

We are the Minories Brings Artist Residencies & Art Displays to the Town Centre!

We are missing The Minories. We are very much looking forward to returning to our beautiful building as soon as what has turned into quite major refurbishment is complete. However, in the meantime, **We are the Minories**, as our name suggests, will be doing everything we can to carry on creating and exhibiting, by taking the spirit and aims of **Victor Batte-Lay Foundation** and the Minories with us wherever we go. We are delighted then, to have secured space in the old **Laura Ashley unit** in the town centre to use for artist residencies and display.

From next week you will notice activity in the shop on the corner of Trinity Square and Pelham's Lane as we begin to kit out the space to welcome our first cohort of resident artists, working safely under COVID guidelines. We're calling this residency programme **Arable** as we plan for it to be very fertile, with its participants working with our collection, reinterpreting it, locating it and us in our contemporary landscape and identity. We have four artists in the first phase:

[Deborah Lander](#)

Deborah Suzanne lives in Essex and is studying for her MA in Fine Art. She considers herself a scavenger and an archivist who uses photography, assemblage, ink drawings, ethical taxidermy, video, and performance. She is fascinated by the number three which she incorporates into all her pieces; sometimes subtly, sometimes obviously. She uses narratives to traverse the realms of rituals, myths, and religions, in an increasingly secular society, as well as supporting the idea of death-positivity. Her research is focused on practice-based methodologies questioning what it means to be human. Instagram - @iamthe.dark

[Kayleigh Reed](#)

Kayleigh Reed is a sculptural artist from Essex currently studying an MA in Fine Art, her work explores the human body in relation to everyday objects, creating a body of work that captures the moment of interception through plaster and concrete sculptures. More recently Kayleigh has been using digital photography as an extension to her sculptural practice particularly to enhance the subtle ambiances that affect our experience with the work. Instagram - @kayleighrart

[Heidi Sharp](#)

Heidi Sharp is an Essex based multidisciplinary artist who predominantly specialises in illustration, printmaking, and painting. Interested in the contemporary social mirrors embedded within today's society, she uses social media to feed her inspiration and tends to reflect her themes in a contrastingly physical environment. Instagram - @heidirosesharp

[Shane Wimbledon](#)

Shane Wimbledon is a fine artist illustrator based in Essex and he is currently studying for his MA at Anglia Ruskin in Cambridge. His work is inspired by and created in reaction to mental health and the stigma that surrounds it. By using materials such as medication, polymorph, latex and other mixed media, he hopes to highlight and bring awareness to this topic.

The LA unit has three large windows which we will be filling with **work by the Arable artists** so that even during these difficult times, when we must all stay apart, We are the Minories can **offer Colchester some art** to charm, provoke, amuse, astound and discuss. Later, when restrictions ease, the space will also be used for **community workshops**, run by our resident artists, and open to the public as a **pop-up gallery** with changing exhibitions.

So, next time you're in town, take a moment to **check out the windows** of the old Laura Ashley unit, soon to be We are the Minories, and let us know what you think!

Instagram: @wearetheminories

Twitter: @WMinories

Facebook: @wearetheminories

Website: www.wearetheminories.org

Fundraising Campaign: <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/ben039s-campaign-for-victor-batte-lay-foundation>