



2021

Image: Still from 'A Rough Guide to Ceilings' by Lisette Auton.

DASH

As we settle in to 2022, we wanted to take a moment to reflect back month by month on 2021 and to thank all our artists, curators, partners, donors, funders, staff and board members for standing with us through another challenging year, as we continue to support disabled artists to overcome the effects of the ongoing Covid pandemic.

January

The New Year saw us still in lockdown, so we commissioned five artists to create a series of short films as part of **Awkward Bastards at Home**.

These films reflect life as a Disabled artist during the pandemic and were released over the first five months of the year. First up was **Lisette Auton's 'A Rough Guide to Ceilings.'**

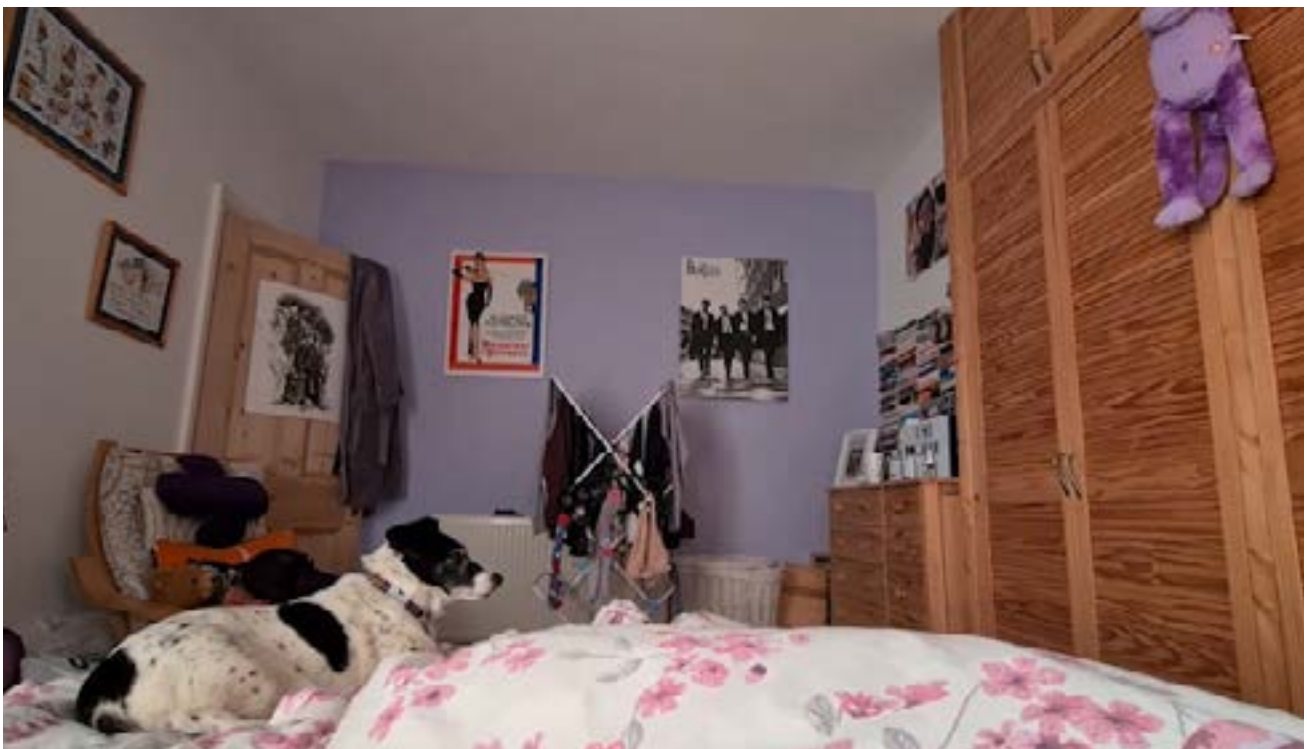


Image: Still from 'A Rough Guide to Ceilings' by Lisette Auton.

February

DASH worked with the [Visability Film Festival](#). This new festival aimed to raise the profile of Disabled and neurodivergent filmmakers.

Following the event, we were grateful to receive 50% of the festival profits, helping us to support more Disabled artists.

Cultivating (more) Flight in Blue Skies was the second residency and commission opportunity, produced by Coventry Biennial, DASH and Talking Birds. It was awarded to Warwickshire-based artist **Rosa Francesca**.

We premiered the second Awkward Bastards at Home film: **'The Desert Mountains & Dreary Glaciers are My Refuge'** or **'The Follicle Distancing in Glacial Increments'** by **Ashokkumar Mistry**.



Image: Still from **'The Desert Mountains & Dreary Glaciers are My Refuge'** or **'The Follicle Distancing in Glacial Increments'** by **Ashokkumar Mistry**.

March

Artistic Director, Mike Layward spoke to [Booker T Skelding](#) about her photography journey and the photographers that have influenced her.

DASH introduced another Awkward Bastard: **Emma Plover** talked honestly and openly in her film **'What was the Question Again?'**

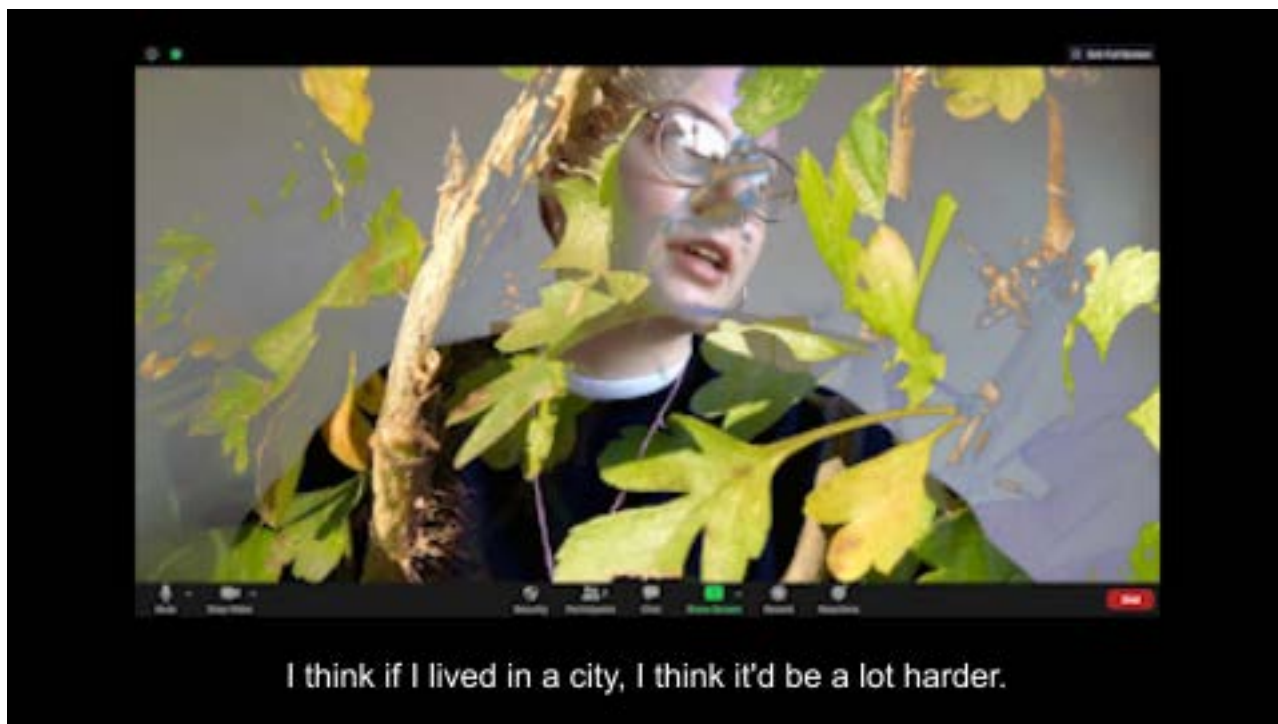


Image: Still from Emma Plover's film 'What was the Question Again?'

April

DASH was successful in its application to the **Culture Recovery Fund**, receiving **£35,000**. This investment would help DASH extend its services and plan for its future.

DASH launches [BEAST!](#) This pilot training programme for artist mentees, with a focus on business skill for artists, ran from April until July and was well received by participants.

The [Worlds Within Worlds](#) project began; a series of inclusive online workshops was aimed at young artists aged between 18 – 30. These short courses were designed to inspire young Disabled creatives.

Artistic Director Mike Layward interviewed [Lynn Cox](#) about her artwork and the artists that influence her.



Awkward Bastards at Home presents **'fragisle'**. In this film, **gobscure** channels awkwardness as a plague-doctor-bosch-bird.



Image: Film still from 'fragisle' by gobscure.

May

Awkward Bastards at Home draws to a close with **Aaron Williamson's** film, '**Professional Management Communication**'.



Image: Still from Aaron Williamson's Awkward Bastards at home film.

June

DASH is awarded the prestigious, [Ampersand Foundation Award](#) for the 'We Are Invisible, We Are Visible' project.

Mike Layward, DASH's Artistic Director said:

"To be awarded the Ampersand award for this surreal intervention will not only have a massive impact on Disability arts but will show that the visual arts institutions are now open and willing to change."



Image:
The Nightmare
(after Fuseli) by
Tom Shakespeare



WAIWAV
WAWTAW
We Are Invisible We Are Visible

[Curating Institutional Change](#) was a series of three-panel discussions with incredible speakers responding to provocations and with an open Q and A. These popular events discussed how the visual arts sector can become more inclusive and accessible for Disabled people.

July

[Wysing Arts Centre](#) launch '[Version](#)', their first onsite exhibition of 2021, from sound artist and DJ Ain Bailey, curated by DASH Artist, [Hannah Wallis](#) as part of her curatorial residency. The exhibition ran until 22 August.

[The Future Curators Programme](#) launches. The network, which includes three galleries and DASH, sought three more partner organisations to take part and develop the next round of curatorial residencies, which will take place from 2023-2026.



Image: Ain Bailey's work in the Version exhibition at Wysing Arts Centre (photograph by Wilf Speller)

August

This month the staff took some much needed and well-earned time off to recharge.

September

DASH celebrated its 20th year and staff made a tentative return to the office for meetings. It felt good to be back and see each other in 'real life'.

We partnered up with **In Place of War** for their [100 Agents of Change](#) project, supporting 10 young D/deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent artists ahead of their online residency in November.

DASH worked with [Creative Black Country](#) as part of the **Black Country Business Festival 2021**, presenting one of a series of free online sessions: **Demystifying Accessible Marketing Communications**.

October

The DASH [We Are Invisible We Are Visible WAIWAV](#) project begins in earnest. With the artist applications in (all 150+ of them!) and a list of galleries wanting to participate, this ambitious project takes shape.

November

DASH receives **£35,000** from the third round of the **Government's Culture Recovery Fund**.

This will help to improve administrative resources, enabling staff to be flexible and adaptable to new ways of working, whilst continuing to ensure access to arts and culture for D/deaf and Disabled artists.

December

We were busy preparing for the year ahead, implementing the changes needed to our administration and technology to facilitate flexible working, driving forward our projects, and planning our 21st Birthday celebrations in 2022!

We look forward to bringing you news and updates throughout this New Year, so make sure you sign up to the [DASH newsletter](#).

Support Disabled Artists by supporting DASH - visit our [Donate page](#).

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).



DASH won the Ampersand Award!

Worlds Within Worlds took 14 Disabled artists into another dimension!

The Future Curators Programme was launched.

Our highlights of 2021

Over 100 artists received mentoring.

BEAST provided training for 40 Disabled Artists.

Supported over 20 disabled artists with funding applications.

A huge THANK YOU to all our supporters and funders:



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