

Lydia O'Hara Hob Hey Woods Proposal

"Into the Woods" is a series of 4 free hanging oil on fabric paintings. Each is a portrait of a mother with her baby who was born during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a self portrait of the artist and her first born. During this time new parents were only allowed to connect with each other socially distanced in green spaces. Hob Hey Woods was one of those green spaces for Lydia and it became a sanctuary offering relief from worry and anxiety.

To reflect the feelings of isolation experienced by new parents during the Pandemic, and ways people found to support each other even from a distance, Lydia would like to temporarily hang this series of paintings in Hob Hey Woods. The paintings will be hung socially distanced from one another, allowing nature to interact with them and leave her mark on them in the same way we had to weather the trials that presented themselves to us at that time. Hanging them in Hob Hey Woods will be a very special experience, rounding a circle and leaving a temporary monument to a difficult experience, honouring all the new parents who had to go through the transformative experience of bringing life into the world at a time where "the village" that it takes to raise a child was not able to support them.

Logistical Considerations

- The paintings are light weight so will be able to hang from tree branches using materials that ensure no damage is caused to the trees or surrounding wildlife.
- Ideally paintings will remain in situ for up to 4 weeks. However this will depend on their condition over the course of this time. Lydia will check on the paintings twice per week and make herself known in the Hob Hey friends Facebook group so that other walkers can get in touch if they notice significant deterioration that requires their removal.
- Lydia accepts the possibility for the paintings to become damaged beyond repair either by nature or anti-social behaviour. This is all part of the work for her.
- Lydia has her own Public Liability Insurance, evidence of which can be provided. Paintings will be installed securely high enough not to block paths or create risks to the public.

About Lydia O'Hara

Lydia O'Hara is a multidisciplinary artist based in Helsby whose practice is concerned with embodied cognition, unconscious processes, and how we understand our worlds through our bodies. She has examined this through various lenses including mental health, play, womanhood, collective consciousness, and motherhood. Her work has taken many forms, including moving image, performance, painting, participatory art, and music. Lydia often collaborates with marginalised voices, and aims to ensure that her work resonates with the lived experiences of everyday people.

Website: lydiaohara.wordpress.com

Instagram: [@lydiaoharaartist](https://www.instagram.com/lydiaoharaartist)

Images of the Paintings

