

No place like home.

Curated by FIFIELD, V., with contributions from RUGGERONE, L. and
HACKETT, C.

2022

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No Place Like Home

This portfolio represents a compilation of media coverage and exhibited material from the "No Place Like Home" exhibition, which was held on the 5th June 2022 from 12:00-17:00, in Fittie Community Hall, Aberdeen.

Contents

Exhibited Materials	1
Group 1: "Liquid Barriers"	2
Group 2: "Cracks"	4
Group 3: "Photography"	5
Media Coverage	7
Notice in RGU's internal " <i>The Bulletin</i> " newsletter (30th May 2022)	7
Listing on the <i>Open Road</i> website (2nd June 2022)	8
News article in " <i>The Press and Journal</i> " newspaper (P&J website version, 3rd June 2022)	9
News article in " <i>The Press and Journal</i> " newspaper (PressReader version, 4th June 2022)	12

Exhibited Materials

The materials are set into three groupings, each with a separate piece of accompanying text. In addition to the exhibited materials, a link was provided to further artwork arising from the EU Nationals project: www.eunationalsstudy.com. A general description of the study was also provided:

The study seeks to explore and analyse the emotional well-being of middle-age European citizens, who have care responsibilities for families in the UK and in Europe, within the context of the Covid-19 crisis.

As part of the research, each participant was asked to create an artwork that conveys their mood during the months of lockdown. The artwork created was a conversation starter for the in-depth discussion on exploring and analysing the emotional wellbeing. Participants were encouraged to explore their artistic capabilities and create a piece of art that represents their state.

Our main goal in this qualitative study is to produce a rich and in-depth understanding of the participants' emotional experiences, as well as exploring whether their emotional experiences during lockdown were also influenced or shaped in part by the 2016 Brexit referendum results.

Group 1: "Liquid Barriers"

Pieces "C2" (Corrine, France) and "An" (Ilma, Latvia) shown together with the text below:

The theme liquid barriers illustrated for our participants a feeling of being sad, isolated, stuck, and exposed in the UK. One participant drew an ever-growing sea of tears because of feeling alone and cut off from her family in Europe. The combination of Brexit with the added restrictions of Covid for our participants had created barriers, a mass of impenetrable blue sea had become a border control that was difficult to navigate. The sea routes between the UK and Europe had once been a safe passage but had now become inhospitable, tormented, and agitated. Their explanations of their artwork exposed nuances around the sea being a danger zone. They described violently ripped up seas. The channel crossing between the UK and France had bombs falling from the sky marked with the words Covid, lockdown and settled status. One participant's drawing showed a collapsed tunnel that had fallen away to expose cliffs that were a precipice into the sea.

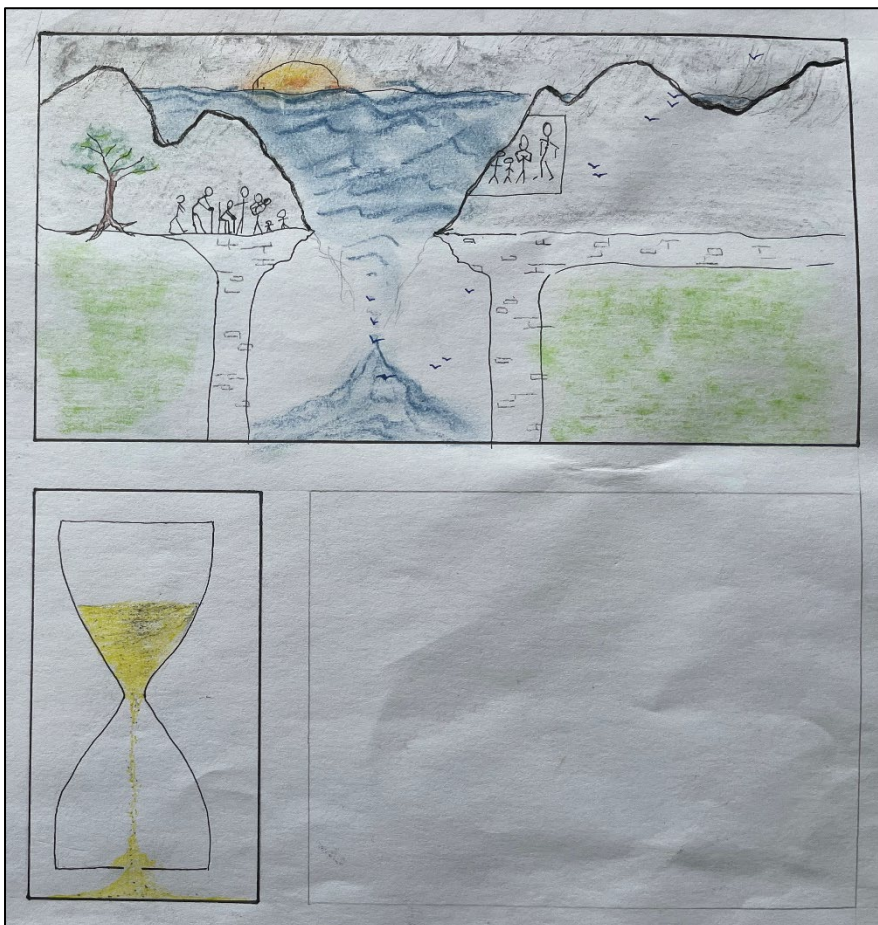


Figure 1. Excerpt from "C2", piece by Corrine from France.

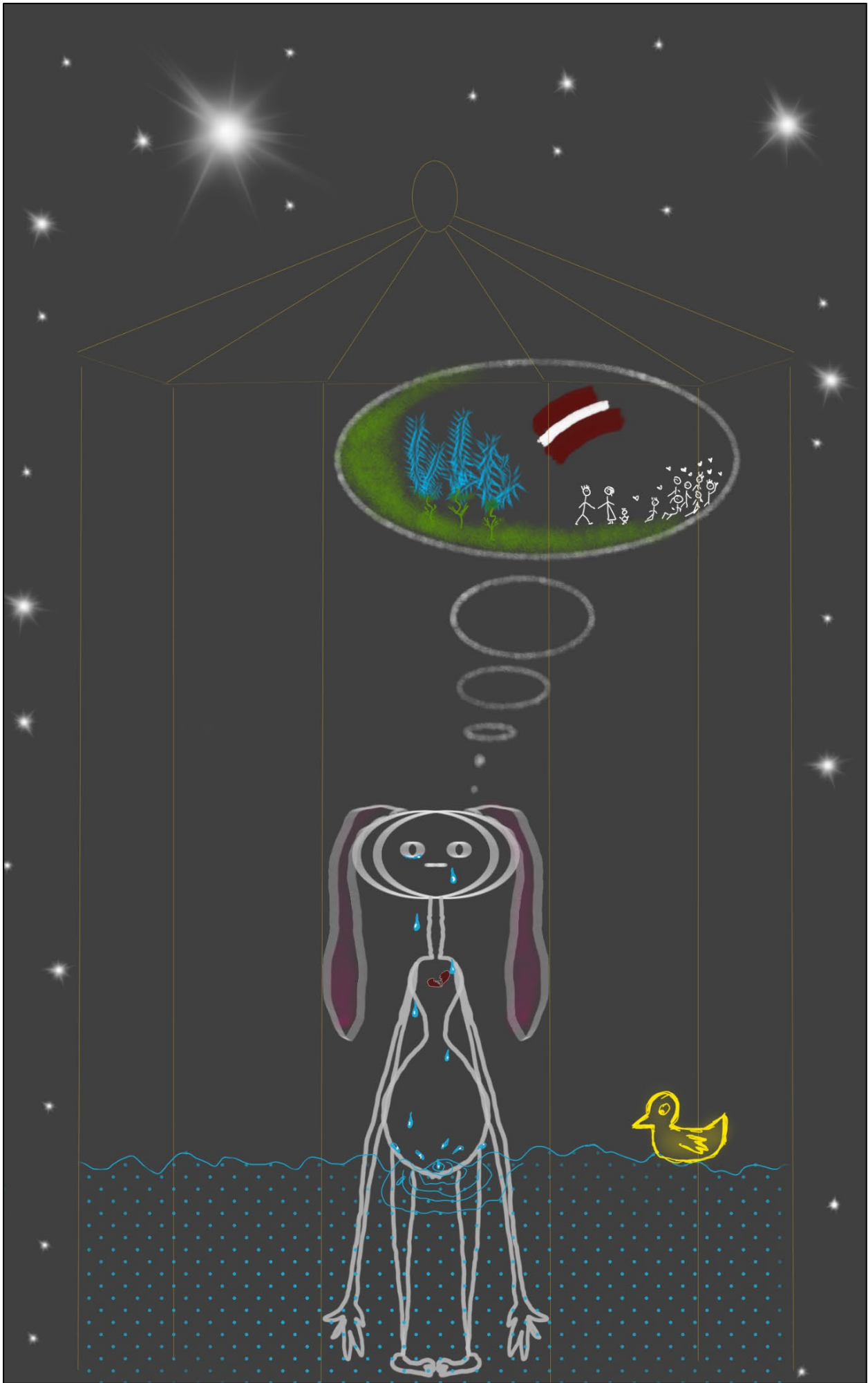


Figure 2. "An", piece by Ilma from Latvia.

Group 2: "Cracks"

Pieces "C2" (Corrine, France) and "L" (Erika, Denmark) shown together with the text below:

Cracks has been a recurrent theme in our participants' artwork and interviews. They talk of cracks across their heart, but also cracks across their whole beings and/or cracks in their lives and their sense of identity, caused by Brexit and/or the impossibility to see their families in Europe during the lockdown periods. For some, it is the heart that is irremediably split, for others their beings are barely held together by the effort to be strong for their kids and/or the hope that things will get better.



Figure 3. Excerpt from "C2", piece by Corrine from France.



Figure 4. "L", piece by Erika from Denmark.

Group 3: "Photography"

Pieces "K1", "K2" (Robert, Poland) and "Ad" (Daniel, Czech Republic) shown together with the text below:

Photography has been one of the mediums used to convey the mood of post-Brexit and lockdown UK. The representation of place on the images is an alienated space. The emptiness of the surrounding landscapes echoes the emotions that were with the research participants at the time. Many felt that this time has allowed reflection but also accelerated pessimistic vision of the future. The feeling of loss was also a frequent indicator of how they experienced that time. The chains are an element that symbolise grounding but also limitations that were imposed during the months of lockdown. The feelings of helplessness were chained into their everyday lives.

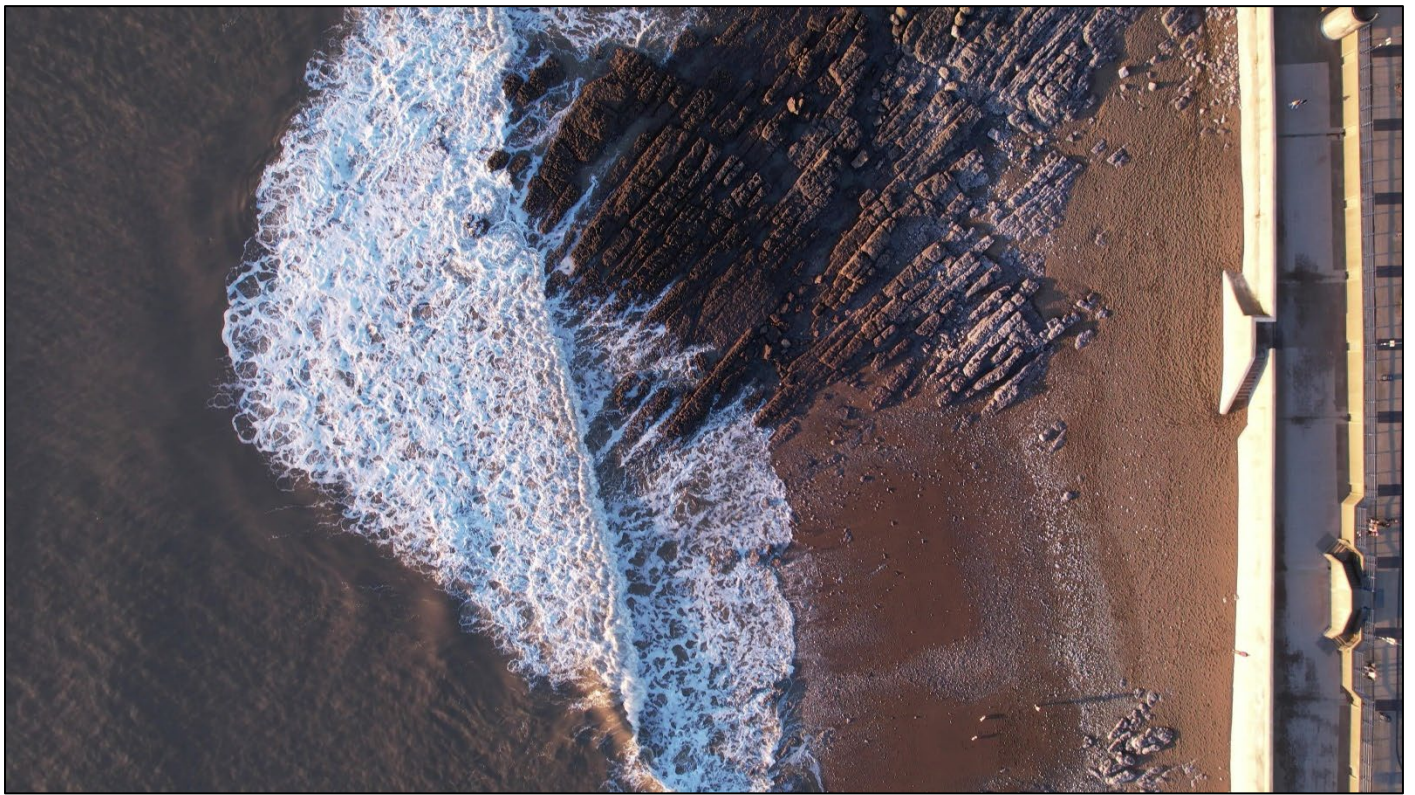


Figure 5. "K1", piece by Robert from Poland.



Figure 6. "K2", piece by Robert from Poland.



Figure 7. "Ad", piece by Daniel from Czech Republic.

Media Coverage

Notice in RGU's internal "*The Bulletin*" newsletter (30th May 2022)

'No place like home' exhibition

Sunday 5 June, 12pm - 5pm

Artworks created as part of an RGU research project into the impact of Brexit on EU nationals living in the UK will go on display at an exhibition called "No Place Like Home", which opens at Fittie Community Hall, New Pier Road, on Sunday 5th June, 12pm-5pm.

Academics from the School of Applied Social Sciences and Gray's School of Art are working with arts organisation [Open Road](#) to contribute to the exhibition, which explores migration and diversity across Aberdeen. The image below shows, from left to right: artist Victoria Fifield, from the "No Place Like Home" exhibition for Open Road; Dr. Lucia Ruggerone, from the School of Applied Social Sciences; and Charles Hackett, lecturer from Gray's School of Art.



Figure 8. Victoria Fifield, Lucia Ruggerone and Charles Hackett standing next to a campus sign at RGU.

The research contributed by RGU is funded by the [British Academy](#) and is part of RGU's [EU Nationals research project](#). The findings of the research will be formally presented at a webinar titled "Lockdown in post-Brexit Britain: how did it feel for EU citizens?", scheduled for Monday 13th June at midday. You can register for this webinar via [Eventbrite](#).

Listing on the *Open Road* website (2nd June 2022)

[\(Click here to view the original\)](#)

No Place Like Home

Art Exhibition in Fittie Community Hall, New Pier Road, Aberdeen, AB11 5DR

Over the last year, [Safe Harbour: Open Sea](#) artist Victoria Fifield has been busy coordinating postal art projects, encouraging folk from Fittie, Aberdeen, and around the world, to get in touch with what home means to them. From Fittie quines living in Australia, to those who have settled in Aberdeen city from far and wide, this exhibition shows the many ways in which we all appreciate and understand what Home can mean and represent. Victoria's work will be complemented by artwork from an RGU research project looking at similar themes.

The No Place Like Home exhibition is open to the public on Sunday 5 June 2022 from 12noon – 5pm.

News article in "*The Press and Journal*" newspaper (P&J website version, 3rd June 2022)

[\(Click here to view the original\)](#)

No Place Like Home: new exhibition marks Fittie Community Hall reopening

By [Danica Ollerova](#)



Figure 9. North-east creative Victoria Fifield.

North-east creative community worker and artist Victoria Fifield will explore what "home" means to locals in 2022 to mark the reopening of Fittie Community Hall.

Her exhibition – No Place Like Home – explores migration and diversity across Aberdeen, and coincides with the re-opening of the newly renovated venue.

Victoria is one of four artists and creative producers working with the Fittie community and harbour area through Safe Harbour: Open Sea, which is part of a wider Scottish Government-funded initiative called Culture Collective.

This initiative was launched at the end of 2020, and aims to use arts and culture to address the impacts of Covid-19 and wider social, economic and environmental influences on communities around Scotland.

It brings creativity and culture into the heart of community life as well as much-needed work opportunities to the region's cultural sector.

Creating work opportunities for local artists

Safe Harbour: Open Sea is working to make the Fittie Community Hall a [cultural space](#), as well as a community venue and extending the project's arts and heritage remit across the harbour area.



Figure 10. The Safe Harbour: Open Sea team helping to shape the future of Fittie through arts. Pictured, from left: Pauline Brown, Marie Driver, Victoria Fifield and Lesley Anne Rose.

It also recognises Aberdeen as a harbour city and a place where people have for generations departed and arrived.

[The Safe Harbour: Open Sea](#) team hosted workshops on environmental sustainability, creative storytelling and building an oral archive of local memories, stories and hopes for the future.

And now, Victoria will present the findings of questionnaires, workshops and submissions to a postal art project on this topic. Also on show will be a selection of artworks by participants in an ongoing RGU research project on EU nationals living in the UK.

She said: "I hope people learn more about the experiences of others who have moved to Aberdeen from elsewhere and that this will create greater empathy and understanding of the difficulties people face as well as celebrating the good things about the city through the eyes of others.

"I also hope visitors will have a chance to reflect on the concept of 'home' in their own lives."



Figure 11. Victoria's work.

Don't miss Fittie Community Hall exhibition

Curated by Victoria, the exhibition is open on Sunday June 5 from noon to 5pm at the Fittie Community Hall on New Pier Road.

News article in "*The Press and Journal*" newspaper (PressReader version, 4th June 2022)

[\(Click here to view the original\)](#)

'Home' is at the heart of exhibition to mark reopening of city hall

DANICA OLLEROVA

North-east creative community worker and artist Victoria Fifield will explore what "home" means to locals in 2022 to mark the reopening of Fittie Community Hall.

Her exhibition, *No Place Like Home*, explores migration and diversity across Aberdeen and coincides with the reopening of the newly renovated venue.

Victoria is one of four artists and creative producers working with the Fittie community and harbour area through *Safe Harbour: Open Sea*, which is part of a wider Scottish Government-funded initiative called *Culture Collective*.



Figure 12. Victoria Fifield.

This initiative was launched in late 2020 and aims to use arts and culture to address the impact of Covid-19 and wider social, economic and environmental influences on communities around Scotland.

It brings creativity and culture into the heart of community life as well as much-needed work opportunities to the region's cultural sector.

Safe Harbour: Open Sea is working to make the Fittie Community Hall a cultural space, as well as a community venue and extending the project's arts and heritage remit across the harbour area.

It also recognises Aberdeen as a harbour city and a place where people have, for generations, departed and arrived.

The Safe Harbour: Open Sea team hosted workshops on environmental sustainability, creative storytelling and building an oral archive of local memories, stories and hopes for the future.

And now, Victoria will present the findings of questionnaires, workshops and submissions to a postal art project on this topic.

Also on show will be a selection of artwork by participants in an ongoing Robert Gordon University research project on EU nationals living in the UK.



Figure 13. One of the pieces of artwork in the exhibition.

She said: "I hope people learn more about the experiences of others who have moved to Aberdeen from elsewhere and that this will create greater empathy and understanding of the difficulties people face, as well as celebrating the good things about the city through the eyes of others.

"I also hope visitors will have a chance to reflect on the concept of 'home' in their own lives."

Curated by Victoria, the exhibition is open on Sunday from noon to 5pm at the Fittie Community Hall on New Pier Road.