



A multi-form project by



Creative Missions

A blend of improvised theatre and arts and crafts workshops for families with children aged 6+, or drop-off workshops for children aged 8+

the concept

Interpreting art is like spotting hidden clues and deciphering them. The Company of International Artists uses the discourse of spies to empower children to feel they can interpret art and create art themselves.

During a mission, children adopt Creative Agent roles and work with actors who are also in role as Creative Agents. Depending on available space, we bring set and prop elements to create a secret HQ environment.

what is a mission?

On a mission, children explore between 1-3 specific artworks, printed on postcards.

Actors in role establish the children are also creative agents by giving them ID cards and asking everyone to adopt a secret agent name.



a creative mission at a summer play session in Hartcliffe, south Bristol

Children are encouraged to explore the artworks through gentle, open-ended questioning by the actors.

The children's ideas are noted and turned into an improvised song which the actors perform at the end of the mission.



A Creative Agent receives her ID badge

the create-yourself bit

We bring a range of art materials for use during the create-yourself part of the mission. Children are given open-ended, non-prescriptive opportunities to create in response to the artworks they've been exploring.

The materials are age-appropriate, safe and not too high-end, because at the heart of the Company of International Artists project is the belief that everyone can create with whatever they happen to have.



Creative Agents explore Picasso



at a summer holiday session at Hartcliffe Club for Young People

capturing the session

While the children are creating, one agent writes their lyrics whilst the other circulates, encouraging where needed. The agents then swap.

Towards the end of the making session, the agents ask the children if we can photograph their artwork for display online gallery.

We don't feature faces or children's real names.

There's no obligation to have your work photographed.

We also provide simple voice recorders and prompt questions so participants can anonymously give feedback on the session immediately afterwards.



Picasso-inspired art by Creative Agents in Hartcliffe, south Bristol



Creative Agents explore Impressionism in Hartcliffe, south Bristol

workshop testimonials

--- “-----

Agent Tigerlily had a lovely time!
Thank you both for your energy.
She is now teaching her siblings
the Scream song!

--- “-----

--- “-----

Thank you both for such a
brilliant workshop!
Agent Tel loved it and was very
excited and engaged.
You are amazing!

--- “-----

--- “-----

Thanks for the session today.
We loved the energy and songs.
Agent Orange had a fab time
and I enjoyed it too!

--- “-----

--- “-----

Thanks for a great spy
afternoon!
Agents G and V absolutely
loved it!
Thank you!

--- “-----

workshop costs

For either 3 x 60 minute or 2 x 90 minute workshops per day
with up to 20 children per workshop

Artist fees: £250 per day = £500 minimum

(a third artist is needed for workshops with over 20 children participating)

Travel: dependent on location. We travel in one vehicle.

Materials: £50 contribution towards the cost of consumable art resources

workshop legacy

The Company of International Artists is also a postal creative subscription
service. We send creative missions to children UK wide (and abroad).

It is the income-generating arm of our Community Interest Company and so,
where possible, we aim to raise the profile of our subscription service.

To do this we give a unique 10% discount code which to adults at the end of
these workshops to encourage them to consider taking out a subscription.

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