

**LEADING ARTISTS DONATE WORKS TO SUPPORT CHARITY,
OFFERING ART AS THERAPY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

EXHIBITION TO GO ON VIEW AT SOTHEBY'S
FROM 29 APRIL – 7 MAY

FEATURING WORKS BY:
THOMAS HEATHERWICK, PATRICK HUGHES, MARTIN PARR,
GRAYSON PERRY, PHILLIPA PERRY, JENNY SAVILLE, MAGGI HAMBLING
AND BOB & ROBERTA SMITH, AMONG OTHERS



Clockwise from top left: Maggi Hambling, *'Wild North Sea'* 2024, Bob and Roberta Smith, *'Art Does Real and Permanent Good'* 2022, Grayson Perry, *'Selfie with Political Causes'* 2018 © Grayson Perry Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro, Patrick Hughes, *'Studio Edition'* 2023

LONDON, 11 APRIL 2024 – Leading artists including Grayson Perry, Jenny Saville, Veronica Ryan and Maggi Hambling are amongst those who have donated works for an exhibition at Sotheby's in London to support the charity AT THE BUS, which offers school-based art as therapy on a double decker bus to support the well-being of young people. 'Art for AT THE BUS' will include over 30 works to be exhibited at Sotheby's New Bond Street gallery from 29 April to 7 May 2024. The works will be sold via online auction, powered by Artsy, and open for bidding from 29 April till 5pm on 10 May 2024. Proceeds of the sale will go to AT The Bus.

One in six children and young people in the UK have poor mental health and many struggle to attend or engage at school (NHS Digital 2022). AT The Bus partners with schools so that students can easily access the service directly on their school site, either on the bus or in bespoke studios within the school grounds.

“On behalf of everyone AT The Bus, I would like to thank the artists and Sotheby's for their huge generosity and kindness enabling this auction to take place. The charity's premise is in art's therapeutic power. Each one of the artists who have donated work believes in the transformative work we do with young people facing challenges in their daily lives.

Our hope is to share our methodology and support to many more schools. We currently work with over 200 children each week. The money raised by this auction will help us sustain our current activity and build our future mobility. We have some extraordinary pieces offered for sale on behalf of AT The Bus – again, thank you to the wonderful artists and to all those who bid.”

Juli Beattie, AT The Bus Founder and Joint CEO

“Art can reach parts of us that are inaccessible to other ways of communication. Art is medicine for our deeper selves. What better way to provide health-giving opportunities than for art as therapy to come to you in a bus?”

Grayson Perry, AT The Bus Patron

“AT The Bus encourages creativity and imagination in children and young adults. The work of AT The Bus makes a profound and direct difference to the lives of young people, which is why I'm honoured to be a patron of this charity.”

Jenny Saville, AT The Bus Patron

“It is an immense privilege to be hosting this exhibition at Sotheby's, showcasing a powerful selection of artworks so generously donated by artists whose voices are integral to the cultural community here in the UK. The charity's phenomenal work in providing therapeutic and creative mental health support to young people is a heartening reminder of the magical impact that art can truly make on our lives.”

**Helena Newman, Worldwide Head of Impressionist and Modern Art,
Chairman, Sotheby's Europe**

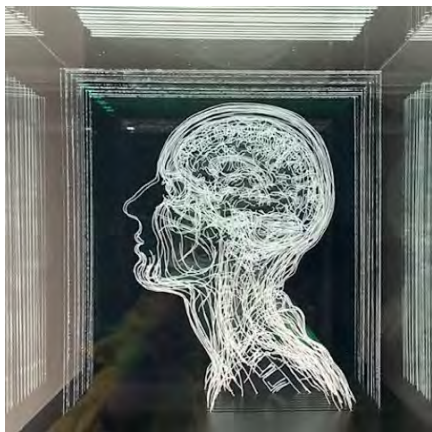
“Our school community in North Kensington faces many challenges and having therapeutic spaces available to seek respite is essential. Our studio offers the children a nurturing pocket of time each week to express themselves through Art. We have seen first-hand how children can arrive at their session under a cloud and leave with a greater sense of confidence and well-being. Many of our children have additional learning needs and they can achieve beginning from any starting point within the calming and supportive structure the methodology offers. Achievement for all is a possible AT The Bus and we are thrilled to have a studio at the heart of our community.”

Anthony Mannix, Headteacher, Barlby Primary School, London

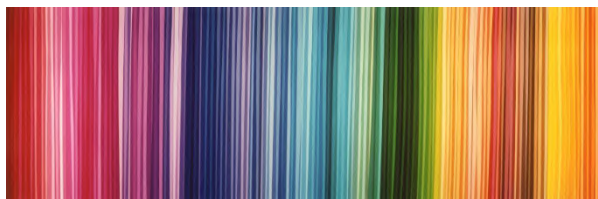


ART FOR AT THE BUS

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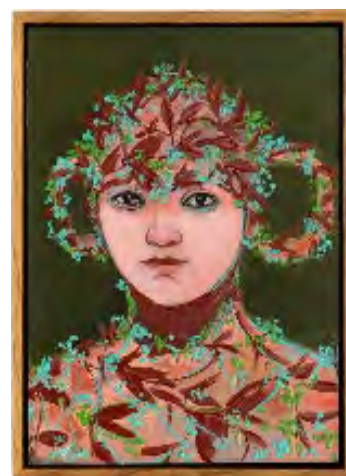
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1. ANGELA PALMER, SELF-PORTRAIT, 2021

“Using creative channels as a means of reaching children who need help has proven to be highly effective and rewarding. What no-one has done before is the novel and brilliant idea of introducing a double-decker bus into the experience. In it sweeps to the schools, a great bus swathed in a kaleidoscope of colour; you can just imagine a child's heart lifts at the sight, half expecting Willy Wonka to be at the wheel. And each child knows that for a spell, they can leave the conventions of the classroom behind, and be transported into a separate and different world, a magical place of colour and fantasy and joy. AT The Bus is a place where young minds troubled by the complexities and messiness of life can, for a period, be diverted and absorbed into an orbit of creative experimentation and exploration: never judgemental, always encouraging. AT The Bus is an innovation so typical of Juli Beattie, a woman whose generous and loving heart is the size of a double-decker bus.”

2. ROB AND NICK CARTER, SPECTRUM LINE, 2020

“Art as therapy has always been a cause we support and champion, and we are delighted to contribute and participate once again in the AT The Bus charity fundraiser event at Sotheby's.”

3. THOMAS HEATHERWICK, SPUN CHAIR, 2024

“With society becoming increasingly aware of the mental health crisis impacting people's lives, young people have been shown to be particularly vulnerable. I'm particularly proud for my studio to be supporting AT The Bus in their mission.”

4. OLIVER BARRAT, SQUARE DANCE 1, 2024

“I started my career, fresh out of art school, by teaching adults with learning difficulties at a residential home in Kent. The extraordinary range of unique work and vivacious characters that I worked with have remained with me ever since, and the role that creativity and image making held in the lives of these extraordinary people convinced me of the power of the visual imagination to reach deep into the most serious, complex and yet playful parts of the human psyche and find a type of delight in discovering what you already knew. A serendipity of the soul. The work of AT The Bus brings this encounter to the doors of those who most need it.”

5. PHILLIPA PERRY, NOW, NO MATTER, 2023

6. LISA WRIGHT, ME BECOMING YOU, 2019

“Art has the capacity to captivate and helps us connect with our inner selves. I'm delighted to support AT The Bus because I believe in the power of art as therapy and its impact on young people can be miraculous.”

7. JENNIE FOLEY, SUFFOLK LINES, 2023

8. MARTIN PARR, LAST RESORT, NEW BRIGHTON, ENGLAND, 1983-85

9. PAUL VANSTONE, IRANIAN ONYX HEAD, 2023

“At The Bus does everything I would have wished for when I was at school. Art and Creativity were my escape as they are now. Using these to excite and inspire the next generation is wonderful.”

10. PATRICK HUGHES, STUDIO - ED. 18/75, 2023

“When I was a schoolteacher, I realised the value of the so different discipline of the art class. The variety of personality and growth of children can be so far developed in drawing and painting and making. AT The Bus gives children the chance to grow, flourish, create, and enjoy their imagination.”

11. POLLY MORGAN, *FALSE FLAGS*, 2023

"I often wonder how my mental health would be if I wasn't an artist. My own sculptures have formed stepping stones through the hardest times in my life and I can well appreciate how access to space, time and materials could soothe and quieten the most troubled minds. Just being in a position where I can support such an important resource makes me very fortunate and I thank AT The Bus for their important work."

12. EMMA ALCOCK, *REFLECTION*, 2016

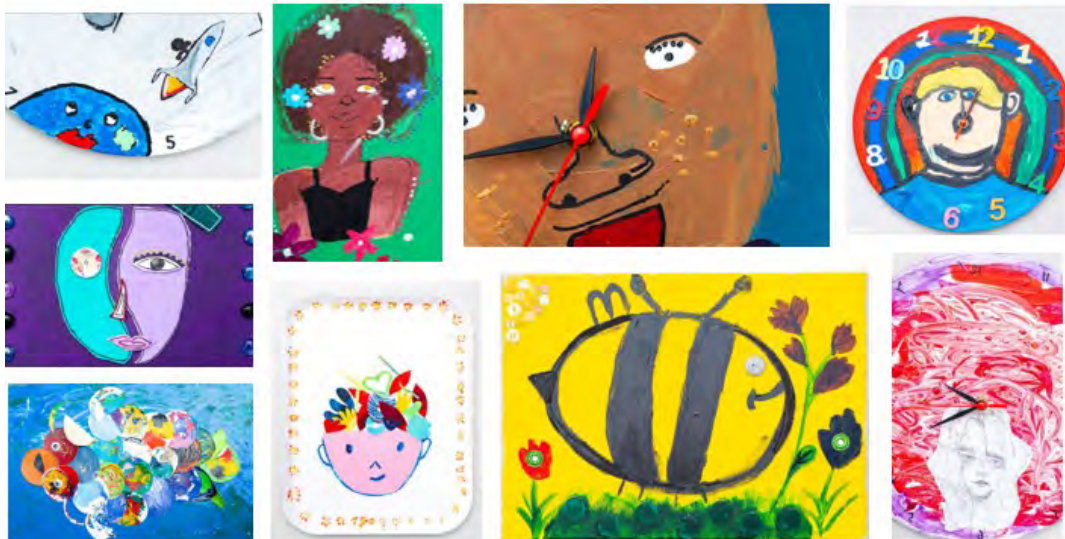
"I wholeheartedly support AT The Bus who provide children with the sanctuary through art they need, having experienced the salvation of an art room myself as a child I fully understand the value and importance of this."

AT THE BUS

Founded in 2018, AT The Bus is a UK charity that supports the education, health and well-being of children and young people by providing art as therapy on a double-decker bus and at school-based studios in London and Oxford.

Concerns about children's well-being and mental health have grown over the past few years, and the data suggests this concern is more than justified: in 2023 20% of 8-16 year olds had a probable mental health disorder and 40% reported a deterioration in their wellbeing since 2017 (NHS Digital 2023). The services that could help them are overwhelmed.

AT The Bus offers a unique and effective solution, delivering mental health support directly to young people in school where they are best placed to access it. It uses the Beattie Method, a relationship-based group intervention that was developed by AT The Bus Founder and Joint CEO, Juli Beattie OBE, following decades-long work with children and young people. Through the Beattie Method children and young people with complex needs are supported using art as therapy, helping them to re-engage with their education by building self-esteem, confidence, resilience and independence. AT The Bus has expanded considerably since September 2021, when UK schools fully reopened following lockdowns due to the Covid19 pandemic.



A selection of artwork by children participating in AT The Bus programmes

The charity currently works with nine schools, delivering 46 sessions and working with over 230 children and young people each week. AT The Bus students work in small groups led by experienced facilitators trained in The Beattie Method. The double decker bus and static studio spaces offer calm, safe spaces on school sites for students to access easily.

In late 2022, AT The Bus began work with Oxford University on a formal evaluation of the impact made by the charity and The Beattie Method. Now underway, this evaluation is led by Dr Mina Fazel, Professor of Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Oxford (and a Patron of AT The Bus). According to Dr Fazel, "Provision on the school site is essential for the most vulnerable and at-risk young people. We have found that when we help these children with their mental health problems, they are then better able to engage with their peers at school and access the academic curriculum."

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