



# PRESS RELEASE

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## *El Surrealismo / Surrealism Olé*

Meet the elephant in the room! Play a game of surreal *Guess Who?* Build a Picasso cube by cube. A playground for the surreal, this exhibition by children aged 7 - 9 years takes a look at the events and artists which shaped Spain at a time when art was being re-imagined and reinvented...

[www.tagatgayhurst.uk](http://www.tagatgayhurst.uk)

What Yr 3&4 Children at Gayhurst School say:

*I think our work was really surreal because when I stuck all of the shapes together it made something really weird like a ball jumping over a tree all the way to the moon...*  
Quentin, Rio class

*The designing was brilliant. We made apples, lemons and tangerines and stacked them all together. Ours looked like a dog. I really enjoyed the activities - I love art!*  
Javi, Rio class

*I liked the drawing and the painting. I'm so excited to see our work in the gallery*  
Iris, Berlin class

*I really enjoyed Art Hoppers. It was my first time painting on a canvas*  
Ethan, Berlin class

The exhibition **#TAG.02 - El Surrealismo - Surealism Olé** (23.02.17 – 28.04.17) presents the artworks of children from academic year groups 3&4 at Gayhurst Community School, Hackney. The exhibition is based on their geography topic: 'Different Places, Similar Lives: Spain'. Children enjoyed a school trip to Tate Modern to see the 'International Surrealism' exhibition as part of their art studies.

Years 3&4 explored the cultural values of Spain - Traditions, the people, food and the rich heritage of art alongside the physical and geographic aspects of the country. It was through the artists working during the lead up to the Spanish Civil War (1920's / 1930's) that we chose to focus our eye with an interest in the story of Surrealism through the works of Picasso, Miró and Dalí.

The children's exhibits include Joan Miró inspired collage and 2D assemblages from his anti-painting period when his art was intended as an all out attack on painting! He wanted to create a new pictorial space, in search of something honest, raw and completely new for the time. Year 3 created playful artworks from the starting point of a word association game.

Year 4 painted 6 studies on stretched canvas of Pablo Picasso's 'Weeping Woman' series. They drew bold cubist portraits in marker pen and in teams, coloured parts of each image. The completed paintings were divided into squares and applied to 12 x 15cm square cubes. Visitors to the gallery are invited to interact with and shuffle the images by stacking and repositioning the cubes to explore the cubist themes of distortion and multiple viewpoints which inspired and fueled the Surrealist movement.

An ingenious collection of 3D assemblages composed of donated toys and objects\* twist all purpose and meaning in a playful homage to the life and works of surrealist icon Salvador Dalí. A recipe for disaster is presented as 'Car Crash Soup' while a double decker bus framed as an elephant precariously balances on willow, stork like legs. Try a game of surreal *Guess Who?* with a community of characters designed using mismatched magazine collage. What questions would you need to ask to discover who your opponents character is?

\* Thank you Hackney Playbus and the families who donated objects / toys to the project.

## VISIT BY APPOINTMENT

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## PHOTO for print:

<http://www.tagatgayhurst.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/tag-gayhurst-surrealism-by-arthoppers.jpg>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#TAG (The Art Gallery) at Gayhurst School is a gallery quality art space and stand alone building within the grounds of Gayhurst Community School, designed specifically as a showcase venue for the exhibition of pupils' artworks. #TAG officially opened at its premier show on Thurs 3rd Nov 2016.

Art Hoppers, run by Hackney based artist Claire Ward-Thornton, have been commissioned by Gayhurst Community Primary School to deliver a year long artist residency working with two year groups per term from years 1-6 across the academic year 16/17. Art Hoppers' ethos is to share and promote the inherent creativity of children and to encourage them to see and fully appreciate their talents by presenting their art within a high quality, gallery context.

Art Hoppers work closely with Gayhurst School staff in the delivery of the project to ensure the art programme links well with the children's classroom learning. The art sessions begin with a fun and interactive presentation leading to practical, hands on art making. The activities reinforce and bring to life the topic the children have spent the last few weeks studying and encourages pupils to share their knowledge and awareness of the subject.

Equally, the art sessions allow the children to present their achievements in learning in a visual format. The children enjoy the sessions immensely and have great pride knowing that their 'artworks' will be professionally displayed in the gallery. Each exhibition is launched with a special Private View for parents/carers, friends and VIPs and the children host the event, serving themed food and drinks and explaining their work to those attending.

Art Hoppers have designed the dedicated website and branding for #TAG, giving the project a strong sense of identity within the school community and ensuring an accessible archive exists of all artworks created for a long time to come. The children take on responsible roles during the gallery openings giving them the opportunity to enjoy a sense of ownership in the running of their gallery.

More info: [www.tagatgayhurst.uk](http://www.tagatgayhurst.uk) / [www.arthoppers.co.uk](http://www.arthoppers.co.uk)