



Creative Missions

A blend of improvised theatre and arts and crafts workshops for families with children aged 6+

A multi-form project by



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.

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



Creative Agents exploring Munch's The Scream

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 sometimes 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

optional add on art trail

In addition to running Creative Missions, we can install a stylish, robust outdoor art gallery with up to 12 stations. Families respond to open-ended prompts at each station to help them explore the art together. This is a self-led offer available at any time, to be experienced at families' own pace.

At festivals, the trail is a useful way of signposting when the Creative Missions are happening, as well as enriching the general festival environment with curious and intriguing art.



Creative Agents exploring an art trail



We can light the art trail so it is still visible at night with solar-powered lights



Appeals to a broad age range of children



Agents Dali and Kahlo at LakeFest



Agents Dali & Kahlo at ValleyFest



A Creative Mission at LakeFest

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!

--- ”-----

How we calculate fees

Fees: These vary depending how many workshops you are booking in one day, and how many participants we are working with, because participant numbers correlates to how many facilitators we need to provide.

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

Materials: depending on the content of the workshop, we may need to factor in the costs 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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