



**David Blandy's**

# **ATOMIC LIGHT**

11<sup>th</sup> February – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023

# meet the artist!

This is David Blandy




David is an artist who lives and works in Brighton.

He studied Sculpture at Chelsea College of Art, and then Fine Art Media at Slade.

# What does he do?

- Working with other people is a big part of his work, this is called collaboration.
- He makes videos, performances, games and sound art.
- David explores and creates futuristic worlds. Working with different groups of people to imagine dystopian realities.
- David has been working with **Ventor Exchange Poetry Collective** on the Isle of Wight, and **No Limits** in Southampton to develop a resource based on his exhibition – find this is Gallery 3!



**What world would  
you create, how  
would life  
be different there?**

What is this exhibition about?



The videos you see in this exhibition are based on history, legacy and the climate crisis. The videos are all linked by the experience David's grandfather had as a prisoner of war in Japan during World War Two.

**Sunspot** shows us the sun from two observatories in California and Tokyo. What we see is the day the Hiroshima bomb created an atomic sun on Earth.



**Soil, Sinew & Bone** looks at the history of farming mixed with the history of war. Mirroring the prosperous earth and weapons of war.



**What would life be like without machines like tractors or satellites or phones?**



The Edge of Forever



**The Edge of Forever** and **Empire of the Swamp** show the South of England, where his grandfather lived, and Singapore where he was held captive. These videos show the contrasts between the countries, but also the links they share as island states. Themes of pollution, fragile ecosystems and history can be seen in these films.

Empire of the Swamp



# key words:

**Brighton** – A seaside city on the South Coast of England

**Climate Crisis** – Threat, danger or irreversible changes to Earth

**Collaboration** – Working together with someone to produce something

**Dystopian** – An imagined state or society with suffering or challenge

**Ecosystem** – An area where plants and biological life co-exist and thrive

**Environment** – The conditions and surroundings we live in

**Food waste** - The waste of industrial, farmed and household food.

**Futuristic** – Modern technology or design

**Hiroshima** – A city in Japan hit by an Atomic Bomb in 1945



**Island states** – Countries surrounded by sea or consisting of islands

**Japan** – A country in East Asia

**Legacy** – The long lasting impact of an event or action

**Nitrates & Phosphates** – Main ingredients to fertilize plants

**No Limits** – A charity supporting young people in Southampton

**Pollution** – Something introduced into our environment with harmful effect

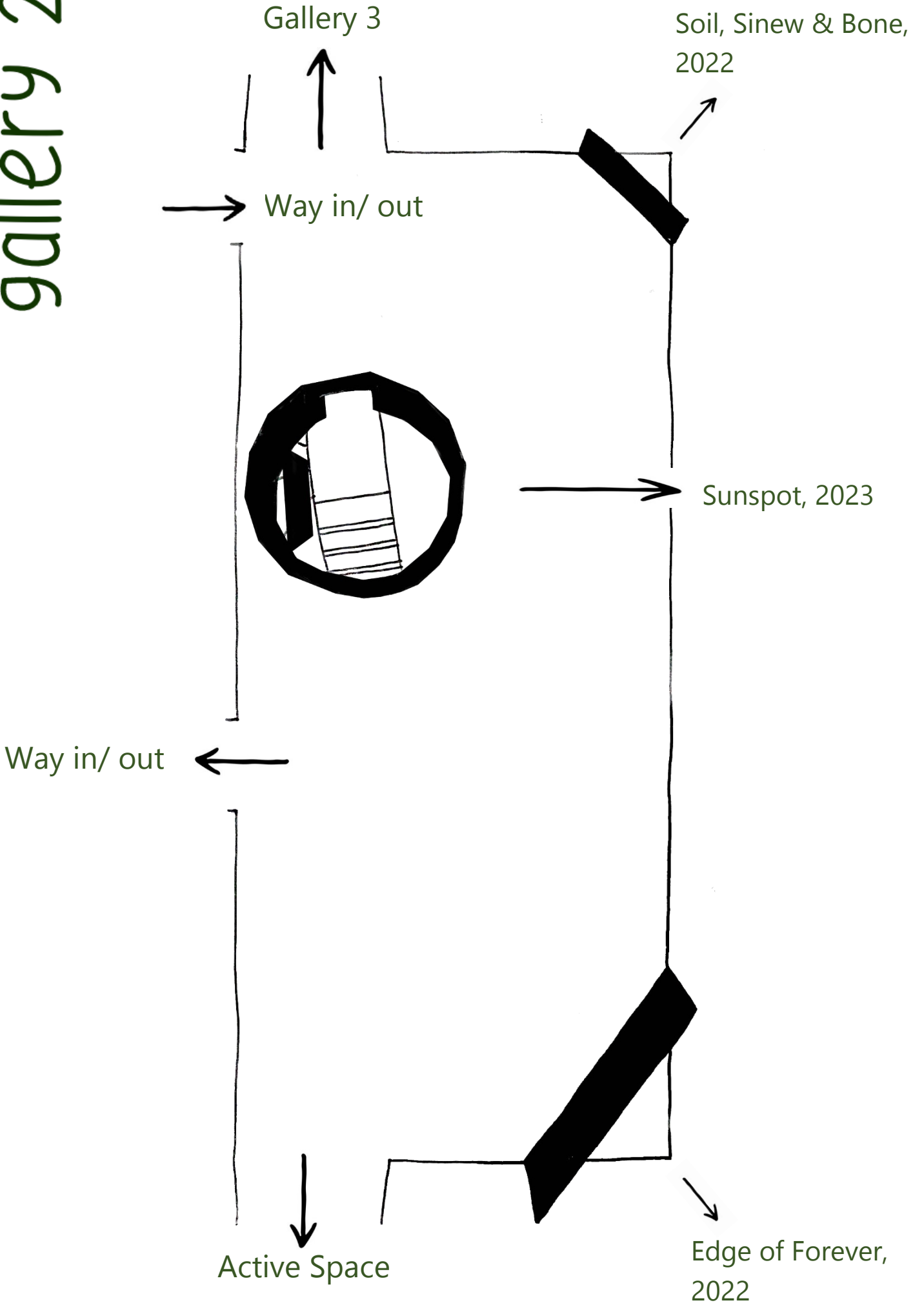
**Prisoner of War** – A person who has been captured by the enemy

**Prosperous** – To have many material items, or lots of money

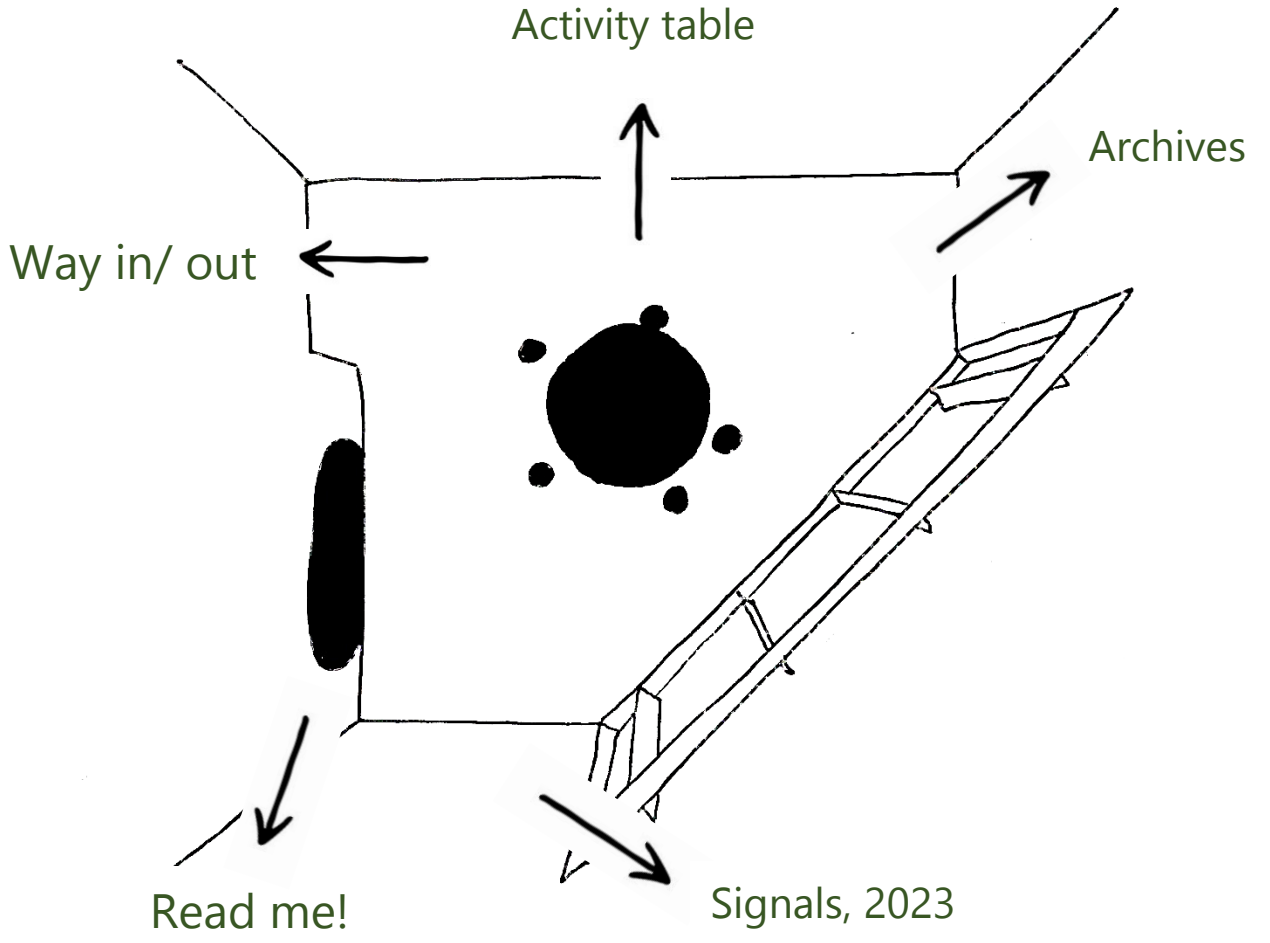
**Ventor Exchange Poetry Collective** – A youth group on the Isle of Wight

**World War Two** – A world war dating between 1939-1945

# gallery 2



# gallery 3



# barker-mill

