

Large print guide  
**The Waterway Space**

**Perspectives:  
Remembrance**



*(Introduction)*

IWM works with groups of young people across communities to explore the theme of Remembrance.

This exhibition was created by a group of young women who survived the Manchester Arena attack. In 2017 an Ariana Grande music concert was targeted by a suicide bomber who killed and injured many people at the arena. Through creative workshops inspired by content from IWM's collections and their own lived experience, this group of survivors have created a series of photographic-based artworks exploring what Remembrance means for them.

This exhibition contains personal stories from survivors of the Manchester Arena attack which some may find upsetting.

This project was created through a partnership with Odd Arts and Bee the Difference.

### **About Odd Arts**

Odd Arts is a Manchester charity that transforms lives with theatre and arts that challenge and inspire. You can find out more about the work of Odd Arts at: [www.oddarts.co.uk](http://www.oddarts.co.uk)

### **About Bee the Difference**

In 2022 Lancaster University, in partnership with the disaster response charity the National Emergencies Trust launched a research project called Bee the Difference, exploring the support services offered to young people affected by the Manchester Arena terrorist attack. Bee the Difference was a collaboration with young women who survived the attack and who had met as members of Manchester Survivors Choir. You can find out more at: [www.nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/beethedifference](http://www.nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/beethedifference)

Paint generously supplied by Little Greene

*(Wall caption)*

Please note this is a quiet space for reflection

*(Caption for artworks)*

## **Unity**

Remembrance to me is the unifying of people who have been affected by an event. This uniting of people creates a safe and welcoming space and therefore I believe Remembrance can help find ways to help and support others. This is why in the three photos; I have chosen to show how people unite through trauma. Survivors of different terrorist attacks come together to remember the separate attacks, as a reminder of resilience and the importance of unity in the face of adversity. Moreover, Remembrance is a time to let myself feel, a time to reflect what was taken away from us because of the attack.

Abi

## **Waves of Memory**

As I look at these photos for the first time beside each other, the waves of memory break upon the shore of the present. Corralejo was my family's annual holiday destination and once existed within the safety glass of my childhood memories, absent of sadness, or worry. The first photograph was taken in April 2017; one month before my life was beset by tragedy and forever changed. The girl in the photo feels so far away from me now, she lies

behind me in a dream. Two years later I return to the rocky shore and in July 2019 my mother takes the photo; it becomes a talisman of our survival. Then in July 2022, the cloud passes, and life brightens with endless possibility. These photos form a palimpsest of memory; each time I visited the shore, I left behind a trace, each trace became woven into the fabric of life.

Alicia

### **Frames of hope**

I remember through symbolism. This comes from various things, one of them being sunsets. I find sunsets calming, beautiful and hopeful. They help ground me and bring peace into my life. Another is the 'One Love' symbol. This brings me strength and keeps me going, even in the hardest times. Through both I feel comfort, and I knew that they would be perfect for this piece of art. I use these symbols as a way of remembering my past, whilst also persevering on the roads ahead. The gold filling in the cracks of my images shows my resilience and pride in my imperfections. Although I am not the same person I used to be, I am proud of who I have become.

Ava

## **Safe Places**

I chose these photographs because they represent different safe places which I go to in my mind whenever I feel overwhelmed or anxious. These have changed as I have grown up, but during my recovery after the Manchester Arena attack, I was told to travel to my 'safe places' which always seemed to help as I remembered my favourite memories, places, and people.

My work links to my understanding of Remembrance because it is important to live in the past and the present. Remembering the past, the happy moments and the sorrowful ones, whilst creating new memories in the present.

Catherine

## **Goodnight, God Bless**

Remembrance has recently started to mean something else to me and how I think about ways I remember significant events, people, and emotions. For my piece I wanted to dedicate it to my Grandma who I lost recently, as remembering, and honouring her has become increasingly significant in my daily life. Although it is incredibly difficult not seeing and hugging her anymore, I find it important to continue doing what she loved. I wanted my photos to show the love my

family shares for each other, the importance of being there to hold my Grandma's hand and how we are reminded of her through rainbows. I knew my piece had to include flowers as they were something that she truly loved receiving, and the house continues to have vases filled with flowers. Remembrance to me is marking something that has a significant impact on you and someone you cared for, respected, and loved. Remembrance is being able to continue honouring, loving, and remembering.

Ellie

## **Journey**

For many people, the word 'Remembrance' simply refers to reflecting on the past, on a memory, or even on an event in history. However, for me, the concept of 'Remembrance' is far more personal. Remembrance, from my point of view, is much more of a physical element in my life. When I reflect on what happened, I remember the physical transition I underwent from being in a wheelchair to being able to walk again. These three photographs of my recovery were chosen because they show me at my lowest point in hospital, having intense physio, and right after I received my university degree in 2023. To illustrate how my life lost a lot of its colour, the photographs are divided

into segments that gradually lose the black and white colouring to become mostly full of colour.

Lucy

## **Recollection**

My story begins on Monday 22 May 2017 when my life changed. I was so excited to attend the Ariana Grande concert with all the merchandise on. The second photo I have chosen is sunflowers as we remember those who sadly lost their life that night. 'Bee the Difference' has created something positive out of such a tragedy, striving to achieve change. These girls have become my second family and I am very proud to be part of this project with them.

Ruby

## **Love**

Remembrance to me, is a time of reflection, to honour those in the past. Remembrance can unite communities, to show gratefulness and embrace loved ones. My first picture shows me and my family, the middle picture reflects the love I have for them, and the final picture portrays positivity for the future, and appreciation for the opportunities that we have today. We must recognise and be grateful for the sacrifices people in the past have made which allow us the freedoms that we enjoy



today, and hope for peace in the world that we live in.

Yasmine

*(Video caption)*

This video was filmed throughout three workshops with a group of women who survived the Manchester Arena attack. Each session began and finished with a discussion about their relationship to Remembrance. They explored how the meaning has changed since the First World War through formal, informal, personal, and collective connections.

Expressive freedom was encouraged through games and theatrical breakouts. It was a powerful experience with a lot of good humour shared. Through this process, each participant created the artworks on display.

*(Poem caption)*

During the creative workshops the participants wrote a collective poem about Remembrance, each writing one sentence on their own. The lines were then arranged randomly and read back to the group. The impact was so powerful it was felt they should be included in the exhibition.

It's ok to remember the past, whether that be with sadness, anger, hate or with fondness and joy

Remembrance marks a date, a space, a time, a feeling

Ideas of coming together on a specific date, some way of celebrating the lives of people

Sometimes I feel like I am pressured to remember in a specific way

Remembrance floats around us, in and out of windows and doors of houses and hospitals

I think sometimes we don't notice it, sometimes we do

My Grandma. Remembering how one has impacted mine and my families lives and how we remember her now she's passed. Remembrance is accepting that she's gone but not forgotten. Remembering her is still feeling her love.

Remembrance is me – I'm a living memory of you

Remembrance to me is a time to reflect, gather with loved ones looking back on memories and

thoughts together

Remembrance is a memory that can be remembered from the past or present

Remembering the past but also living in the present

Remembrance is making sure history is not forgotten and being able to express feelings for this part of history

Remembrance to me means the passing of time.

Reflection, sadness and happiness.