

From: [Mark Cremmen](#)
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Cc: [Rita Wright](#); [William Lim](#)
Subject: Art Matters Friends Update.
Date: 18 January 2021 15:25:26

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Art Matters. We hope you are well.

In light of the Governments announcement earlier this month that the country needs a period of lockdown, Art Matters has temporarily suspended sessions.

This was a difficult decision. Art Matters did not want to close and in the previous months has made the building and attendance as safe as possible. However, we feel the safest and most responsible action is to observe the new Government 'stay at home' instructions in a decision fully supported by Richmond Fellowship and Surrey County Council.

Staying connected will be a priority in the coming weeks and the Art Matters team have restarted support phone calls to Service User artists. They are an opportunity to catch up, provide support, guidance and information if required. They are also an opportunity to explore ideas and themes to stay creative. Calls are every two weeks and individuals are welcome to phone in-between our calls.

We'll send out regular e-mail updates, news and information about workshops and online opportunities and have re-introduced the newsletter live Zoom meetings. We'll write to artists who do not have a phone or access to the internet.

None of this is the same experience of actually being in the studio but we'll do all we can to stay connected. We'll review the situation regularly and as soon as it is safe and permitted will reopen for sessions.

This month's Art Matters theme is 'Light'. Mid-January is not the easiest time to find light but Art Matters artists are already illuminating our worlds in poems, photographs, sculpture, paintings and songs.

Art Matters artist Angie was inspired by the 'Light' – this is what she says:



'The inspiration for this pot painting comes from a combination of knowledge gained from Nigel's fantastic workshops, where I learnt about using a pencil to design an artwork, the colour wheel, and the use of contrasting colours, with the gorgeous gouache medium for painting.'

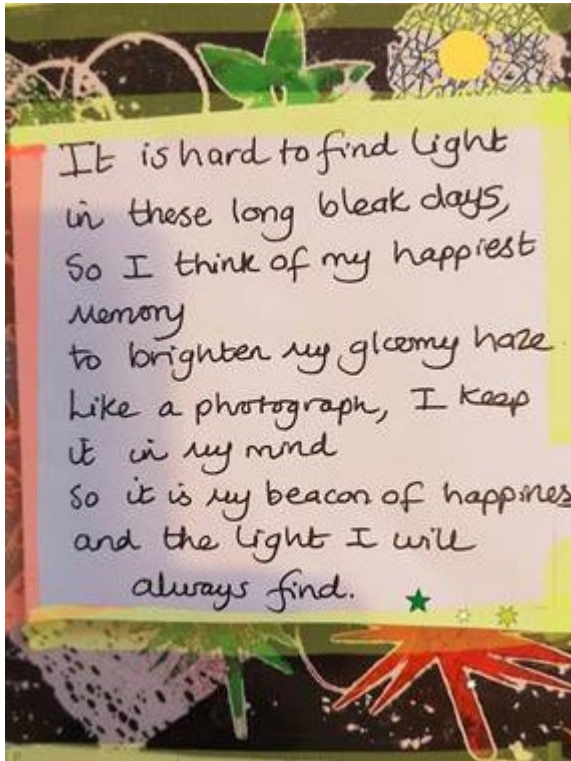
The way this links to the Light theme is that the knowledge and guidance Nigel imparted in his workshops act even now, years later as a light into the future, providing inspiration, confidence and creative freedom which together with support from Art Matters is a true beacon of light in these dark times and beyond! Thank you guys!!!'



Molly's radiant new painting.



The light fantastic. Ian's new candle holders.



Like a photograph, we'll keep Lucy's poem in mind.

'Momentos Solares'

*'No artist can fill
that white wall with colour
like the maestro Sun
at three in the afternoon.'*

*Isn't it strange when a cloud
is covering the Sun?
The brilliancy of your eyes in mine
is more intense than the skin of the mango!'*

Thank you Raj for sending in this poem. From 'Momentos Solares', in *Los Poemas Solares* (2005) by Mexican poet and environmentalist Homero Aridjis and translated by Suzanne Winckler

Team Art Matters Playlist. 'Light'.

This new collection of songs can be found on the free app Spotify. As Friends of Art Matters we welcome your suggestions!

Blinded by the Light	Manfred Mann's Earth Band
Light	Michael Kiwanuka
There is a Light That Never Goes Out	The Smiths

Everlasting Light	The Black Keys
Movin' On Up	Primal Scream
Lights of Cincinnati	Scott Walker
Love Shine a Light	Katrina & the Waves
Shinning Light	Annie Lennox
Light My Fire	The Doors
2000 Light Years From Home	The Rolling Stones
I Can See Clearly Now	Johnny Nash
Lights Out	Royal Blood
Red Light Spells Danger	Billy Ocean

Please look out for our Instagram account at [art.matters.rf](https://www.instagram.com/art.matters.rf)
With Best Wishes

Stay safe.

Mark

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