

# Climate Unity

## Small Worlds: Little things make a big difference 2025





# Have a look around the exhibition



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Have a look around the exhibition

# About the exhibition

Small Worlds is a collaborative exhibition that uses creativity to explore our connections to the climate, nature, and people of our planet.

It is part of the Climate Unity Project, an educational initiative led by Hampshire County Council.

The exhibition features two-dimensional artwork, textile banners and 3D globe installations created by 38 schools, 51 artists, and community groups using sustainable and repurposed materials.



# Small Worlds: Little things make a big difference

- This summer, The Winchester Gallery was transformed by the vibrant and thought-provoking exhibition Small Worlds, part of the fifth year of the Climate Unity Project. The exhibition brought together 51 artists, 38 schools, and a wide range of community groups to explore how creativity can help us respond to climate change. The theme – *‘Little things make a big difference’* – was expressed through hundreds of artworks, including over 400 floating globes, colourful textile banners, and sculptures made from natural, recycled, and compostable materials.
- The exhibition celebrated activism – where art becomes a form of activism. It showed how creative expression can raise awareness, share ideas, and inspire action. Every piece was made with care and purpose, encouraging visitors to think about the materials we use and the impact we have on the planet.
- Students used leaves, petals, twigs, plastic wrappers, bottle caps, and old textiles to create their work. Even the netting used to hang the artwork had been salvaged from a previous exhibition and will be reused again in a local garden. These thoughtful choices sparked important conversations in schools about sustainability, waste, and how we can all make more environmentally conscious decisions.
- One student said, *“I didn’t realise how much rubbish we throw away until we started collecting it for our globe. Now I think twice before binning something.”* Another reflected, *“Making art from recycled stuff made me feel like I was doing something good for the planet. It’s not just about painting – it’s about making a difference.”*
- The exhibition also highlighted the work of several artists who collaborated with schools and local groups. Artists Sue Freestone and Helen Northcott worked with the Winchester Litter Pickers to turn collected rubbish into sculptural installations. Their work challenged viewers to think about the lifecycle of everyday objects and the environmental cost of waste. Their sculptures, made from crisp packets, bottle tops, and other discarded items, were transformed into striking pieces that asked, *‘What do we throw away, and why?’*

## Exhibition details

The exhibition was hosted at The Winchester Gallery, Winchester School of Art, from 11 July to 16 August 2025.

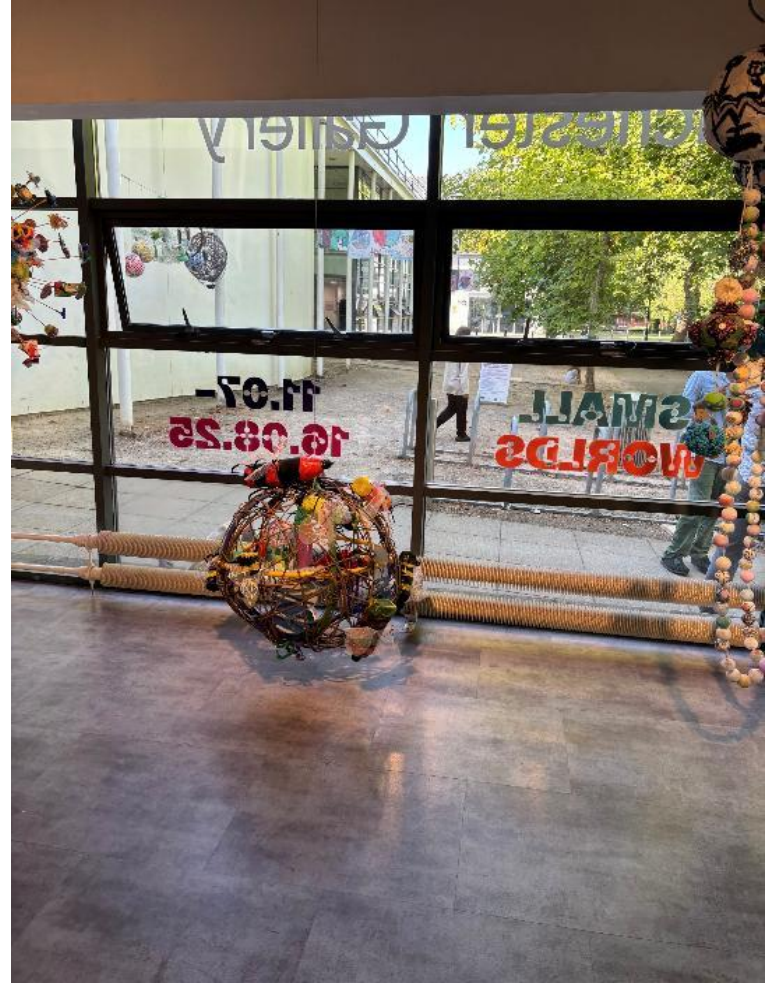
Schools booked visits and contributed artwork during the exhibition.



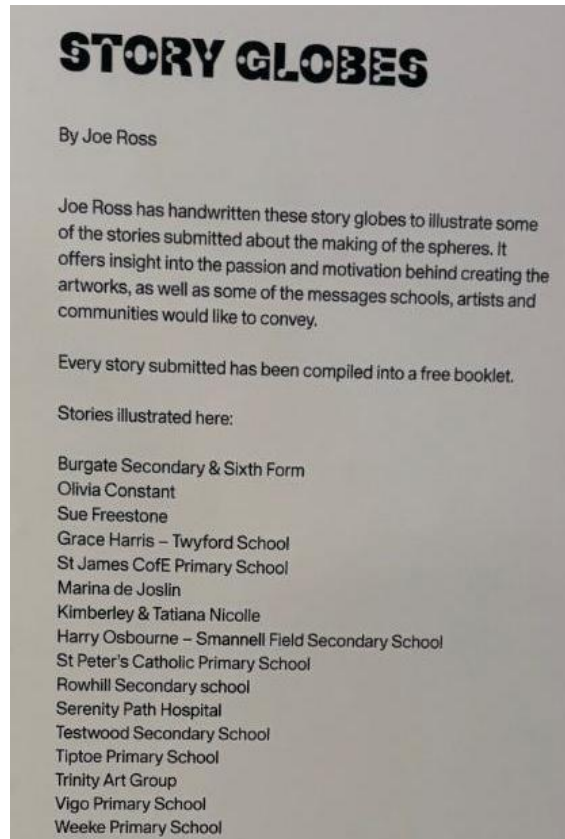








# Story Globes by Joe Ross



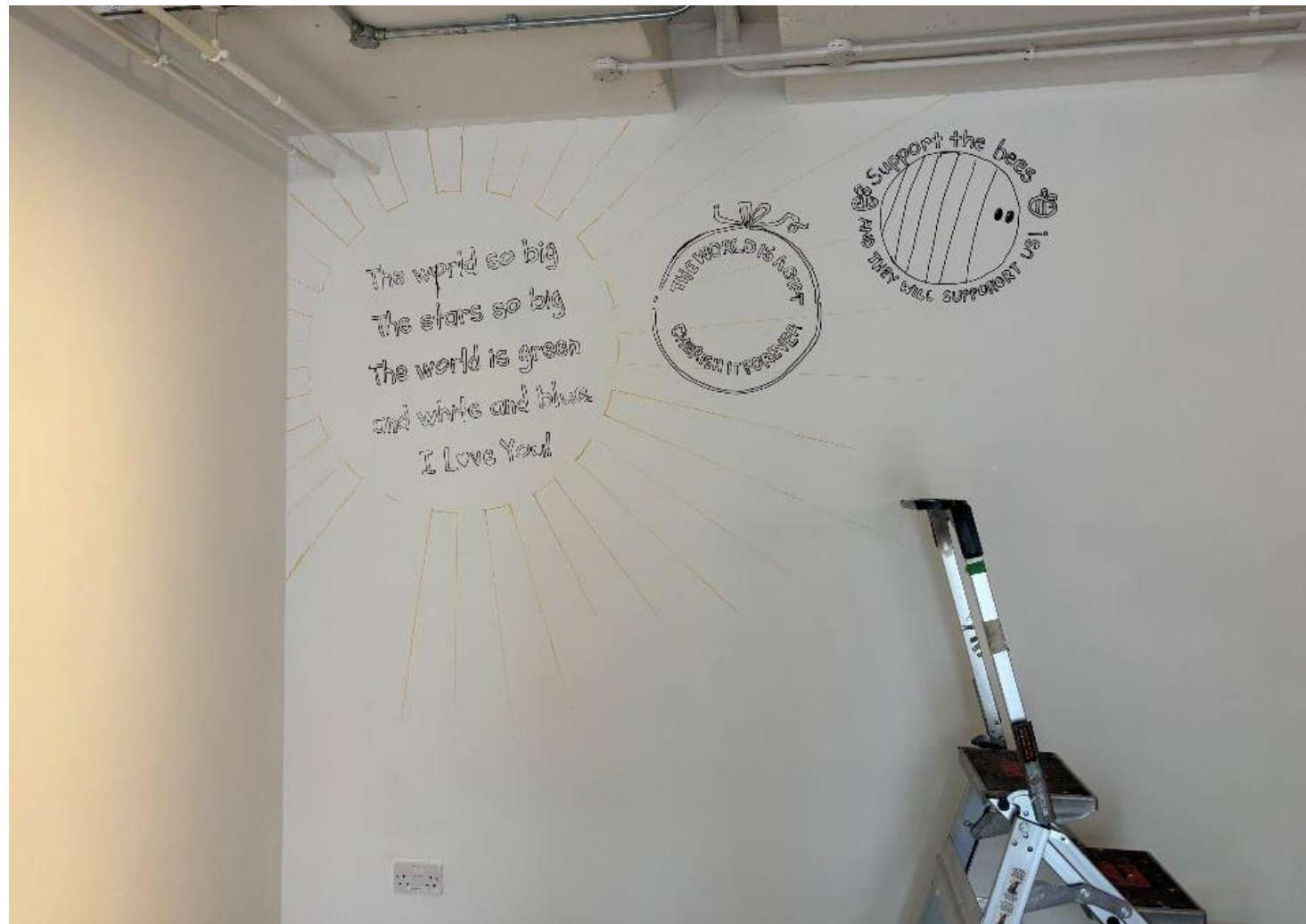
Joe Ross has handwritten story globes to illustrate some of the stories submitted about the making of the spheres. It offers insight into the passion and motivation behind creating the artworks, as well as some of the messages schools, artists and communities would like to convey:

- how will the world look in the next 40 to 50 years?
- young people imagine a harmonious, sustainable future rooted in nature, community and creativity
- use discarded objects and reuse them into something beautiful.

The children's, artists' and communities' voices were represented with the story globes displaying a generation thinking critically about climate, action and hope:

- we need to be kind to the world
- the power of youth, when many voices become one
- we want our audience to reflect on their own role in the environment. Like each sphere, every action matters. When we come together, even small changes can make a big difference. Around it is a reminder that the future of our planet is shaped by all of us, and together we can make positive impact
- our students feel that not enough action is being taken, and government commitments are fragile
- a call to all of us to treasure and protect our wild world
- if enough of us challenge I think things will change.









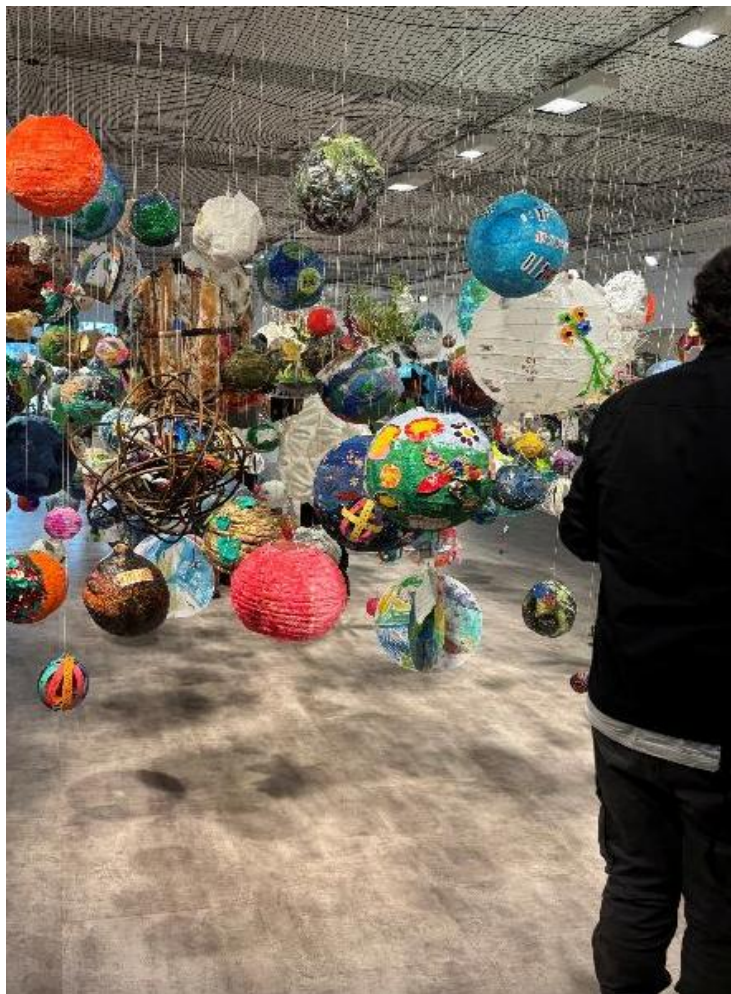




















































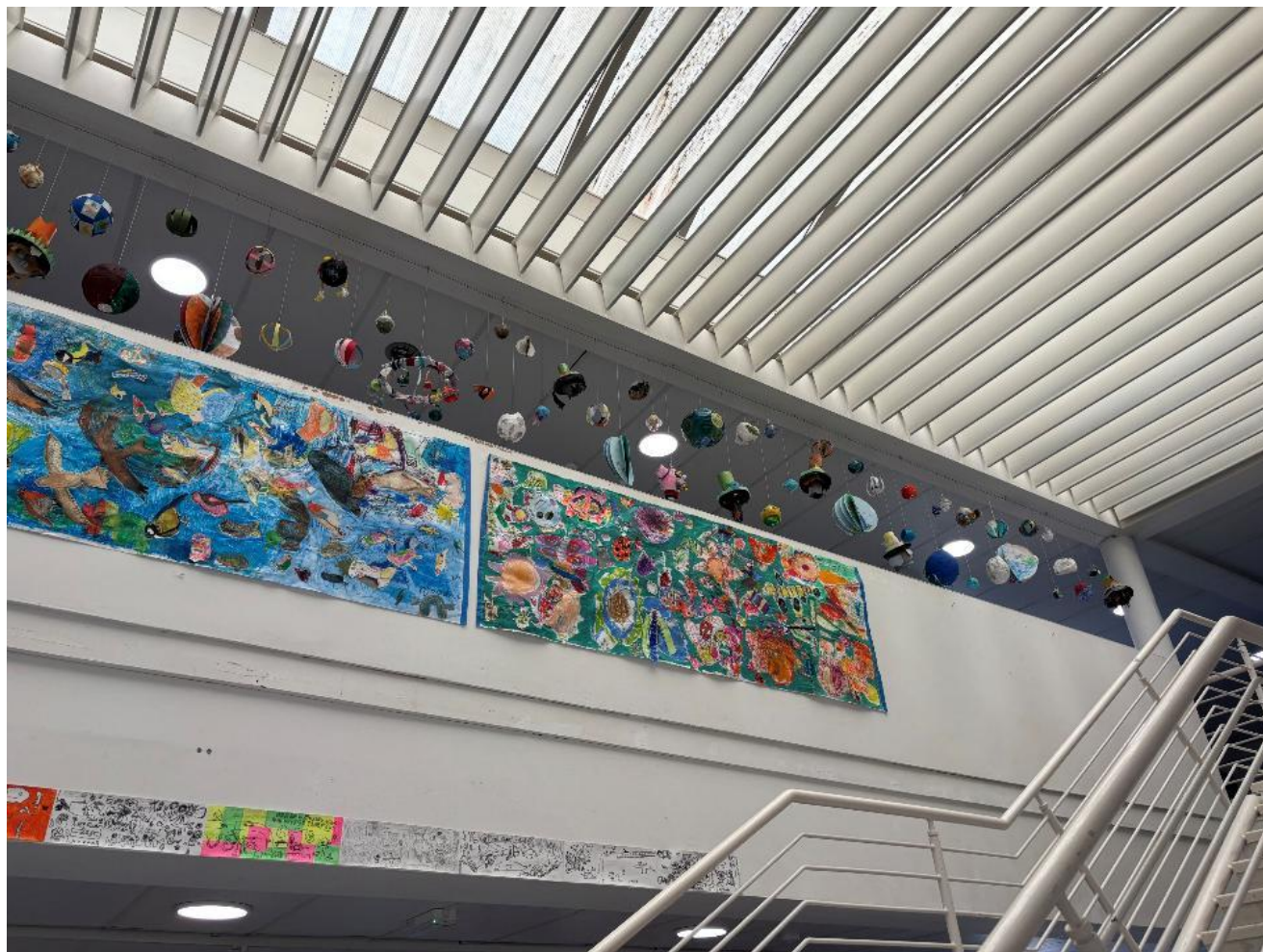












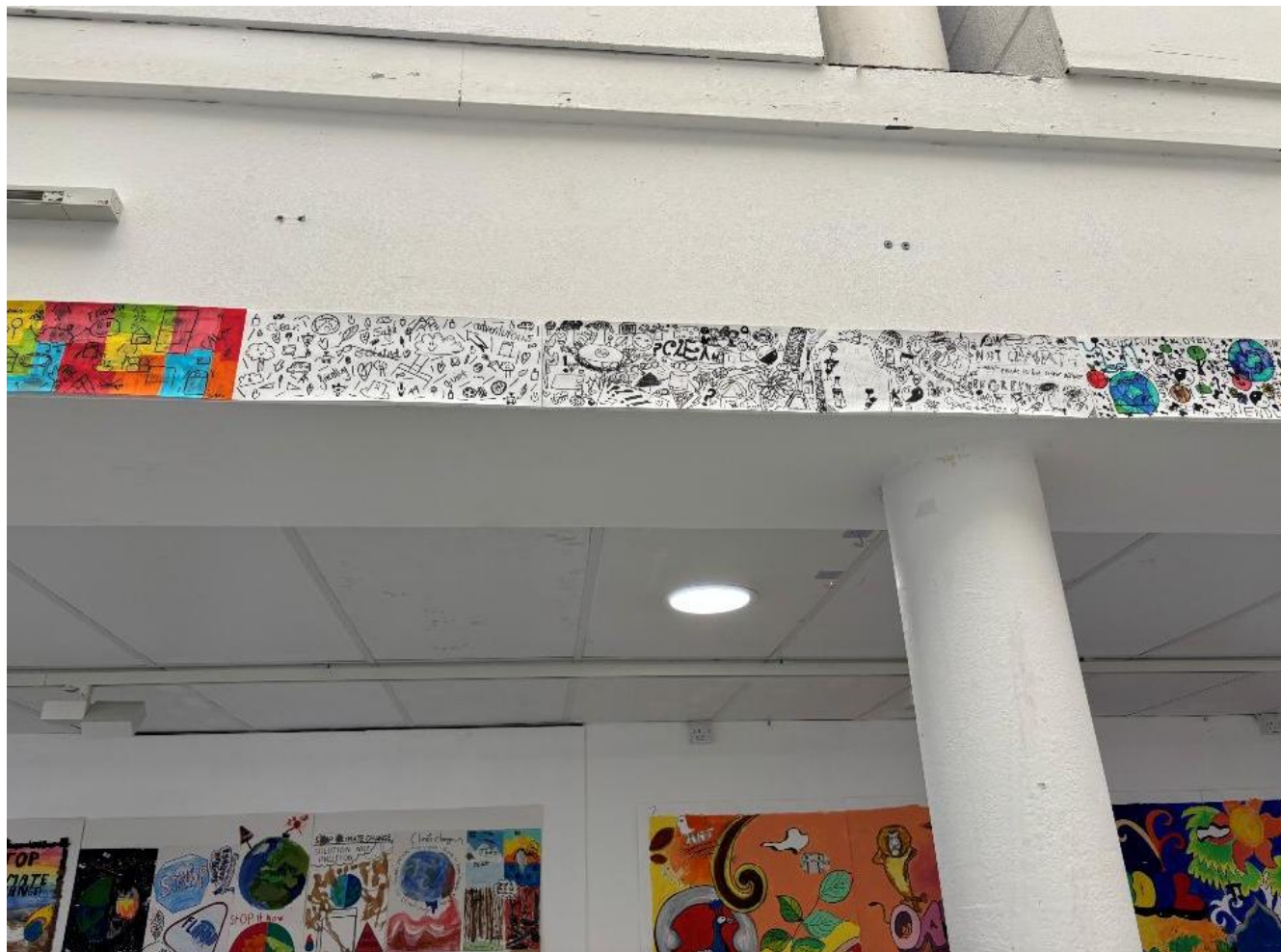








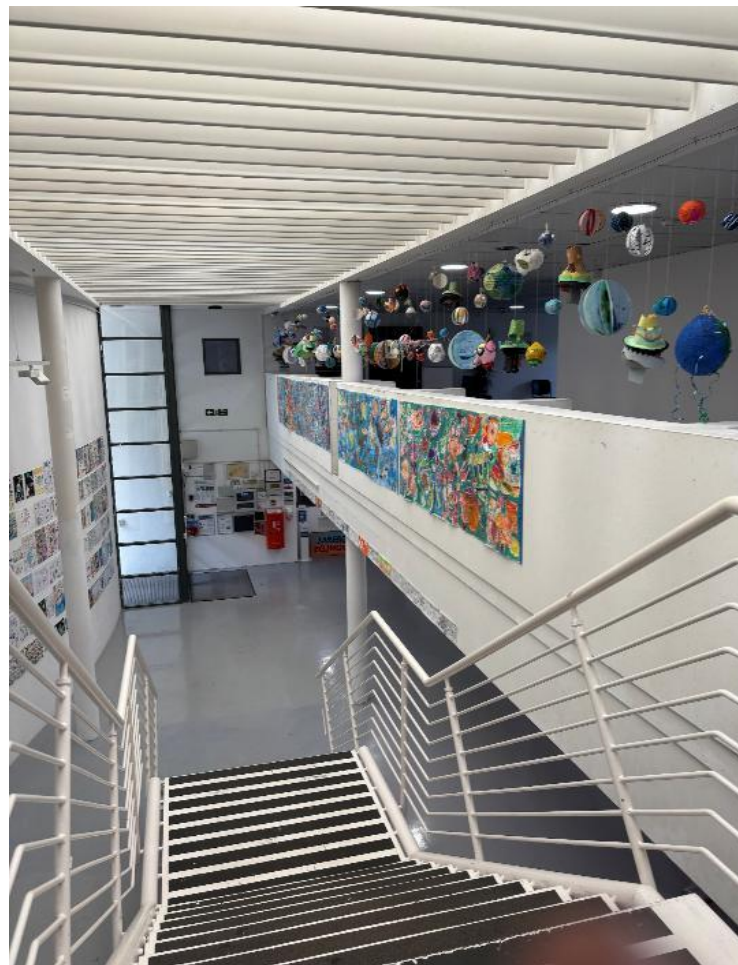














































































# Community involvement

The project also featured a participatory installation on Winchester's green spaces, developed with the University of Southampton's Sustainability and Resilience Institute.

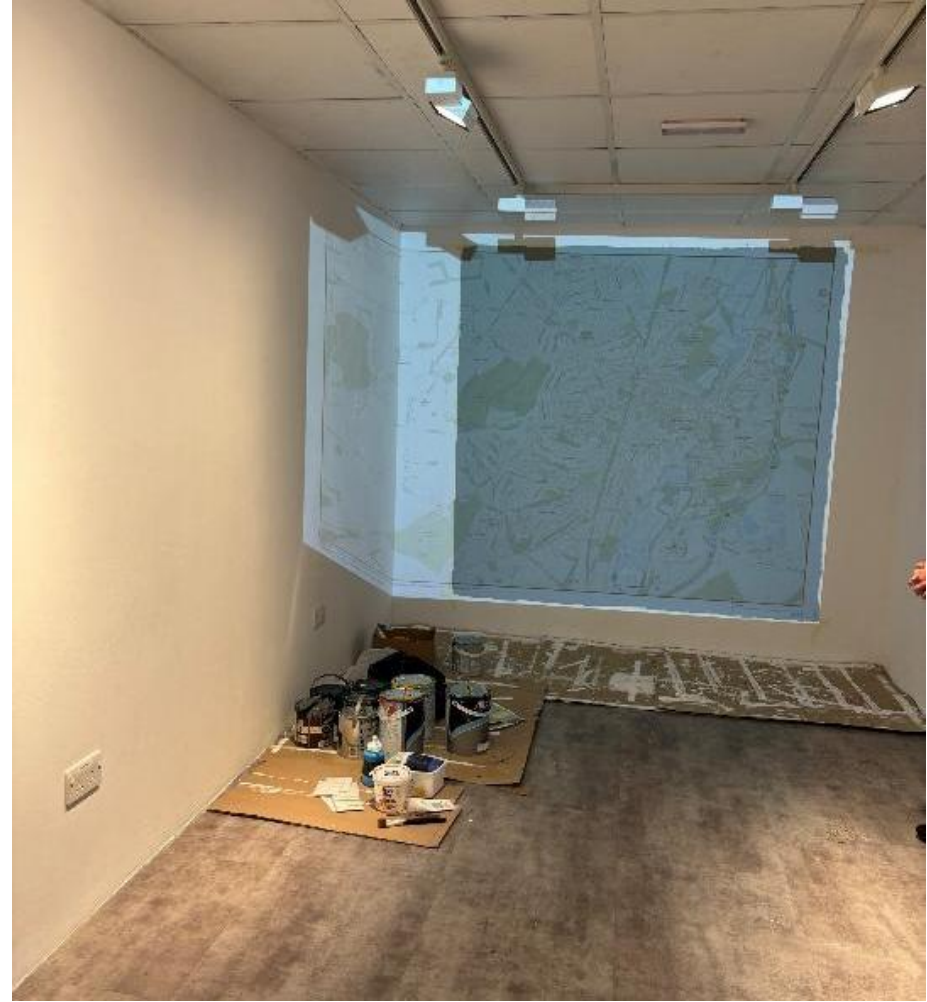
# The Sustainability and Resilience Institute, (SRI) at the University of Southampton





# Winchester Green Spaces Installation

- A map and related questions are part of ongoing research conducted through a collaboration with MA Global Media Management student Zihao Liu and Winchester based artist Helen Northcott. They have collectively developed and created this research map asking audiences what they think and feel about green spaces in the city. This represents part of the media and ecology strand taught at the Winchester School of Art by Georgia Perkins and Hayato Takahashi which invites students to engage with environmental and ecological research through media and artistic methods. In this strand, students create a digital map that showcases ecological relationships within a chosen area through the connection of technology, nature and people. The strand offers a critical exploration of how knowledge on the natural environment can be generated. The media and ecology strand is part of the Global Media 2 module on the MA Global Media Management programme.
- The Stainability and Resilience Institute, (SRI) at the University of Southampton is an interdisciplinary Research Institute. It is a focal point for collaboration through mobilising University of Southampton expertise and partners to deliver impactful real-world solutions to society's sustainability and resilience of challenges.
- Working in partnership with internal and external colleagues, the SRI has a collective international reputation for addressing the most challenging elements of sustainability and resilience through interdisciplinary social, cultural, economic, political and natural environmental work, its key focus areas. Including decarbonised futures, nature-based solutions, climate change, health and well-being, sustainability methods, tools and practices, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- We invited schools to express their views about climate, nature and their local green spaces alongside established artists and groups. An ongoing installation took place where we invited the viewer to participate with the questions:
- *What is important to you about green spaces? What do you want our green spaces to look like in the future? What is your favourite childhood memory of time spent in a green space?*





What is important to you about green spaces?

purpose

Other  
house  
ground  
water  
1993

402551

That they  
are protected from  
the PEOPLE

offering, however, is  
 by a national good will  
 to be used in

2506

4th. Nature  
of the test

Figure 4.5  
Greater big, and  
smaller, and

They were wild  
and wild.

the price was 200  
Calm Tuesday 14  
\* 25 for  
2004 self

# What do you want our green spaces to look like in the future?

More rewilding,  
space for diverse species to  
thrive.

More diverse plants

Community gardens, urban forests,  
 allotments, farms, national

GREEN

Accessible  
to everyone

BIG  
OPEN

Full of wildflowers!



As nature intended,  
full of biodiversity

Accessible  
to all.



Wild and free  
of life

BIG



Wild & free.  
Not (too) managed  
Diverse



a bit overgrown



FREE

Open to all  
and VERY  
LARGE

Be your self!



I...need  
up!

on a  
large green  
field!



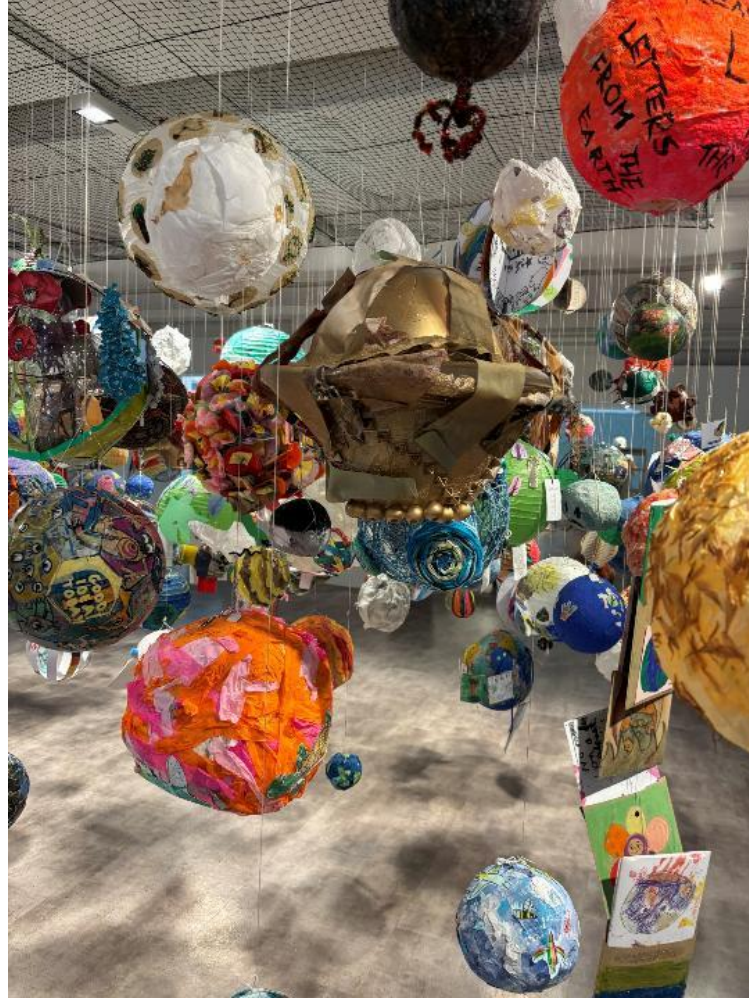


























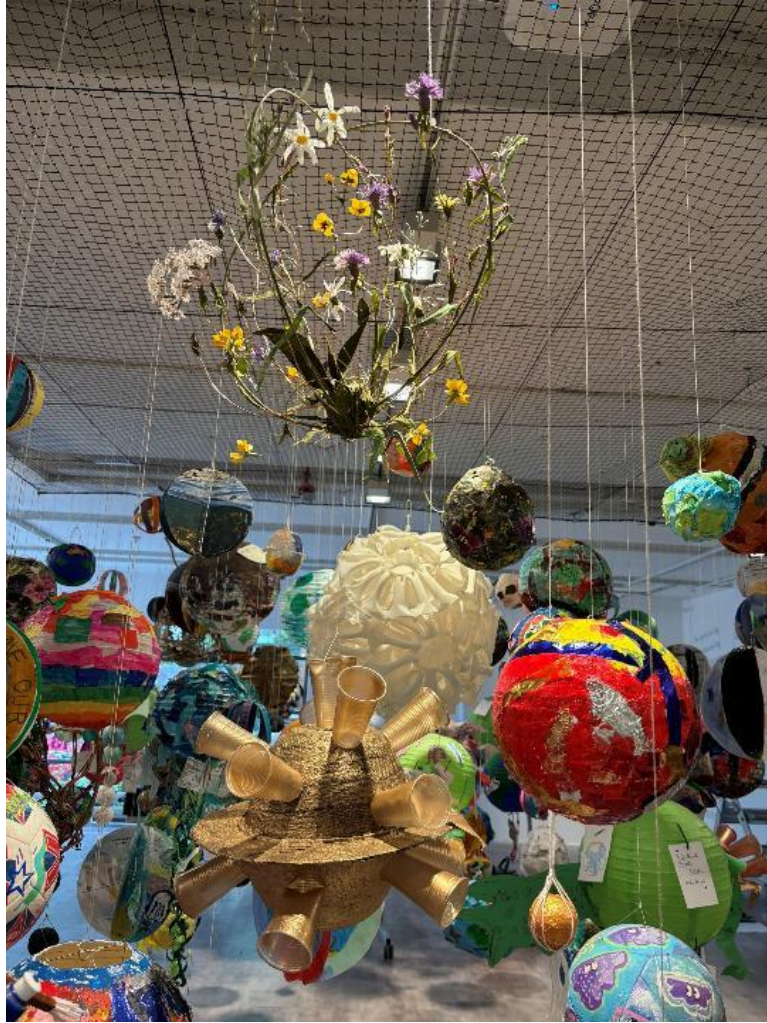








































## Textile banners

Textile banners have been designed by Hampshire schools as part of the Small Worlds exhibition. A selection of children's two-dimensional artwork was used to be printed on to banners. They share the artists' views on climate justice and what steps we can all take to support a healthy environment for future generations. The selection of banners were printed by textile technicians at the Winchester School of Art and displayed to complement the exhibitions indoors in the foyer and gallery.





# Community involvement

The exhibition included contributions from local community groups such as the Winchester Litter Pickers, who helped collect materials for the installations.







The Winchester Gallery

# SMALL WORLDS

COLLECTIVE INSTALLATION EXPLORING CLIMATE,  
NATURE AND PLANET

**11.07-16.08.2025**

## SMALL WORLDS

Collective installation exploring climate, nature and planet

Preview at The Winchester Gallery  
10<sup>th</sup> July 5–7pm

Free Event

You are warmly invited to a special preview of this large-scale installation featuring 3D spheres by artists, communities and pupils from schools across Hampshire.

Created in collaboration with Hampshire County Council's Climate Unity project.

Exhibition continues until 16<sup>th</sup> August

@thewinchestergallery

The Winchester Gallery,  
Winchester School of Art,  
Park Avenue,  
Winchester, SO23 8DL

Opening times:  
Tuesday–Friday 12–6pm  
Saturdays 12–4pm



# Media

Read the following articles from the Hampshire Chronicle about the Small Worlds exhibition at the Winchester Gallery:

[Small Worlds exhibition at the Winchester Gallery, Hampshire | Hampshire Chronicle](#)

[Winchester kids team up with artists to fight climate change | Hampshire Chronicle](#)

See the below tweet from the University of Southampton about the exhibition:

<https://x.com/unisouthampton/status/1943607160534942040>



