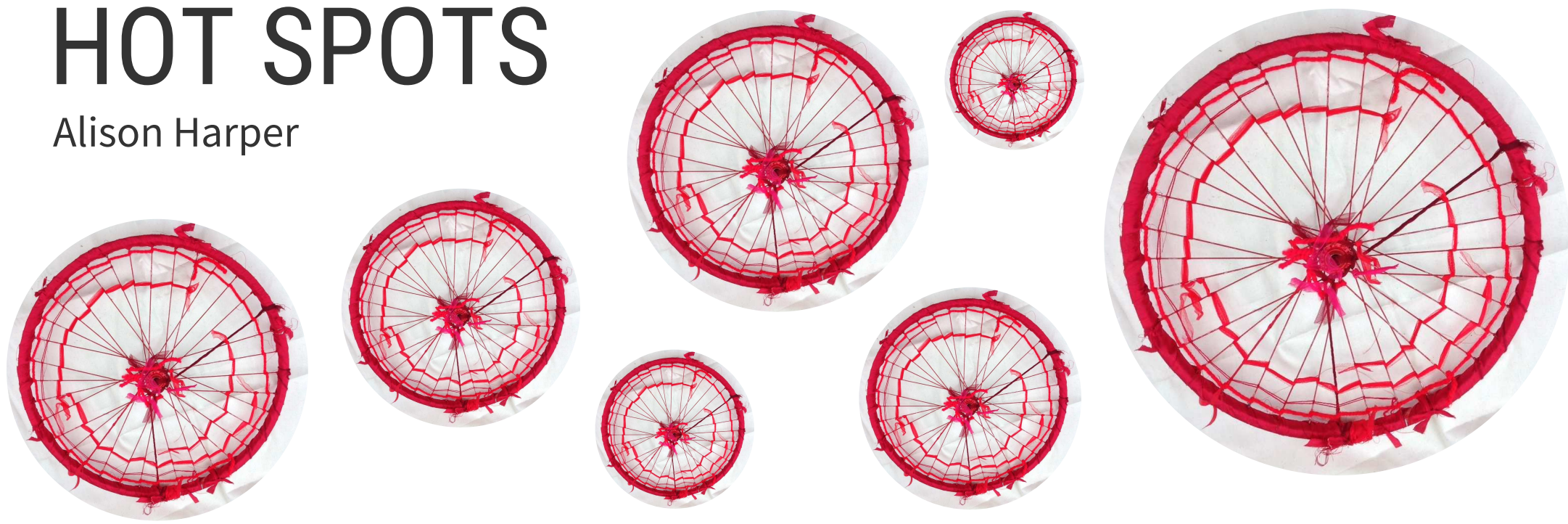


HOT SPOTS

Alison Harper



This work has been created to make visible the pollution in the air that we breathe.

To highlight and make tangible the issue of air pollution in the city of Bath, textile artist Alison Harper has collected 69 used bicycle wheels, coloured them red and embellished them with cloth and yarn. These 69 wheels represent the dangerous levels of nitrous oxide in the air. In the worst “HOT SPOT” in Bath the level of micrograms of nitrous oxide per cubic metre is 69, the level considered safe under European guidelines is below 40 micrograms. Across the city of Bath there are many “HOT SPOTS” where the recording of pollution is above legal limits and thus a danger to health.

Road transport in its various guises also provides us with other complex pollutants, including, amongst others, particulate matter - from engines and brake wear, microplastics from wheel wear, unburnt hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

This form of pollution also has an adverse affect, through run-off and other processes, on the wider biosphere; plants, rivers, animals.

Thus the red wheels are a symbol of a potent danger that, although invisible, affects us all and suggests we need a change in our behaviour.

How can we become a part of the solution and not a part of the problem?

#getoutofyourcar

These 69 wheels were first attached to the railings of Hedgemoor Park, near to the infamous “Hot Spot” for the 2018 Fringe Arts Bath exhibition #getoutofyourcar and were viewed by thousands of motorists. The danger of unfettered road transport growth is poor air quality, resulting in premature mortality, which has been calculated at approximately 400,000 premature deaths every year across Europe.

Due to the seriously high level of pollution (NO₂) in Bath, central Government has mandated Bath and North East Somerset Council to achieve compliance with NO₂ limits in the shortest time possible and by 2021 at the latest. This is called the National Air Quality Action Plan. B&NES are presently creating a Clean Air Zone for Bath. #bathbreathes2021

In order to highlight and make tangible the issue of air pollution in the city of Bath many local residents are advocating new ways of thinking about transport in the city of Bath. To find out more #getoutofyourcar or go to Transition Larkhall’s website at <http://transitionlarkhall.uk>

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