

THE SHAPES WE NEED

A flag project by Billy commissioned by The Collection 2018



Billy has designed 9 flags marking the 100th year anniversary of the Representation of the People Act. Following an artist visit to The Collection in Lincoln and in context to the project themes, Billy has developed a visual narrative inspired by her research into Lincoln, Vexillology and the representation of people in the ongoing journey to equality. Billy has used simple illustrations and shapes to show these ideas in relation to connected ideas to the project topic. Each flag depicts its own visual language offering an unconscious expression of different meanings, where the shapes can not only be seen at face value as pleasing, bold designs, but also interpreted on deeper levels according to how the past and the present will continue to shape the future.

Billy is Alex Godwin, a visual artist with a focus on positive collaboration and engagement within communities. Her work is created with the intention to communicate visually striking ideas allowing an overall sense of wellbeing, based on placing herself in situations, experiencing and analysing real life events. Billy graduated from Nottingham Trent University in 2007 with a degree in Graphic Design and now concentrates on making community- led public art projects all over the world.

"Creating artwork in public spaces drives my vision of what a better society could look like, I believe in the importance of using art in public spaces and the positive effect this will have if you contextualise the artwork to its environment. The notion that freedom and happiness can be achieved through creative action is something I continue to reflect on. I strive to develop my practice in a way that ensures it stays relevant, challenges current social topics and issues and encourages responsibility in a changing society. I am delighted to work on this commission because it marks an important anniversary within our society today and its ethos is in line with my intentions in my own practice, making it relevant to my current ideas and work in many ways."

PAST : *The Shapes We Made*

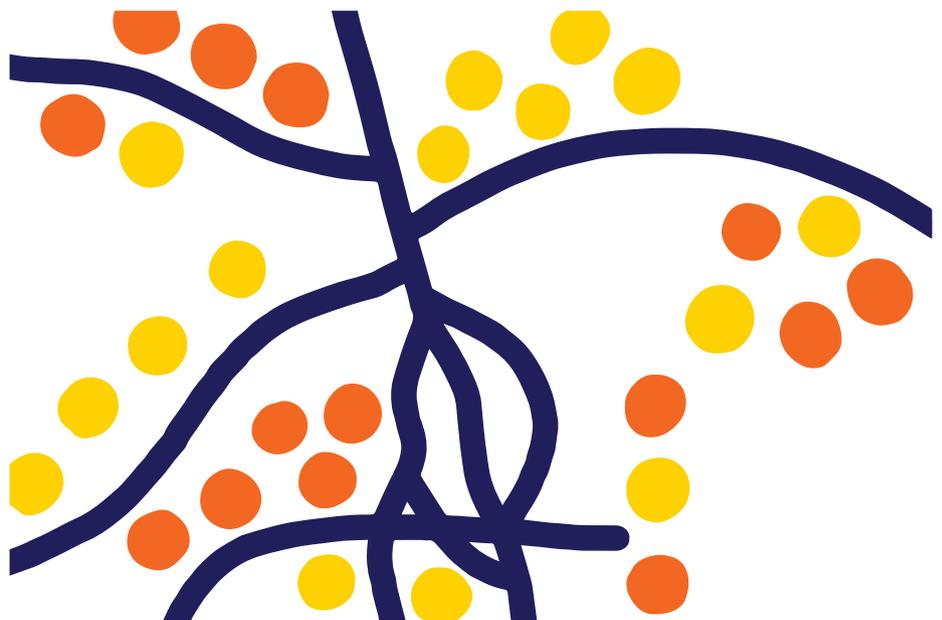
Munitionettes Flag

A factory building paying tribute to the women that worked in the munitions factories filling the gaps of the men when they went to war. Women played a major role in the production of munitions in Lincolnshire.



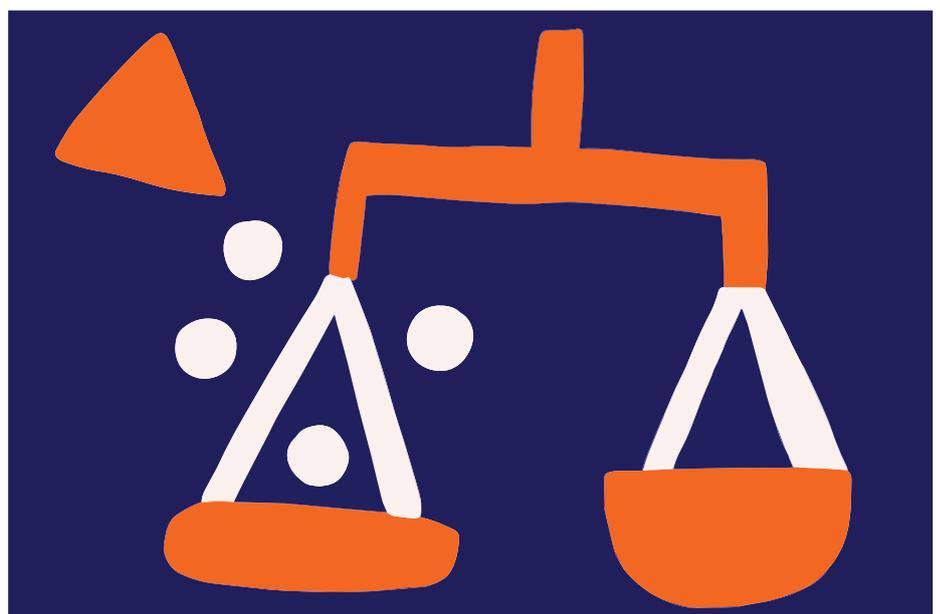
Settlements Flag

Inspired by a map in The Collection showing the distribution of settlements in past Lincolnshire. The shapes take on new meaning representing that knowledge about the past gives us the freedom to continue our journey and grow like a tree.



Unbalanced Flag

Scales with more on one side than the other side. Representing the imbalance and inequality between the representation of people in the past.



PRESENT : *The Shapes We Have*

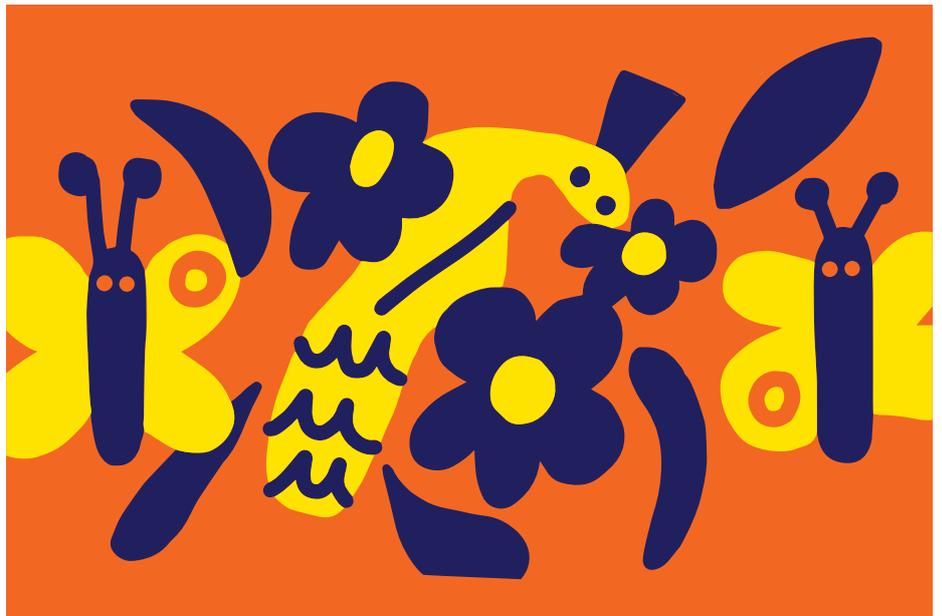
Looking Flag

A classic optical illusion of an artefact from the collection and 2 womens' faces looking at each other questioning their place and raising topical discussions about equality, civil rights and representation of people today.



Sampler Flag

"A women's work is never done." Inspired by a tapestry made by Hannah Johnson in 1847 from The Collection. The design is representing women's position in society today and understanding that there is still a long way to go before we reach equality in many places in the world.



Spoons Flag

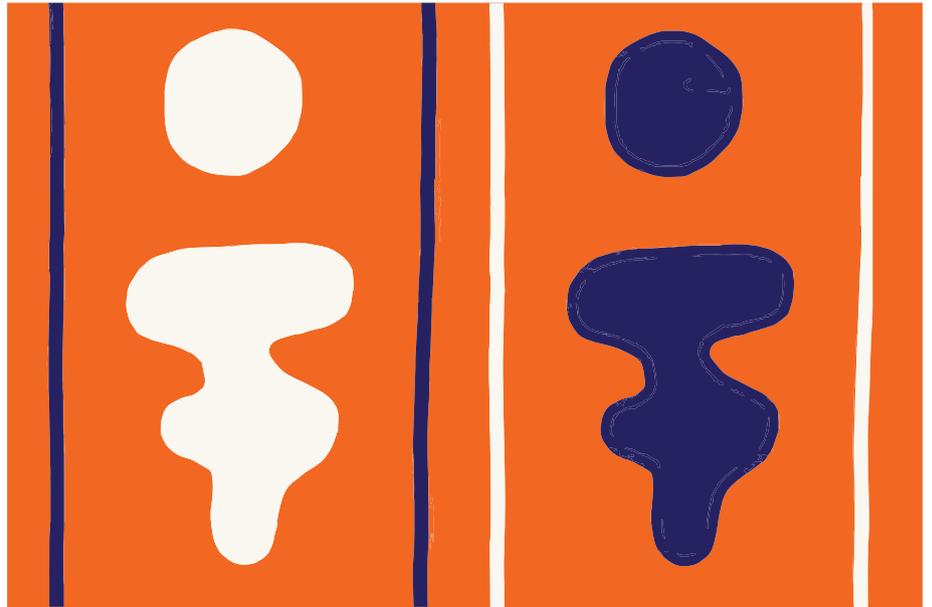
A collection of Lincoln Imp spoons in the collection, which are used here to represent women and all kinds of people putting their hands up to vote, fighting for equality and being represented today in order to be heard and have their say.



FUTURE : *The Shapes We Need*

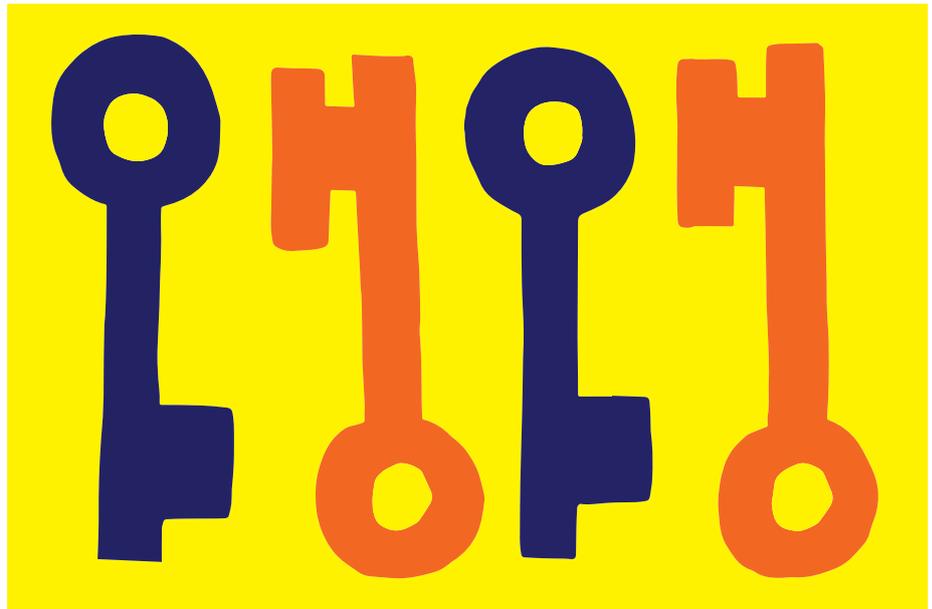
Reflections Flag

A moon reflecting on water repeated to give an impression of 2 women dancing, a look in to a positive and idealistic future where all people could be happy about their situation and place in the world.



Keys Flag

Inspired by artefacts in the collection, the key to reaching equality can be achieved though unlocking negative minds and attitudes opening up an even more accepting and brighter future.



Visionary Flag

A visual impression of the inside of the Usher Gallery and Museum, depicting the convergence of equality and representation. Through accessing knowledge and staying aware, we can keep informed about current social topics and issues in the past, the present and the future.

