Susan T Grant Midlothian Artist in Residence

> we woz пеге. Enjoy the search...

belonging' in all its quirky diversity.

'I Woz Here' is a statement that speaks to me directly from an early 80s childhood, when the graffiti aesthetic was translated into our school jotter doodles in moments of distraction. The colour red is a nod towards that mining badge and a Midlothian which until very recently was a Labour stronghold in the oldest tradition. These fifty memories (plus the extra, secret one for luck – I never could resist a memory about a turnip) have been collated to reflect the People's Lives. Tucked away up closes and around corners, quietly waiting to be chanced upon and permanently celebrating a sense of 'Dalkeith waiting to be chanced upon and permanently celebrating a sense of 'Dalkeith

the best pies in the world.

Alison McCathie caught the bus; David Wardrop-White was disciplined for shouting at his teacher; Hans Clausen choked on a whole Cadbury's cream egg; Ernie Ross loved the smell of baking bread; Marsa Tulloch queued for

be it peacetime or wartime.

While the unusual and the historic are celebrated in 'I Woz Here,' the memories I relish most are those that highlight the life-affirming 'everyday-ness' of life,

While the artist Gavin Turk once created a single blue plaque for his art college degree show, announcing that he had "worked here 1989 - 1991", I was more interested in subverting the blue plaque norm where the achievements of one person are traditionally elevated.

now all compiled.

A huge range of people contributed memories - some mundane, some out of the ordinary. I worked with groups such as Dalkeith History Society; Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland; Woodburn Day Care Club; Newbattle Youth Forum and King's Park Primary School. Memories flooded in through public events, completed postcards and the project website, where they are

Dalkeith existence.

Working alongside the Townscape Heritage Initiative, who were developing a Heritage Trail for Dalkeith, I proposed a scheme of permanent public artworks which would look like the traditional blue plaques and would speak in a visual heritage language with which we are all familiar. The difference

The brief of the **reside** residency was to work with communities across Midlothian, exploring their sense of identity and belonging. In researching the twentieth century history of the area, I found miners' badges of identity – enamel lapel pins, banners emblazoned with slogans like 'Unity is strength, posters of resistance to closure. But in an era when local people are no longer bound by a single industry or way of life how do we define what it is to belong?

We Woz Here



I Woz Here was created by artist Susan T Grant as part of the reside residency project, in collaboration with Dalkeith Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Arts & Creativity Team, Midlothian Council.

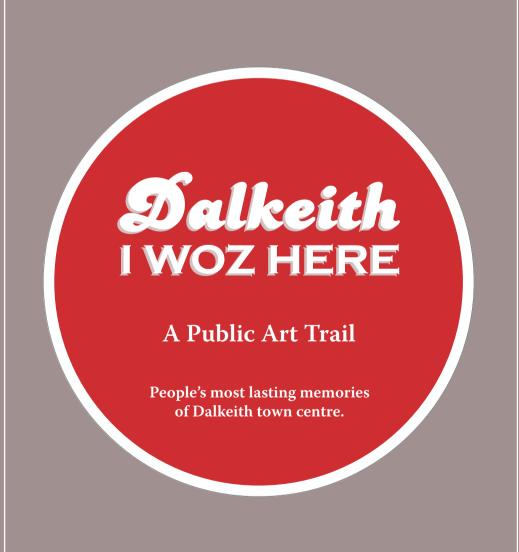
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www.midlothianartist.wordpress.com







Map

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