



Three friends established the foundation in memory of Ulrike Michal, an accomplished artist and a highly qualified veterinary neurologist and surgeon, on December 2nd 2019. The foundation was registered with the Charity Commission on March 20th 2020 three days before the first national covid-19 lockdown was announced.

Despite the lockdowns, the trustees continued their work in preparing for the launch of the first grant round based on the foundation's purpose:

“to promote, encourage and extend the love, appreciation, enjoyment, understanding and practice of fine, decorative and applied arts among people of all ages through experiences at museums, art galleries, historic properties and in the community at large, both as individuals and communally, as participants and spectators, across north Wales, Merseyside and the border counties of Cheshire, Shropshire and Herefordshire.”

This document will highlight a small selection of the projects the Foundation supported during the first three grant rounds. The fourth round projects are happening now (October 2024). The fifth round will be the final and most generous round that the Foundation has organized and is seen as culmination of the Foundation's activities.



Round 1: Beyond The Artist's Eye, National Museums Liverpool (August 2021 – March 2022)

This project focused on using a new microscope to capture detailed images and surface scans of a 16th century Renaissance painting, *Madonna and Child with Angels* by Joos Van Cleve, held in the collections of the Walker Art Gallery, National Museums Liverpool. This conservation project was part of the preparatory work for the re-display of the Renaissance Galleries at the Walker. The project was organized by David Crombie, Senior Paintings Conservator, and undertaken by Guilia Campagnari, conservator.





Round 1: Nature Celebration, Irene Evison, Nearly Wild Weaving (Autumn 2021 – Summer 2022)

Irene Evison organized a project based around weaving outdoors, inspired by the nature around Llanymynech, the village that straddles the Powys-Shropshire border.

Her project involved working with local schools, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, walkers ambling along the Montgomery Canal and nature lovers in the local nature reserve.

The resulting artwork was displayed in the village shop and in the village pub.



Round 2: The Likeness of Things, Kirkby Gallery (exhibition: May – July 2022)

To mark Knowsley Borough's Year of Culture in 2022, Tina Ball of the Kirkby Gallery teamed up with internationally respected art curator, Catherine Marcangeli, and the Adrian Henri Estate to stage *The Likeness of Things*, a major art exhibition of the works by Mersey Beat era artists John Baum, Maurice Cockrill, Adrian Henri and Sam Walsh, and their combined impact on the city of Liverpool's cultural scene.

Tina Ball gained the Foundation's support to



fund the conservation of three paintings for display in the exhibition and the adaptation of the gallery to allow the public display of Maurice Cockrill's *Scillonian Pumps* for the first time in over a decade. Alongside the exhibition, Kirkby Gallery delivered a schools programme, teacher training and curators' talks. The exhibition also saw the publication of a detailed catalogue and proved how showing artworks of national and international reputation can be a transformative experience for a local museum and art gallery and its supporters, stakeholders and communities.

The Trustees were bowled over by the exhibition and its impact during their visit.



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Round 3: Automata Arts, Ali Pickard (exhibition April – June 2023)

Ali Pickard approached the Foundation to support her in creating a new body of work and her involvement in an exhibition, alongside six other creative practitioners, at Tŷ Pawb in Wrexham.

As an artist, Ali Pickard specializes in producing automata using a combination of embroidery, fabric and mixed media.

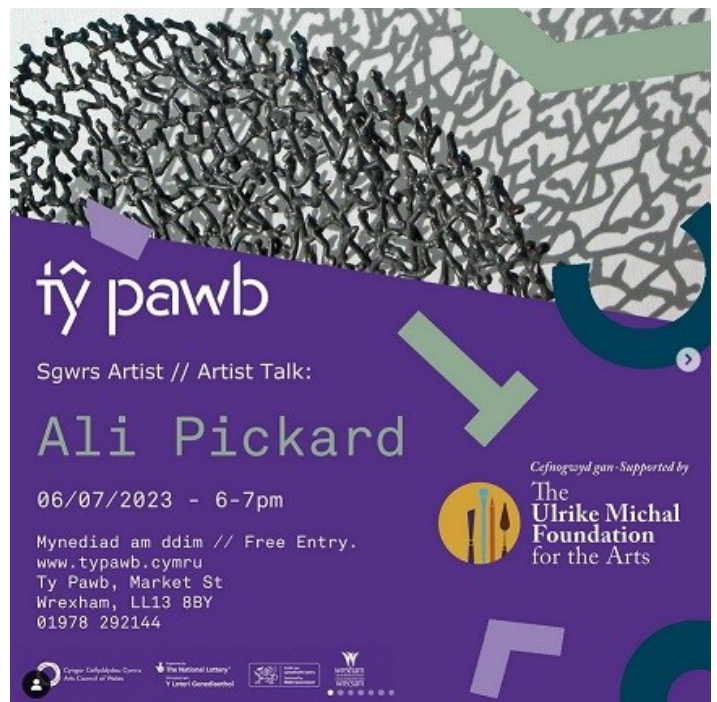


In her application she outlined her experience in encouraging community creativity and as part of her project delivered a family workshop based around 3D-design, mechanical movement, the use of recycled materials, imagination and problem solving.

In her gallery talk she explained how she designed and built the automata on show in her exhibition, the skills involved, how she had acquired these skills and their importance to

her artistic development.

This project proved how one of the Ulrike Michal Foundation's smaller grants, with the right project and the right artist involved, could have an impact out of all proportion to the money outlaid.



Round 3: Picturing Community, Joseph Schneider (May 2023 – February 2024)

Joseph Schneider is a north Shropshire-based artist who approached the Ulrike Michal Foundation in late 2022 with his plans for an artist's residency on the streets of the attractive border town of Oswestry. His project plans also included drawing and painting workshops and an exhibition at the local art gallery, QUBE.

Inspired by Ford Maddox Brown's famous painting, *Work*, Joseph set himself the task of embedding himself in the Oswestry community so he could create paintings that portray the life and the people of that town.

Joseph staged eight workshops focused on 'en plein air' painting, plus a series of workshops based on drawing, painting and collaging directly onto photographic prints of...



At the Junction, Oswestry, 18th May 2023, by Joseph Schneider

... buildings around Oswestry.

He also staged an event involving a printed 'brick wall', chalk markers and young people's imagination. The project also saw exhibitions at two venues across Oswestry.

These projects are a sample of those the Ulrike Michal Foundation has been able to support over the past five years.

{Right: Jackie 'Car Park', Oswestry, 27th July 2023, Joseph Schneider, acrylic on board. Purchased by Oswestry Town Council.}

(Below: Exhibition featuring Joseph Schneider's art-works, Summer 2023)

