

# Karen Whiterod

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My creative practice has evolved over many years. Exploring through physical making has been a main thread. A need to be active and useful around climate change has manifested through sculpture, participatory art projects and workshops since 2001. I have worked both as an artist and in other roles in community re-generation. Working with local government environment departments, wildlife trusts and community groups and in schools, mostly as Footprint Arts, which I set-up to deliver workshops.

**Oct 2017 to present day** developing *Balanced-Earth* plant mobiles using waste materials

**2018** *Circle of Renewal*, sculpture commissioned by Norfolk Waste Partnership, exhibited at the One Planet Norwich Festival in the Forum, Norwich, then at event in seven other district council areas.

This sculpture is composed of three standing forms which suggest a sacred circle. Each form is made of a "honeycomb" of hexagonal cells, each cell was a plastic bottle. The largest and smallest forms are reconfigured from a previous sculpture, "Lightness of Being". The blue-tinged form is made from small bottles, these were made from recycled plastic and are rejected due to faults.

**2017** *Hope Calling project* and *Nest of Hope* exhibited at the Waveney Valley Sculpture Trail. The Hope Calling project was designed and organised by Karen Whiterod, funded by Norfolk County Council Arts Fund and through crowdfunding. Participants concerned about climate change, participated in workshops in Norwich and King's Lynn to craft words of hope about the world we wish to live in. Following an exercise called, "What is climate justice?", participants spent time "free writing" to find their words and phrases to express active hope. They learnt techniques to craft these words from discarded power and communications cables. Poem messages were composed with these words and posted daily on social media during the trail.

**2015** *Revelations of Divine Love: Creativity & Compassion*, exhibition of art inspired by the writing of Julian of Norwich, Burning Bush Barn contemplative art space, Rockland St Mary, Norfolk

**2011** - *The Journey* - Bergh Apton Sculpture Trail, Bergh Apton gardens, Bergh Apton, Norfolk

**2006 - onwards** working as 'Footprint Arts' designing and delivering art workshops intending to encourage respect for our world and "green habits". Working with local authorities, wildlife trusts and environment organisations to provide creative activities at events. Workshops in schools as part of art, design and technology subjects and special events/projects, such as environment days, art festivals, technology days and inset sessions. With community groups and organisations for occasions such as exhibition art activity programmes, flower festivals and food & drink festivals, mainly in Norfolk, Suffolk and surrounding area but not exclusively [www.footprintarts.co.uk](http://www.footprintarts.co.uk)

**2001 onwards** - exhibition environmental sculptures using waste plastics, details on [www.axisweb.org/artist/karenwhiterod](http://www.axisweb.org/artist/karenwhiterod)

**1991 - 1999** - Worked as designer-maker of nylon jewellery exhibiting internationally.

## **Arts education**

2000 - Brighton University, Sussex. **MA Degree in Design by Independent Project**, coordinated self generated project to design and make "Lighting Stabile" sculpture for theoretical public art commission for John Innes Conference Centre

1995 - Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge. **Diploma of Credit, *Artists in Primary Schools***. Part-time one year, funded by Eastern Arts Board

1990 - **Jewellery and Silversmithing BA Hons Degree**, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, Birmingham

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[www.axisweb.org/artist/karenwhiterod](http://www.axisweb.org/artist/karenwhiterod)

[www.footprintarts.co.uk](http://www.footprintarts.co.uk) (my community arts website)