# DAD

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It is with great sadness that we announce that Dover Arts Development's Founder/Director Clare Smith passed on the evening of Saturday December 10th 2022. Her funeral was held at Barham Crematorium on Thursday January 5th 2023.

Clare will be greatly missed but will live on in the memories of the many people that she touched, through her pioneering work with Dover Arts Development, her Drawing Club, Dover Studio Collective, the Dover Big Local and her extensive art networks.

Clare's was a peripatetic life, finally settling in Dover after many years abroad. Born in 1959 in Penang, where her father worked for the Colonial service and later the British Council, and her mother taught English to Malay pupils preparing them for entry into English secondary schools, Clare's Anglo-Chinese heritage was of considerable significance for her. There were periods in Dacca, Jakarta, Oakington and Maracaibo, before being sent to school in England at Bedales, where she excelled at Lacrosse and Hockey and flourished in that school's liberal and creative environment. Here began her

lifelong love of music and engagement with visual art. Clare's love of languages led to a degree in Oriental Studies from King's College, Cambridge, followed by a move to Luxembourg where she set up a business translating for international banks in Luxembourg and Himeji.

In 1999 Clare began to pursue her true vocation, studying a BA in fine art at The Kent Institute of Art and Design (now University for the Creative Arts) in Canterbury, followed by an MA at Central St Martins in London (2009-2011). Between these studies Clare also worked as European Co-ordinator & Creative Business Co-ordinator at UCA Maidstone & Rochester (2005-2007). The rest of her life was devoted to art, both as a very gifted artist, and as co-founder, with Joanna Jones, of their artist's collaboration Dover Arts Development (DAD) in 2006. This collaboration was dynamic and ambitious, generating 46 multi-stranded projects, with some 200 artists empowered to bring art to Dover and its environs. The relationship with UCA was ever present with generations of students, recent graduates and staff involved in DAD projects. DAD has partnered with Dover District Council, Dover Town Council, Kent County Council as well as large and small organisations in Dover District, the South East and Europe. It has brought £1.3 million into Dover from a range of funding bodies, creating networks across East Kent and influencing the public realm in Dover. Within DAD Clare realised herself as an artist, as well as her talent and passion for creating communities through drawing and sewing.

Clare's greatest legacy is in her art, most especially the sequence of 70 Chemo-Day drawings, 40 now held by the Welcome Collection, made while undergoing cancer treatment in the last 4 years of her life, a sustained and defiant act of creativity. The work lives on.

Clare is survived by her husband Roger, sister Jennifer and parents Zhan Lu and Brian Smith.

**Notes to Editors**

Photo of Clare Smith in her studio in Dover by Joanna Jones

- Dover Arts Development is a not-for-profit organisation that instigates projects of excellence within poetry, music and the visual arts in Dover District, across South East England and Europe.

- For more information on Dover Arts Development visit www.dadonline.uk.

- For more information or images, contact info@dadonline.uk or call +447855832638