

Human Threads

May 12th - Aug 28th 2022



Human Threads is a large scale, multi-sensory exhibition curated by the Edinburgh based organisation Artlink and presented in partnership with Tramway.

The exhibition is the culmination of many years of collaboration between Artlink and Cherry Road Learning Centre in Bonnyrigg, Midlothian,

exploring ways to involve people with profound and multiple learning disabilities in the creative process – through watching, listening and learning from the sensory detail that delights, working intensively to share this with those who care as well as those who are cared for.

'It might seem so simple, a gentle brush on a face, a ball jiggling in a hand - these are all incredibly powerful moments of communication.'

*- Laura Spring,
(Human Threads artist)*

We invite you into an interactive landscape of light, sound, touch and smell.

From a huge silk sail which sways softly in a breeze, to a sculptural ramp that translates audio into vibrating pulses, a series of little worlds that dance with sound movement and smells, light and texture projected through a magnifying water lens, and a playful tower emitting light, smoke and bubbles.

Each installation within this gentle fairground offers an ever-changing and immersive encounter. Through the process of mutual learning, each artwork in Human Threads has been developed with and informed by the sensory interests and preferences of a small group of people with

profound and multiple
learning disabilities.

The artists who partnered
with them rendered and
amplified particular
sensibilities in these
pieces to create open and
interactive artworks that
engage a variety of senses
and experience.

These works aim to
expand our perceptions of
what both an artwork
might be, and what we can
learn from each other,

when we share and take
time to be together, value
our differences and
support one another.

‘In the end it’s not about what you are or even who you are. It’s about what we are together. That’s what’s important. The fact that we all need each other, that we need positive relationships, and it’s this that makes us human’ – *Liz Davidson, (Cherry Road Learning Centre)*

This exhibition is
dedicated to the people
who didn't make it
through the pandemic, to
the people who couldn't
leave their homes, who
lost all their supports. And
to the carers who
struggled to cope.

Artworks by Artlink collaborators:

Matthew Ronay,

Laura Aldridge & Lauren Gault,

Adam Putnam,

Wendy Jacob,

Laura Spring & Claire Barclay

Performative Collaborations by

Kevin McPhee,

James McLardy

Francesca Nobilucci

Curated by

Alison Stirling and Nicola White

in partnership with Tramway