

Brenda Cook Artist





“When I was 5 years old, I dreamt of being an artist It excites you because of all that comes out of it. I get power out of it”

My name is Brenda Cook and I'm an artist.



As a former member of Artists First, I have exhibited and sold my work for many years. My work can be seen on several websites: www.artistsfirst.org.uk www.outsidein.org.uk and on Instagram [@beyondartistsfirst](https://www.instagram.com/beyondartistsfirst)

I have taken part in many workshops and exhibition talks and have made films as part of Artists First. If you visit the Artists First website, you can see and hear me talk about my work and why art has always been important to me.

Through Artists First, my work has been chosen to be part of the National Disability Art Collection and Archive www.ndaca.org.uk , something I'm really proud of.

Although I'm now retired, if you want to find out more about my work, or buy my art please contact: apharris58@outlook.com for further details.

“Brenda is an artist of the rarest type; her oeuvre extends across the artforms. She is a painter, a poet, an actor, and a filmmaker.

Her narrative is always truthful, always compelling, having grown up in a world that has judged her harshly and labelling her negatively.

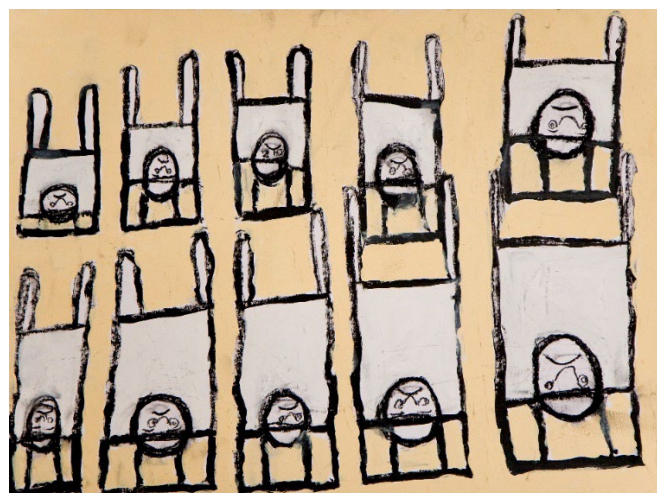
Her art rises above those judgement, institution thinking and negative societal prejudices that pervade the lives of people with a learning disability. She, and her art, shines a light on the beauty and worth of the Brenda Cooks of this world”.

Andrew Harris

Arts Coordinator & Co-founder of Artists First

Selected exhibition history:

- 2001 'Strength to Strength' Spike Island Bristol.
- 'Into the Fire' Thelma Hulbert Gallery Honiton East Devon.
- 2002 'This River Winding' Garrick Bar Bristol Old Vic. Bristol
- 2006 'The Space Between' Slimbridge Wetlands & Wildfowl Trust Slimbridge Gloucester.
- 2008 Boundless- Connecting Artists Bankside Gallery London.
- 2009 'Bringing People Together' Lawrence Weston Community Farm Bristol
- 2011 'Artists First' Main Corridor exhibition space Royal United Hospital Bath
- 2012 'Outside In' Pallant House Gallery Chichester
- 2013 'Artists First' Parlour Showrooms Gallery Bristol
- 2017 'Alternative Visions' Bristol Museum and Art Gallery Bristol + Touring to Falmouth Art Gallery Cornwall, The Wilson Cheltenham and Poole Museum and Art Gallery Dorset.
- 2018 'Artists First 30 Years' Arnolfini Gallery Bristol
- 2022 ACEarts Open Somerton
- 2022 Niche Framers Gallery North Bristol Arts Trail Bristol



Several of Brenda's paintings are held in the permanent collection of Fresh Arts at Southmead Hospital



Residencies, Talks and Workshops

- 2000 - 2001 Year of the Artists Residency at Spike Island Bristol
- 2009 Bringing People Together Residency at Lawrence Weston Community Farm Bristol
- 2016 – 2018 Past, Present, Future Talks & Workshops
Hospital Education Centre
Southmead Hospital Bristol
Noray Fry Centre for Disability Studies
University of Bristol
Glenside Hospital Museum
University of West of England Bristol
Learning Disabilities Conference
Trinity Centre Bristol
- 2017 Alternative Visions talk and Workshop Bristol
Museum & Arts Gallery Bristol
- 2018 An Evening with Artists First Arnolfini Gallery Bristol



Publications

- 2009 Pallant House Magazine
- 2018 Artists First 30 Years History
- 2019 Norah Fry Annual Report
- 2021 Norah Fry Annual Report

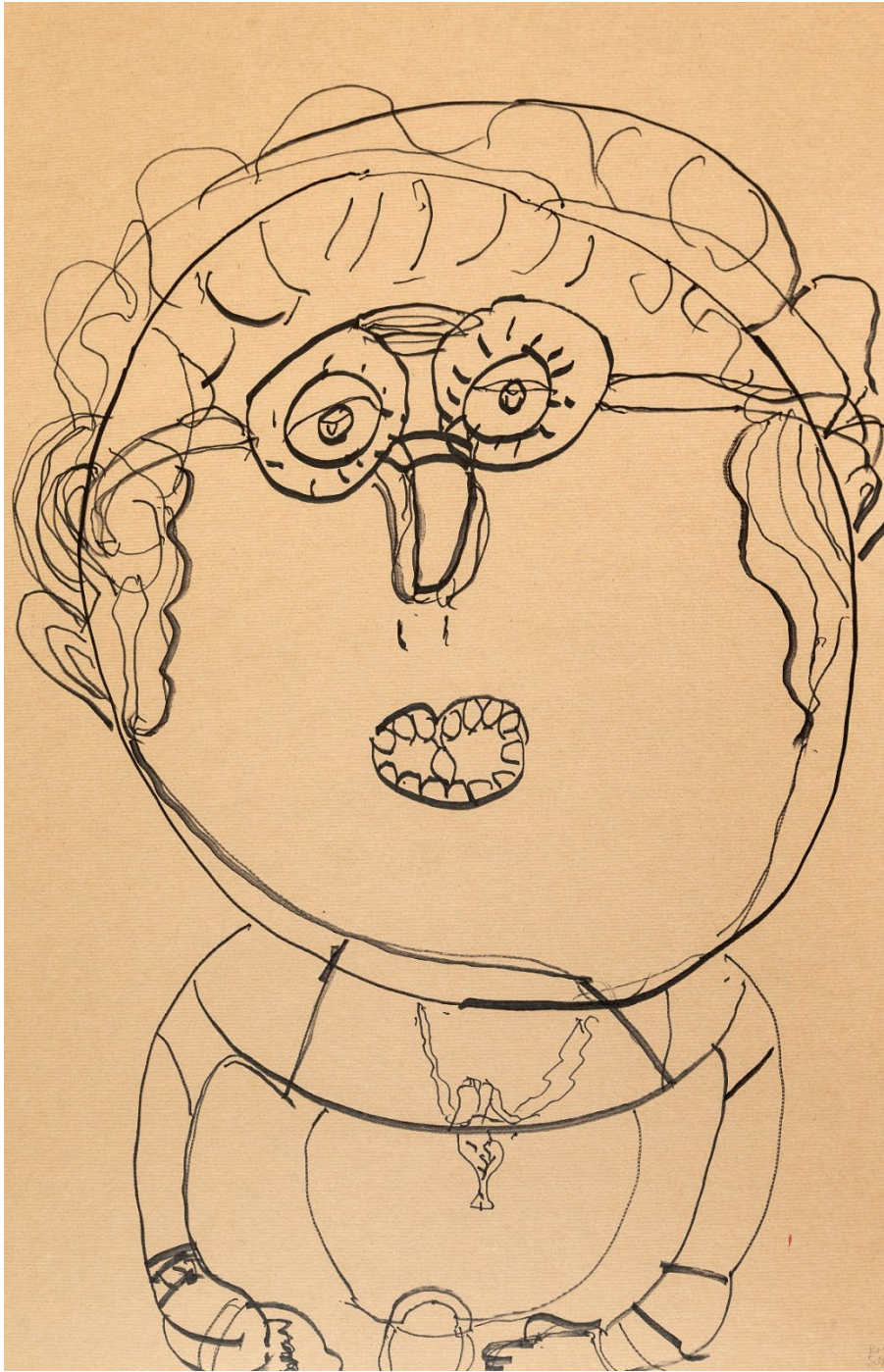


Films

- Origins: Artists First Redweather Productions
- Other Ways of Seeing: Artists First Redweather Productions
- Our Portraits: Artists First Redweather Productions
- Influencing the Mainstream: Artists First Redweather Productions
- Working with Other Artists: Artists First Redweather Productions







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