

The Walkie-Talkies...

Michelle Baharier

Image: Michelle Baharier



A series of 10 digital collages from the 8th June via Disability Arts Online

“Hold tight!” if you can remember that saying, remember the conductors? They used to shout just before the bus moved, lots of people would be holding on, swaying to and fro.

The Walkie-Talkies is an artwork by socially engaged artist **Michelle Baharier**, working with a number of community groups and based on a poem by David Morris called the Route master race. David was a disabled wheelchair user and unable to use the bus, therefore excluded from London life. The works explore inclusion on public transport, this experience of the route master, the double-decker bus and David’s poem.

Ten digital collages will track the absurd, the unfortunate and the ordinariness of our bus journeys through the perspective of those who have used and worked on the London buses. The collages will convey a range of experience, including the experience of differently abled people’s ability to use public transport. In particular pensioners many of whom many will now have acquired disabilities.

Michelle is working with the **Golden Oldies**, **Southwark Irish Pensioners** and **Southwark Pensioners**. The project will prioritise on the number one bus which used to go from Penge to Woodgreen (now from Canada water to Tottenham Court Road, with the 176 taking part of its original route).

Released as a series of 10 collages, these will be available for free via the **Disability Arts Online** website. Starting on the 8th June, 2 collages per week will be released and available to listen to on go (perhaps on the bus yourself) via any device.

All aboard, hold tight, look forward seeing you on the bus ride...

Michelle Baharier studied at **The Slade School of Fine Art, UCL** and the **University of the Arts** and works as a contemporary multidisciplinary artist. Michelle is inspired by topics including Punk, D.I.Y and squatting, her work focuses on the human condition, in particular how we survive and thrive. Starting early as a child, Michelle has been making art for as long as she can remember and has been influenced by having to get by in an ableist world with severe Dyslexia.

Her work includes ***Miss Haversham's wedding dress*** made for the bicentenary of Charles Dickens; **Bethlehem Museum (2020)**, **The London Alternative Fashion Show, Art Academy** (Woolworth rd) and ***The Largactyl Shuffle***; an art and story based walk led by yellow ribbons from Maudsley Hospital to the Tate Modern.

Previous work has been presented at multiple venues/events including **The Welcome Collection** and has been awarded the **Julian Sullivan award for art** and the **Natwest Bank award for art** (1999). She was also Artistic Director for **CoolTan** arts who have received 27 awards for their work as a mental health and arts charity.

Michelle also runs a vibrant youtube channel featuring her poetry:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd2ODSWP5GI0mtxGMitpvnvQ?view_as=subscriber

Sign up to the mailing for updates: <http://eepurl.com/gvuVgb>

Insta: @bahariermichelle

Fb: Michelle Baharier

<https://michellebaharier.co.uk>