**EXAMPLES of ARTIST STATEMENTS**

Montse works near the Italian Alps, surrounded by photographs from the turn of 20th century, old books of botany and zoology, paper ephemera, drawings of Ingres and flea market "treasures". She loves the portrait and understands it as a way of rediscovering a person, to go beyond the surface of that which is shown to us at first glance.

Margaux is an illustrator and print maker based in Stoke Newington. She spent her early twenties playing with pens and various mediums until she developed her unique graphic style. She now adapts her illustrations in 3D as well as large scale murals. Earthy and folk inspired, her work also draws on fantastical elements and wild imagination.

Aitch originally hails from Romania but prefers not to put down roots in any one place, new scenery inspires and invigorates her tactile, folky illustrations and she constantly pushes her technique further. Her dreamy characters hide amongst William Morris-esque gardens and bring to mind a bright and bold reincarnation of Victorian melancholy while still retaining a strong sense of her Romanian heritage.

Nadia’s colourful prints are filled with bold shapes and striking pattern. She loves screen-printing and the whole process informs her work – from the use of a limited colour palette to the incorporation of textures and dark outlines. Her work projects range from large-scale hand-painted murals, book covers, greeting cards, giftwrap, menus and farm signs.

Sara grew up with a paint brush in one hand and a cup of tea in the other. She shares her studio with her cat, Simba. Whilst this cheeky feline tries to walk across Sara's keyboard or balances precariously on stacked sketchbooks, Sara can be found creating her stylised pen and ink drawings, which she digitally transforms with texture and colour. Inspired by the age of Art Deco illustration and muted colour palettes, her charming illustrative style has already captured the attention of many clients.

Peter’s intricate hand-made work focuses on the human figure, and particularly the face. His work is tender, playful and at times surreal. A fascination with the interplay of figurative imagery and abstraction has excited a recent interest in combining stylised subject matter with surface pattern.

Billie Jean enjoys climbing trees, idling the hours away in second-hand bookshops, drinking 'Blue Vanilla' flavoured Slush Puppies, making chocolate rice crispy cup cakes, knitting tea cosies and oh yes, drawing with great skill.

Originally from Columbia, during his time at Swansea, Nicolas discovered his creative voice and his obsession for bold, naive shapes and expressive, conceptual themes. His work is inspired by the colours of the Latin culture and influenced by the women in his family whose wardrobes are like a mix between Frida Kahlo’s and Yayoi Kusama’s.

Ben's work is often very simple but always displays a strong emphasis on colour and a carefully considered composition. He takes much of his inspiration from the books he collects about illustrators and designers from the mid 20th century and those of new artists that give a nod to past styles and trends. He also fills his working days with music so as to let it seep into his soul and be transformed into something that can be see**n.**