Wonderfully Surreal

Strange but Familiar

exploring the art of Lee Miller™ and Roland Penrose™

Catalogue for visual arts competition 2025

A celebration of art work by pupils at East Sussex schools and colleges











Farley Arts Trust

with education at our core

FARLEY ARTS TRUST

What we do

The Farley Arts Trust draws inspiration from the artistic legacy created by Roland Penrose and Lee Miller. After the Second World War they lived in London and at Farleys House in Chiddingly, East Sussex. Many of the most significant Surrealist and Modernist artists, poets and writers of the 20th century including Paul Eluard, Max Ernst, Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Pablo Picasso, Dorothea Tanning, Dora Maar, Leonora Carrington, Françoise Gilot, Sonia Orwell and Man Ray spent time with them at their Sussex home. The Trust aims to extend an understanding and appreciation of this unique artistic legacy, which represented one of the most momentous periods in our recent cultural history, through a programme of arts and educational projects.

Over more than 20 years this has included exhibitions, talks, workshops, performances, awards and bursaries designed principally to engage young people and local communities. These include the Farley Arts Trust Awards which are held biennially and in which every state secondary school, college and academy in East Sussex is invited to participate. Since 2006 they have submitted work by hundreds of their A level and GCSE students.

These activities are made possible through support from charitable trusts, local societies, government grants, sponsorship from companies, donations and legacies from individuals as well as the expertise and voluntary work of the Trustees. In recent years crucial funding has included grants from The Chalk Cliff Trust and The Band Trust. The Trust also receives continuing and invaluable support from the staff of Farleys House & Gallery Ltd.

Who we are

Patron
Baron Fellowes of West Stafford

Trustees
Griselda Bear (Chair)
Antony Penrose (Founding Trustee)
Cllr Daniel Butcher (Treasurer)
Mark Barrett
Tony Biggin
Rosemary Colebourn

Special Advisors
Emma Donovan (Public Realtions and Marketing Consultant)
Sam Martin (Arts Education Manager - Wonderfully Surreal)
Miranda Pennington (Arts Education Manager - Arts Awards)
Joel Tebbett (Website)

INTRODUCTIONS

For this second *Wonderfully Surreal* competition we have added the subtitle *Strange but Familiar* and extended the range of inspiration for the students to include the art work of both Roland Penrose and Lee Miller. We are delighted to have received entries from more than 60 students doing A level or GCSE visual arts at 11 schools, colleges or academies in East Sussex. We are always intrigued by the ideas, and impressed by the creativity and skills, of the young people who take part in our projects and most grateful to their teachers and schools for supporting them in these activities.

This catalogue illustrates all the entries in *Wonderfully Surreal - Strange but Familiar* and the exhibition of the 15 winning photographs, taken by the students of their own art works, will be on view during Artwave from 13 (not 14) to 20 September in The Atrium at the Marine Workshops in Newhaven. This spacious gallery gives us the opportunity to again bring the winning works from the first Wonderfully Surreal 2023 – 24 competition to public view and show them along with the new works from 2025. We are once again offering a free, artist-led workshop for the winners and another for teachers from participating schools. These will take place in September at Towner Eastbourne. We are most grateful to Towner for its considerable support of the workshops and exhibition and in particular to Esther Collins, Liz Corkhill and Mollie Howells for the workshops and Nick Stockman for the exhibition at The Atrium.

As part of Wonderfully Surreal 2025 we will also be selecting one of the participating students to receive the first Sylvia Tidy Award for an art work which powerfully demonstrates experience of current matters of concern to young people. Sylvia Tidy was a long-standing Trustee and Chairperson of the Farley Arts Trust who sadly passed away earlier this year. She was always passionately keen to advocate support, through the work of the Farley Arts Trust, of young people whose work powerfully demonstrates awareness of important current issues of personal and community concern. We all keenly endorse her wish and will continue to mark that through this Sylvia Tidy Award.

Griselda Bear
Chair of Farley Arts Trust

Once again, our local students have presented a selection of work that would have gladdened the hearts of many of the original Surrealists. Our entrants seem to have an immediate and perceptive understanding of the passions that underpinned the movement. As to be expected each individual approach has created work that is strikingly original. By turns we see moments from dreams skilfully presented with passion and imagination. These events are snatched from the artist's sub-conscious and presented to us in a manner that reinforces the wonderful diversity of their originators. The range of work travels from the romantic to observational and gritty social commentary. In every case we are informed, provoked and delighted, exactly according to the intention of Surrealism and forcefully demonstrating the movement is alive and well among our young artists.

Antony Penrose
Founding Trustee, Farley Arts Trust

WINNERS

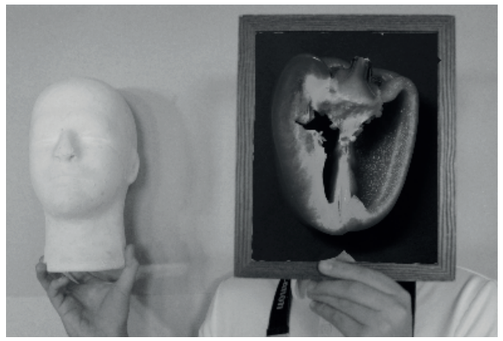


Callum Beach

The Whispering Menagerie
Mixed Media
Uckfield College

'This piece is inspired by the symbolism used by Roland Penrose in his piece *Winged Domino* (portrait of Valentine Penrose).

Winged Domino makes me look at art as a narrative, in this piece I see the danger and softness of life. Imagine a classic leather doctor's bag, resting not on a clinical table, but in an unexpected place. Unlatch the clasps, and alongside the sterile tools, a curious menagerie emerges. A slender meerkat pops up wearing a white coat. A distinguished Consultant Stoat wears a stethoscope draped around its neck, ready for a check-up, while kindly Nurse Otter, in her child-friendly tabard, waits to greet the anxious patient. This isn't just a bag; it's a portable wonderland where medical tools become toys and the sterile becomes a storybook. It's a place to play out worries, transforming the strange, shiny objects of a hospital into familiar, comforting companions for a gentle adventure. This interactive sculpture is inspired by the narrative charm of Beatrix Potter and the surreal whimsy of René Magritte.'





Mikey Huggett

Future Man
Monoprint
Seahaven Academy, Newhaven

'A Second World War gas mask takes the centre spot and neon green molecular cells and rays are printed to frame the face. A futuristic but dark composition has been created which draws the viewer into a surreal space.'

WINNERS

Jamil Ceesay

Basketball Explosion
Drawing
The Eastbourne Academy

'My last GCSE project for Art was about Identity and, as I was introduced to the artwork of Lee Miller and Roland Penrose, I continued to think about Identity. Using *Hair Boat* by Roland Penrose as my influence, along with themes from previous work, I created my version of objects that relate to me. *Basketball Explosion* is a tonal pencil study that is Strange but Familiar. I have incorporated my basketball shirt, my penguin, a well and a waterfall to create this surreal artwork.'



Max Lewry

Pepper Head
Photography
Bexhill Academy

'This piece was inspired by Lee Miller. I created a surreal image with the use of frames to create an eerie effect. I added humour with the use of a pepper replacing a head.'

Ava Lambert

Untitled
Mixed Media
Priory School, Lewes

'My art piece is inspired partially by a woodlouse which is a micro creature. I believe the most surreal and obscure things in the World are hidden in plain sight right before our very eyes. If you look at micro photography of insects and creepy crawlies they can seem to emulate our greatest childhood nightmares and deepest fears. We are so used to viewing them with fear that we are not able to see the beauty hidden within their forms. Instead they evoke uncanny and surreal emotions in us. To me the woodlouse has 'prongs' bursting out all along its sides suggesting inner chaos splintering outwards like shards of glass. Their form seems abstract and alien. The palette I have used of deep ruby and pearly white are in stark contrast to each other suggesting purity which has been tainted and disrupted. These features are disorientating and invite the viewer to imagine a world just beyond our real landscape .'



Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

WINNERS



Amelia Nott

A Froggy went a Courting
Painting
Uckfield College

‘This piece is inspired by Roland Penrose’s *Kenya*. I was sitting beside a fish pond studying the water and could not see anything beneath the layer of frog spawn. These tiny jelly like forms that we have studied since our childhood slowly develop through to tadpoles and frogs. We study bacteria through microscopes and look close-up at wildlife to try and learn about their habitats and lifestyles. We live alongside animals and wildlife and could not exist without them. I have tried to show this alongside the idea of the circle of life and have taken on Penrose’s technique of collage to create my piece.’

Lahni Berwick

Burnt Out and Filthy 2025
Photography
The Eastbourne Academy

‘I was influenced by Lee Miller’s black and white photographs. I was unsure what to focus on after taking many photographs of portrait distortions through schooner glasses. I came across a burnt out car whilst walking in Eastbourne and to capture the moment I convinced my brother to be my model. Thinking like a photojournalist I created my photoshoot and took several different viewpoints, posing my brother in several different positions creating several different compositions. I feel this photograph captures the moment. I feel the light, composition and viewpoint make the image strange yet familiar. I notice my brother’s t-shirt brings a new dimension to the image. Although my photograph is staged, I hope it makes you feel ‘Wonderfully Surreal’.’



Athena Chadwick

Covering and Healing
Mixed Media
Gildridge House, Eastbourne

‘The feeling of needing to hide your mistakes after self harm.’

WINNERS

Beth Martin

Metamorphosis
Mixed Media
East Sussex College, Hastings

‘I believe that linking nature with the taboo subject of death has always created discomfort. I really want to show the beauty that this link can produce. No matter how nauseating the imagery it is possible to show life coming out of death. Plants can grow out of a corpse - thriving on the body as if it is a fertiliser. A body can be food for a wild animal or a place for flies to lay their eggs.’







Amelia Sandys

A New Dawn
Photography
Ratton Academy, Eastbourne

‘This piece is inspired by the theme ‘illusion’.’

Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

Wonderfully Surreal

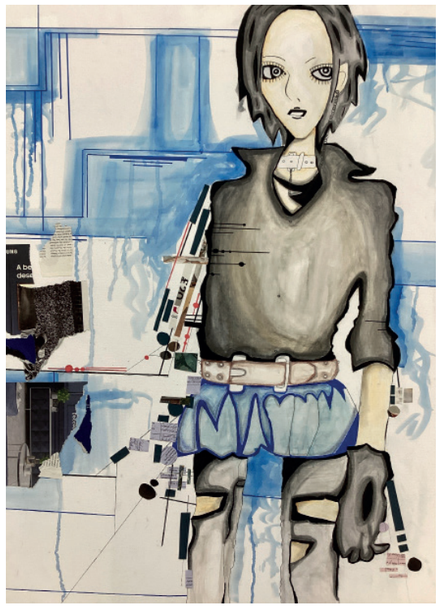
WINNERS



Amber Tamberlini

When the Mirror Lets Go
Painting
Heathfield Community College

'*When The Mirror Lets Go* captures the fragile boundary between the reflected selves, allowing two identical figures to disperse against gravity. This evokes a surreal rupture where the mirror - a symbol of clarity and reality - collapses. The floating parcels and hidden tea cups around them hint at forgotten memories drifting free in this suspended, mysterious space. Loosely bound in ribbon the figures embody a delicate tethering to their shared existence, even as they drift beyond the mirror's grasp.'



Zederick Castro

A Model's Takeover of the World

Mixed Media
St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill

'Through my art work, I aim to show the complicated impact of seemingly uninteresting parts of our everyday life, such as fashion.'

Willow Elliot-Hudson

Decay, Anatomy and Conscience
Mixed Media
East Sussex College, Hastings

I made this to be an introspective display of my personal relationship with Decay, Anatomy and Conscience. I have communicated this through creating three segments, each expressing my connection to its individual aspect, woven into a trifecta of self-exploration I bring these three themes together in this textile art work to form a single piece. This provides an expressionistic unravelling and portrayal of my beliefs and identity around themes of Decay, Anatomy and Conscience.'

WINNERS

Rylan Ford

Vibrant Skull
Mixed Media
Uckfield College

'This piece is inspired by Lee Miller's *Fire Masks* and the idea of being able to disguise your appearance to the point that it covers your entire face but still exposes your human form.The woman in the mask can still see but her vision may be slightly obscured by small eye holes and slits.This mask started as an eye piece and then became a large head piece that can be worn resting on the shoulders. This was first imagined to be plain in colour as it was based on an imagined horned skull. However I became interested in how I could show personality in the head piece whilst obscuring the face. within which sits a vibrant character.'





Phoebe Plasted

Beasts of a Dreamt Forest
Biro Drawing
The Turing School, Eastbourne

'In this drawing I wanted to show jungle animals in a way that feels 'a bit off' as if they're not totally in the right place. They're just standing there, staring back, almost like they know something we don't. I used biro and pencil to keep it kind of raw and sketchy, and the trees are weirdly bare on purpose to make the jungle feel more surreal than real. The little lantern and the empty trees add this quiet, creepy feeling, like something's changed or isn't quite right. I was thinking about what it means to belong-not just to a place, but to a group or even to yourself. The animals are wild, but they look strangely human, and that mix of familiar and strange is what I wanted to explore. It's not just a jungle - it's about feeling like you're being watched, or maybe finally seeing yourself clearly.'



Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

Wonderfully Surreal

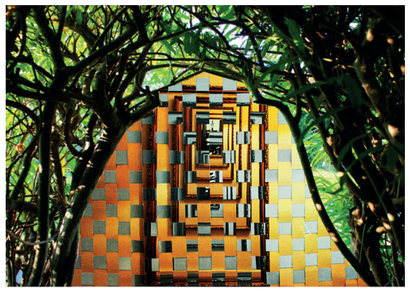
HIGHLY COMMENDED

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Martha Padgham

Regeneration
Mixed Media
East Sussex College, Hastings



Isabel Eldhose

Into the Unknown
Photography
Bexhill Academy



Ethan Abell

Surrealism in Public
Mixed Media
Seahaven Academy, Newhaven



Scarlett Megazeu Assignon

The Matrix
Mixed Media
St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill

Jemima Saull-Hunt

Reclaimed
Mixed Media
East Sussex College, Hastings



Mateo Spill

Where Are We Now?
Photography
Uckfield College





Aurora McGowan

For You I Would...
Mixed Media
Uckfield College

Julie Willinski

Cracked
Painting
The Eastbourne Academy



Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

Wonderfully Surreal

HIGHLY COMMENDED



Jamie Wimpenny

Ripped,Torn, Repaired
Mixed Media
Bexhill Academy



Daisy Clarke

Behind the Mask
Painting
Uckfield College



Rowan Dawson

In the Forest
Photography
Uckfield College



Airi Sato

Childhood Stories
Mixed Media
East Sussex College, Hastings

HIGHLY COMMENDED

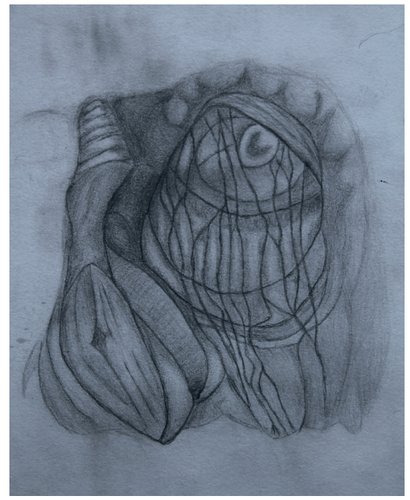
Maggie Mckechnie

Lois through Death
Photography
Bexhill Academy



Zach Goldsmith

Untitled
Drawing
The Eastbourne Academy





Lara Yates

Under the Surface
Mixed Media
Gildridge House, Eastbourne



Freya Winder

The Gathering
Painting
The Eastbourne Academy

Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

Wonderfully Surreal

ENTRANTS



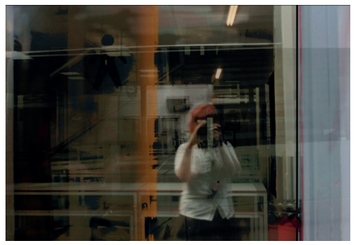
Natalie Martin

Visage
Ceramic
East Sussex College, Hastings



Alana Goodwin

Screaming to be Seen
Painting
Gildredge House, Eastbourne

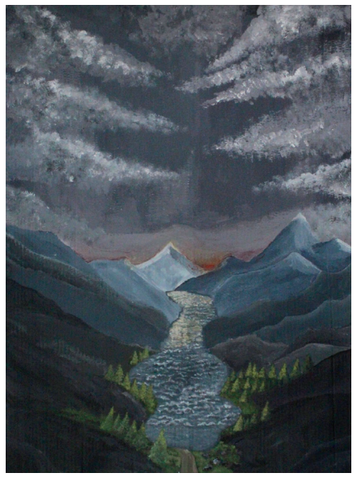


Ella Mosca

Distance
Photography
Bexhill Academy

Lara Zimmermann

Culture Horrors
is a Confession of Defection
by Non-thinking People
Photography
The Eastbourne Academy



Sasha Oleksandra Bieliavtsava

Familiar Light, Foreign Land
Painting
Turing School, Eastbourne



Jessica Cart

"Got the Sauce?"
Painting
St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill

ENTRANTS



Luiza Rajchert

All Eyes on Me
Painting
St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill



Gaby Carlton

A True Reflection
Photography
The Eastbourne Academy





Holly Douglas

Fragments
Photography
Ratton Academy, Eastbourne

Suki Simm

Is Anything Supposed
to Last?
Mixed Media
East Sussex College, Hastings



Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

Wonderfully Surreal

ENTRANTS



Joss Trevor-Jones

Sunshine
Painting
Uckfield College



Arlo Janes Riley

Squirrel
Photography
Ratton Academy, Eastbourne



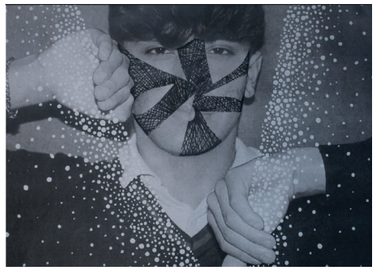
Maddie Webster

Masking
Mixed Media
East Sussex College, Hastings



Aisha Aubakirova

Diaspora
Photography
Gildridge House, Eastbourne



Lois Done

Don't Hide
Photography
Bexhill College

ENTRANTS



Layla Georgiou

Protection
Painting
Gildredge House, Eastbourne

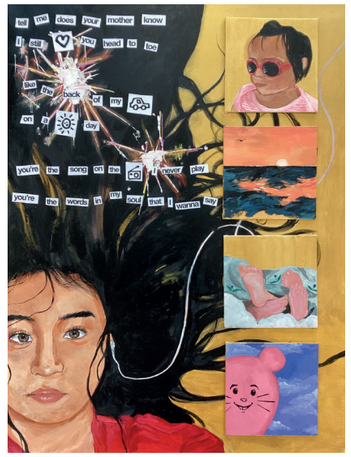


Winona Cheung

Flowers
Photography
Ratton Academy, Eastbourne

Macayla Nicole Camero

The Art of Reminiscing
Painting
St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill



Darcey Perez

Framed Perceptions
Photography
Bexhill Academy



Tayler Jordan

Moving Forward
Monoprint
Seahaven Academy, Newhaven



Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

Wonderfully Surreal

ENTRANTS



Jasmina Jabari

Paradox
Painting
Gildridge House, Eastbourne



Alyx Fry

Nature's Hope
Watercolour Painting
The Eastbourne Academy



Zach Scotcher

Dotted Bottle
Photography
Bexhill College



Grace Chambers

Lost in Thought
Photography
Bexhill College



Lucy Stevens

Fleeting Memories
Photography
Gildridge House, Eastbourne

ENTRANTS



Caleb Velarde

Growth
Photography
Ratton Academy, Eastbourne



Poppy Dee Gibbs

Quality Street
Mixed Media
The Eastbourne Academy

Emma Shears

Reflection
Photography
Uckfield College



Connie Reeve

Fragment
Photography
Uckfield College



Finley Taylor

Rusty Pole
Photography
Bexhill Academy



Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

Please note that in each category all art works are judged equal and the images are not printed in any particular order.

Wonderfully Surreal

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Bexhill Academy (Fran Jackson-Blench)
Gunters Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4BY

East Sussex College (Giles Stokeo)
Station Approach, Hastings TN34 1BA

The Eastbourne Academy (Mary Watts)
Brodrick Road, Eastbourne, BN22 9RQ

Gildredge House (Liz Edwards)
Compton Place Road, Eastbourne BN20 8AB

Heathfiled Community College (Francesca Strachen, Annabel Damzer)
Cade Street, Heathfield TN21 8RJ

Priory School (Rosy Lawrence)
Mountfield Road, Lewes BN7 2XN

Ratton Academy (Emma Hulstrom, Claire Graves)
Park Avenue, Eastbourne BN21 2XR

Seahaven Academy (Emma Taylor)
East Haven Way, Newhaven BN9 9TD

St Richard's Catholic College (Adrian Peachment)
Ashdown Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1SE

Turing School (Anne Castano)
Larkspur Drive, Eastbourne BN23 8EJ

Uckfield College (Bethan Archer, Stephen Winslade, Hannah Reynolds)
Downsview Crescent, Uckfield TN22 3D

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Farley Arts Trust gratefully acknowledges the following organisations which have supported the Wonderfully Surreal - Strange but Familiar 2025

lee miller Roland Penrose
FARLEYS HOUSE & GALLERY
HOME OF THE SURREALISTS

TOWNER
Eastbourne

Lewes District Council

Newhaven
Enterprise Zone

custard
DESIGN MARKETING PRINT

BLUE JAY FRAMES

FARLEY ARTS TRUST AWARDS 2026

The next Farley Arts Trust Awards and Exhibition will take place in 2026.

Once again the Trustees are looking forward to receiving many thoughtful, accomplished and highly creative submissions from pupils doing GCSE or A level art at schools, colleges and academies throughout East Sussex.





Joe Hill, Director of Towner Eastbourne, presents prizes and awards In the exhibition of the 2024 Farley Arts Trust Awards surrounded by teachers and students from participating schools in East Sussex

Farley Arts Trust
with education at our core

© 2025 Farley Arts Trust - All rights reserved

www.farleyartstrust.co.uk
Charity registered in England and Wales 1104210
Registered company limited by guarantee in England and Wales 4585346