

# Sarah Barnes Design

## Hardwick Gallery Exhibition proposal 2016



### *Practice Statement*

My practice explores both our perception and interaction with internal, external and imaginary environments, particularly in relation to colour and I am interested in how this is interpreted by the viewer. I'm fascinated by the crossover between the 2-D and 3-D, producing installations and wall coverings for real spaces whilst exploring how spacial realisations translate onto paper.

Entitled 'Colour Under The Flyover' the final body of work during my MA studies was an exploration into how creative interventions such as colour can impact how people feel about and use rundown urban environments. I focused on the underneath of a dark and unloved flyover used as a cycle and commuter route to UWE from the centre of Bristol.

Making use of the many print disciplines available to me I was able to develop ideas, which resulted in print realisations, wall coverings and models.

As public engagement was a key part of this project, I undertook a variety of research methods to investigate how users engaged with the space. These findings continue to influence my current practice.

I have 8 years experience of working with Laser Cutting and this is the primary process I use within my practice. It allows me to work with a wide variety of materials and I can produce final pieces or use it as a tool within the making process. Alongside this I use printmaking techniques including lithography, screen printing and digital printing. I like to combine traditional techniques with new technology when developing final pieces.

Over the past year I have produced a number of commissions, all of which utilise colour to play a key role in enhancing internal spaces. An example of this being a laser cut wall installation for Southmead Hospital paediatric waiting room which needed to provide a calming yet visually engaging environment for children.

Although still captivated by concepts of space, my artistic practice continues to evolve to reflect my personal experience of death. In recent months I have become increasingly interested in the role colour plays in relation to death, ritual and celebration, particularly by cultures other than our own.

My practice is now concerned with creating work which opens up a discussion about how we engage with life and death celebrations as a culture, using colour as one of the tools to do this.

Across the world people use colour, light, shrines, rituals and offerings to connect with their lost ones and integrate this into their everyday lives. I'm fascinated by the way death and the dying process is integrated into their lives and that they find ways to celebrate their ancestors as a community. It is this sense of 'togetherness' and engagement which I feel is lacking within our culture.

Through my own grieving process I've realised the importance of integrating memories of my loved ones into my daily life. As a result, I've been inspired to build a series of shrines around my home and garden to honour and celebrate my ancestors.

As part of my on going research I have recently returned from a 3 week journey to South India. Whilst there, I was able to experience first hand the roles that both colour and religion play within the Indian culture. I find it extraordinary and refreshing that there is a strong interplay between the two.