines the story, characters, themes and structure of the project – and related materials like a mood board or other visual content. The Fund supports long-form live-action, immersive and animation fiction projects.

You can apply for funding of between £3,000 and £5,000 to support writing a treatment and creating related materials, and – if you're working with a producer – their time spent on the project.

[Apply here](#)

Wildscreen Film Competition and Events Coordinator

Deadline: 27 Nov

We are looking for a dynamic, fearsomely organised individual with a love of documentaries, ideally wildlife and environmental ones!

The Film Competition and Events Coordinator role is the engine behind our two internationally renowned film competitions – the Wildscreen Panda Awards and the Wildscreen Official Selection Programme and be the first and regular point of contact for all film competition enquiries, entrants, and nominees.

[Find out more here](#)

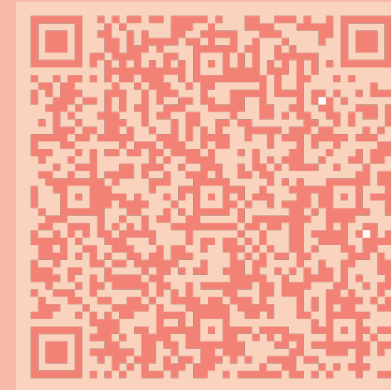


Events

- [DOCLAB Lab 1](#) | Wed 08 Nov, 7pm - 9.30pm
- [Exmouth Film Festival](#) (featuring a [Best of Two Short Nights screening](#) on Wed 29 Nov) | 24 - 30 Nov
- [The Big Exeter Feast](#) | 13 Nov - 23 Nov | Various locations
- [How to Start a Film Business From Nothing](#) | Tue 21 Nov, 7pm | Free Workshop | Exeter Phoenix

Exhibitions

- [Exeter Contemporary Open 2023](#) | 15 Sep - 05 Nov | Exeter Phoenix
- [James Paddock: Life Could Be Done So Much Better](#) | 18 Nov - 04 Feb | Exeter Phoenix
- [Adam Garratt: Embodied Labour - REWORKED](#) | Throughout Nov | Maltings Taphouse & Bottleshop, Newton Abbot
- [Hollow Earth: Art, Caves and the Subterranean Imaginary](#) | 23 Sep - 7 Jan | RAMM
- [The Great Turning: Tidal Signals, Tidal Cycles](#) | 07 Oct - 11 Nov | Harbour House, Kingsbridge
- [Jo Lathwood: The Belief in Things Disappearing](#) | 06 Oct - 15 Dec | MIRROR, Plymouth
- [Against Apartheid](#) | 29 Sep - 02 Dec | KARST
- [Otherworlds | Annwn](#) | 23 Sep - 25 Nov | Barnstaple Museum



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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