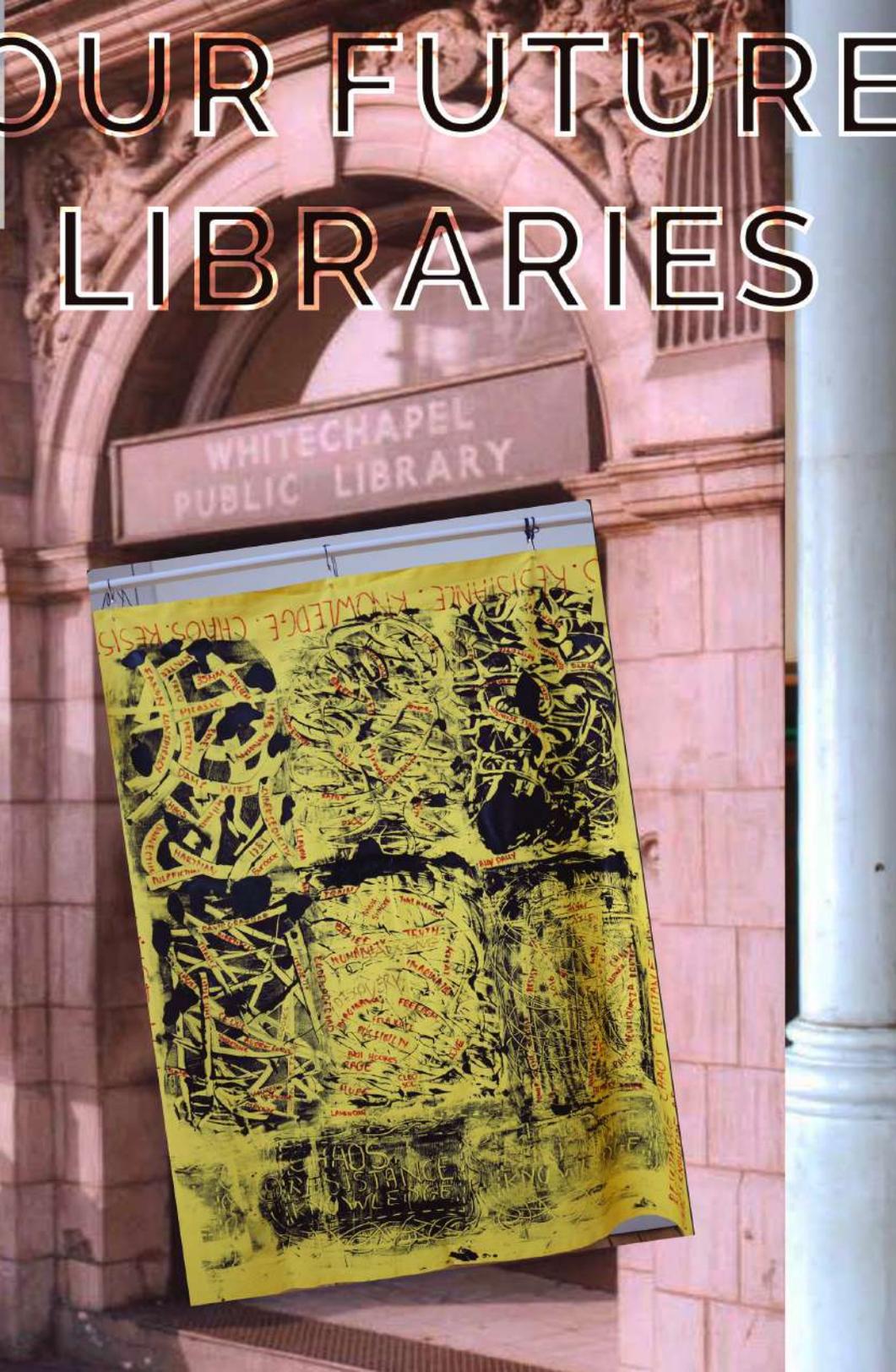


# OUR FUTURE LIBRARIES



*Our Future Libraries* are imaginations and rehearsals for the different systems of knowledge exchange we want to build for our future.

As we move towards an ever more dystopian future with increasing state surveillance, the ongoing climate crisis, the abundance of propaganda, and the lack of time or space for play, care and conversation, we ask: what is the role of libraries? What systems of knowledge exchange do we need? What spaces do they occupy, what do they look, feel and sound like? What stories do they hold?

In this takeover of Whitechapel Gallery's foyer space, we invite you to join us to build upon the collections in our future libraries. Share your ideas for resistance, have a cup of tea and conversations, exchange stories and learnings from your childhood, or maybe even offer us your soul...

Since September 2023 **Duchamp and Sons**, Whitechapel Gallery's Youth Collective, have been collaborating with artist duo **Kneed**, Ishwari Bhalerao and Leonie Rousham, to imagine *Our Future Libraries*, drawing upon the radical history of Whitechapel Library that once stood on this site.

Through conversation, walks, banner-making, and experimentations rooted in play and storytelling, the group have delved into the history of 'the library' as a whole and now they present their collective imaginations of what lies ahead.

# Who we are...

## Duchamp & Sons

*Duchamp & Sons* is a collective of 15-24 year olds from across London who meet regularly to experiment with art, curate exhibitions and events, and share space for food and conversation.

This event has been collaboratively curated by Alisha, Amir, Amy, Anya, Audrey, Camila, Constança, Elizabeth, Elliot, Faith, Freya, Jessica, Joshua, Mia, Ruth, San, Shannay, and Zee.

## About Kneed

Kneed is a collaborative practice formed by artists Ishwari Bhalerao and Leonie Rousham. We are interested in building systems of care, support and resistance where external pressures are causing these to be exhausted or lacking.

In a time when the government is treating the old, sick, disabled, and working class people as disposable, it is more important than ever to collaborate, listen, learn and remember, from conversation and friendship. Thus, our workshops and studio practice focus on collectivising experiences, memories and stories around labour, time and care mobilised as tools to resist systems of oppression, exhaustion and isolation.

D&S X  
KNEED



Explore the Libraries...

**OUR FUTURE  
LIBRARIES**

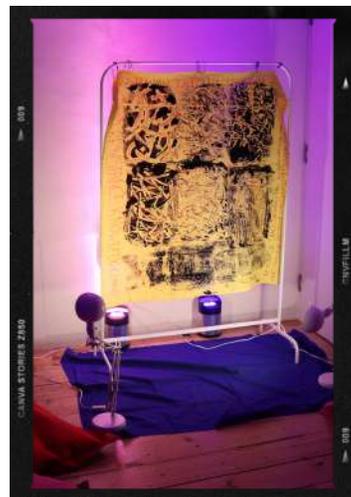
# Power to the People Library

## What is the library?

The internet is the ultimate library - a place for learning, knowledge exchange, and connection. We've become reliant upon it. What if we lost access to the internet? How would we cope? How would we learn to exchange information again?

## Take part...

Listen to the sound piece introduction to the library, and enter into our cosy sharing space. Add your thoughts, ideas and creations of what information, skills and stories you'd want to preserve if we lost access to the internet as we know it, and had to start again...



# The Library of Souls

## What is the library?

At the heart of the library is a sorcerer who is sustained by consuming souls, which then remain stored within the fabric of the library. Visitors can bring the recently departed to have their souls consumed, and in exchange they can be reconnected with a previous soul...

## Take part...

Read our graphic novel strip to enter into the world of the library. Help us to build the story. What happens next? You decide. Draw the next scene and together we'll discover what happens when souls are exchanged.



# The Childhood Emporium

## What is the library?

A collection of toys, objects and memories from across the ages. In this library no toy is obsolete! This is a space to gather, to share memories and stories about your favourite childhood items, and to embrace your inner child.

## Take part...

Exchange memories of your childhood over a classic tea party. Share with us tales of your most treasured childhood objects as you colour in our table cloth, and chat over an almost-real cup of tea.



# The Library of Misinformation

## What is the library?

The world is underwater, the country is living under a dictatorship, and indoctrination is all around us. The fact that climate change is man-made has been erased from public knowledge, and it's the role of places like the *This is Normal Library* to keep it that way, to indoctrinate the public that 'this is normal'. But a small group of revolutionaries are emerging and want to speak the truth...

## Take part...

Chat to the rebels of The Library of Misinformation, who believe in the fair exchange of factual information. Share with us the wildest news, stories, or conspiracy theories you've heard of, and spend time considering what the sources of your information are, and whether you can really trust them...



# The Whitechapel Library

Between 1892 and 2005, what is now the eastern half of Whitechapel Gallery was the Whitechapel Library. It was one of the earliest public libraries in London, and was one of several libraries in London funded by philanthropist Passmore Edwards, who also originally funded Whitechapel Gallery.

It was used by many local residents, including writers and artists, and became known as the 'university of the ghetto'. It was built up one of the biggest collections in any library of Jewish books, and later in the 1970s an even larger collection of Bengali books.

*I ate book after book, page after page.  
I scoffed poetry for breakfast and novels for tea.  
And plays for my supper. No more poverty.  
Welcome young poet, in here you are free  
to follow your star to where you should be.*

*That door of the library was the door into me*

*From the poem Whitechapel Library,  
Aldgate East, by Bernard Kops*



Create your own future library...

*If you were to design a library 40 years in the future,  
what would be it? What knowledge would it hold?  
What exchange would it offer? What is the need?*