

FOOT

IN THE DOOR

STEP INTO YOUR
CREATIVE CAREER






You don't need to be an artist or study art to step into a creative career!

The South London Gallery's youth collective, the **Art Assassins**, have created this guide to help you get your foot in the door of the creative industries.

There are 1000's of different roles in the creative sector, from graphic designers and filmmakers to project managers and fundraisers.

Hear insights and inspiration from young creatives, as well as staff working at the **South London Gallery** and **Hauser & Wirth**.

The creative sector continues to contribute value to the UK economy - £111.7bn in 2018, according to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Today, the creative industries are experiencing faster growth than the rest of the UK economy!



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WHY A CREATIVE CAREER MIGHT BE FOR YOU



The Art Assassins tell us what excites them about creative careers

"Anything not creative would suck the soul out of me, it's one of the few things in life that I know for a fact that I'm both good at and I know I will enjoy for the rest of my life."

"I want to engage with other creatives."

"I want to use a physical medium to convey myself and my opinions."

"The freedom a creative career could provide."

"I'm looking for autonomy within my career."

"A creative career suits me because it truly represents who I am."

"To feel represented."

"Self expression."

Hauser & Wirth staff tell us what excites them about creative careers

"Working with and building connections with inspiring, like-minded people, and being surrounded by beautiful artworks every day."

- **Digital Content Coordinator**
Hauser & Wirth

"First hand interaction with artworks, and no one day is the same."

- **Senior Registrar**
Hauser & Wirth

"As a graphic designer in the arts, I have the wonderful opportunity to help create narratives and messages through visuals."

- **Associate Graphic Designer**
Hauser & Wirth

"I am constantly inspired by the work of artists and by young people's thoughts, feelings and voices on various contemporary art exhibitions!"

- **Learning Assistant**
Hauser & Wirth



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**USEFUL
SKILLS FOR
A CREATIVE
CAREER**

USEFUL SKILLS FOR A CREATIVE CAREER



Creative thinking

Consistency

Cooperation

Curiosity

Confidence

Flexibility

Good communication

Collaboration

Dynamism

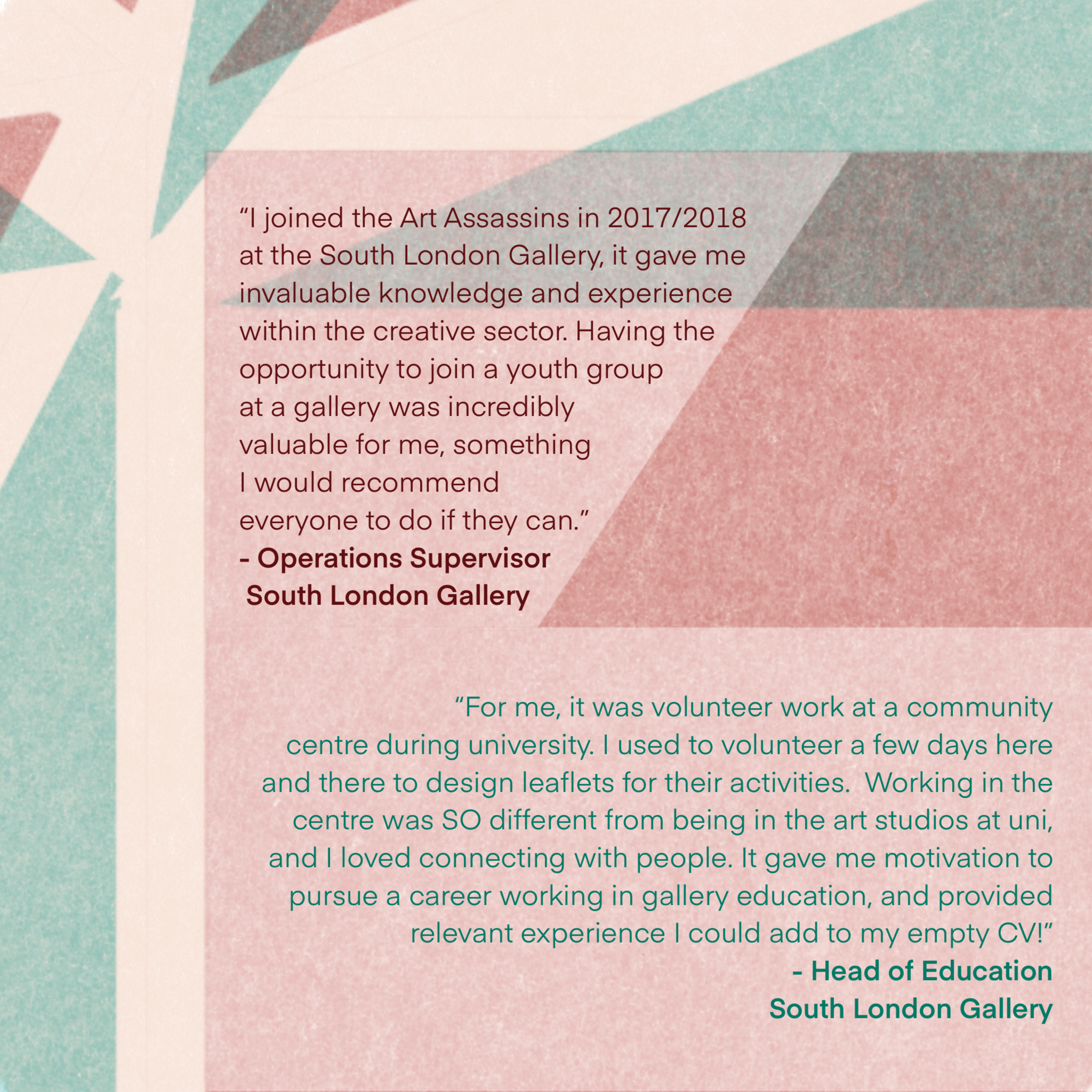
Imagination

FOOT IN THE DOOR



STEPPING IN

Staff from the **South London Gallery** and **Hauser & Wirth** tell us what helped them get their foot in the door




"I joined the Art Assassins in 2017/2018 at the South London Gallery, it gave me invaluable knowledge and experience within the creative sector. Having the opportunity to join a youth group at a gallery was incredibly valuable for me, something I would recommend everyone to do if they can."

**- Operations Supervisor
South London Gallery**

"For me, it was volunteer work at a community centre during university. I used to volunteer a few days here and there to design leaflets for their activities. Working in the centre was SO different from being in the art studios at uni, and I loved connecting with people. It gave me motivation to pursue a career working in gallery education, and provided relevant experience I could add to my empty CV!"

**- Head of Education
South London Gallery**




“Working in retail for years taught me so much about audiences, consumers and what motivates them, that still informs my work in marketing and communications today. I learned sales skills, became more comfortable talking to people, trying to understand them and how they interact with each other, brands and within a space.”

**- Digital Communications Manager
South London Gallery**

“I engaged in multiple internships and connected with professionals whose careers I admired on LinkedIn. This not only provided invaluable experience but also laid a robust foundation for my journey in the dynamic world of the creative industry.”

**- Associate Graphic Designer
Hauser & Wirth**



“The roles may not have always been glamorous, or as rewarding, as I had hoped, however it allowed me to include internationally recognised creative spaces on my CV, and gain insight in some of the behind-the-scenes mechanics of the industry.”

**- Senior Registrar
Hauser & Wirth**

“Having an array of internships and assisting jobs on my CV helped to get a foot-in-the-door, as well as finding out what I did and didn’t like.”

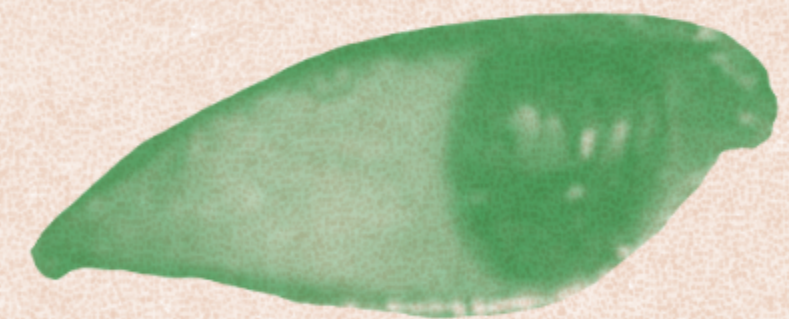
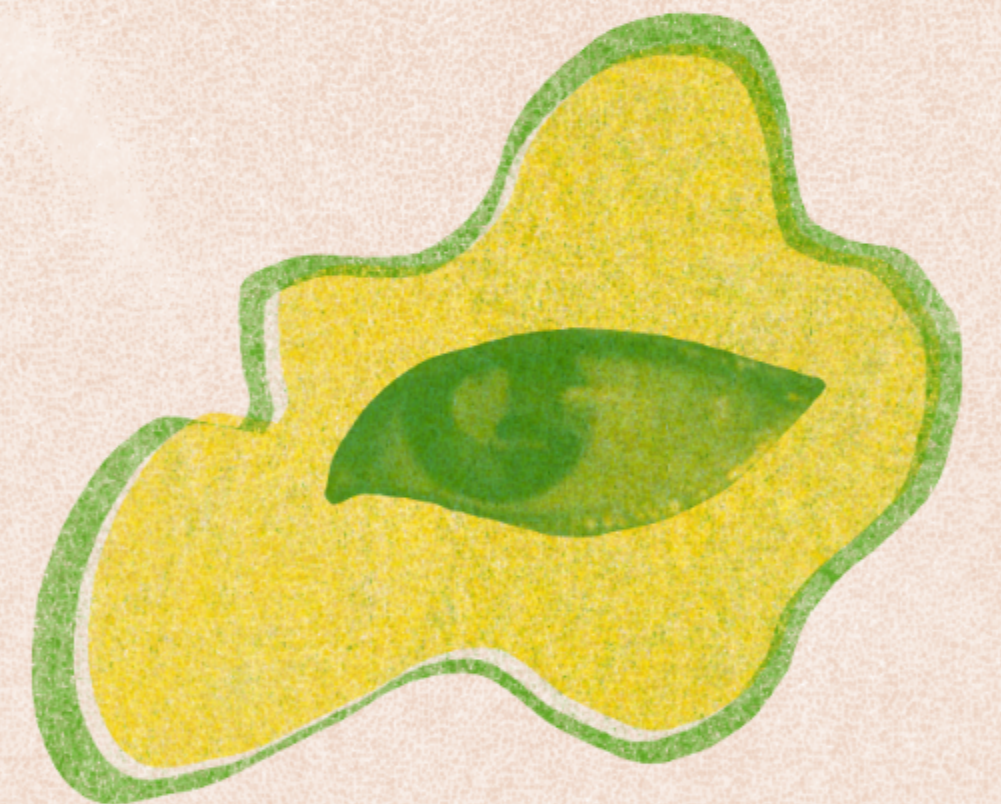
**- Digital Content Coordinator
Hauser & Wirth**


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TIPS,

ADVICE &

INSPIRATION





“Trust yourself! Also research various institutional websites and social media networks to keep up to date/in tune with opportunities and listings made available. Visit as many creative spaces as possible (physically and digitally) to see what is out there and follow contacts/artists/creatives/practitioners that interest you on social media to stay as up to date as you can. Also, if you find an organisation that you are passionate about, reach out and make contact.”

**- Learning Assistant
Hauser & Wirth**


“Thankfully university degrees aren’t viewed as so important anymore, however reading around the subject can be extremely complimentary. If possible, try and see shows first hand, read reviews, read blogs, so you can build up your own voice and opinions.”

**- Senior Registrar,
Hauser & Wirth**

“People are often excited about discussing their careers and are generally approachable and eager to help. It’s also important to remember you can begin crafting your portfolio at any time – no job required. Create projects you enjoy, take on design challenges online, and start honing your skills early on. That will set you apart.”


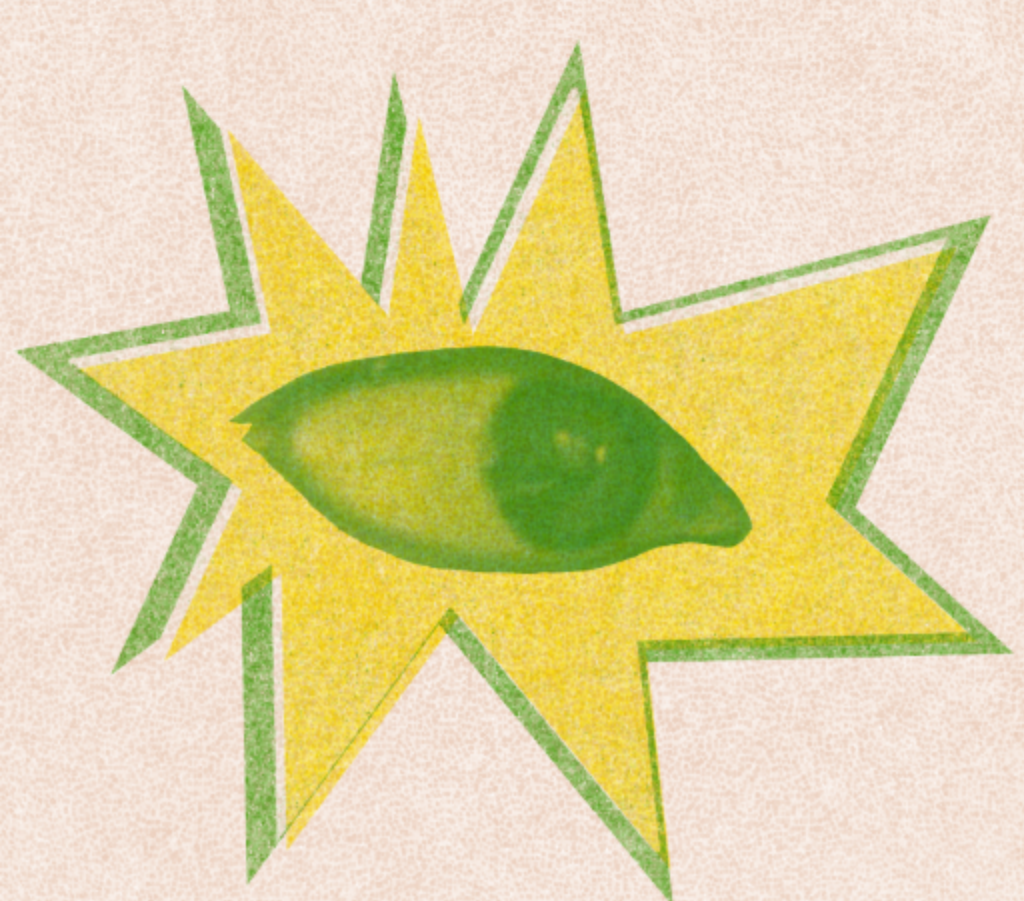
**- Associate Graphic Designer
Hauser & Wirth**





“Embrace all your passions, and don't feel overwhelmed by the notion of mastering numerous programs. Leverage the internet to your advantage and teach yourself the skills you hope to have, and don't be shy – reach out to industry experts for guidance.”

**- Associate Graphic Designer
Hauser & Wirth**



“Email the people you admire and would like to work with – even if it doesn't seem feasible. Don't always wait for jobs to be advertised. Even if you don't get a reply, or there isn't any immediate work, you never know what could come of it down the line.”

**- Digital Content Coordinator
Hauser & Wirth**

1: CUSTOMISE YOUR CV AND COVER LETTER FOR EACH JOB APPLICATION

2: BE DIRECT

3: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CONTACTS

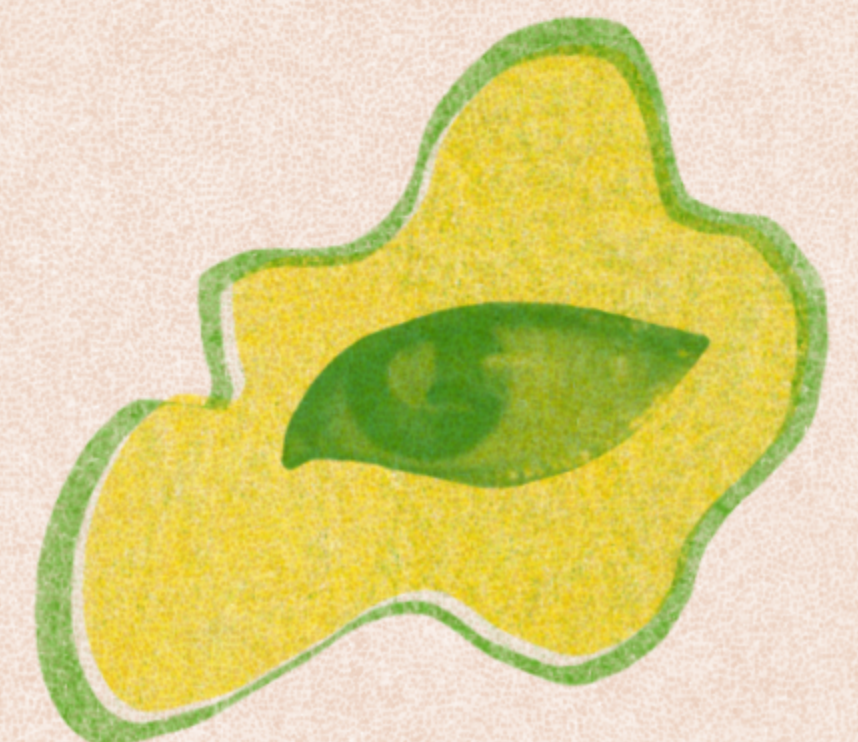
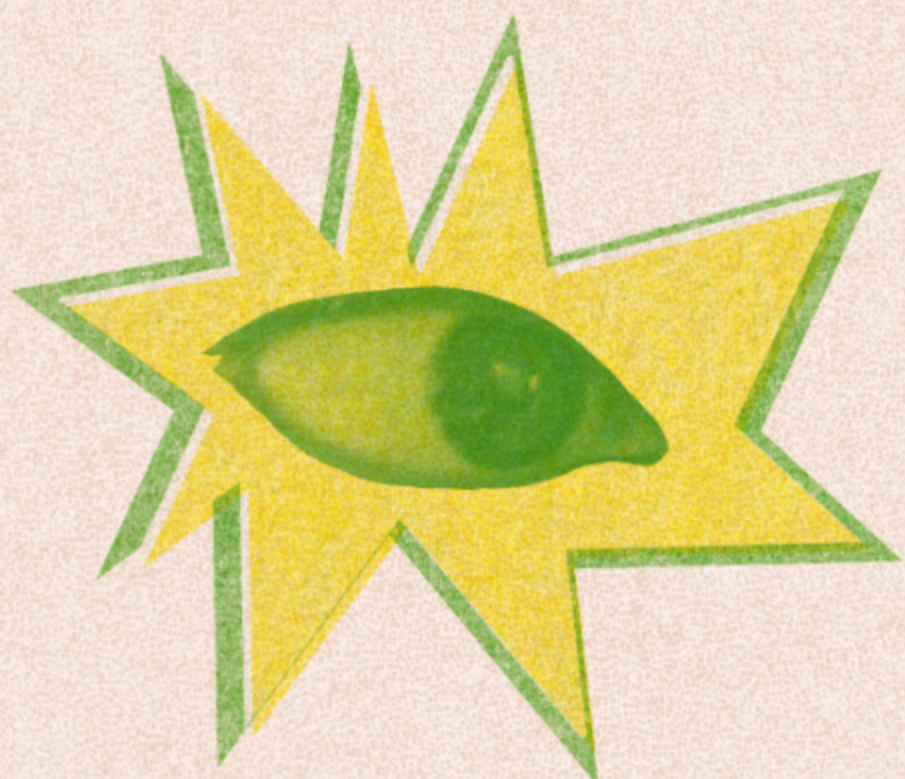
4: GO WHERE YOU ARE RESPECTED

5: DON'T BE EMBARRASSED TO ASK AGAIN... AND AGAIN

6: MAKE A LIST OF WHO YOU WANT TO WORK WITH

7: DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR DREAM JOB TO APPEAR

7: PRIORITISE YOUR WELLBEING



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**MAKING
YOUR NEXT STEP**

Embark on your creative career journey by joining one of these amazing groups, spaces or events.

These are all free and specially created for young people.



Young Vic

blk-anti-crit

Turf Projects

Barbican: Young Poets

Rich Mix: New Creatives

Lewisham Youth Theatre

Barbican: Young Film Programmers

The Courtauld Young People (16-18).

South London Gallery: Art Assassins

Whitechapel gallery: Duchamp & Sons

Camden Art Centre: Transformative Futures