

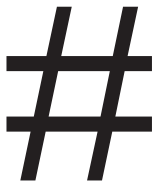
Lockdown Letters to Horace: An Art Installation

By Judith North, Kate Proudman and Charmaine Stimson

During the summer lockdown Strawberry Hill House launched 'Write to Horace'. Over 250 people responded and through their letters have shared their unique observations and experiences, serving as a snapshot of the area during these strange times.

Now the house is open, visitors have the opportunity to read and reflect on the letters through an installation by three artists, who have created a series of responses to the letters, using film, sound and installation. The artworks explore the testimony of the letters themselves and the many contradictions evident: Highly individual letters spoke loudly of a collective experience and carefully handwritten messages were all delivered and received digitally due to lockdown. In addition, for many, lockdown brought huge emotional and financial distress. Whilst there are hints of the negative, the work, based on letters mostly written by children under the age of 11, reflects a largely positive view of lockdown.

Judith North, Kate Proudman and Charmaine Stimson are artists who live and work locally. They studied Fine Art together at the John Cass School of Art in London and are co-founders of One Paved Court gallery, an artist-led space in Richmond.



Share your pictures!

As you go around the house, we'd love you to share your photos of your favourite artwork and room using the hashtag

#WriteToHorace

Twitter and Instagram: **@strawbhillhouse**

Facebook: **@strawberryhillhouse**

View the full catalogue of letters on our 'Write to Horace' Digital Library:
www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/letters

Acknowledgements and thanks:

Thank you to Avji Delega, Volunteer Project Assistant for her enormous help. Everyone who contributed video and sound clips. A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to write a Lockdown Letter to Horace. This project was only made possible thanks to public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

1 'The Letter Box'

Location: Front door

Sound Installation describing the delivery of letters.

Duration: 6 m 40 secs loop

2 'The Collective Dream'

Location: The Parlour

Film projection, incorporating found imagery referenced in the letters.

Duration: 7 m 17 secs loop.

3 'The Writing Desk'

Location: Horace's Writing Room

Sound installation of letter writing.

Duration: 3 mins 45 secs loop

4 'Getting it down on paper'

Location: The Library

Projection on paper scroll of a selection of the letters received for 'Write to Horace'.

5 'All in it Together'

Location: The Gallery

Installation of postcards, each printed with one phrase from every lockdown letter received.

Dimensions 12m x 0.4m x 0.8m

6 'My letter'

Location: The Round Room

Series of hand developed portraits of some of the writers of the letters to Horace showing their letter.

By photographer Pete Swann

