

Further Afield conversation with Grace Currie

Bella Milroy 00:00

Hello and welcome to Further Afield, a project which discusses and explores art and disability in rural spaces. My name is Bella Milroy. I'm a disabled artist based in my hometown of Chesterfield in North Derbyshire and Further Afield is a project produced in collaboration between myself and Level Centre who are a rurally based Arts Council England national portfolio organisation in Rowsley Derbyshire, just down the road from me. The project consists of a series of interviews with disabled artists as well as research into the experiences of disabled artists in rural settings. It seeks to promote their work and learn about the ways of making and producing art that aren't always offered the space or recognition that it deserves. All Further Afield interviews are available to watch on the Level Centre website, and an audio podcast version will also be available to listen to. There'll be transcripts of all conversations, go to levelcentre.com, for more information about the project, access and the contributing artists. Further afield is a project supported by Arts Council England, Level Centre, Shape Arts, Derbyshire libraries, Harlem Artspace, Arts Derbyshire and Wysing Arts Centre. So just for a short visual description for audiences, my pronouns are she/ her/ they/ them, and for my visual description, I am a white woman in my early 30s with an oval face and round cheeks. I have pale white skin with short brown hair and round glasses. I'm also working from home, where behind me there's a grey sofa, a lamp, some cushions and a stack of shelves and drawers in the background. There may also be some dogs and cats wandering around from time to time. So today, so today, I have with me Grace Curry, who is a wonderful artist based in Baschurch in rural Shropshire. I'm going to just invite Grace to do a short visual description before I introduce her work.

Grace Currie 02:09

Yes, I'm Grace Currie and I'm wearing a brown dress and I am a white person with no glasses on and with c-curly hair.

Bella Milroy 02:24

Brilliant. That's great Grace. Thank you so much.

Grace Currie 02:27

Thank you.

Bella Milroy 02:28

I'm just gonna give a short introduction of Grace's work before we begin our interview. So, Grace Currie works in mediums of paint, clay, video and performance. Her bio reads as follows, "She feels that her social identity as a disabled woman reduces her in some peoples eyes to child status, an identity she resists but draws attention to in her childlike portraits of figures or faces. By paring down her portraits and s-self portraits into simple shapes, she shows how people's complex identity gets simplified". In 2022, she was 1 of the 31 Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists to take part in the DASH, award winning project, "We are invisible, We are visible". A national event in recognition of the 102nd

anniversary of the first DaDa International Exhibition of surreal and strange artworks. Grace performed a piece of work entitled, "Put away neatly", at Home Gallery in Manchester. This piece explored the repeated words and phrases that can be offered by the people who have our best interests at heart, but which often have the cumulative impact of keeping us safe, tiny and silent.

Grace Currie 03:35

Yeah, YEAH.

Bella Milroy 03:45

Grace is currently working towards a solo exhibition in 2024.

Bella Milroy 03:50

So, Grace, thank you so much for joining me today. It's really wonderful to have you with us. I was so excited to come across your work and yeah, share your really vibrant and varied practice with this program. So yeah, it's a pleasure to have you here.

Grace Currie 04:09

You're welcome. Yeah.

Bella Milroy 04:12

How are you doing?

Grace Currie 04:15

I'm doing fine I am.

Bella Milroy 04:17

Great. Maybe we could start off by you just telling us a little bit about your work and what you're up to at the moment.

Grace Currie 04:24

I'm working on portraits and big people.

Bella Milroy 04:32

Amazing.

Grace Currie 04:32

Hidden women.

Bella Milroy 04:35

Oh, wow, that sounds so cool.

Grace Currie 04:37

H-hidden Women. They're up there. Hidden Woman.

Bella Milroy 04:43

Are there hidden women in particular that you're drawn to?

Bella Milroy 04:50

Oh, are we getting some example pieces.

Bella Milroy 04:58

Wow, that looks amazing. So for our audiences grace has just held up a really like abstract painting with kind of purples and reds and lots of kind of splashes of colours.

Bella Milroy 05:11

Is that one of the hidden women drawings Grace?

Grace Currie 05:15

Yeah it is.

Bella Milroy 05:18

Wow.

Grace Currie 05:18

Some hidden women in there.

Bella Milroy 05:23

Can you tell me what hidden women means to you?

Grace Currie 05:28

Disabled people are mostly hidden, mostly hidden and silenced they are.

Grace Currie 05:32

Mostly.

Bella Milroy 05:33

Yeah.

Grace Currie 05:36

I resent that, I find that very very unattractive I do. And they're very un-un. What word was it? I don't know.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 05:53

Unacceptable.

Grace Currie 05:54

Not acceptable, I don't find it very acceptable I don't, either.

Bella Milroy 05:59

And is that something that you draw on your own experience of?

Grace Currie 06:03

Yes, it does. Yeah.

Bella Milroy 06:08

Thank you so much grace. That's such a brilliant introduction to your current practice at the moment. I'm really looking forward to seeing more of those hidden women. That sounds great. So maybe we could talk a little bit about where you live. What's what's Baschurch like?

Grace Currie 06:30

Baschurch's lovely. It's got one doctors and just got to go from there to there. And a shop and two pubs.

Bella Milroy 06:43

Yeah. And do you like living there?

Grace Currie 06:45

I do. It's nice and quiet for me, for when I go to bed. Nobody disturbs me.

Bella Milroy 06:55

Nice. And do you think that Baschurch affects your work in any way, does it does it? Yeah. Tell me about that.

Grace Currie 07:06

No it doesn't. I'm always in here with loud music on, I'm always in here with loud music, I am.

Bella Milroy 07:14

Ah, are you talking about your studio?

Grace Currie 07:16

My Studio, yeah.

Bella Milroy 07:19

Is that where you're talking to me from today?

Grace Currie 07:21

Yeah, yeah, yeah, it is.

Bella Milroy 07:24

Tell me a bit about your studio. How do you like to work then? You say you like loud music?

Grace Currie 07:28

I do.

Bella Milroy 07:31

What kind of music do you like to listen to?

Grace Currie 07:32

Rock mostly.

Bella Milroy 07:37

Nice. So maybe you're like one of the loud ones in the village?

Grace Currie 07:41

Yeah, yeah I am.

Bella Milroy 07:45

Nice. And like, are there, any, Oh maybe I can move on to the next question now I think. you recently exhibited work in the Shrewsbury Art Trail.

Grace Currie 08:03

Yes, I did.

Bella Milroy 08:05

What was that like?

Grace Currie 08:13

It was quite. It was a load of stairs it was. It wasn't very disabled friendly, it wasn't.

Bella Milroy 08:21

Really.

Grace Currie 08:22

It wasn't at all. Which is ironic it is.

Bella Milroy 08:29

Yeah?

Grace Currie 08:31

"Walk in my shoes". It's called, " Walk in my Shoes".

Bella Milroy 08:36

Oh, okay. Yes. That is very ironic. Yeah. I'm so sorry that that wasn't a very positive experience for you.

Grace Currie 08:45

No, not really.

Bella Milroy 08:48

Did they, were they able to make any adjustments for you or?

Grace Currie 08:52

No there wasn't. No they didn't.

Bella Milroy 08:56

That's really disappointing.

Grace Currie 08:57

It is.

Bella Milroy 09:01

Is this the work that you showed?

Grace Currie 09:07

It's a photocopy it is. It's a really big painting it is. It's old shoes. Old Doc Martens.

Bella Milroy 09:20

What what does the piece explore

Grace Currie 09:22

Because they're the only shoes I can were, now. 'Cause I used to wear loads of little shoes I did.

Bella Milroy 09:27

Yeah.

Grace Currie 09:28

Mostly flats, mostly.

Grace Currie 09:33

Weared some heels I did.

Bella Milroy 09:35

Yeah.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 09:37

But why can't you now?

Bella Milroy 09:38

And what does...

Grace Currie 09:39

I've got a splint on I have. I've got a Splints.

Bella Milroy 09:45

Oh, you've got splints. Right. Okay. So is the piece exploring that in that way?

Grace Currie 09:51

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah it is

Bella Milroy 09:57

And do you think that has maybe impacted erm how you feel connected to other art events happening near you? Is that put you off or?

Grace Currie 10:13

No, not really. I don't take anything I do.

Bella Milroy 10:19

I mean, it's it's their problem, right?

Grace Currie 10:20

Yeah it is.

Bella Milroy 10:22

Yeah.

Grace Currie 10:23

It's my foots, my foots, my foots problem.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 10:28

It's not your foots problem.

Grace Currie 10:30

No.

Bella Milroy 10:33

So maybe we can move on to the next question. And I'm really interested in how your work explores subverting society's expectations of disabled people. Can you can you tell me a bit more about that? Is that clear, yeah?

Grace Currie 10:54

What does subverting mean?

Bella Milroy 10:57

So, erm you are. A bit like how you were saying earlier, how you reject the like, the childlike impression that people have of you. And a lot of your work is like a big....

Grace Currie 11:13

Sexual.

Bella Milroy 11:13

Yeah, tell me about that.

Grace Currie 11:15

Well, sexualisation because I love, I love, that that idea of stuff I do. And I love, sex.

Bella Milroy 11:31

And is that something that you, is like...?

Grace Currie 11:34

I want to explore that I do.

Bella Milroy 11:37

Yeah. That's, I think that's really wonderful to be able to celebrate that as part of your selfhood as a as an adult person.

Grace Currie 11:48

Yeah I am.

Bella Milroy 11:49

Yeah, that's wonderful.

Grace Currie 11:50

I'm not a child. That's what I'm trying to make people think. I'm not a child.

Bella Milroy 11:56

Yeah, yeah.

Grace Currie 11:58

I wasn't born, I wasn't born with a disability either. I went to Sixth Form College I did. And then when in my final year, I came -head I did, by a car.

Bella Milroy 12:14

Yeah.

Grace Currie 12:15

I was walking down the road.... yeah. And the car hit me it did. But I knew who they was. I got compensation for them I did, as well.

Bella Milroy 12:32

Yeah. Yeah.

Grace Currie 12:33

No, nothing him wrong there wasn't.

Bella Milroy 12:35

Yeah. Gosh, thank you so much for sharing that with me Grace.

Bella Milroy 12:42

Maybe you could tell me a little bit more about some of your art personas that you take on like you just described there being like, sex is something that inspires your work.

Grace Currie 12:54

Sexy Artist.

Bella Milroy 12:55

The Sexy Artist, you describe yourself as the Sexy Artist. What does that mean?

Grace Currie 12:59

It means I am.... I just am.

Bella Milroy 13:09

Yeah.

Grace Currie 13:13

From Chest.. I was to Chester Uni. This this is my degree show this is.

Bella Milroy 13:19

Great.

Grace Currie 13:19

This is one of the pieces it is.

Bella Milroy 13:23

And is that one of the really big ones?

Grace Currie 13:24

Yeah, it's one of the really big ones. It's life-sized it is.

Bella Milroy 13:27

Amazing.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 13:30

So what else, what other pictures did you do for your degree? What was it exploring your... you being a-a woman?

Grace Currie 13:37

Yeah, yea, yea yea, yeah.

Bella Milroy 13:39

Amazing. Just for the audiences, Grace is just holding up a copy of one of her large scale paintings. Erm, that shows a figure with large breasts and hips and also perhaps some period blood and the faces is like blocked out in red.

Grace Currie 13:53

Yeah, yeah. Yep.

Bella Milroy 13:57

And so yeah, the Sexy Artist is like erm, a kind of asserting, like you're asserting....

Grace Currie 14:05

My Persona.

Bella Milroy 14:06

Yeah, your persona. And and does that like, does that make you feel good to be able to, like, take on that identity for yourself to...

Grace Currie 14:17

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 14:19

Nice.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 14:19

Why does it make you feel good?

Grace Currie 14:22

It makes me feel.... powerful.

Bella Milroy 14:29

Amazing.

Grace Currie 14:31

It feels very powerful it does.

Bella Milroy 14:33

That's so cool. I think we all want to find ways of feeling powerful, don't we?

Grace Currie 14:39

Yeah, we do.

Bella Milroy 14:42

Amazing. And, and what about the Magic Artist? That's another name you refer to yourself as.

Grace Currie 14:48

Yeah, Magic Artist, is... what is it? I don't know. It was just one of the words that Sue came up with.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 14:57

You just liked it didn't ya and it just stuck.

Grace Currie 15:00

I did yeah.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 15:02

But, why do you feel like your magic?

Grace Currie 15:04

Because I make everything magic I do.

Bella Milroy 15:08

Is that something, do you feel like making art is magic?

Grace Currie 15:12

Yes.

Bella Milroy 15:15

And do you feel like that erm, you make art for yourself and then also for audiences as well? Do you like that kind of whole magic that comes with that?

Grace Currie 15:26

Yeah, I do.

Bella Milroy 15:29

That's really nice. Do you think you'll continue to find different names for yourself as you as your career grows?

Grace Currie 15:39

I think I will, but erm Magic Artist and Sexy Artist were the ones that stuck with us.

Bella Milroy 15:47

Amazing. I really like those. I think they're really cool names.

Grace Currie 15:50

Thank you.

Bella Milroy 15:54

Erm, maybe you could tell me a little bit more about, you studied in Chester.

Grace Currie 16:04

I did.

Bella Milroy 16:04

So maybe you could share with me a few of like, some of the positives about where you live, in terms of how that supports your work? Is there a lot of space for you to...

Grace Currie 16:22

Yeah, there's a lot of space there is.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 16:28

.....you have your own studio.

Grace Currie 16:30

Yeah, I have my own studio I do. Which is where I am now.

Bella Milroy 16:36

It's wonderful. It's really, I'm very envious Grace.

Grace Currie 16:39

And I get to work with Jamila, at the Qube.

Grace Currie 16:46

Jamila is, Jamila is my friend she is. I employ her.

Bella Milroy 16:51

Oh ok

Grace Currie 16:52

An Artist she is.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 16:54

She works with you on conservation.

Grace Currie 16:55

She works with me on my speech she does.

Bella Milroy 16:57

Wonderful. And is that someone? Is she locally?

Grace Currie 17:01

Yes she is.

Bella Milroy 17:03

And is that through another arts organisation that got you in touch?

Grace Currie 17:07

Yeah it is.

Bella Milroy 17:09

Called, called the Qube?

Grace Currie 17:10

Yeah, called the Qube.

Bella Milroy 17:11

Where are they based?

Grace Currie 17:13

In Oswestry.

Bella Milroy 17:15

In where sorry?

Grace Currie 17:16

Oswestry.

Bella Milroy 17:18

Oswestry. Where, where is that?

Grace Currie 17:20

Just down the road.

Bella Milroy 17:21

Oh ok.

Grace Currie 17:22

Somewhere in Shropshire.

Bella Milroy 17:23

Oh right.

Grace Currie 17:24

North Shropshire.

Bella Milroy 17:26

And do you get a lot of support from them in general?

Grace Currie 17:30

It's a small town it is.

Bella Milroy 17:32

Yeah. Do...

Grace Currie 17:34

They're very supportive they are.

Bella Milroy 17:37

And do they support, erm other artists with disabilities?

Grace Currie 17:41

Yeah they do. I think so, I think so. Yeah they do.

Bella Milroy 17:47

That's really great to know that something like that exists in those spaces because that's one of the gaps isn't it a lot of the time, in more remote spaces like that.

Grace Currie 17:58

Yeah I know.

Bella Milroy 17:59

That's wonderful. And do you like collaborating with Jamila?

Grace Currie 18:03

Yeah I do.

Bella Milroy 18:04

What's working with her like?

Grace Currie 18:07

It's lovely. She used to come here she did, but then I got my cat and she didn't like my cat. She didn't like cats she didn't.

Bella Milroy 18:14

Oh, no.

Grace Currie 18:16

And then we had a few of them we did.

Bella Milroy 18:22

And, do you have plans to work with her on any particular work at the moment?

Grace Currie 18:30

No, nothing, nothing like that, nothing nothing special.

Bella Milroy 18:35

Yeah, it's just something that she helps you with in lots of different ways.

Grace Currie 18:38

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 18:42

What are some of the... I know with the people that helped me with my work, erm it's really wonderful to have that help isn't it but sometimes it's really hard.

Grace Currie 18:55

Yeah it is, bit frustrating.

Bella Milroy 18:56

Yeah. Can you tell me a bit about what having help is like with making art?

Bella Milroy 19:01

Oh, is this a photo of you holding up this sculpture of a cat?

Grace Currie 19:05

Yeah, that's a cat.

Bella Milroy 19:06

Oh wow, amazing. I think I've seen this photo. It's really cool.

Grace Currie 19:09

Yeah.

Grace Currie 19:13

So I had to fight to get to do it the way I wanted it.

Bella Milroy 19:16

And is sometimes is that really like a bit of a battle sometimes?

Grace Currie 19:21

Yeah it is.

Bella Milroy 19:23

Yeah. And I imagine that kind of flows in with those other feelings around being, feeling like you're being like a child, when you're an adult.

Grace Currie 19:34

Yeah, I know.

Bella Milroy 19:39

Yeah, and what are some of the really brilliant things about having help? Has that allowed you to pursue your career in a different way?

Grace Currie 19:48

Yes it has.

Bella Milroy 19:51

That's brilliant. That's great. That's exactly what help should do right.

Grace Currie 19:54

Yeah it is.

Grace Currie 20:05

Yes, I want an application for the Arts Council, to help me just.... for projects, for social workers.

Bella Milroy 20:14

And are you waiting on the results of that?

Grace Currie 20:17

Waiting, gonna come soon.

Bella Milroy 20:20

Oh, I really hope that's successful. Fingers crossed, fingers crossed for you.

Bella Milroy 20:28

Yeah, so I'm gonna carry on asking questions. And so you talked about Baschurch. Maybe you could tell me like what are some of the good things about where you live as an artist? You said Qube was helpful.

Grace Currie 20:43

Yeah. Yeah it was.

Bella Milroy 20:48

Are there any other things that you really like about where you live and your work and how that impacts your work?

Grace Currie 21:00

I've got lots of space I have. To be creative.

Bella Milroy 21:07

That's wonderful. Does Qube connect you with other artists locally?

Grace Currie 21:15

Yeah it does. And I do workshops I do.

Bella Milroy 21:22

Oh, great.

Grace Currie 21:23

Workshops

Bella Milroy 21:25

And does that help you feel more connected to your...

Grace Currie 21:28

And I have exhibited work I have at the Qube.

Bella Milroy 21:37

Brilliant. That's such a great space. It sounds really interesting.

Grace Currie 21:41

Yeah, it's a great space it is. That's where all my work with Jamila.

Bella Milroy 21:51

And do you think that's like a really helpful platform for you to exhibit work?

Grace Currie 22:01

Yeah. I think it is.

Bella Milroy 22:05

Yeah. And yeah, that sounds really important. Does it, does it help you feel more connected to other artists in your area?

Grace Currie 22:17

Yeah, it does. Probably.

Bella Milroy 22:25

No that's, that's great. So maybe, I don't know if you've if you wanted to share some of the things that are not so good about where you live. Things that maybe are lacking in how you work as an artist. Is

there like... are there other things that you would like to have in Baschurch for example, that done, that aren't there?

Jackie (Grace's PA) 22:52

There isn't even an arts shop in Shrewsbury.

Grace Currie 22:54

No.

Bella Milroy 22:57

Yeah.

Grace Currie 22:59

Yeah. And travel on petrol money is hard it is.

Grace Currie 23:03

The travel on all the petrol money is hard it is. But I think there should be one in Shrewsbury. There should be.

Bella Milroy 23:13

Yeah

Grace Currie 23:15

There actually should be.

Bella Milroy 23:19

And, is there not much, is there like, is it difficult getting public transport in Baschurch?

Grace Currie 23:24

Yeah, no, it's not difficult. I often get buses I do.

Bella Milroy 23:28

Yeah.

Grace Currie 23:31

But I've got some PA's driving me I have.

Bella Milroy 23:34

Oh okay, you have your PA's. Yeah.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 23:39

You have difficulty with public transport service.

Grace Currie 23:43

Yeah. I have difficulty with public transport with the steps and everything.

Bella Milroy 23:48

Yeah.

Grace Currie 23:49

Because my vision is a bit damaged.

Bella Milroy 23:54

Yeah.

Grace Currie 23:54

It's getting a bit on the uncomfortable side.

Bella Milroy 23:58

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 24:01

So, yeah, I imagine that makes getting out difficult sometimes.

Grace Currie 24:07

Yeah it does.

Bella Milroy 24:09

But I mean, your home studio is such a fantastic setup. What are some of the really important bits about your studio that you like are really essential?

Grace Currie 24:17

That wall! I can do massive paintings on that I can.

Bella Milroy 24:26

That's like the big, you've got like a big painting wall?

Grace Currie 24:28

Yeah I have. And this wall is just for, looking up things. Information and notes. Just looking up things. And that's that's the kettle, that's the kettle back there. That's the window.

Bella Milroy 24:46

Yeah.

Grace Currie 24:47

All my paints and colo..., got all my paints and colours I have.

Bella Milroy 24:49

Yeah.

Grace Currie 24:50

Got all my paints and colours, in separate colours, with their colour on them. I don't know what, I don't know what colour they are I wouldn't. But, those colours are really really, those colours are, like... helpful.

Bella Milroy 25:08

Yeah. Amazing.

Grace Currie 25:11

Being organised. Being Organised is what I need.

Bella Milroy 25:16

Yes, but it is, it's so important, isn't it? It's really important.

Grace Currie 25:20

It is. Very important it is. I've got a bit of OCD I have. But undiagnosed OCD.

Bella Milroy 25:29

Yeah.

Grace Currie 25:31

In my head, I've got OCD.

Bella Milroy 25:31

Yeah. Valid valid. I mean, erm what, did you feel like there was a big difference in the studio space that you had when you were studying for your degree?

Grace Currie 25:48

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 25:48

Was that...

Grace Currie 25:49

It was small it was.

Bella Milroy 25:51

Oh really.

Grace Currie 25:53

It was like teenie tiny.

Bella Milroy 25:56

Oh, wow. That's really interesting.

Grace Currie 25:59

Chester. Chester Uni.

Bella Milroy 26:02

So were you doing quite a lot of...

Grace Currie 26:04

Just, just rooms to put up one piece of paper. Put one big, put up one big thing and then a load of little things.

Bella Milroy 26:12

Yeah. And so was that actually quite, did it mean that you were still doing a lot of your work in your home studio?

Grace Currie 26:20

Yeah I did. Yeah, yeah.

Bella Milroy 26:22

Yeah.

Grace Currie 26:25

So I travel there I did.

Bella Milroy 26:28

Yeah. And are there things about studying that really, erm enhanced your work? There are elements of that, that time in your, in your career that really like, made you think differently about the work you were making?

Grace Currie 26:50

Yeah, my own studio space really motivates my practice it does.

Bella Milroy 26:54

That's really nice.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 26:57

It did push you didn't it, to get...

Grace Currie 26:59

Yeah it did push me to do work, it did.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 27:03

To get ready for your final.

Grace Currie 27:07

To get ready for my final. I got a first class degree I have.

Bella Milroy 27:11

Amazing.

Grace Currie 27:11

Got a distinction degree I... First class, high distinction.

Bella Milroy 27:16

That's wonderful Grace. That's great.

Grace Currie 27:20

Yeah. Nobody else knows what we got in our heads they didn't.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 27:24

Tell them how you'd, rather than writing essays, how you would make videos.

Grace Currie 27:30

Oh yes. I made videos I did, for my essays, for, instead of me having to, instead of writing it down. 'Cause I made videos I did.

Bella Milroy 27:43

And, was that a really ...? Did that help you with your writing?

Grace Currie 27:49

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 27:49

Yeah.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 27:50

So you didn't have to write did you, they were really...

Grace Currie 27:54

So I didn't have to write things, so all the university did not expect a dissertation.

Bella Milroy 28:00

Yeah.

Grace Currie 28:02

What? I did a vlog I did. I did a video blog.

Bella Milroy 28:07

Yeah, amazing. And I've seen some of your videos on your YouTube channel. They're really great.

Grace Currie 28:13

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 28:14

Yeah. And I'm really, I'm really interested in how you document your, not just your artwork but your studio practice as well. You've got lots of videos of you in process painting and things like that.

Grace Currie 28:28

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Bella Milroy 28:30

Do you like documenting the process of your work?

Grace Currie 28:34

Yeah I do. I like I like putting it on a timelapse I d... putting it on a timelapse I do.

Grace Currie 28:45

The work. And it like, what I like, that's my that's my thing though that is.

Bella Milroy 28:52

Yeah. Do you think some of that will inform your work going forward? Do you think you might make more process based pieces in the future or are they just separate?

Grace Currie 29:04

They're just separate.

Bella Milroy 29:05

Yeah. They're really great though. I really liked them. Um, so, Oh, I've skimmed over this one. This is maybe before we finish you could tell me a little bit more about the performance piece Put Away Neatly.

Grace Currie 29:26

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Bella Milroy 26:27

That you performed erm for the Dada International Exhibition.

Grace Currie 29:32

Yes. I was put away neatly. And, I got put away I did.

Bella Milroy 29:36

You got put away.

Grace Currie 29:38

Wrapped up in all, in all the cotton, in all the erm... card. Cardboard.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 29:46

What was it, what was is...

Grace Currie 29:48

It was about erm, it was about love and support and kindness it was. Giving, people giving me too much love and claustrophobing me.

Bella Milroy 30:05

So...

Grace Currie 30:06

Got suffocated by love I did? Yeah, I did.

Bella Milroy 30:13

Yeah. Just just for audiences, the performance involved Grace being wrapped up in lots of different cardboard packaging. Is that right Grace?

Grace Currie 30:24

Yeah it was.

Bella Milroy 30:25

Yeah, and you had two performers wrapping you up. Is that right?

Grace Currie 30:30

Yeah I did.

Bella Milroy 30:31

Yeah and you can watch some of the footage on Grace's website. I highly recommend it. It's very, very good. And, yeah, Grace turns into this huge blob of cardboard.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 30:46

What happens to you at the end.

Grace Currie 30:47

I get rolled away neatly I do.

Bella Milroy 30:49

Yeah.

Grace Currie 30:30

In the corner. So nobody knows where I am.

Bella Milroy 30:56

And it's something that I've read about your work exploring having 24 hour care.

Grace Currie 31:03

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 31:05

And yeah, some of the like, really challenge, of the real challenges of that. What other things were you hoping to show in that piece?

Grace Currie 31:25

Help people understand how I fee..., how I felt. It did.

Grace Currie 31:31

I've got a boyfriend living with me and cats. BILLY.

Grace Currie 31:40

Yeah I do. I've got weekends on my own I have.

Bella Milroy 31:44

Yeah.

Grace Currie 31:46

To do, to do whatever I want.

Bella Milroy 31:47

Yeah.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 31:48

You have the weekends now without care.

Grace Currie 31:51

I do. I have the weekends without care I do.

Bella Milroy 31:53

Oh, wow. Is that is that really, is that quite new or is that...?

Grace Currie 31:58

No, it's pretty old it is. A couple of years ago, just decided that.

Bella Milroy 32:08

Yeah. And is that something that you really enjoy?

Grace Currie 32:12

Yeah, it is

Bella Milroy 32:15

Amazing. That's great. I think it's a really brilliant piece, Put Away Neatly and I love the title as well. I think just that idea of you being put away, like you're no longer a person, you know, you're just an object like that.

Grace Currie 32:32

Yeah, yeah.

Bella Milroy 32:33

Yeah. And I also liked what you said about erm almost kind of being, love, like suffocated by love.

Grace Currie 32:42

Love. In a corner.

Bella Milroy 32:43

Yeah, I think it's a really familiar experience for lots of people who are disabled. Where like, they, sometimes it can be loved but almost loved in the wrong way.

Grace Currie 32:57

Loved too much.

Bella Milroy 32:59

Yeah. Yeah. And it's really complicated, isn't it?

Grace Currie 33:04

Yeah it is.

Bella Milroy 33:05

Yeah, but I think you've captured all of that really brilliantly in that piece. I think it's wonderful.

Grace Currie 33:11

Thank you.

Bella Milroy 33:13

Do you think you will do more performance pieces in the future?

Grace Currie 33:16

I think I might do, if someone gives me some idea of what to do. Because my minds, my minds a bit blank at the minute.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 33:26

Something might spark an idea...

Grace Currie 33:28

Something might spark an, spark a, spark a, spark an idea, it might.

Bella Milroy 33:36

Yeah. Are you feeling like you need some, some new inspiration in the work?

Grace Currie 33:41

Yeah I am.

Bella Milroy 33:44

Yeah it's tough when that happens, isn't it?

Jackie (Grace's PA) 33:48

Just wonder if you wanted to talk about the Home gallery and how you volunteer there?

Grace Currie 33:53

Oh, I volunteer at the Home gallery I do, in Manchester, which is more travel it is. But when the new roles are gonna come out yet. But I don't know when I'm gonna be working there.

Bella Milroy 34:08

What kind of volunteering do you do?

Grace Currie 34:14

Watch films mostly.

Bella Milroy 34:17

Nice.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 34:18

You greet people coming in and things.

Grace Currie 34:23

Yeah, I do. Greet people coming in, and things. Just watch moves after that I do, as well. FREE movies!

Bella Milroy 34:31

Amazing. That sounds great.

Grace Currie 34:32

Don't have to pay for them I don't.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 34:35

You helped with the...

Grace Currie 34:36

Yeah I did. Helped with the gay pride flags I did as well.

Bella Milroy 34:40

Nice.

Grace Currie 34:42

I created them I did.

Bella Milroy 34:44

Oh, that's so cool. That sounds great. And that's really nice to feel like you have those connections beyond where you live like that.

Grace Currie 34:57

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 35:00

Yeah. I think that's like often quite important for artists who don't live in erm central spaces to like, have those have those kinds of connections?

Grace Currie 35:13

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 35:14

Yeah. Do you? Do you hope to have more of those in the future like beyond Manchester or?

Grace Currie 35:21

Yeah, I do.

Bella Milroy 35:25

Yeah. That's great. Okay. I think just, just a couple more questions and then I think we should finish. So what do you think our organisations could do differently to better support you?

Grace Currie 35:48

Opportunities to, get more more clearly, of closer things it is. And social events as well. For other artists.

Bella Milroy 36:03

So like things to network and connect with others?

Grace Currie 36:07

Yeah, in person.

Bella Milroy 36:09

Yeah.

Grace Currie 36:11

I would like to meet more artists my age I would.

Bella Milroy 36:15

Yes.

Grace Currie 36:17

I don't know where they are though.

Bella Milroy 36:19

Yeah. It's really hard. It's definitely a barrier that I face in terms of erm, that in person, you know, in person connection like that is really difficult. If especially if you don't live close by other people.

Grace Currie 36:35

It's tricky, if you don't live locally.

Bella Milroy 36:39

Yeah.

Grace Currie 36:40

Is that the, locally the right word.

Bella Milroy 36:42

Yeah. So do you think something like say for example, Qube where you, you...

Grace Currie 36:52

Volunteer.

Bella Milroy 36:53

Yeah. Like maybe something like they could put on social events where they could invite different artists to come in?

Grace Currie 36:59

Yeah I think so.

Bella Milroy 37:00

Something like that.

Grace Currie 37:03

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 37:05

Yeah, that sounds great. I'd love to come, can I come?

Grace Currie 37:09

Course you can.

Bella Milroy 37:10

Let's make it happen. I'd really like that.

Jackie (Grace's PA) 37:13

Maybe that is something they could make happen.

Grace Currie 37:14

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 37:18

Yeah.

Grace Currie 37:19

You're the first one to invite.

Bella Milroy 37:20

Oh, such a, such an honour.

Grace Currie 37:20

We need to get, erm, we need to get, something to do with each other.

Bella Milroy 37:30

Yeah.

Grace Currie 37:32

We need to get them, to Qube to agree to it we do.

Bella Milroy 37:35

Yeah, let's let's get on it. That'd be great.

Grace Currie 37:39

Could be in Shrewsbury.

Bella Milroy 37:40

Yes.

Grace Currie 37:41

Oswestry.

Bella Milroy 37:45

And maybe we could just finish off, just tell me something, tell me some of the things that you love about being an artist.

Grace Currie 37:53

I love the freedom and I come in here and do paintings. And I can express things without having to write it down I can. Like I've just been doing with the Qube, with, in Manchester.

Bella Milroy 38:16

Yeah, there's something really, really special about, like you say being able to express yourself without words like that.

Grace Currie 38:35

Yeah.

Bella Milroy 38:28

Oh that's great. That's, that's really wonderful Grace. Thank you so much. And yeah, thank you so much for joining me and being a part of this series. It's been so wonderful to talk to you and find out about your practice, what excites you and inspires you. And erm yeah, it's been wonderful. Thank you.