

Welcome to *Breathing Room* an immersive art installation created by Anna Berry. Anna is a UK artist who often creates work in non-gallery environments. She enjoys creating large installations and often works with paper and movement.

*Breathing Room* is a curvaceous tunnel around three metres high and two metres wide that winds gently left and right for a distance of 16 meters. The walls and ceiling of the tunnel are lined with 28,000 handmade cones in a flexible white material called Tyvek, which has similar qualities to paper, but is harder wearing. The cones were made on kitchen tables in the homes of volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic and we would ask you to refrain from touching them as they can get crushed.

As you make your way along the path, a gentle ripple passes through your surroundings. The walls and the arched ceiling seem to inhale and exhale with an almost imperceptible wave of movement. As you round a bend, the structure envelopes you and coloured light passes through the gaps between the cones, dappling the ground with light.

As you round a bend, the structure envelopes you and waves of coloured light pass gently across the walls and ceiling in time with the gentle ebbing and flowing of your surroundings; vivid purples, blues, greens, yellows and reds, pass along the length of the tunnel, as you go.

The movement of the structure is accompanied by a score of sounds as the cones rub together and creak and the mechanics of the movement whistle and crank around you.

The outside of the structure is as much a work of art as the inside.

The whole piece is suspended inside a metal framework, like a huge ribcage, with a network of bars, levers, cogs and chains, some constructed from repurposed bicycle parts. On the roof, groups of bicycle chains run through pedal and wheel cogs, pulling levers that gently lift and lower the walls of the tunnel.

The mechanisms was built by Clive Doherty, who is the artist and engineer who collaborating with Anna on creating the piece.

It takes a crew of 7 people three days to construct; and 12 volunteers a day and a half to attach the cones by hand; and yet, after a day to dismantle it again, it fits in an elegant flat pack design, like a giant “Meccano set”, in custom made boxes.