

Imagine

A little bit about the process of making 'Outside my Window I see...

The creation of the short film was a collaborative effort, made with several young people from Iona, Edinburgh and Kolkata.

The process of making the short film began with a recorded phone conversation between Alice and each of the young people involved. Alice asked 'Can you tell me what you see outside your window? Alice then transcribed what they said from recorded words into written text. Each young person was then randomly paired with another young person from a different place, so for example a young person from Iona was paired with a young person from Edinburgh or Kolkata, and vice versa. Once in pairs, Alice sent each young person a written text from their 'partner' and was asked to draw or paint their view. The young people had a week to make their drawing. They were asked to draw a 'wide view' and a 'close up' of the view.

Once everyone sent their pictures back to Alice- some via post and others over email- Alice then paired the original voice recording with the artworks, to make a film, matching up each pair once again. Gavin, the sound designer, then worked with Alice to make sure everything was sounding as good as possible and also added a few other sounds to evoke the three places (Edinburgh, Iona, Kolkata) described and imagined in the young people's words and images.

Original transcriptions

A note: In the film, not everything said in each recording was used. Below are the full transcriptions of the original phone recordings as sent out to each young person to create an artwork from.

From Edinburgh

Ben

So there is quite a big garden area with a road curving round past, another three floored flat with flowers at the end of each bit of grass. There's another bit of grass on the other side of the road and there's three houses on the right of the flat and there's a bush right in front of one of them. Each flat has a balcony, with three strips of wood across it and a pipe going down one of the balconies. To the right, there's another similar flat with three stories and all the walls are gravelly rock. On the flat across the road there's, next to the balconies, there's a window for each balcony. There's nine balconies and there's cars up the road next to the houses, on each side of the road. In front of the flat to the right, there's a little power hut thing. I'm not completely sure what it is. To the right of us, there's a carport with sandy brick walls and a flat roof with white wood right around it, with some water on top of it at the moment. From our balcony there's fake grass (below) along the bottom, two deck chairs and two footrests. Both the chairs and footrests are black. There's a three shelved metal shelf. On the bottom shelf there's two flower holders with white and purple flowers and a big blue candle-holder with glass bits on each side, and a green small empty candle holder. On the second top shelf there's two more tea candle holders- blue and pink- and the yellow watering can. On top of it there's a blue plant pot with nothing in it.

Celia

Outside the window, I can see lots of two story white houses with black tiles on their roofs. There are about 12 houses in the horseshoe shape, otherwise known as a cul de sac, which is like a group of houses for a party of people that look very similar, that are separated by walls, fences and bushes. The houses are quite similar. But the one thing that is different is have different color doors. I can see blue, gray, green, and even red ones. Outside each house there are bike scooters and other toys that the children like to play on when the road is clear. Right now there is a lorry driving round the street. Parked outside most of the houses are cars that are waiting to be driven.

If you look closely in most of the house windows, you can see colorful rainbows and signs supporting the NHS (national Health Service), which look looks after people when they're not well. On the roofs of the houses you can see chimneys sometimes solar panels and birds sitting on the TV aerials. It is quite sunny today and the skies is blue with clouds shaped like marshmallows. In the distance I can see trees and rooftops of the other streets.

Pippa

Outside my window I see a bit of my front garden, that's sort of in a triangle, with lots of plants like rose bushes and rhododendrons (a tiny one that looks a bit like a tiny tree) and lots and lots of yellow and orange poppies. To the left of that, I see my car which is a big black one, With a bike rack on the roof and with big shiny tyres.

Behind that, I see my neighbours house, that's got stones that are all cemented together (pebble-dash), and then you can see the very bottom corner of their window, and the roof at the very top of their house. And you can see one of their bins, behind our car. It's a grey one. And to the right of the big triangle, there is a path that's leading up to my front door. And then past that, there are some stones that look like half a bubble, but it's very wonky. And it's full of stones and there is a statue of a fairy reading on it- but it's not too big- it's tiny. The fairy is lying down reading a book. It's lying on it's tummy and kicking it's feet up near it's wings. It's just about the size of a gnome.

Next to it, closer, coming off the path a bit, right next to the stones, is my fairy garden that's got three fairy houses, a bridge over a shell and a fairy sitting outside one of the houses. That's in front of this very small bush. There are rose bushes behind that. And behind those the roses bushes there's a wall that's not too high: it goes halfway up to the rose bushes.

And then behind that, there's the road that goes around in a lollipop shape. And then it goes down to a road that connects to the main road, but you can't see the road that connects to the main road, because it is out of sight, but you can see half of a house with a window on the roof. And they've got a circle on the side that gets internet in it. And then there's a big house which three families live in, and so that means there are three doors at the bottom (of the house). There are lots of windows and there's even a circular window just above the second door.

And then opposite you can see a house that joins together with another house and a tree that is far and to the left.

Zoe

I can see a medium light green bush and on the right of it a pale yellow and dark green small bush. And along to the right a little bit more is a red and purple bush which is really big and then next to that is a light yellow, green and green colour bush and my path which leads down to the wall but then stops halfway through and turns diagonally, which points the same direction as my dad's car. And in the spare bit behind the bushes is a bit of green grass and in front and behind that green grass, is a red and pale beige wall. Across the street I see more bungalows which have the pebble pattern walls with the grey slate roofs, and most of the same kind of bushes as me (my house). A bungalow is when it's a one-floored house and the second floor is just the attic.

Underneath my window there are some beige stones. If I look towards the left a little from the medium green bush, I can see a couple of streets along with houses, but I can't see in front of me because of the reddish-purple bush.

Some of them (the other houses) have an orangey brownish slate instead of grey ones and some have double floors because they've had extensions. Two of them are two story houses and one of them is a bungalow.

From Iona

Jamie

I can see a stone-wall, but stones on top of each other. I can see a stone wall concreted for firmness with cracks along it and moss growing on the top. I can see carrots planted in the garden ready to grow. I can see a tree. I can see a small tree barren from leaves from the wind. I can see tall grass blowing in the wind and almost being taken out (from) its roots. I can see a little Thrush in the garden, pecking away at seeds. I can see bins; green, black and blue. I can see purple flowers, only a small amount, but all clustered together. I can see hills in the distance, rocky, but with sheep climbing on them. And I can see the clouds, large and almost blocking out the sun. I can see a tin house beside a wall for shelter for animals. I can see a tractor beside a hen house made of corrugated iron and a door with a cockerel spray painted on it. I can see sheep and lambs playing in the fields. I can see a rusted metal gate. I can see rusted metal fencing. I can see fences with poles around two metres apart. I can see a gate in my garden with chicken wire so the chickens cannot get in. I can see a stile for climbing over the fence and I can see a hose lying flat on the garden ground. I can see a hose trolley for moving the hose to the garden. I can see the duck-house made of an old long metal tube, cut in half and a door put in front of it.

Kaspar

In the far right of my garden I've got a little rectangle pen where my ducks have just started to move in there and they've just started to lay eggs. And then further on, there's where I've been growing vegetables in the same rectangle place. And then further on, we've got a hedge that goes all the way across to the left side, where there's greenery that stops, just comes in a bit and then I've got a little circular piece of greenery, that's about, in the middle of my house, garden, and I've got two, three massive fields, just outside my garden, my garden's not very big. And they're absolutely massive with lambs and sheep all on them. And I've got two houses with slate roofs and with the stone things in their walls. I've got a barn just in front of me and a ruined house that's got its roof missing, made from stone. And I could see a

beach just up ahead, just in the corner with loads of rocks, just all keeping it into small little pools with lots of sand and a horse on it.

And then I've got hills that go very high up with vines on them and they're very bumpy and they've got lots of sheer cliffs. And then in my house I've got a bench just tucked into the far left corner where I like to sit and also got a gate that leads to the fields on my left. Just to the left my garden I've also got my ducklings where they get to play in a cage, just in front, just at the duck-pen area. Just got a little cage where my ducklings fly.

Uist

From my window I see a few trees and behind it an old brick church with a slate tile roof. Next to that there's several walls and the giant field. Then there's a few houses and more trees. And then there's an old garden with greenhouses and behind that you can see more houses which are also made of brick, with slate (roofing) tiles. Behind that you can see the sea, and behind that you can see the Ross of Mull. Next to sea you can see another massive field with fences all around it. You can see, you can just barely see, the rocks from where I am. Coming a bit closer, you can see another wall with more trees, but you can also just barely make out a few benches and that's where the heritage centre is. There's a big tarmac road, which is going out and down into another road which is wrought by walls, more cobbled walls, then through that leads to some hedges with some- I don't know what's growing there but something- from back there, there's a few cars parked right next to it, and a few more fields and stuff and there's some flowers around everywhere. And then if you go, if you go round from there, you can see more houses with some slate roofs. And across there's some fences and more things like that. You can make out several more stone walls around the side with some paths going into each house every now and again. I can just make out some more houses that are in the distance.

Ula

So one of the biggest things I notice when I look outside my window is a big chicken coop. It doesn't have chickens in it but it has plants going on it. There are two. There's a metal one with wooden edges, and there's two lovely big wooden chairs. And at the end of my garden, I've got, closest to the window, are lots of pebbles and gravel and then, further away I've got lots of grass and a very, quite a big garden. And there's lots of little birds often you see in the grass. Lots and lots of lots of big bushes, and stone, a stone wall and there's lots of pink flowers growing on some of the bushes and red rose bushes and there are some weeds and I can see a pink deck chair sitting on the gravel and beside the window is a bench and then closer to the middle of the garden is a little patio of other vegetables and then at the end of the garden are some bins which are also quite noticeable. We live right beside the sea so you can see over to the other island, which is (called) Mull and the clever thing is we can see the boats going in and out so we are never late normally.

From Kolkata

Anisha

Outside my window, I see a cloudy sky. I can also see a lot of buildings. Since I live in the heart of the city. Whatever I'm going to describe is from a bird's eye view as I am on the 17th floor. On my right side, I can see two tall 17 story buildings, which are part of our gated community. In front of one of the two buildings I can see a part of a hospital named Medica.

When I look in front from my window and directly look down, I can see a small water body, much like a pond. I can see birds like herons, and two bright blue coloured kingfishers. I can also see some greenish blackish fish in the pond. Next to the water body, there is a row of trees, which we call Gumohah trees, but in English they are known as flame or flamboyant trees. They have beautiful orange-ish reddish blossoms and the leaves are bright green in colour. The trees are also not very tall.

Next to that is a road and beyond that road is the parking lot of a store called Metro cash and carry. The parking lot is huge and the shades have solar panels on them. Beyond that is a green expanse. And at a distance, I can see 4 buildings of 40 story's. On my left side is a highway, which joins one end of the city to the other end. This road is very busy with different vehicles like buses and trucks and cars etcetera. Beyond the road, I can see a stadium and many other buildings, which are part of a different complex, a bit far from the stadium.

Arohan

So outside my window, I can trees at the front; they are very big, but some are also very tiny. So I really can't see the gate. So the leaves on the trees can range from many different shades of green. There are also some ropes tied to trees; it's a good use of nature, so people can hang clothes on them. There are also many logs and these logs are very fat. They are bundled up together. It's actually the remains of a tree that has died.

I can see some pink periwinkles with five petals, they are very tiny compared to the humongous, massive trees. There is a tiny bench where I usually sit. The trees that I climb are very easy, but the more higher you go, the more slippery and smooth it is, so it's harder to climb them. I also like the greenery. (The trees in the forest) are regular and some are food trees, like there are mango trees and medicinal trees. Sometimes it is very cloudy outside, like right now, therefore there might be some rain today. So, when thunderstorms happen, we usually have to duck inside. That is why the sky is a greyish kind of colour. But the trees usually cover most of the sky as they are so tall, that it seems like it's pretty dark at all times. So there is lots of shade. But in the summers, it is the hottest time and therefore we can't go outside much, so I usually sit inside, and every single day, I sometimes see monkeys from swinging branch to branch elegantly. So they usually come.

A forest (where I live) is like a jungle with elephants and monkeys and wild boars. They also come. And there are lots of insects. For example, the monarch butterfly which are orange and black spotted butterflies, is one of the most common ones over here. There is also a blue and black butterfly. It is one of the biggest butterflies in Chalcedony.

Golponodi

I see my grill with a lock on it. A grill is a kind of protective border around your flat. So in my balcony there is a grill; it's kind of patterned, with strong rods, and there's also a net, but that's not part of the grill. So that's also protective, the net, but it's not part of the grill. And I see behind my window sill, lots of plants growing on the border of my complex. A complex is where you live together and there are lots of flats, lots of buildings. There are about 12 buildings in my complex, and in each (building) there are eight flats. So, together that is a complex. I see another house that is beyond the border of my complex and it's orange in colour. I see the next flat, where there are some clothes drying. There is a handkerchief and there is a towel; a red chequered towel, and some dresses. And there are some steps and the floor is a bit shabby, but

there are lots of birds flying outside and lots of trees growing out. There are a lot of crows and sparrows here. There are two windows in my flat, (actually) one is a balcony. So from the balcony we can see one window, and in that window grill there is a broken Sparrow's nest.

Vatsal

I live in old Kolkata and as a child I know Kolkata as a dynamic city. I believe I live in an area which is the wholesale hub of the city. As I look out of the out of my window, I can see a busy street. Tin trams can be seen occasionally running on embedded lines across the road. There is a pink building and in front of it and there is an old Peepal tree. There is a red and blue paper guide stuck among its branches. There is also a crow's nest with two eggs in it.

A Yellow Taxi is parked on the road. I can see behind a holistic shop, a man. There are buildings scattered around. A few pedestrians can be seen walking on the road. There is a man carrying a sack over his shoulder. He is wearing a blue coloured dress and jeans. There's also a man wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue pants. He is carrying a backpack and wearing sunglasses. The weather is very pleasant here because even when cars come they produce less smoke.