

*The Lockdown Garden* - is an ongoing collaborative project between Julie Mayer and artist Rita Robson. During the summer of the COVID-19 pandemic 2020 the artists made works in response to the garden as a place for mental healing. With reference to *A Modern Herbal, Medicinal, Culinary, Cosmetic and Economic Properties, Cultivation and Folk-Lore of Herbs...*, first published in 1931, by Maud Grieve (b.1858-1941), specific plants, growing in Mayer's garden, which had known benefits in the treatment of certain mental health conditions, were chosen for investigation. Borage, St John's Wort, Chamomile, Valerian and Evening Primrose were scrutinized under a magnifying glass, resulting in delicate, lyrical drawings and subtle, harmonious colour palettes.

The two resulting bodies of work will be exhibited together at the Birley Artists Studio and Project Space, Preston, from 18 June - 1 July 2022.



