

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of colors and textures. It features a mix of bright yellow, orange, and red, with darker, almost black, areas interspersed. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy, with splatters, blotches, and a grainy, painterly quality. The colors are most intense in the center and fade slightly towards the edges, though the splatters continue throughout.

LIFE STORIES

***Life Stories* is a project developed in partnership by Upland CIC, the Elmbank Centre and artist Hope London.**

During 2018 artist Hope London worked with Frank Hayes from the Elmbank Centre to deliver a series of 10 workshops which enabled a small group of young people to explore identity through both visual and narrative means in the style of a graphic novel.

The participants experimented with various materials throughout the sessions developing their ideas before honing them to create their very own graphic novel. We hope you enjoy it!

This project has been developed by Upland, Hope London and Frank Hayes from the Elmbank Centre building upon a short series of workshops that took place during March 2017. Elmbank provides education for young people of secondary school age in Dumfries and Galloway with social, emotional or behavioural needs.

This project sits within Upland's wider Early Engagement strand, which enables schools throughout the region to gain access to high quality professional artists and makers through talks and workshops.

Life Stories was funded by the Regional Arts Fund.

Supported by:



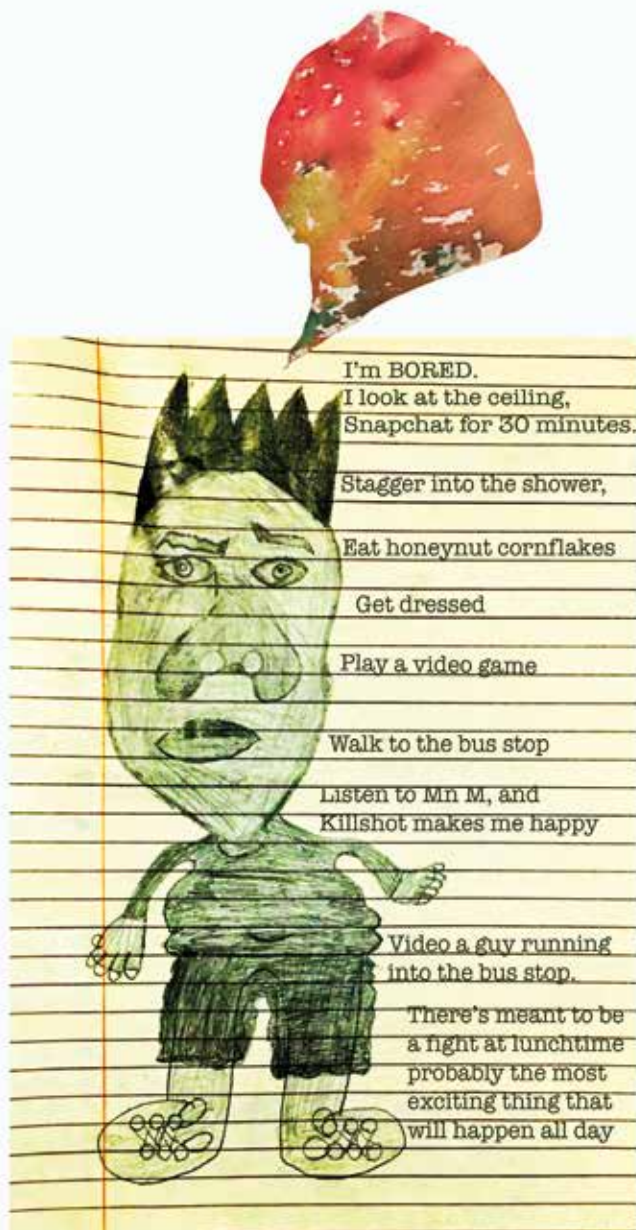
www.weareupland.com

www.hopelondon.com



KING BEAVIS the FIRST

by Bailey McDonald



Just another boring morning...

Until out of nowhere,
a strange figure emerges...



I am the great King Beavis the 1st!

I'm a king...I wake up
whenever I want to!

I wake up to lovely
violin music by my own
private orchestra.

I shower in a waterfall to
clean my beautiful silky wings
and my delicate beak

Then I put on my suit.



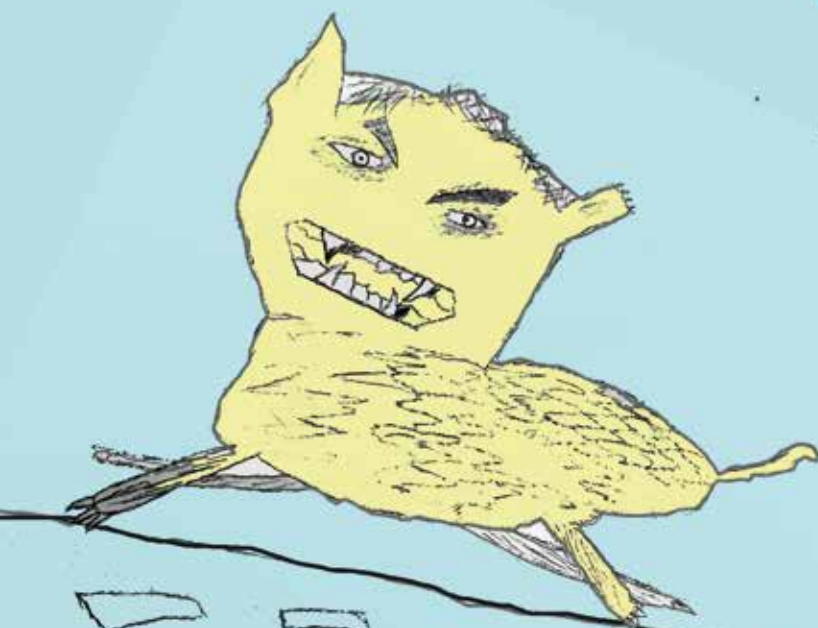
I like to fly around my palace
smoking my cigars!



Palace of King Beavis the 1st



I like taking
my pet
cafishnog
Bonzo out
with me



Sometimes
my knights
have a fight
at lunchtime.



...back to REALITY...

Just
another
boring morning...



THE DANGEROUS DARKNESS



by Rhiannon Dollery



The Darkness Never ends



shadows colliding

shadows

in the darkness

in the darkness

in the darkness

THE DARKNESS IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS

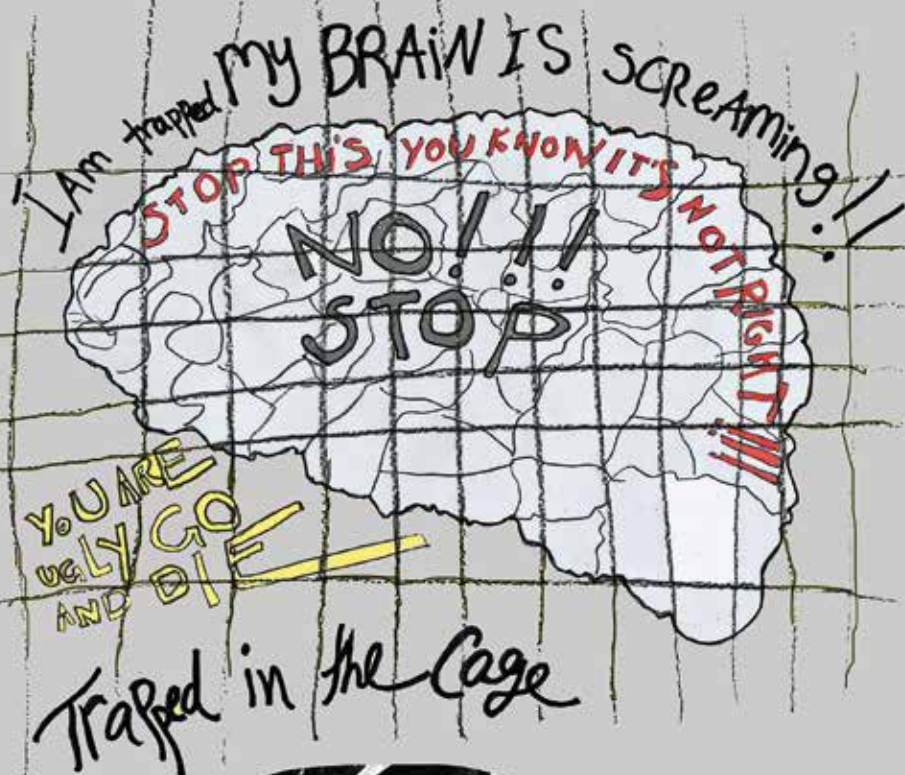


THE
DARK
ANGEL

The Cage

In the Darkness

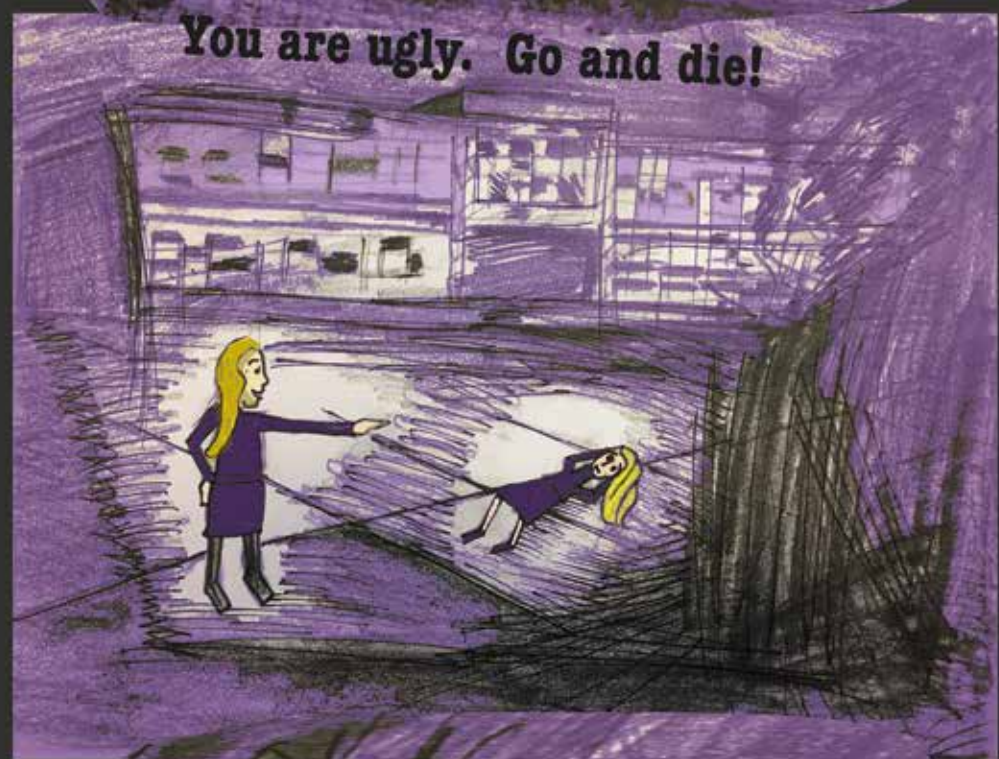
I am trapped in the cage.
My brain is screaming.



STOP!!
STOP!!



You are ugly. Go and die!



STOP!! You know it's not right.

But you can find a way through the darkness.

Behind the darkness...



There is light behind the darkness you just have to look

There is light



by Luke Jardine

I struggle.

I have problems I hold close.



Look into my eyes

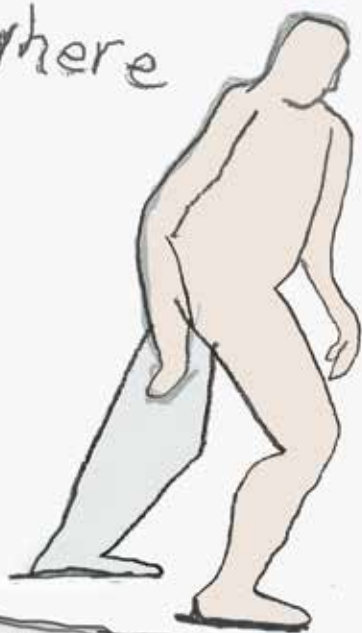


you will see deep into a voided husk of a broken soul

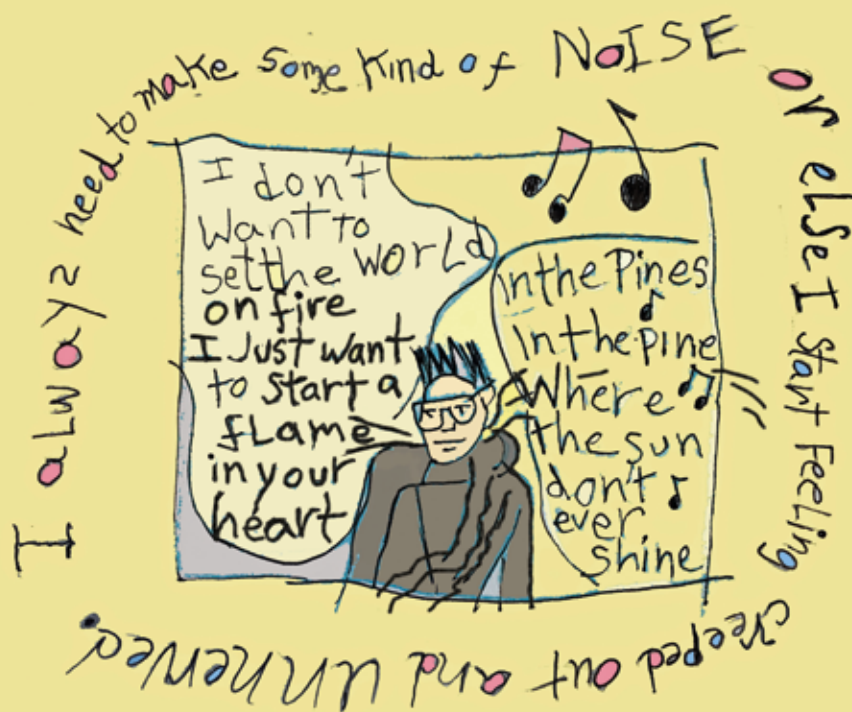
Only a fraction of my problems...



I feel LIKE I'm
Not getting anywhere
JUST being
Pushed and
dragged along
You should give
up on Me.



I always need to make some kind of NOISE



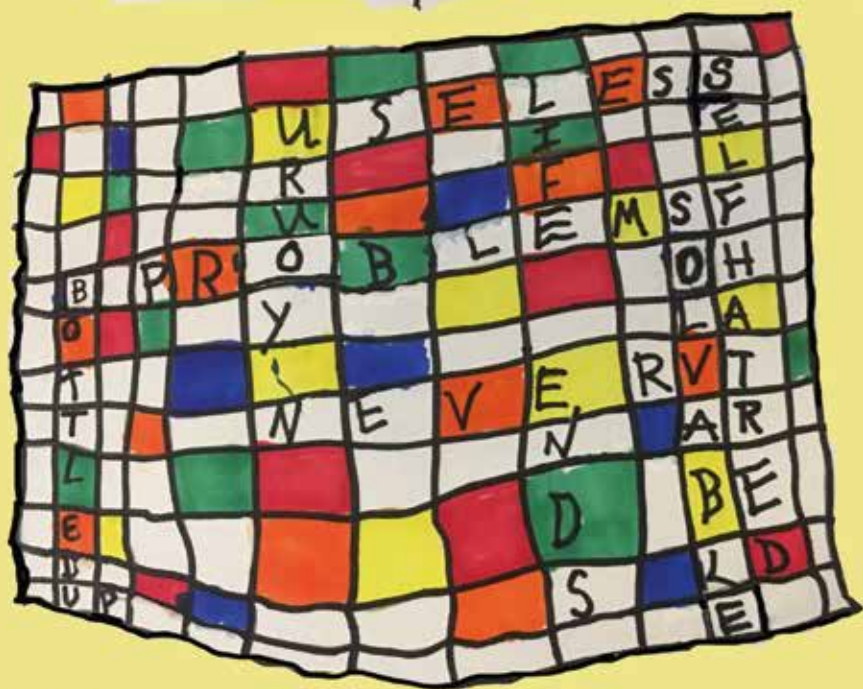
or else I start feeling CREEPED OUT and unnerved.

I'm afraid of what I can't see,



what's outside my field of vision.

ALL THESE THINGS ARE
ONLY A FRACTION
OF MY PROBLEMS



bottled up, useless, self hatred, never ends

but look hard and you'll find that...

problems can



be solvable

When I started this project I felt anxious
I was scared that I would have no one to talk to
all I knew was that it was an art class
I do doodling but I was not very keen on art
I was looking forward to time out of school

at the beginning I was all about skulls and blood and all
things death but then we started using colour and light
it was difficult to begin with because I didn't like colours

suddenly in one session i started to open up and use bright
colours instead of dark colours

we started talking about making characters and then the
anger set in

this anger emerged again because it wanted free to express
itself in the only way it can it had been trapped inside for
so long

I think that art is my only way to express how I really feel
because it shows what I really feel inside instead of keeping
it locked up and then me letting my anger out and hurting
people. Art is a good way to let your emotions out.

I am glad that I got to finish my story. I wasn't comfortable
about sharing it at first but now I'm confident and happy
to share my life story.

Rhiannon Dollery

About Upland

Upland evolved from Spring Fling CIC and was established in 2015. In its new expanded role Upland works to develop and promote high quality artistic and artisanal practice in Dumfries & Galloway. It aims to provide a range of platforms to enable this and looks to create new opportunities for professional artists and makers to show their work and for audiences to engage with it. Spring Fling Open Studios continues as Upland's flagship event but now Upland offers a year-round programme delivering a range of projects, events and exhibitions working with young people, emerging and established artists and makers. www.weareupland.com

About the Elmbank Centre

Elmbank provides education for young people of secondary school age in Dumfries and Galloway with social, emotional or behavioural needs. They work in partnership with pupils' mainstream schools to provide a package of education that meets each pupil's individual needs.

Elmbank provides a positive, nurturing and supportive environment for each young person to enable them to succeed and achieve their potential.

Elmbank works with pupils on both a part-time or full-time basis and for short or long term inputs, depending on the individual needs of the young person. They work in collaboration with a range of important partners to ensure that the education package in place is appropriate, and that it prepares young people for a positive destination when they

About Hope London

Hope London is an artist, writer, performer, teacher and co-creator of award winning arts-based education programmes, who believes in the transformative power of the arts and loves working with people to unleash creative potential. www.hopelondon.com @hopelondonartist

Thank you to all the participants who took part in the
Life Stories project.

