

PRESS RELEASE

Suffolk Festival of Ideas returns with Paperback, a new art event run in collaboration with art creatives Off The Press Collective.



Jess Wilson, 1984

To celebrate World Book Day, two Suffolk based organisations have teamed up to create a new series of art works to promote both literacy and the arts within their area.

Opening at Bury St Edmunds based cafe 'Guat's Up!' on the 3 March at 6pm, **Paperback** is a new exhibition of screen prints that draw inspiration from iconic books throughout history. Suffolk Festival of Ideas and Off The Press Collective worked with the coffee shop to produce a list of 100 classic must-reads that span multiple genres. From this selection 20 artists were approached to produce a brand new artwork inspired by their favourite book from the list.

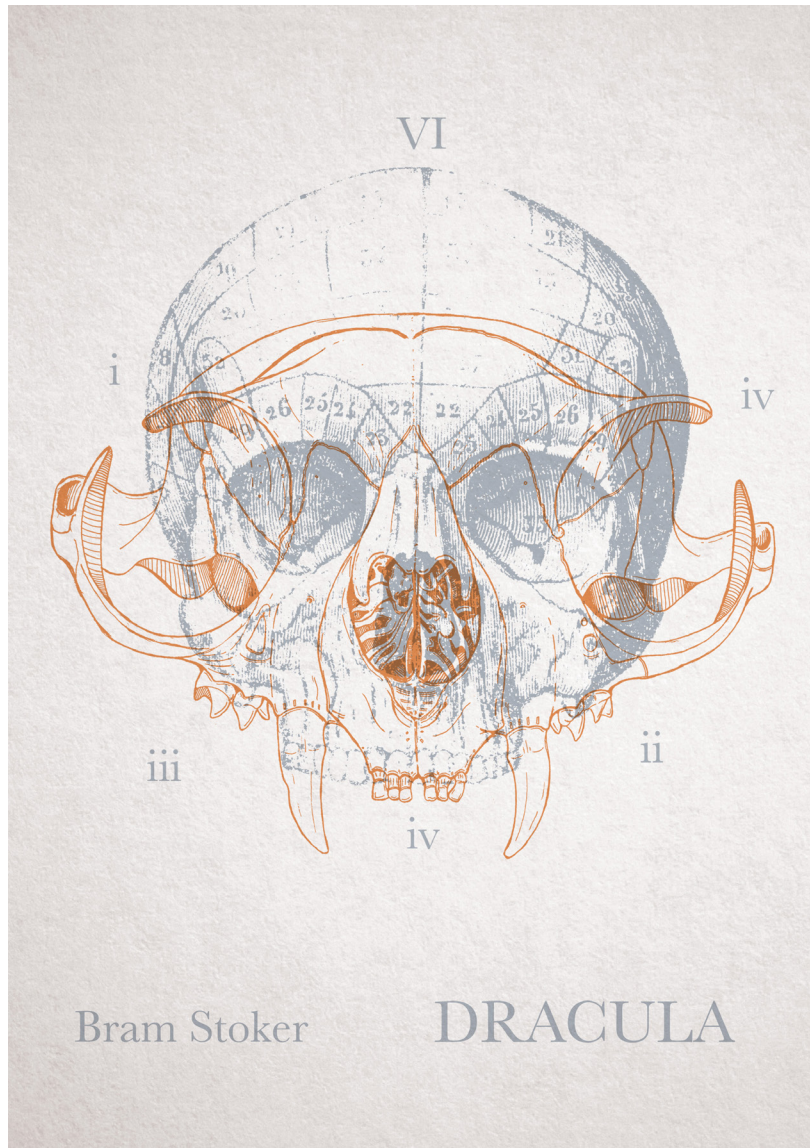
The works on show are by a mix of internationally exhibited fine artists, recent graduates, award-winning children's book illustrators and graphic artists. Hand printed in Off The Press Collective's rural studio, the art works are all printed in iconic Penguin book colours of orange and grey and are on show throughout March.

Suffolk Festival of Ideas Director Sam Foley says, "What we want to achieve by running this project is to offer easy access to the arts within the region, taking contemporary visual arts out of the often foreboding confines of a gallery. Instead the aim here is to make it accessible to people from as many social backgrounds as we can and make art a part of everyday life in a relaxed but still engaging way."

"The idea of promoting classic literature was really exciting for us and seeing how the artists we approached all gravitated to a different story be it 'Where The Wild Things Are' to '1984', we hope that everyone that sees the prints are just as inspired to head off to a book shop and grab a copy for themselves", says Anna Bird from Off The Press Collective.

One of the artists in the exhibition is Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2017 nominee Matt Robertson. Nominated for his illustrated book 'Super Stan', Matt decided to tackle one of his favourite children's stories, The BFG, and offer his own interpretation.

The exhibition which runs from 3 to 27 March and will also be touring to the Norwich Arts Centre from 8 May to 7 June.



Ben Challen, Dracula

Editors notes.

Contact information - Off The Press Collective are made up of artists Anna Bird, James Treadaway, Sam Foley. For more information or images please contact us on offthepress@hotmail.com

Guat's Up! - 7 Guildhall St, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1PR

Norwich Arts Centre - Norwich Arts Centre, 51 St Benedicts Street, Norwich, NR2 4PG

Artists involved - Joel Millerchip, Natalie Blofield, Sam Foley, James Treadaway, James Fenton, Robert Ramsden, Matt Robertson, Daisy Iverson, Laurel Pettitt, Rachel Sodey, Jess Wilson, Anna Bird, Adam Bridgland, Vicky Johnson, Toby Rampton, Jo Stafford, Michael Simpson, Lucy Gough, Lisa Zoylinos, Ben Challen.

Suffolk Festival of Ideas is a Community Interest Company dedicated to creating and increasing access to inspiring cultural environments in Bury St Edmunds and the rest of the county. They believe access to the arts and their means of production, whether visual, written or performative, should be available to all and not be based on income. By providing free or subsidised performances, exhibitions and workshops we want to support and re-engage people who may currently face social and financial barriers to their participation – including those have low income, uncertain work patterns or are intimidated by the arts.

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