Activism through the Arts : Craftivism on campus

Craftivism is the art of creative activism, and in 2021, the Academy team partnered with Canterbury Christ Church Creatives to develop Craftivism resources and workshops for our students and staff.

Image: decorated paper hand cut-outs with hopes for the future and climate pledges written on them by participants.

Craftivism is about hand-making the change you wish to see in the world, combining meaningful positive messages about local or global issues with creativity in a gentle form of activism.

The pilot workshop was offered to societies and group leads in November 2021. During Personal Development Week in January 2022 participants were able to choose one of four activities to try out Craftivism through three possible routes: joining an on-campus session, attending the workshop online to craft with others, or by requesting a kit to make in their own time. Craftivism kits were provided with funding from the *Connect* project. The four kits piloted were: Hope for the Planet postcards; 'Hang-on' bunting; Wish upon a Star; and Environmental Handprints.

"Would be a nice event for teams to get into conversations about sustainability and what it means for them in the workplace and in their lives." - a workshop participant

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staff and students have attended Craftivism workshops in 2021/22

A Tree of Hands

The Environmental Handprints project encourages participants to pledge their own commitments to the planet, expressing positive actions taken by participants to mitigate environmental impact. This places emphasis on the positive impacts they can have on the environment, rather than centring on the negative impact their actions have, e.g. their carbon footprint.

The handprints are offered as Craftivism kits but were also piloted as a community activity where hands drawn on paper with climate pledges written on them were added to a 'tree of hands' during Climate Action Week and the fortnight of COP26, displayed in Daphne Oram as our community's collective intentions towards a more sustainable future.

Image: workshop participants with Craftivism kits creating Hope for the Planet postcards (left and right)..

Find out more:
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