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SHADOWLIGHT
ARTISTS

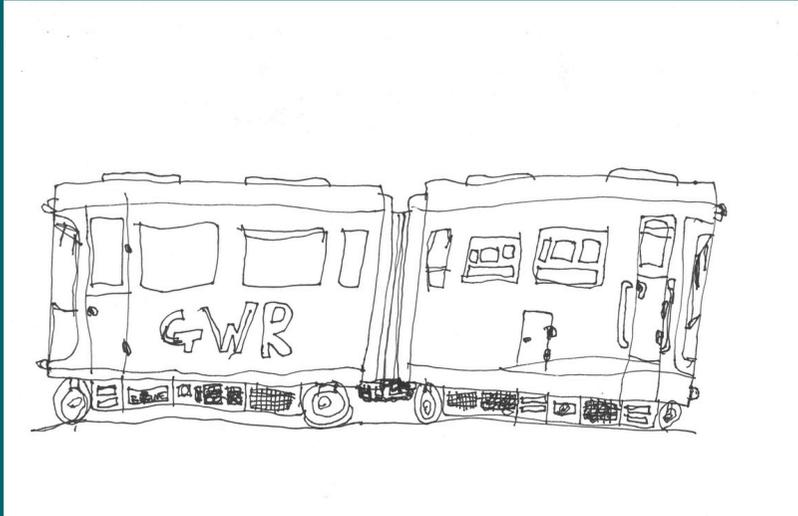


All Aboard!

Journeys through access, freedom, and belonging

Welcome!

All Aboard invites you to pause and look again at public transport — not as infrastructure, but as lived experience.

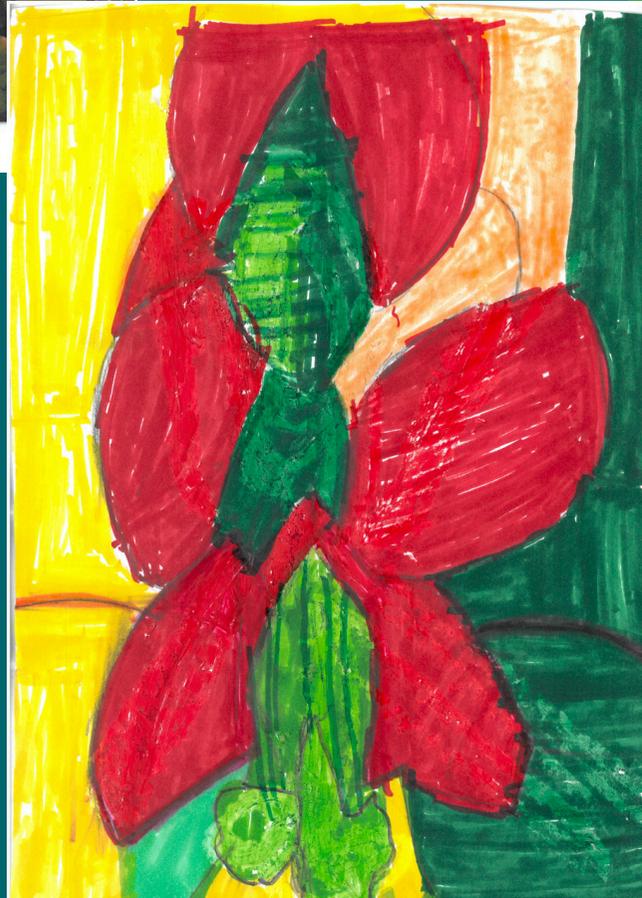


All Aboard is an exhibition by disabled and neurodiverse artists exploring how public transport feels — not in theory, but in lived experience.

For many people, public transport represents freedom, connection, and independence. For others, it can also bring uncertainty, sensory overload, anxiety, or exclusion. These experiences often exist side by side, shaped by personal needs, design decisions, and the way public spaces are managed and shared.

This exhibition brings together artists whose work reflects their own journeys through buses, trains, stations, and platforms. Through a range of creative approaches, they offer perspectives that are frequently overlooked in conversations about transport, accessibility, and inclusion.

All Aboard is not about speaking for disabled and neurodiverse people, but about making space for their voices to be seen, felt, and listened to.





Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership



Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership (GOCR) is a grassroots organisation working to strengthen the relationship between communities, visitors, and public transport across our region. We focus on listening to people's experiences of travelling by train and other sustainable modes of transport, using these insights to better understand what works, what doesn't, and what needs to change. This exhibition is part of a cultural art exchange, with artwork being swapped across the counties, so stay tuned for more information!

We have a strong track record of delivering creative projects in station settings. In 2025, we led *Moving Murals*, a station-based exhibition that used artwork to reflect local identity and encourage people to see rail spaces differently. This experience informs our approach to All Aboard, ensuring the exhibition is accessible, thoughtfully delivered, and rooted in real experiences of public transport.

About the Artists

The Shadowlight Artists are a group of learning disabled artists based in Oxfordshire, working in a variety of media but with a shared interest in digital forms. Their work is personal, moving, and at times challenging. The group formed in 2009 as a result of Film Oxford's Flash Frame project.

That project aimed to identify learning disabled individuals who showed artistic potential and ambition to take their work to a broader audience. Since then, the group have gone on to produce work that has reached audiences within the UK and beyond, spanning media from painting and sculptural installation to film and theatrical production.





Mark Hemsworth

Born in 1968 in Reading and raised in Cholsey, Oxfordshire, Mark Hemsworth is a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker with learning disabilities and a founding member of the Shadowlight Artists collective supported by Film Oxford. Originally a skilled draughtsman and watercolourist, his practice has evolved toward photography and film, inspired by his passion for nature, aviation, and the changing landscape. Known for his extensive photographic walks, Mark captures thousands of images each year, transforming them into large-scale digital collages that explore light, time, and seasonal change. His work has been exhibited widely, including at Modern Art Oxford and international festivals such as Oska Bright and Abilities Toronto. Recent collaborations with photographer John Blythe, including *Captured Moments* and *LUMINOUS*, highlight his innovative approach to visual storytelling, blending technical precision with a profound emotional connection to the natural world.

Danny Smith

Born in Wallingford in 1975 and now based in Oxford, Danny Smith is a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker with Down Syndrome and a long-standing member of the Shadowlight Artists collective supported by Film Oxford. His practice spans performance, film, photography, painting, and collage, often exploring themes of independence, empowerment, and personal transformation. Danny's dance-for-camera works have gained international recognition, with his film *Time to Leave* winning Best Dance Film at Oska Bright 2019 and being selected by *Agite y Sirva*, an international touring dance festival based in Mexico that exhibits across North, South, and Central America. His visual art has been exhibited widely, and recent projects see him collaborating with choreographers and filmmakers to create deeply personal works, alongside developing installation and collage pieces that emerged during lockdown. Through his art, Danny aims to inspire others and challenge perceptions of disability, proudly positioning himself as a role model for creative independence.



Wendy Belcher is an Oxford-based autistic artist and filmmaker whose work with the Shadowlight Artists, supported by Film Oxford, blends animation, documentary, and digital collage to explore themes of identity, humour, and personal experience. Her debut solo film, *Things That Annoy Me*, offers a candid and witty look at everyday frustrations and earned recognition at the ArtWorks Together International Art Competition. Wendy's recent work delves into grief and memory, including a poignant video tribute to her late dog, showcasing her evolving emotional depth and visual storytelling. Her films have been screened at venues such as the Barbican and Oska Bright Film Festival, where she was nominated for Best Woman Filmmaker in 2022.



Rafi Baxter

Rafi Baxter is an emerging artist in his early twenties from Oxfordshire and a member of the Shadowlight Artists collective supported by Film Oxford. Although Rafi is a prolific creator at the beginning of his career, he produces paintings, drawings, and 3D work. His primary focus is performance, with a strong interest in ballet and drag, bringing a dynamic and expressive energy to his artistic practice. Rafi has also acted in *The Puppet Asylum*, worked as a model, and performed ballet at the Royal Opera House, further showcasing his versatility and commitment to the performing arts.

G.Z.

GZ is passionate about performing arts, especially music and live stage shows. He enjoys playing his authentic flutes, singing with choirs, and performing with backup music. He also loves acting in musical theatres and community pantomimes. His passion for theatre and interest in puppetry and pantomime extend into other creative forms of self-expression; with the help and professional guidance of Film Oxford's Creative Workshops for Learning-Disabled Adults, he enjoys learning new skills at the Shadowlight Supported Studios' hands-on sessions in art and filmmaking. He has been greatly enjoying these workshops over the last few months.





Shakeel Marham

Shakeel Marham is an Oxford-based artist and performer who has been part of the Shadowlight Artists collective, supported by Film Oxford, since 2017. His creative practice combines performance and digital imaging, often contributing to collaborative group productions that explore identity and self-expression through movement and visual storytelling. Shakeel has appeared in several Shadowlight films and projects, bringing a distinctive presence and energy to the screen. Alongside his artistic work, he is actively involved in community initiatives, including supporting young people and those with learning disabilities through creative projects. Shakeel also has a strong interest in writing poetry, which complements his visual and performance work by adding a lyrical dimension to his creative voice. His commitment to accessibility and inclusion informs his artistic vision, making his work both socially engaged and deeply personal.

Otto Baxter

Otto Baxter is a filmmaker, performer, and actor with a significant background in stage and screen, and a relatively new member of the Shadowlight Artists collective supported by Film Oxford. Born in 1987, Otto has Down Syndrome and is known for his bold, creative vision and fearless approach to storytelling. His experience spans Shakespearean theatre, a role in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, and critically acclaimed short films, including the BAFTA-nominated *Samuel 613*. In 2023, Otto wrote and directed his first film, *The Puppet Asylum*, an ambitious autobiographical musical horror comedy starring Paul Kaye, MyAnna Buring, Dexter Fletcher, and Adeel Akhtar. This work explores themes of identity, autonomy, and resilience, and was the focus of the Sky BAFTA-winning documentary *Otto Baxter: Not a F**ing Horror Story*. Otto has also appeared in films such as *Ups & Downs* and *Lola*, and performed internationally with Culture Device's drag troupe, Drag Syndrome, as his alter ego Horrora Shebang. His career reflects a commitment to challenging stereotypes and expanding representation in the arts.



Jack Wellings

Jack Wellings is a multidisciplinary artist and performer who joined the Shadowlight Artists in early 2025. Based in Oxford and supported by Film Oxford, Jack brings a vibrant creative background shaped by his experience in writing, acting, pantomime, and live comedy improvisation, including performances at the Rising Sun Arts Centre in Reading. He has a particular passion for crafting comedy sketches and exploring character-driven humour. Alongside his performance work, Jack is a prolific visual artist, known for his abstract, line-based drawings created with pens on paper. As an artist with Down Syndrome, Jack's work reflects a unique perspective and contributes powerfully to the inclusive ethos of the Shadowlight collective.



Lucy Skuce

Born in Banbury and based in Didcot, Oxfordshire, Lucy Skuce is an artist and filmmaker with multiple disabilities and a founding member of the Shadowlight Artists collective supported by Film Oxford. Her work spans film, video installation, and sculpture, often exploring themes of memory, technology, and place. Lucy's award-winning film *My Cameras*, which reflects her fascination with vintage video equipment and Didcot's changing landscape, was exhibited at Captured Moments at Modern Art Oxford in 2022, alongside a video installation using analogue equipment. Her large-scale sculptural work *Blue Didcot Power Station*, incorporating model railways, CCTV, and sound, was featured in LUMINOUS at Modern Art Oxford in 2020. Lucy's films have also been screened nationally and internationally, including at the Liberty Festival (BFI Southbank), Abilities Festival (Toronto), and Oska Bright Film Festival, where she won the Lives on Screen Award in 2024. Her practice combines archival footage, mixed technologies, and sculptural elements to create immersive works that challenge perceptions and celebrate personal history.



The Process of Creation





Feelings of Freedom...

Across the exhibition, many artists have explored the sense of freedom that public transport can offer.

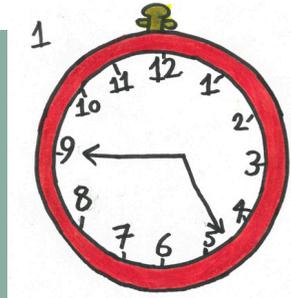
The ability to travel independently – to choose where to go, when to leave, and how to move through the world – is a powerful form of autonomy. In their work, the artists reflect on moments of confidence, curiosity, and possibility: watching landscapes pass by, arriving somewhere new, or simply knowing that a journey is achievable.

These artworks capture public transport as a gateway to opportunity – a means of exploration, connection, and participation in everyday life. They remind us that access is not only about physical movement, but about the freedom to belong.



Illustration 1 clock

The clock represents my emotions of annoyance and my anger, as the delays of busses and trains really make me mad, as I like to get to places on time, especially to work on time! Sometimes I have to wait for a few minutes, but occasionally I have to wait 30-45 minutes, or even for hours.

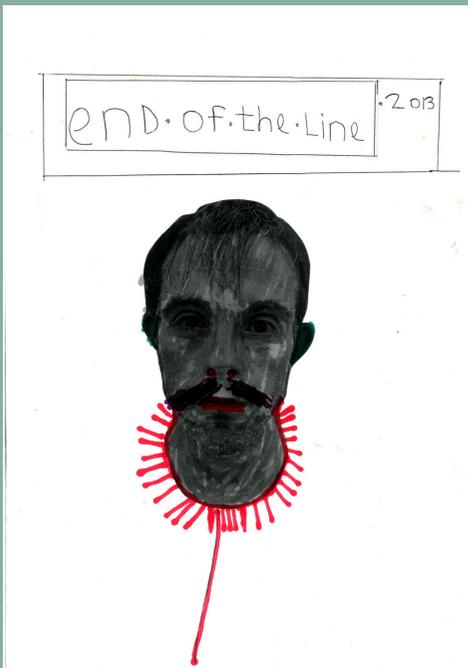


Alongside freedom, the exhibition does not shy away from the challenges that travelling can bring.

Artists reflect honestly on moments of frustration, stress, and fatigue: unclear information, inaccessible environments, sensory overload, unexpected changes, or the emotional labour of navigating spaces that are not designed with everyone in mind.

Rather than presenting these experiences as isolated problems, the work highlights how small barriers can accumulate, turning routine journeys into significant challenges. These pieces ask viewers to consider how design, communication, and attitudes impact not just mobility, but dignity and wellbeing.

By holding space for both freedom and frustration, All Aboard presents a fuller, more truthful picture of what it means to travel as a disabled or neurodiverse person today.



And feelings of frustration... →

All Aboard: Travel Through Lived Experience

Public transport is more than timetables and platforms – it is freedom, independence, and connection, but also barriers, frustration, and anxiety.

All Aboard brings together disabled and neurodiverse artists to show what travelling really feels like. Their work captures both the joys and the challenges of everyday journeys, giving voices to experiences often overlooked.

See the Journey

The artists have created a short video that shares their stories, emotions, and reflections alongside the artwork.



We invite you to watch, listen, and gain insight into the lived experiences that can shape accessible and inclusive transport solutions.



We are delighted to have worked alongside Shadowlight Artists on this project.

Their collaborative, artist-led approach brings lived experience to the forefront, creating space for disabled and neurodiverse voices to be shared with honesty, creativity, and care. Together, we have developed an exhibition that invites audiences to reflect on how public transport is experienced, and how it can be made more inclusive for everyone.

Thank you to all participants, community partners and supporters who made All Aboard possible.

Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership

Artists: Shadowlight Artists

Supported by: CrossCountry Community Engagement Fund

