

House of Illustration and Denny Trust Feedback

The generous gift from The Barbara and Philip Denny Trust opened up a wealth of opportunities for me during my residency at House of Illustration. As an illustrator, it's not often you get the privilege of time post education; time to dig deeper, to explore and expand, to take risks and to experiment. I was able to do all this in a supported and exciting environment where I felt the work I was making had a purpose, where there was a story to be told. My time during the residency was invaluable, it provided a platform for me to have a vision and try out all the things that encompassed that vision. From truly exploring the value of drawing as a way of understanding, immersing myself in an environment and responding to it, to planning and facilitating workshops, setting up an open studio, delivering public talks, and working towards an exhibition and installation. All these things contributed to the wonderful experience. It gave me time to research and respond to the history of exploring and storytelling, in a way that encompassed writing, craft and drawing - all of which can belong under the Illustrators hat.

During this time I went on an enormous discovery and learning journey, it gave me creative confidence and motivation, which could not have happened without the Denny Trust. It allowed me to question a lot and **create** even more. The body of work I made during this time really pushed my level of thinking and making, and has left me feeling ever more inspired and optimistic about what I can achieve in the future.

It was so special to me to find out more about the History of the Denny Trust. It is an incredible charity that sees and supports the value in human creativity across an array of different practices.