



Drawing from Breathe:2022, Dryden Goodwin. Image courtesy the artist and Invisible Dust, 2022

BREATHE:2022 - EXPLORING AIR AND ACTIVISM FOR LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2022

Featuring six Lewisham residents and clean air campaigners, including Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah

Launches 8.30am, 18th May 2022, Old Town Hall, Catford.

Artist Dryden Goodwin is working with Invisible Dust and an Imperial College air pollution scientist to reimagine and extend his seminal 2012 *Breathe* artwork a decade on as a flagship commission for Lewisham, London Borough of Culture.

Breathe:2022 by Dryden Goodwin is a multifaceted artwork combining over 1,000 new drawings that will appear as still and moving images on sites close to the heavily polluted South Circular Road from **18th May - December 2022**. Relating to the death of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah and the growing battle for climate justice, it connects this global health emergency to the daily lives of local Lewisham residents and activists.

Six individuals from across the borough bear witness to the impacts of air pollution - and the power of activism - through their bodies and breath. Participants from local activist groups including Choked Up, Mums for Lungs, Clean Air for Catford, and Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah - mother of Ella and the founder of the Ella Roberta Family Foundation, as well as Goodwin's now 15 year old son and a younger school child, have been drawn by the Lewisham based artist as they 'fight to breathe'.

Drawings from *Breathe:2022* will appear as large-scale zoetropic sequences of posters on a range of railway bridges and the side of the Old Town Hall, Catford. The artwork will also be presented as still and moving

images on a range of JCDecaux roadside hoardings, and will culminate as large-scale projection animating over 1,000 drawings in November 2022 to close the programme.

Appearing as a staged visual takeover of the borough over six months, starting in the choked underpasses of busy bridges, through to roadside hoardings and buildings, and finally projected up high - *Breathe:2022* asks us to both stay with the claustrophobia of 'fighting for breath' but begin to look upwards and outwards, towards the possibilities of community action and a clean air future for all.

Artist Dryden Goodwin:

"I experience drawing as an act of empathy, thinking yourself into another person's life, their emotions and story as you draw them. As it's clear we don't all breathe the same air, the role of empathy will play a vital role if we are going to achieve the change needed locally and globally. Through making hundreds of drawings of these 6 individuals - the activists, my son and a younger local child - animation seems to become a metaphor for essential collective action."

Lucy Wood, Associate Art Science Producer for Invisible Dust:

"Dryden Goodwin's delicate yet powerful drawings of these inspiring Lewisham air campaigners enable us to connect to what it is to be human and strive for clean air for our children and those vulnerable in our cities."

Participant Quotes:

Rosamund Adoo-Kisi-Debrah, Founder of Ella Roberta Family Foundation and *Breathe: 2022*

participant: *"Art is a way of making the invisible visible, that's why I'm part of this project. It's about awareness, about getting everybody on board. Politicians say people aren't ready, but they ARE ready. We can't go back, there's no turning back now – it's a red alert, it's a public health crisis"*

Anjali Raman-Middleton, Co Founder of Choked up and *Breathe:2022* participant:

"For people of colour in particular we are forced to choose between our communities and culture, and our health – this isn't a choice that anyone should have to make"

2022 is the tenth anniversary of Dryden Goodwin's *Breathe* produced by art science organisation Invisible Dust with London air quality scientists. For his 2012 work Goodwin created an animation of over 1,000 drawings of his five-year-old son inhaling and exhaling air. Over several weeks in October 2012 Goodwin's film was projected large-scale on the roof of St Thomas' Hospital, London, opposite the Houses of Parliament.

Ten years on, the issue of air pollution is increasingly urgent. Lewisham is often at the centre of the national conversation, led in part by the urgent work of the Ella Roberta Family Foundation following the tragic death of Ella Kisi-Debrah after an asthma attack in 2013. In a 2020 landmark judgment, a coroner found "*exposure to excessive air pollution*" had contributed to her death, adding that "*the whole of Ella's life was lived in close proximity to highly polluting roads*". Lewisham Council has the policy to treat air pollution as a public health emergency; it is blighted with illegal levels of air quality, particularly around the South Circular Road, which has serious health impacts, often on the poorest communities.

The project is advised by Dr Ian Mudway of MRC Centre for Environment and Health, Imperial College London. Ian brings over 25 years of world-leading research in environmental toxicology, and his work is currently focused on understanding early life impacts of pollutants on the development of the lung and cognitive function in children living within urban populations.

Breathe:2022 will also feature at the Wellcome Collection who will host original drawings by Goodwin, and a sound piece created from the participants' words, as part of their major new exhibition 'In the Air' opening on the 19th May 2022.

To extend the community engagement in this urgent topic, Invisible Dust will present a free 'community day of air action' in partnership with the Horniman Museum centered around *Breathe:2022* on 30th July 2022, and from September 2022 will run *Drawing Breath* - a schools programme enabling over 100 secondary pupils from across Lewisham the chance to work with Goodwin to co-create an ambitious air pollution-focussed animation.

Breathe:2022 by Dryden Goodwin is commissioned by the Albany and produced by Invisible Dust and presented as part of *We Are Lewisham*. *We Are Lewisham* is presented by Lewisham Council and the Albany as part of the Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2022.

[Download Images here](#) - note all images must be credited: 'Drawing from *Breathe:2022*, Dryden Goodwin. Image courtesy the artist and Invisible Dust, 2022'

Ends.

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Notes to Editors

Breathe:2022 - Wraparound Engagement programme

Breathe:2022 will also offer a range of free engagement activities. A day of 'Community Air Action' taking place on the 30th July 2022 at **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** will enable hundreds of people from across the community to connect creatively to the issues around air pollution, meet local air pollution campaigners and experts, and find out ways to take action. Workshops, performances and more will all be free to access on the day.

Dryden Goodwin working with Dr Ian Mudway will develop an art-science toolkit for the ***Drawing Breath*** schools programme, enabling Goodwin to collaborate with over a hundred Lewisham secondary school pupils and their teachers to create an ambitious breathing-focused crowd-sourced animation. Alongside the large-scale projection of the animations on the Old Town Hall in Catford at the end of November, a ***Breathe:2022 finale*** event will celebrate the power of community action and further amplify the call for change.

About Invisible Dust:

Invisible Dust works with leading artists and scientists to produce unique and exciting works of contemporary art and new scientific ideas exploring our environment and climate change. We engage audiences with artist commissions, large scale events, education and community activities and seek to raise awareness of, and behaviour change around, increasingly urgent environmental concerns. Invisible Dust is based at Woodend, Scarborough and works across the UK and Internationally
www.invisibledust.com Twitter: Invisible_Dust Insta: @invisible_dust

About the artist:

Dryden Goodwin is an artist and filmmaker, engaging with different uses of drawing, the camera lens and soundtracks, he has made works for galleries, museums, public space, cinemas and online. His practice involves close observation and engagement with people, be they strangers encountered in the city, family and friends or specific groups with a shared experience of work or environment. His work explores the boundaries between anonymity and intimacy, public and private, individual emotional worlds and group dynamics. Goodwin's work has been shown extensively nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Tate Liverpool, The Photographers' Gallery, London, The National Portrait Gallery, London, the Venice Biennale, OCAT Xi'an, China and the Hasselblad Foundation in Gothenburg, Sweden. His work in collections includes The Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Tate Collection, The National Portrait Gallery, London, The Arts Council Collection, UK and The Science Museum, London. He is a Professor at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL.

www.drydengoodwin.com

About the *Breathe:2022* participants:

Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah - Rosamund is the founder and director of the Ella Roberta Foundation, a charity named after her daughter, who died of air pollution related causes. The Ella Roberta Family Foundation is **part of the Clean Air Campaign**. It works to promote, educate and research causes and prevention of asthma within South East London. It raises awareness in local schools, at community events, and is involved in the new asthma tool-kit implementation.

<http://ellaroberta.org/>

Anjali Raman-Middleton - Anjali, 18, is an A level student, environmental activist and co-founder of Choked Up, a campaign formed by black and brown young people to highlight the disproportionate impact toxic air pollution has on marginalized communities. Twitter: @ChokedUp_UK @Anjali_Irm
https://www.instagram.com/chokedup_uk/?hl=en

Ted Burke - Ted, 43, is the London Campaign Organiser at Friends of the Earth. He supports Friends of the Earth's grassroots network of around 25 groups across London to have a positive impact on the environment in their communities and beyond. He is also the lead organiser of Clean Air for Catford, a local group pushing for better air quality in South East London.

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Tafari McCalla - Tafari, 10, cares very much about the impact of pollution on our environment. He loves drumming and biking and is involved in his school eco club. He is a young expert and enthusiast on electric vehicles, especially trains which continue to inspire him to research about more eco friendly transportation.

Alice Tate-Harte - Alice Tate-Harte, 42, is a mum from Forest Hill who started the Forest Hill Society's Clean Air SE23 campaign. She also works with *Mums for Lungs* and campaigns about climate change with *Climate Action Lewisham*. She works as a conservator and became interested in how Air pollution affects people after seeing how it causes historic objects to deteriorate.

<https://www.mumsforlungs.org/>

<https://climateactionlewisham.org/>

Heath Cole-Goodwin - Heath, 15, has grown up in Lewisham. He is Dryden's son and featured as a 5 year old in the first incarnation of 'Breathe' in 2012 when a drawn animation of him breathing was first projected on top of St Thomas Hospital opposite the Houses of Parliament. He is proud to be participating again in *Breathe:2022* to express the increasingly urgent dangers of air pollution especially on young people. He values lung health as a committed football player training and playing each week in South East London.

About We Are Lewisham:

From venues to parks and street corners, *We Are Lewisham* will tell the story of Lewisham's trailblazers past and present via music, dance, debate, public art and more. With a call to action on the climate emergency and a celebration of Lewisham's diverse communities, the year-long programme is inspired by the borough's rich history of activism and standing up for equality. Jointly led by Lewisham Council and The Albany, *We Are Lewisham* will bring together all of our neighbourhoods, communities and stories.

www.wearelewisham.com

About Dr Ian Mudway and MRC Centre for Environment and Health:

Dr Mudway's work is focused on understanding **early life impacts of pollutants** on the development of the lung and cognitive function in children living within urban populations. The MRC Centre for Environment and Health undertakes the highest quality research in the fields of environment and health, to inform health policy and the understanding of key issues affecting our society. The Centre achieves this by bringing together the best researchers from all areas of public health, encouraging novel cross-disciplinary approaches, and by providing the highest quality training to new and existing researchers in these fields. The Centre is based upon the principles of openness, transparency, inclusivity and integrity in all its work, with the primary goal of improving national and international public health and protecting the future generations.

<https://environment-health.ac.uk/>