



GATESHEAD  
ART PROJECT

EXHIBITION 2012

Artwork and writing created by young people  
known to Gateshead Youth Offending Team

### **The Gateshead Art Project**

Working with artist Tommy Anderson, young people accessing the Gateshead ISS programme (Intensive Supervision and Surveillance) have created a collection of individual and group artworks during a year of workshops.

The Gateshead Art Project aims to encourage bold, meaningful and creative output by exploring a series of art and design processes.

The 2012 exhibition showcases photography and photomontage (*page 6*), ceramics (*page 20*), aerosol art (*page 26*), graphic design (*page 34*) and animation (*page 38*).

Other artists were also brought in to lend their expertise to particular areas, including writer Ian Dowson and ceramicist David Fry.

The group visited events such as the Turner Prize 2012, and experienced other public art in the area.

### **The Artwork**

Through exploring various photographic techniques the group created a number of artworks. These include a calendar featuring small model people captured using macro-photography, a series of images from around Gateshead that inspired much of the creative writing, a number of photomontages also using these images, and a series of ceramic tiles celebrating the cultural heritage of Gateshead.

Aerosol art techniques were used to create floral designs and abstract pieces on canvas, as well as a series of stencil based compositions paying tribute to stars of sport, film and music that have inspired the group.

Design and typography based projects included producing posters for a Halloween event at Swalwell Boys Club, and designing an original typeface.

Various animation techniques were also explored including stop-motion, hand illustrated and light art, with a series of short animation pieces produced.

**Participants:** Dale, Dan, David, Demi, Henry, Liam, Jack, Joanne, Jordan, Keiron, Matthew, Michael, Scott, Thomas and Tom.

### What they had to say:

“I’m not bothered if people are looking at us – I bet they’d want to have a go themselves”.

“The pool table looks like grass... it’s like they’re in the park or something... quick come and have a look”

“I like doing this – it’s quite relaxing”.

*(Photography / Photomontage sessions)*

“I done some creative writing at school and enjoyed it... will we be able to carry on with this next week?”

*(Creative Writing session)*

“You wouldn’t think I did it, I like it – it looks alright”.

“I like doing art – I enjoy it”.

“I really like coming here *(to the art sessions)*... If I could do this all the time on my order I would”.

“Do we get to keep the stuff as well? I’d put that up”.

“I like it... it looks good... I want to do another one with flowers”.

“I hated having to do this at first *(attend art sessions)*, but now I really like it”.

“How good’s that? That’s mint... I’m going to put that on my wall tonight”.

“This is alright, I’m up for doing this, I don’t mind coming here to do this”.

*(Aerosol Art sessions)*

“It looks like a proper poster from a shop – we should sell these – you could sell them in like Wilkos and stuff.”

“I love this stuff – I could sit here and do this all day.”

*(Design session)*

“Can I take this home? I’m going to give it to my mum for mother’s day”.

“Can I have a go on the wheel?... Can you show me how to make one of the tall vases?”.

*(Ceramics sessions)*

“It looks mad – like them signs that light up”.

“This is totally different to London *(YOT)*... we just had to sit in a room and talk about what we did... we didn’t do anything like this”.

“It’s like a proper cartoon the way it looks, you’d think they were moving by themselves”

“It looks alright on the camera... can we watch what we’ve done at the end?”

*(Animation sessions)*

“I like his paintings cos they look real, you’d think it was a photo – it must have took him ages. I can’t believe he just uses little pots of paint, he must go through loads, he must be a really good painter”.

“That mad one with that blokey dressed like a baby was freaky, but I actually liked some of the things he’s made with the teddy bears – he must be mad though”.

*(At the Turner Prize exhibition)*

### Tommy Anderson

Tommy Anderson is a freelance graphic designer and arts facilitator. He works closely with a number of regional and national companies on a varied range of design projects including publications, branding and illustration. He is an established arts facilitator with several years experience working with arts based community projects and people of all ages and social circumstance.

### Gateshead Youth Offending Team

Gateshead YOT is committed to multi-agency partnership working to prevent offending, reduce re-offending, safeguard young people and protect the public through:

- Inspiring, motivating and supporting young people and their families to make a positive contribution to their community.
- Providing quality support for victims and involving them in the restorative justice processes.
- Supporting and encouraging parent / carers to take responsibility for their child or young person.
- Building public confidence and reducing fear of crime.

### Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS)

Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) can form part of a Community Order, or a Condition of Supervision (Licence). This intensive programme targets high risk young people in an attempt to divert their behaviour, give them an opportunity to apologise to their victim and address their behaviour as well as to increase their constructive activities and improve their life chances.

There are 5 elements to ISS:

1. Education, Training and Employment
2. Interventions to tackle offending behaviour
3. Restorative Justice
4. Development of interpersonal skills
5. Family support

Young people who are subject to ISS have contact with a professional seven days a week and are expected to engage in a varied timetable that strives to address their behaviour and meet their needs. Young people are seen a minimum of 25 hours a week in the first three months, which can reduce in subsequent months if the level of risk is reduced. ISS staff work closely with all partner agencies including Children and Families Social Care, housing, health, education, substance misuse agencies and Connexions.

Constructive activity plays a significant part in the programme which is used to divert young people’s behaviour and increase their skill base. Activities are generally utilised in the community in which the young people reside, in an attempt to encourage the young people to continue after their order has been completed.

Parents are actively encouraged to be involved in the planning and review process so that they can offer support to the young person from a family perspective.

**Thanks to:** Ian Dowson and David Fry. Helen and Tommy from Windmill Hills Community Centre. Nicola, Rebecca, Phil, Steph and Gary from Gateshead YOT.

**Design:** Tommy Anderson ([www.baselineshift.co.uk](http://www.baselineshift.co.uk))



**BaselineShift**



## Broken Glass

With mess around her,  
She hugs her broom like a teddy bear,  
Gripping it so tight,  
Her fingers turn purple.

Tears falling from her eyes,  
Like rain drops.  
Her heart shattered,  
Like the glass around her feet.

She starts to clean,  
The smashed window glitters in the sun.



## Lonely

I have people climbing up me,  
So they switch a button,  
Then I move.

I stand here all day.  
I get wet.

Wind blows up me,  
Day and night.

I am so lonely.







## Where Are You?

Tick toc, tick toc,  
Then time stands still.  
She's saddened by her thoughts,  
A trickle of tears roll down her cheek,  
And freeze like icebergs in the November air.

Feet dangling from the 'Get Carter' car park,  
"He's gone, he's gone",  
My poor Mason the mutt.  
Time stands still,  
And the traffic flows.  
Will I jump and fall like an angel?

'Mam where are you?',  
Beeps the mobile.  
'Don't do something silly',  
It beeps again.  
Just as time stood still,  
It tick toc's, tick toc's.

She climbs up like a warrior,  
And flies away with wings larger than her.



## Empty Shell

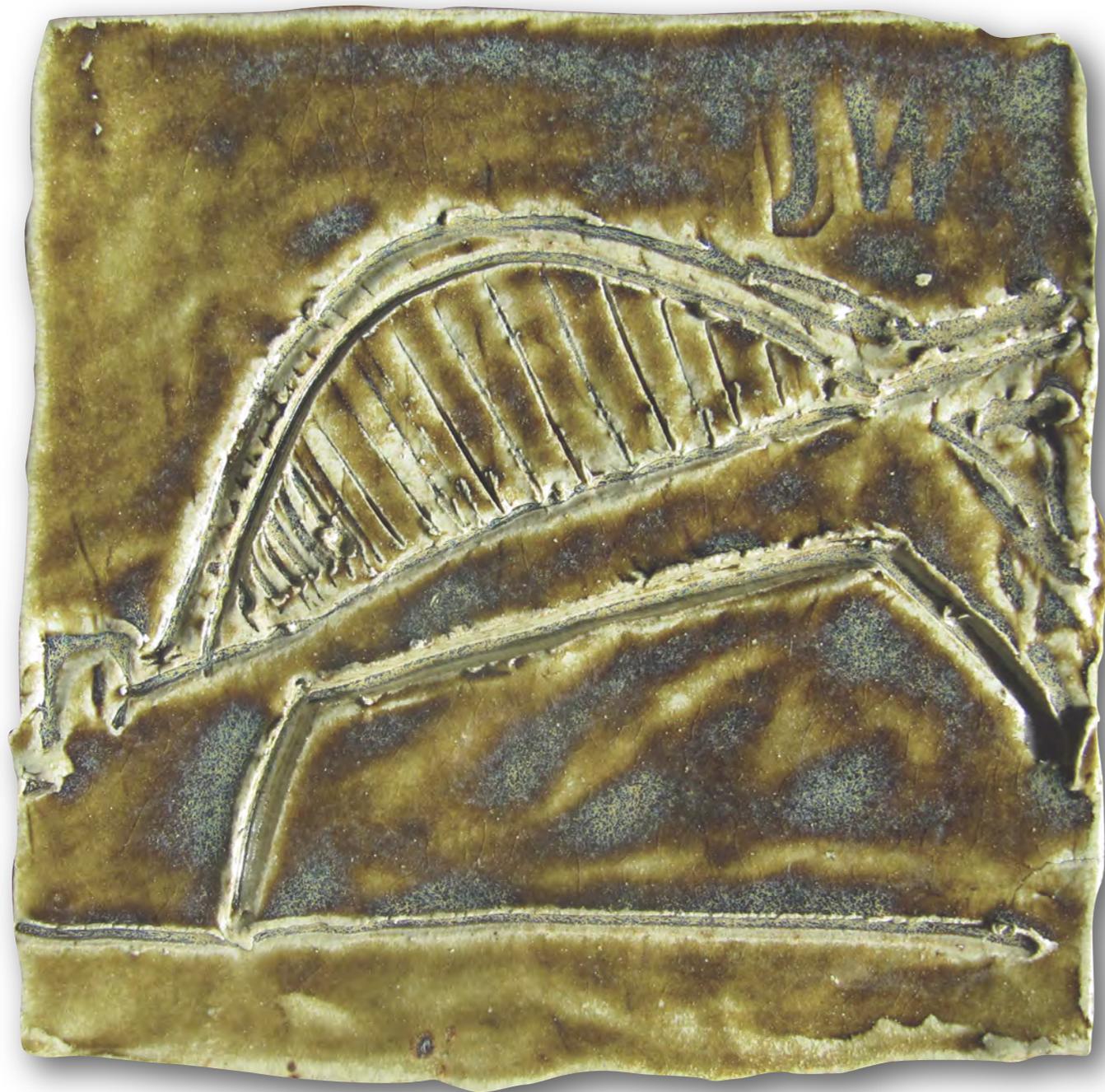
I was a home,  
I was loved and needed,  
Now I'm nothing,  
Just an empty shell,  
At the side of the path,  
All alone.

Really lonely.

Wish I had wings,  
Just to spread them and fly away,  
Feel the wind up at the heavens,  
Rush through my feathers,  
I want to be a bird,  
And build the perfect nest.

I wish, I wish, I wish,  
But I can't.  
I'm just an empty shell.  
So lonely.





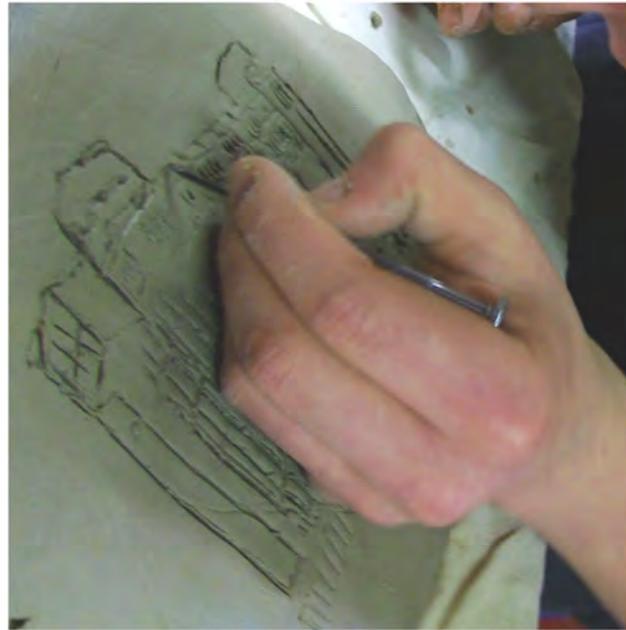
## On The Tyne

Down on the Tyne fishing.  
Seeing people walking past,  
Asking if I've caught owt.

Watching logs float past,  
And the rest of the rubbish.  
Seeing my rod bounce like owt.

## Hoppins

Flashing lights,  
Loud music,  
The smell of food,  
My belly rumbles,  
Watching people fly into the sky,  
Laughter blends into the wind.



## 'The Heed'

On the bus gannin to 'The Heed',  
Tunes bouncing,  
Watching the Bella Bashers going off it,  
All I can smell is the peeve,  
Watching cars fly by,  
Bus stopping at every stop.

## Clouds

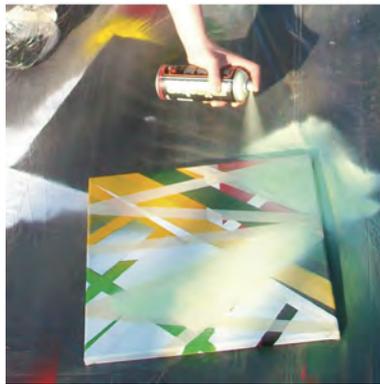
The clouds stood still,  
Like balls of fluff,  
Blue and purple,  
Like bruises on a battered arm.





## Beach

Smell of sun cream,  
Hear the sound of laughter,  
Children playing in the sea,  
Looking out at the view,  
Wishing to stay longer.



## Believe in Me

You think I'm not going to have a job, you think I'm going to turn out like you? Not that you're a bad person, but you don't want me to have the same lifestyle as you!

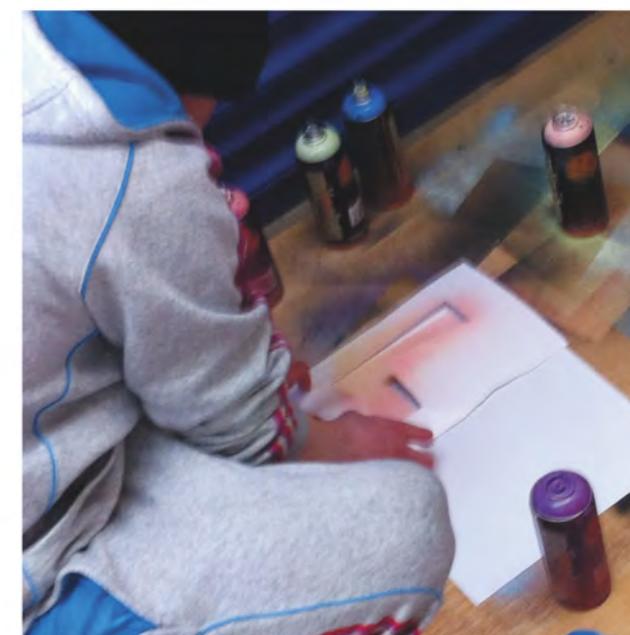
Yeah I understand you want me to have the best in life, like a big house and nice car in a nice area. You don't want me to be the way I am now in ten years.

Yeah I'm on the YOT, I've been in trouble, and on tag, but you've got to understand I'm young, only 16, I'm going to change but it takes time.

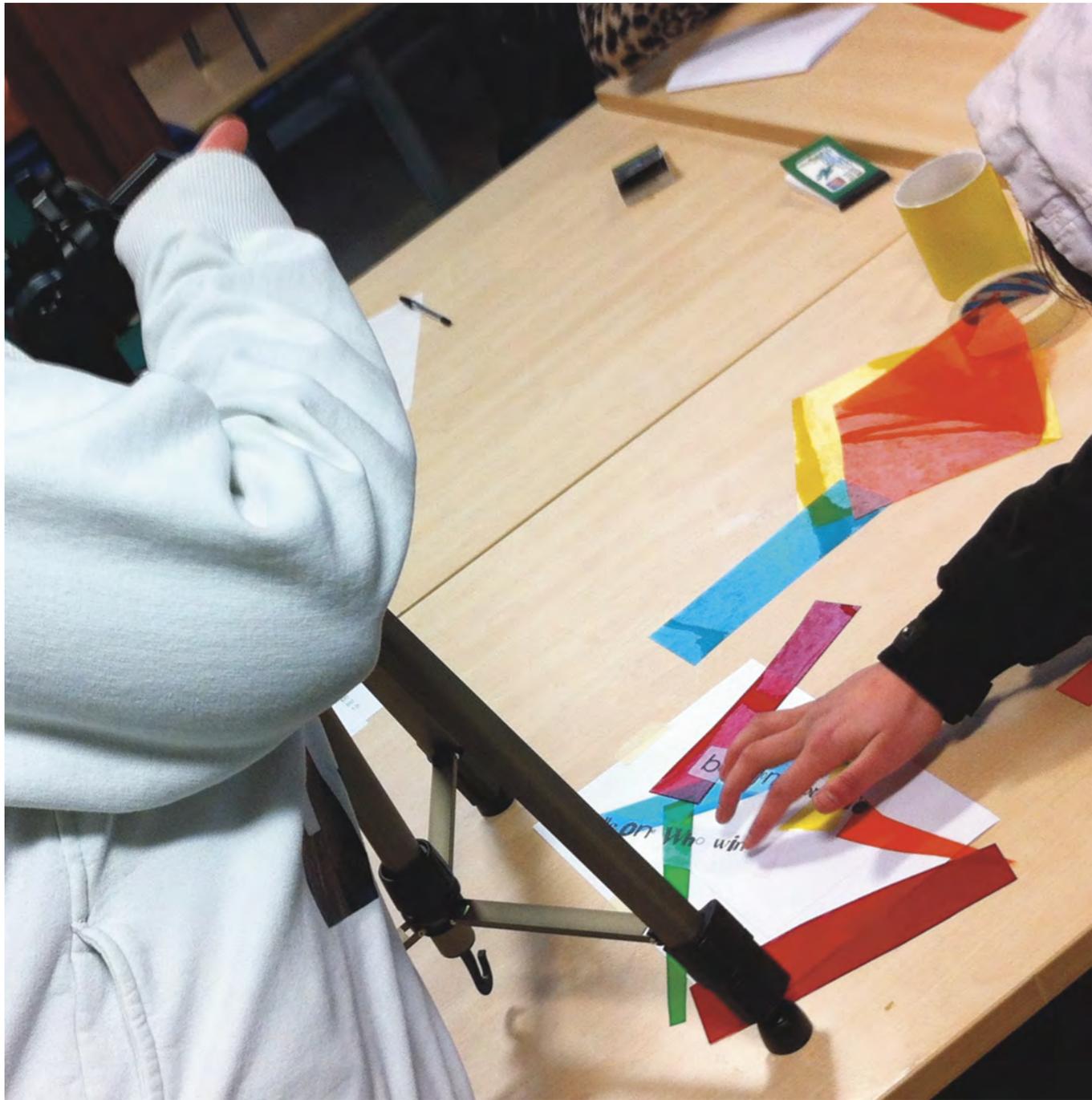
Not many people believe in me, so if you (aka my mam) doesn't believe in me, then why should I try?











LIFE'S BATTLES  
DON'T  
ALWAYS GO

TO THE STRONGER

OR FASTER  
MAN

BUT SOONER

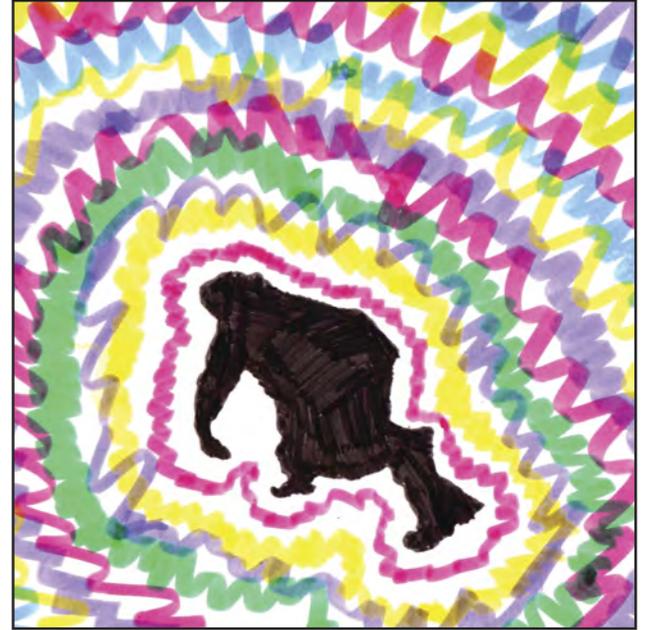
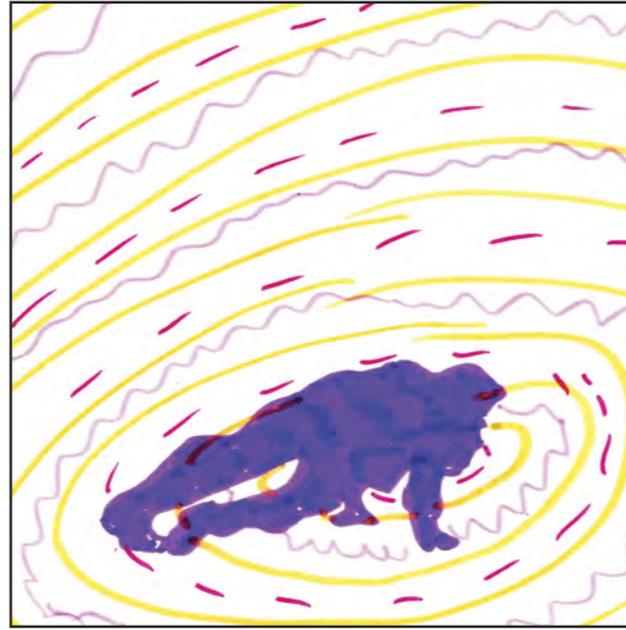
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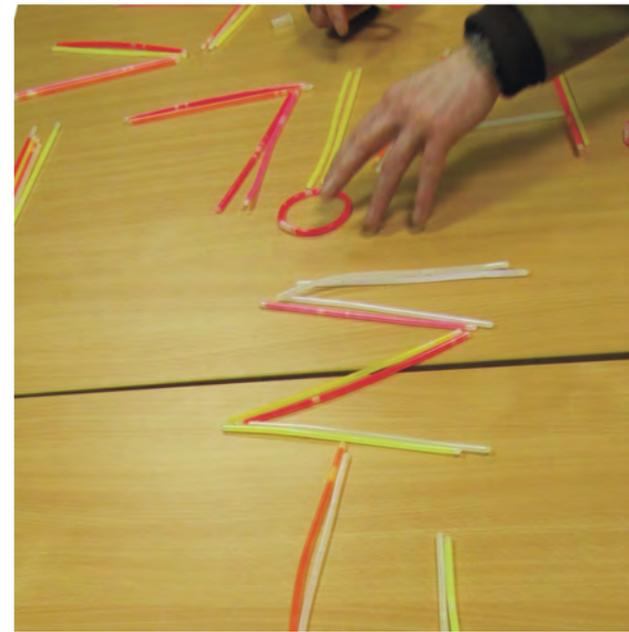
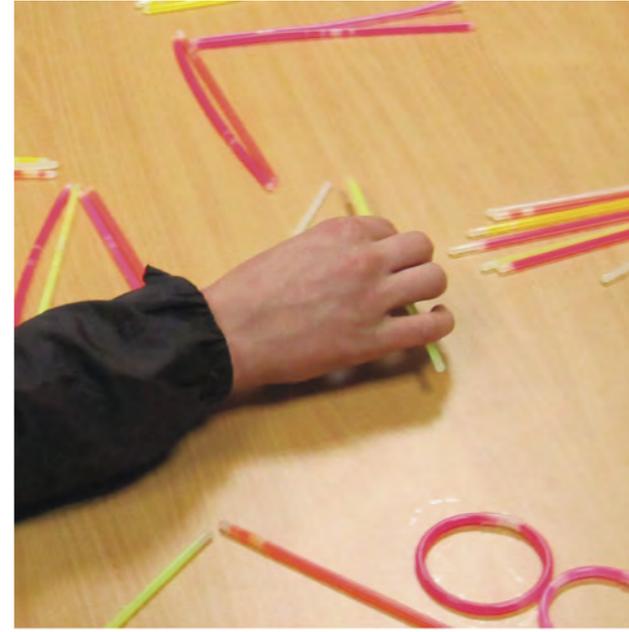
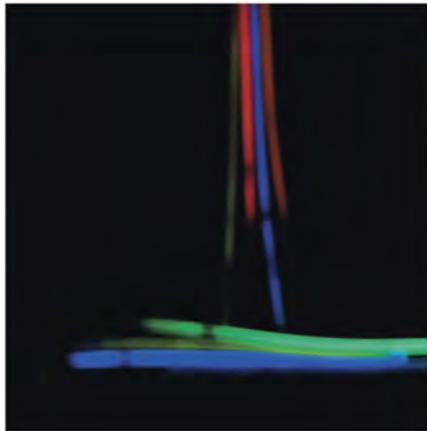
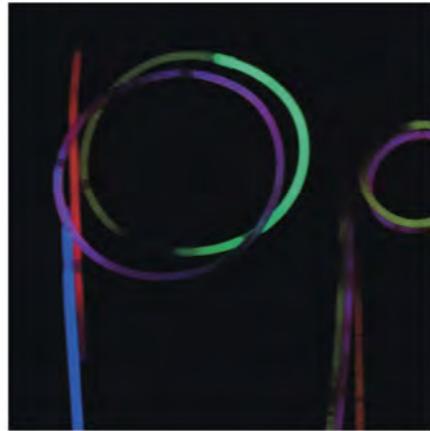
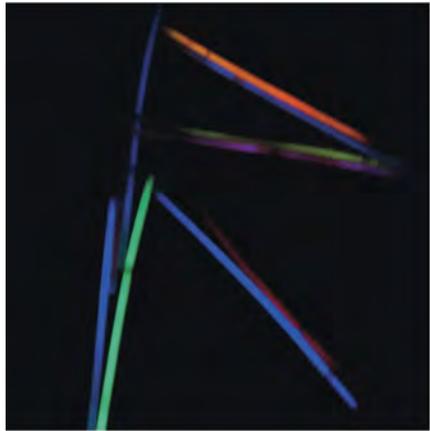
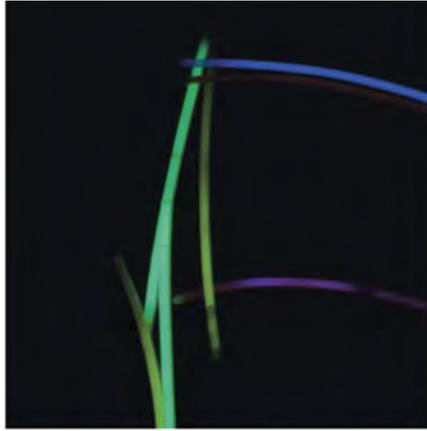
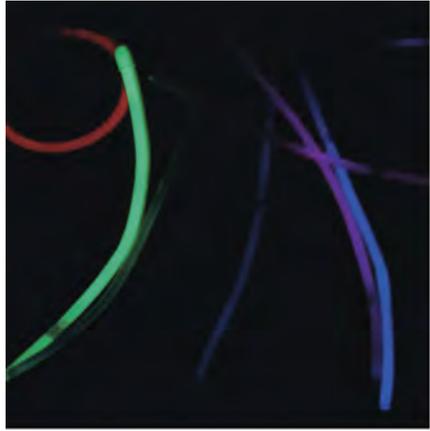
THE ONE WHO WINS

IS THE ONE

WHO THINKS

THEY CAN







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