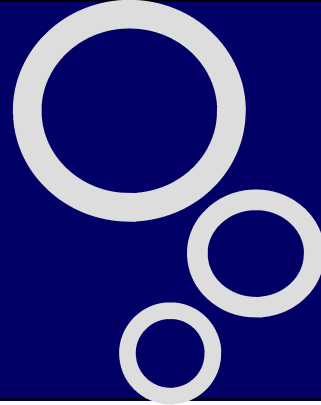


# The Gallery

## @ Idea Store Whitechapel



### Tower Hamlets History Library & Archives: *Out of the Box Project*

2 March – 29 March 2015



Thanks to a grant from the Arts Council England, the Out of the Box project has given disabled residents the chance to be creatively inspired by the council's extensive archival collections, which reflect centuries of East End history. The project is supported by The National Archives and will engage with disabled groups Tower Project, Local Voices and Real Tower Hamlets.

When you think of archives, the traditional image you may conjure up is of hundreds of documents from a forgotten era which are locked away in hidden vaults. This

is a pioneering project that invited disabled people and creatives from East London to take the lead in bringing archives 'out of the box', exploring them and asserting their own personal local histories! Through a series of workshops, the participants engaged with sound, oral history, handwritten archives on parchment, newspapers, painting and photographs.

Their inspiration from in-depth research is captured in their own artwork - from sculptures and hand-made cushions, to drawings and poems such as Limehouse Lures, "a fictional tale inspired by all the newspaper cuttings I read about Chinatown when it was based in Limehouse." (Rowan, participant). "I have gained in confidence to read history, write and paint. I believe albeit in a humble fashion that the sky is the limit" (Sarah, participant).

Follow Out of the Box: [facebook.com/outoftheboxprojects](https://facebook.com/outoftheboxprojects) / [#outoftheboxproject](https://twitter.com/outoftheboxproject)