

PRESS RELEASE: JULY 2023

STITCHING TOGETHER – AN EXHIBITION WITH BRIDGES FOR COMMUNITIES

22 JULY TO 29 OCTOBER 2023



Image by Dawn Giles, courtesy of *Stitching Together* at Bridges for Communities

Arnolfini and Bridges for Communities welcome audiences to *Stitching Together*, an exhibition of beautiful textile creations and stories of women from across the city, celebrating the joy of making through the shared language of sewing.

Stitching Together features pieces by members of Arnolfini's regular Friday Women's Craft Club and Bridges for Communities' *Stitching Together* groups, including a collection of collaborative embroidered works reflecting on home and everyday life,

family heirlooms and personal items rich with traditions and creative techniques passed down through generations.

In partnership with **Bristol Refugee Festival** and Bridges for Communities, Arnolfini's Women's Craft Club, is a weekly 'craft and conversation' group where women from all backgrounds are welcome to come along, have a cup of tea, share skills and get crafty. The **Stitching Together** group provides a welcoming space for refugee and asylum-seeking women in Bristol to be creative and make beautiful and useful textile based art, clothes, and homewares, while gaining confidence and making friends.

Bridges for Communities is a Bristol-based charity which seeks to create communities that are kinder, fairer and more welcoming and which helps people of different cultures, races and faiths live well together.

Stitching Together - an exhibition is also an opportunity to celebrate and share the work Bridges for Communities does in Bristol and the unique partnership that has developed with Arnolfini over the last three years and the collaborative projects they do together.

Stitching Together will run alongside ***Threads***, a major exhibition at Arnolfini featuring twenty-one contemporary international artists and makers, for whom textiles is their chosen medium, celebrating material and making, these artists use the storytelling power of textiles to connect with past traditions, find commonalities between cultures, time and place.

Threads and Stitching Together are accompanied by a programme which includes family workshops from Let's Make Art, crafting activities and Celia Pym's ***Mending Project***, visible mending sessions, as part of Arnolfini's Women's Craft Club. See Arnolfini's website for further details.

Stitching Together is on the second floor at Arnolfini and runs from 22 July to 29 July 2023. Entry is free, with donations always welcome.

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For further information please contact Sara Blair sara.blair@arnolfini.org.uk

Additional images are available at <https://bit.ly/ArnolfiniStitchingTogether>

@ArnolfiniArts Instagram / LinkedIn / Facebook / www.arnolfini.org.uk

LISTING

Stitching Together | 22 July to 29 October 2023

Bristol-based charity Bridges for Communities welcomes you to *Stitching Together* at Arnolfini, an exhibition showcasing the combined talents of refugee women from Bridges for Communities' Stitching Together sewing group and Arnolfini's regular Women's Craft Club. *Stitching Together* is a collection of beautiful textile creations celebrating the joy of making through the shared language of sewing.

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA, arnolfini.org.uk @ArnolfiniArts

Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm, free entry, donations always appreciated.

arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/stitchingtogether #StitchingTogether #Arnolfini

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Arnolfini

Woven into the fabric of Bristol since 1961, Arnolfini is an international centre of interdisciplinary contemporary arts, presenting an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of visual art, performance, dance, film, and music.

Housed in Bush House, a prominent 19th century former warehouse on the city's harbourside, Arnolfini is a pioneering, inspiring public space for arts and learning, offering an innovative, inclusive and engaging experience for all.

Arnolfini has welcomed artists from around world throughout its history – sharing works by Paula Rego, Jannis Kounellis, John Akomfrah, Grayson Perry, Rachel Whiteread, Peter Doig, Richard Long, Veronica Ryan, Chantal Joffe, Sonia Boyce, Alice Kettle and Frank Bowling, to name just a few - as well as supporting talent from in and around Bristol.

Alongside its main programme, Arnolfini is a centre of everyday creativity and learning, working with a wide range of community and artistic partners, while continuing to explore and develop new collaborations across the city and beyond. Spaces are used regularly by families, schools and colleges, health and wellbeing groups.

Through sharing a 62+ year archive of exhibition slides, publications and an extensive artist book collection, Arnolfini celebrates its heritage and the wide-reaching impact the organisation has had since its foundation.

From 2019, Director Gary Topp and team have sought to honour Arnolfini's founder Jeremy Rees' principle to 'Enjoy Yourself', welcoming everyone into the accessible space, and inviting engagement, in any number of ways.

Arnolfini is part of the University of the West of England and a key element of their City Campus.

An independent charity (CIO), Arnolfini is supported by Arts Council England and the Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust.

About UWE Bristol

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) has a global and inclusive outlook, with approximately 36,000 students and strong industry networks and connections with over 1,000 employers. Research at UWE Bristol focuses on real world problems and the University plays a pivotal role in the regional economy. With over £300 million invested in infrastructure, buildings and facilities across all Campuses, UWE Bristol is creating a place for learning that is innovative, ambitious, connected, enabling and inclusive. UWE Bristol is ranked 24th in the Guardian university league table. www.uwe.ac.uk

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

About Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust

Arnolfini has been supported by a linked charity, the Ashley Clinton Barker Mills Trust (ACBMT) for almost 60 years.

Arnolfini founders Jeremy and Annabel Rees were first introduced to the artists and benefactors Peter and Caroline Barker-Mill in 1963, by the London gallerist Lesley Waddington. It was a fortuitous meeting that was the catalyst in allowing Arnolfini to develop from a small volunteer-run private gallery into a major international arts centre.

The Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust (ACBMT) principle is to work with Arnolfini, primarily by making annual grants from the income earned on its investments, as well as funding modest, one-off capital grants to help the Arnolfini transition to its current financial model. In more recent years members of the ACMBT have become more involved working with Arnolfini to help plan its future.

www.arnolfini.org.uk/about/ashley-clinton-barker-mills-trust