



THE MOVING GALLERY



Experience art
in everyday life

The Moving Gallery (MG) is a Reading Buses' double-decker transformed into a temporary, travelling, curated art space.

In July 2017, MG launched an open call, looking for Artists interested in exploring the theme of public mobility and how it can influence the sense of place and community.

MG found the Artists it was looking for and opened the first art exhibition on a totally functioning urban bus in the UK.

For a period of 6 weeks (Dec.9 - Jan 20), MG travelled on the usual routes across Reading, having regular bus passengers as the audience and exhibiting artworks by:

**William Lailey
Therese Lawlor
Ben Mosher
Sam Stead
Alda Terracciano
Tim Wilson**

Using an urban bus as the privileged tool to deliver this project was not a casual pick.

The bus, by its nature, represents an **inclusive community**, which reactivates some processes that are getting obsolete. In a society where people are encouraged to adopt an individualistic way of life, the bus implicitly asks people to share a very small place with others, to listen to their talking or to notice their moods.

The bus is also the **symbol of mobility in a place**; it is the most democratic and open of the means of transport; it is **based on a sense of trust** on the others. The trust that the bus is going to pick 'me' up, on the other people inside the bus who are not going to harm 'me', on the bus driver who has the responsibility of many lives while driving.



MG being installed onto the 530 double-decker bus at the Depot. Dec, 8th, 2017.

530 is the double-decker that hosted MG.

It was run as a **“jolly” bus**, a bus that varies routes on a weekly or daily basis, to reach as many different places and people as possible.

Covering different routes at different times, MG had on board, for instance, University students in the evening, pupils in the afternoon, elderly in the early mornings, professionals at the peak hours, etc.



MG on-route. Dec, 12th, 2017.



The inside of MG looking out to a view of Reading.

MG final destination: JELLY

Now that MG is not on-route anymore, the Producer and the Artists found in the **Jelly's Conversation Space** the perfect spot where to continue the dialogue with its privileged audience. As a bus, the Broad Street Mall is packed with people who don't expect to find art in the premises.

And this is what the MG project was about. **Art that occupies the everyday life, that can be seen by everybody, free of cost.**



Jelly Studios in the Broad Street Mall.

MG exists thanks to Reading Buses and their willingness to embark on new, bold projects. Accepting to install an art gallery on one of their buses is an example of such an attitude.

The project found support in other open-minded individuals and organisations in and outside Reading. MG is grateful to:

Jelly, which participated in the selection process and exhibits the MG original pieces at the Conversation Space

Reading BID, which financially contributed to the project with a grant and by promoting the initiative as part of its 'Christmas in Reading' programme

The MG artists, William Lailey, Therese Lawlor Ben Mosher, Sam Stead, Alda Terracciano, and Tim Wilson/Gooley Eye for their commitment and resilience

Martin, Ian, Mark, Tim, and Kristijan, the printers, whose support during the production stage was essential to make MG happen

Marian Stindt, an independent curator who supported MG during the selection and production process

All the artists in Reading who have shown interest and helped MG to move forward

Cllr. Sarah Hacker and the Art&Heritage Forum, who were all intrigued by the MG's idea and offered valuable advice to make the project matters

Artists exhibited at MG and now at JELLY



WILLIAM LAILEY

Bio

William studied photographic arts at The University Of Westminster and was a vocational tutor of photography at Reading College. He is currently working as a freelance photographer.

William for Mg

The **Photobus** is a **photographic portraiture project** that features portraits and interviews collected from the bus passengers and staff who provide the bus services. These interactions produced a collection of photographs and small quotes that have been displayed on the interior of a 530 Bus creating a space of conversation between the entire communities and Reading Buses. **The PhotoBus is also online @the_photobus_rdg on instagram.**

William at Jelly

William presents four selected portraits from the Photobus together with a newspaper, revealing a more narrative approach to the brief of MG and allowing the audience to experience a more intimate conversation. The Photobus will continue to appear in different local coffee shops with a selection of work on display. More work can be seen at:
www.cargocollective.com/williamlailey



William Lailey, *The Photo Bus*, 2017. Portrait's on vinyl fixed to cove panels and stairwell.

THERESE LAWLOR

Bio

Born and educated in Ireland, Therese worked in television and advertising. She came to live in Reading in 1988 and she is now the Communications Officer at the Reading Guild of Artists.

Therese for MG

The Reading Quiz is a work intended for **children**, who represented a very special audience of MG. The artist produced slightly obscure paintings of well-known Reading landmarks and turned them into booklets for display on MG. She provoked the little ones, asking '**How well do you know Reading?**' Reading Buses go to all of the places depicted in the images and her piece is meant to promote the history of the town. Also part of Therese's work was a **competition** with a prize for the lucky winner.

Therese at Jelly

Therese exhibits the **original painting** that was the winning answer to her children's quiz on MG. It was Broad Street! And the building in the picture can be seen from the upper deck of many buses at the junction of Broad Street and West Street.



Therese Lawlor, 'Reading's Broad Street',
2012, Watercolour. The painting was part of
Therese's booklet for MG.

BEN MOSHER

Bio

Ben is an artist based in Halifax, Canada. He is informed by interests in digital and mechanical modes of communication, with a deep appreciation for written/visual forms of everyday poetic language.

Ben for MG

Signal (Blue Red Yellow) is a looping video piece displaying and accentuating the folly that comes with our blind faith in our own personal biases. Two lights become placeholders for opposing parties in our society, these infallible machines continuously contradict and argue with each other through Morse code. The video is also **accessible on www.vimeo.com**, Signal Blue Red Yellow.

Ben at Jelly

Ben shows the **original version of Signal**, meant to depict an irrational argument that is predicated on differing perspectives on the environment around ourselves. This simplification creates an accessible and whimsical **viewpoint on current domestic and international tensions.**



Ben Mosher, *Signal (Blue Red Yellow)*, 2017, video
(10 min. 11 sec.)

SAM STEAD

Bio

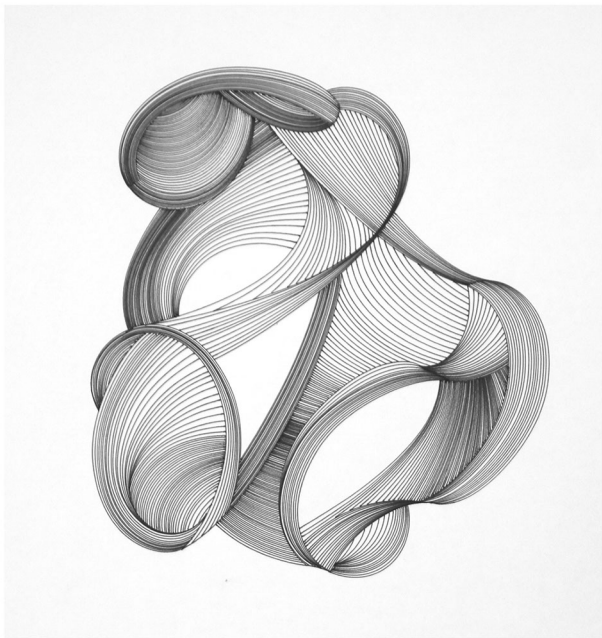
Sam graduated in Sculpture at the Glasgow School of Art, having previously studied Molecular & Cellular Biology. He now concentrates on drawing, picking up on themes of repetition of linear elements.

Sam for MG

Line Drawing#25&Line Drawing#26 were applied to the exterior of the bus 530. What begins as a simple line drawing on paper had to be scaled up and reconfigured, the **simplicity of the drawing** allowed for the increased size to happen without losing the sense of the drawing as an artwork. The abstract nature of the work and the manner in which it was drawn means that it wasn't intended to represent anything in particular, allowing the viewers to project their own interpretations onto it.

Sam at Jelly

Sam brings in the **two original drawings**, which inspired his piece for MG. The drawings grow line by line, each line drawn in relation to the previous one or groups of lines. As more and more lines are drawn, a form emerges, quite organic in nature.



Sam Stead, Line Drawing#15, 2017, Drawing on paper. The drawing inspired Sam's work for MG

ALDA TERRACCIANO

Bio

Alda is Honorary Research Associate at UCL, co-leader for the Centre of Critical Heritage Studies at the University of Gothenburg, and the Artistic Director of ALDATERRA Projects, www.aldaterra.com

Alda for MG

Reading Memory Routes explored the intangible heritage of diverse communities in Reading. On the day of the MG launch, Alda invited the public to share a special **memory of a specific place they see from the bus in their daily bus journeys**. These memories were recorded, then pinned to a map of the bus route, and woven together in a dramaturgical sound composition to be experienced by passengers in their journeys through the city. As a result, the bus route became a living museum of cultural memories open to all for the entire duration of MG.

Alda at Jelly

Alda presents her Reading Memory Routes **audio installation**, composed of **32 digital memories** collected during the individual memory sessions she performed with the Reading Bus passengers. These are meant to be a window on the everyday life, cultural heritage, and sense of home/identity.



Alda Terracciano, performing the Memory Session during the MG launch event. Dec, 9th, 2017.

TIM WILSON

Bio

Tim is an artist and designer, whose sculptures, and installations often invite you to engage with kinetic objects, curious props, or a space where the conditions are in constant state of flux.

Tim for MG

Tim has **modified** all the **stop buttons** on the MG bus with **fifteen different alternate symbols**. The buttons were operational; they were there to be noticed, touched and pressed. Passengers may consider what the symbol **[familiar but incongruous with its surroundings]** could mean to them in the context of their surroundings/journey, the subsequent agency of pressing - and reflect on what they might have wished the effect to be.

Tim at Jelly

Tim is exhibiting **photographs of four of the modified buttons** from his piece on the bus - and a **poster** that he made for the Moving Gallery project.



Tim Wilson, Buttons, 2017, Designs on vinyl, exhibited on MG.



The Moving Gallery
by Anna de Amicis

In partnership with Reading Buses
With the support of Jelly, Reading BID, and Marian Stindt

www.moving-gallery-reading.com
<https://www.facebook.com/the.moving.gallery/>
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Readingbuses

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