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Graduate Monthly:
Rehearsal for a Conversation

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Five Years: Being Together is Not Enough. 'Rehearsal for a conversation'

Last summer a small group of Graduate Monthly members travelled up from Brighton to take part in the project BEING TOGETHER IS NOT ENOUGH. (Although perhaps sometimes it is?) Our contribution took the form of an arranged conversation containing some predestined questions and subject matter that we felt it would be valuable to discuss in a different context. Edward Dorrian hosted the conversation and intricately weaved in and around our questions and musings about what we have been doing with/in Graduate Monthly.

The descriptively titled Graduate Monthly is a peer-led graduate collective aiming to support and accompany arts graduates in Brighton (and the surrounding area) through the potentially isolating and tricky stages post-arts degree. We have been active for two years now (which is the length of time that I've been a graduate) and we've instigated and been involved in a range of events. In between these activities there are inevitably gaps in which life fills in and over takes our group endeavours. This is part of the deal when you are a working graduate, rather than a student operating on a similar timetable to your peers. We have to pay rent, work part or full time, negotiate the relationships and emotional complexities of 'adult' life; and amongst this try and find the motivation/strength to think about and make art.

Since presenting 'Rehearsal for a Conversation' at Five Years, the group has fluctuated in size and conducted its own residency. This was our biggest undertaking to date and lasted for 3 months – January to April 2019 – and took place on the ONCA Gallery Barge (Graduate Monthly is run in partnership with ONCA). The Barge is situated at Brighton Marina and we took a site-specific approach to the work we made and discussed during the residency. The months in residence were the first three of the year (and the coldest!) and, among other things, the Barge became a refuge from various stresses and strains of life on land. I retreated on several occasions to the dark depths of Barge ('she' has two floors) to think about life with a bit of distance.

The residency included an ongoing partnership with domestic abuse charity RISE and culminated in a group exhibition entitled 'First the Air is Blue'. Due to differing timetables and commitments, the group (there were ten of us in residence) were frequently unable to work together on the Barge, however, the works produced for the show were incredibly cohesive and contained many conversations with one another. Artworks included photography documenting the idiosyncrasies of the Marina, interviews with the maintenance men and a reading of Barge's so-called 'memoirs'.

Looking to the future, Graduate Monthly has recently attracted a new 'batch' of fresh graduates brimming with new ideas and desires for how to take the group forward. Let's see what the next two years has in store.





Reflect on how you occupy
how your voice, in your body



how you occupy space;
voice, in your body, resonates with the environment.







