**Hothouse**

This room in a prominent Scarborough house once played host to a variety of fantastical plants and reptiles, including one of Europe’s largest ferns. Lining the surrounding corridors, were taxidermized animals from near and far. This heritage has catalysed some of our ideas and choices of materials, forcing us to re-think what we consider to be “exotic”. For example, a Scarborough staple: the humble potato. Where would our fish be without their constant companion, the chip? This root vegetable is now homegrown, yet it originates from South America. Similarly, the everyday, mass-produced material - plastic comes from a raw material mined globaly.

In the beginning, we had a common goal: we wanted to be brave, take risks, try new ways of working… Hothouse is an amalgamation of all these ideas. It is site-specific, influenced by the building and its history. It no longer houses one of Europe’s largest ferns, but it does house Scarborough’s largest potato print! (644, in case you were wondering).

It is ambitious, both in scale and purpose. As a collective, we welcome you in to enjoy our playful explorations.

**Our intentions:**

“We wanted to learn from others”.

“…to work outside our comfort zone and help us grow as artists”.

“…to share ideas”.

“To freely express ourselves”.

“…to know ourselves”.

“I don’t know what will happen, but I know I am creating”.

“…to start something… joyful”.

“…to not stick to the usual and the ‘safe’”.

“…to be proud of the small and the big things”.

“I want to play and improvise”.

“I want to be courageous and take risks”.

“…to listen and support”.

“…to not be afraid and unsure about being afraid and unsure”.

**Our outcomes:**

“We have collaborated”.

“I have been brave”.

“…created a playful experience, both for ourselves and the audience”.

“I have created 3D sculptures, where I would usually work in 2D”.

“We have reacted to the space: the physical space, its history, the draft and the light””.

“…worked with limited materials (3 each) and colour combinations”.

“I’ve experimented with the qualities of materials”.

“I didn’t know how far I’d come, how far I’d developed in confidence in social skills and as an artist”.

“It has been a chance to play in a way that is difficult in a more formal environment”.

“I like how we started with the material, then the idea came later. Usually, we work in the opposite way”.

“We have been freer in how we perceive what, “looks nice”.

“Achievement… Dedication… Pride”.

“This experience has inspired a new way of working for me and has shown me that the way we are taught in school can be expanded upon”.

“At first, I wanted my text to be part of the exhibition, so that the audience would know my intentions, but then I realised that I had to let that go and let the work speak for herself, allowing the viewer to bring their own interpretation”.

We have filled the space and I have taken up space

**Artists:**

Monika Kowalczyk

Emily Ford

Rijana Generoso

Millie Mason

Mary Adams

Scarlett O’Connor

Nina Flood

Supported by:

Martha Cattell

Joel Hague

Kyra Stewart

Will Preston and Scarborough Sixth Form College

Led by Kate Genever

Woodend Gallery, Scarborough, YO11 2PW. Tues-Fri, 10am-5pm. Sat-Sun, 10am-4pm. Info@cresecentarts.co.uk

Free Entry | crescentarts.co.uk