

SIT-IN #1:
RUTH EWAN

We Could Have Been Anything
That We Wanted to Be and It's
Not Too Late to Change



The Ignorant Art School: Five Sit-ins towards Creative Emancipation

Sit-in # 1: Ruth Ewan

We Could Have Been Anything That We Wanted to Be and It's Not Too Late to Change

Cooper Gallery

Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, University of Dundee

[Launch Event](#): 25 February 2021, 7.30-9.00pm (online)

[Sit-in Curriculum #1](#): 25 February - 24 April 2021 (online)

[Exhibition](#): 2 September–9 October 2021

Cooper Gallery will launch a major five-chapter exhibition and event project [The Ignorant Art School: Five Sit-ins towards Creative Emancipation](#) with Sit-in #1 by internationally celebrated Scottish artist Ruth Ewan opening online on 25 February 2021.

Questioning what art education is and whom it serves, *The Ignorant Art School* brings together artists, designers, educators, activists, culture workers, students and other publics, to creatively re-imagine and co-constitute a collaborative and decolonised blueprint for a socially transformative art education that opens towards an emancipated future.

Repurposing equality as a practice rather than an ideal, *The Ignorant Art School* examines the histories and future possibilities of art education. Directed towards a revolutionary and creative emancipation *The Ignorant Art School* celebrates feminist and social activist bell hooks' declaration of "education as the practice of freedom" by building communities of resistance and care.

Composed as five 'Sit-ins' *The Ignorant Art School* adopts the activist tactic of occupying institutional space as a critical and creative attitude and praxis to transform the Cooper Gallery into a laboratory for radical, ethical and accessible pedagogies for the many.

Rekindling the political turmoil and desires for emancipation set alight in Dundee by the French Revolution, *Sit-in #1* of *The Ignorant Art School* by Ruth Ewan proposes 'we could have been anything that we wanted to be and it's not too late to change.'

Traversing multiple histories, alternative social structures and popular culture, the exhibition and online *Sit-in Curriculum #1* radicalises imagination as a revolutionary act to reveal the urgent cogency of collaborative learning and transgressive reimagining as the world struggles towards a 'new normal.'

The fulcrum underscoring *Sit-in #1* are Ewan's decimal clock and perpetual calendar installations. Inspired by these novel and disruptive modes of marking time first introduced during the French Revolution, *Sit-in Curriculum #1* adopts radical forms of collaborative learning and grassroots knowledge creation. Featuring amongst others 'An Optimism Class', 'A Sensuous Knowledge Class', 'A Play Class', 'A Strike Class' and a 'A Radical Pub Crawl', *Sit-in Curriculum #1* deploys imagination in all its rich and revolutionary power.