

# Modern Art Oxford

## Easier to Read Exhibition Notes

***We're Going to Need a Bigger Brush!***

Shadowlight Supported Studio



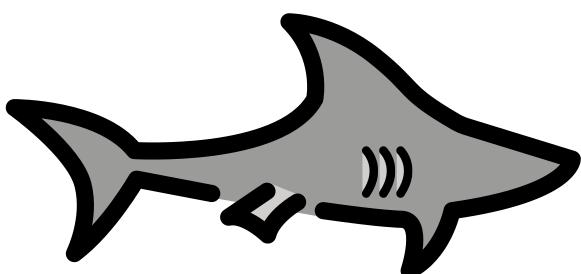
The Shadowlight Artists are a group of talented artists. They have learning disabilities, including autism. They work at Film Oxford in East Oxford, who provide them with support.

# film oxford

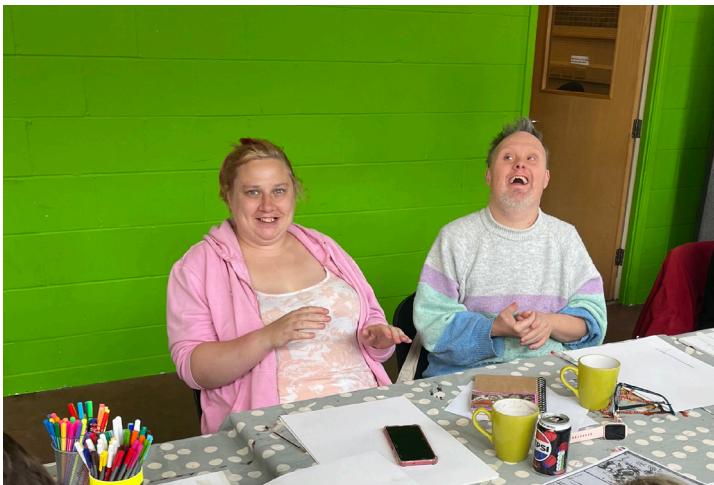
This exhibition celebrates the first year of the Shadowlight Supported Studio. It also celebrates Film Oxford's 40th birthday.



The group started in 2009. They make amazing art, such as paintings, sculptures, films, and theatre shows. Their work has been shown in the UK and other countries.



The name of the exhibition is a joke from the film *Jaws*. It means this is a big creative project!



Since April 2025, the group has met every week. They decide what art to make, set goals and work together in a friendly studio. They also work with other artists. This helps them try new art styles.



They make films, photos, prints, costumes and props. They explore different identities, sharing their own stories.



There are three films made by the Shadowlight Artists. The films use their drawings and collages as backgrounds. Their newest film is called *Shadowlight Artists at the Movies*. It was inspired by old film posters. The artists made costumes from recycled materials.



The film *Movie Madness* was made by young people from Yellow Submarine. Yellow Submarine is a charity for people with learning disabilities and autism in Oxford. Young people explored different film genres. They acted in their own imaginary movies.



Film Oxford also worked with Chilworth House Specialist School. Animations were made using the students' drawings.

## More Art on Display



There are character portraits made over several workshops. Some artists explored drag. These works show how the Shadowlight Artists see themselves. They also exaggerated and changed their characters to alter how people might view them.



The Shadowlight Artists celebrate and share their own unique identities. They also show what it means to work together as a group.



There is also a series of monoprints and other artworks. There is also The Studio Wall, which has behind-the-scenes photos from the creation of the artwork in this exhibition.

# Before the exhibition opened, the artists talked about the themes and artworks:

**Holly Broughton:** Could you tell me a bit more about the Shadowlight Supported Studio?

**Artist:** We do all sorts of different projects, from filming to art. At the moment we're doing a portrait collage, and we'll get our photos taken with them. We meet most weeks on Fridays.

**HB:** How did you first get started making art?

**Artist:** I've always made art, forever. I can't remember not making it.

**HB:** What has been your favourite part of working on this project?

**Artist:** Going through the magazines and finding things to make collages with.

**Artist:** I do all sorts. I do the character inside me. Like someone evil, I like a villain, I like baddies.

**Artist:** I am just drawing what comes into my head.

# About Words and Respect:

The Shadowlight Artists Committee use the words “learning-disabled” for their community in communications. Film Oxford also uses this term. Some people like different words to describe themselves.

Other terms people use include “neurodivergent” and “neurominorities”. These words show that people have different ways of thinking and learning.

Some people use medical words like “autistic” or “Down syndrome”.

Some people do not like the phrase “people with learning disabilities”. They think it is old-fashioned.

It is important to respect what each person wants. People can choose the words that feels right for them.

We should always use words that make people feel included and respected.

