

# Recollect

Experimental design artist **Thomas Buckley** and their collaborative studio of sensory makers present Recollect, an interactive and unique new work made specifically for ArtHouse Jersey. Alongside a team of local volunteers, closely held and precious memories from real people of advanced years have been borrowed and translated into sensory, interactive experiences. Working in collaboration with Age Concern the artist and volunteers have together built relationships, discovered and translated the real stories of people who call Jersey home.

The exhibition is an invitation to explore how we might find magic in intergenerational friendships, and how there is wonder and connection right within our communities. The exhibition presents recollected memories as wardrobes - some of which welcome us in just by opening the door, or picking up a phone. Others we might need to lean in closer or spend more time with in order to experience them fully.

The works are physical, they take up space and tap into our senses of sight, sound, taste, smell and touch to develop a physiological relationship that is powerful and instinctive. Our bodies react; scent interacts with our physiology, we ingest it and we emote to it before we are aware of it - we can't be anything other than a human in front of these visceral works. Technology often takes us out of our bodies and out of time, yet here we find ourselves drawn into the present through multiple corporeal senses. The intangible is made physical and we have the chance to know a small part of someone else and to share their tender and formative moments.

As part of their wider practice Thomas engages with immersive technologies and social histories. They believe that empathy and kinship are an antidote to current and future ethical concerns around emergent technologies that can both distance us from each other as well as bring us closer together.

*If you are to take one thing away from this collection of wardrobes I hope it's the drive to search for more memories, and make friends with those who have lived a little longer than yourself. Although these works will exist here for a time, the memories they represent might be what someone thinks back on just before falling asleep, or remember fondly in a dark time. I'm very grateful for those that have shared these moments with me.*

*- Thomas Buckley*

Lead artist **Thomas Buckley** and their collaborative team of creatives; artist **Kate Phillips**, perfumer and scent designer **Renske van Vroonhoven**, theatre director and writer **Sharon Clark**, and experimental mixologist **Ned Lawlor**.

Huge thanks to the wonderful members of Age Concern and the volunteers; Sarah lock, Louise Bamber, Catherine Kirby, Cerys McNamara and Neva Richardson who bore witness to our elders' stories and in so doing founded new friendships and intergenerational connections.