



**Cradle and all**  
 In memory of Phyllis Broughton,  
 Gaiety Girl (1862 - 1926)

Tanya Royer

a poster in a bus shelter in Cecil  
 Square  
 offers me a 99p cheeseburger

is this an insult?

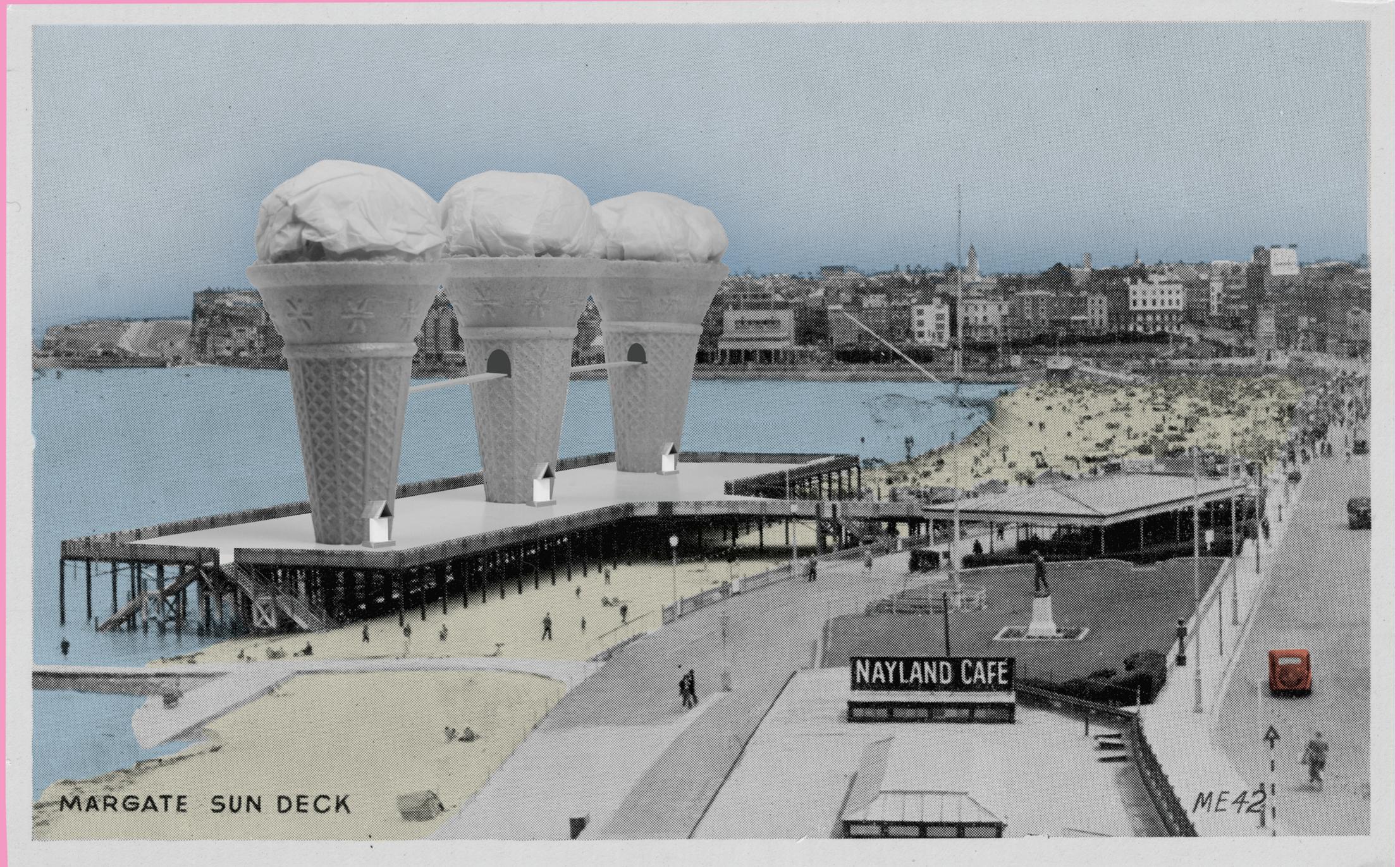
relax, get into your skin  
 this is your town now  
 down from London  
 cradle and all

a pair of young strays  
 brothers, maybe  
 smoke cigarettes on a bench  
 blading the scene  
 with their eyes  
 full of █████ knows all

I look up and see  
 what appears to be a wheel  
 yes a wheel  
 flying into a sunset the colour  
 of a dragonfly's corset

or a rainforest on fire  
 depending on your view

what the hell am I doing here?  
 an impostor  
 in someone else's dream





**Margate Reimagined**  
 Uncharted Histories: A Journey to Now  
 28 September 2019 - 12 January 2020  
 The Shop Front & locations across Margate



Through a combination of walks, workshops, artworks, poetry and architecture, Margate Reimagined is a present day vision of Margate with an alternative past. Bringing together heritage both real and imaginary this project speculates about a town that might have been, or could yet become.

**Margate Reimagined Exhibition**

An evolving collection of original works made for Margate Reimagined as well as historical material and items from the imaginary archive.  
 Date: 28 September - 12 January  
 Location: The Shop Front, 161 Northdown Road, Margate CT9 2PA

**Introduction to an imaginary landscape**

Join the artists for a session looking at Margate's history, both real and imaginary.

Participants will explore some of the more eccentric and idiosyncratic aspects of Margate as well as contributing to the Margate Re-imagined imaginary archive.

Date: Saturday 28 September  
 Location: Turner Contemporary, Rendezvous, Margate CT9 1HG  
 Time: 16:00-18:00

**Walking tour**

As part of the Margate Reimagined programme, join us on a playful interactive exploration of the town as it was and as it could have been.

How might we see it differently now? Myth becomes history; memory plays tricks; boundaries blur and the imagined becomes concrete. Tour guide Simon Cole.

Dates: Saturday 26 October & Saturday 30 November

Meeting point Margate train station  
 Time: 11:00

**Creative workshop**

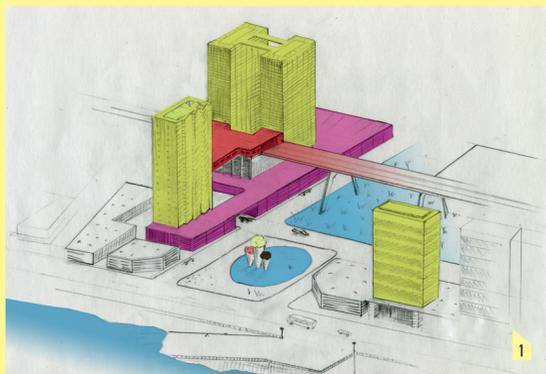
Following on from the Margate Reimagined walking tour, this workshop explores the imaginary potential of Margate. Using model making and collage, participants will create their own vision of Margate to be included in the exhibition. Led by project artists Jon Spencer and Dominic Rose.

Date: Saturday 26 Oct  
 Location: The Shop Front, 161 Northdown Road, Margate CT9 2PA  
 Time: 13:30-16:00 followed by an informal discussion and drinks.

**3D workshop**

RL-a would like to invite you to create your own alternate Cliftonville. Using 3D printed models of the streets between Sweyn and Warwick Roads and a collection of classic houses and landscaping throughout the ages we'll be seeing how many ways our neighbourhood could have developed over the years.

Date: Saturday 30 November  
 Location: RL-a, 59 Sweyn Rd, Margate CT9 2DD  
 Time: 13:30-16:00 followed by an informal discussion and drinks.



Imagination is a powerful tool, not just a plaything. Let's bring it to bear on the everyday and the oddities we usually let go. We create our own story: the landscape around us is part of that script too. Let's rewrite the streets and makeover the mundane.

You are invited to reconstitute the ideas you might have about the 'public realm'. We all have a relationship with our buildings; they deserve the gift of your attention. Imagine how it might have been. How it might be now. With a sense of play, let's conjure up possibilities, re-seeing our environment anew.

Let's take liberties with the facts to construct new narratives from old bricks and mortar. Let's de-concretise the walls and rearrange the mental furniture. Where does truth lie? When does myth take over? Flights of fancy take us into architectural and futurological trajectories, into realities not yet known but within touching distance.

Let's reimagine Margate...

**A new framework for the town**

**Arlington House No.1**

Built in gleaming white in 1964, Arlington House was a beacon of prosperity during Margate's post war years. Offering every resident a view of both sea and countryside, the block was the pinnacle of modernity with high speed lifts, concierge service and onsite parking. The original plan included rooftop gardens, a swimming pool and a theatre although these were never built. At ground level there were 50 shops, a pub and public spaces.

In the 1950s a new functionalist district around Margate station was planned. Arlington House was one of many planned towers (Grafton 1 & 2 followed in 1967, then Hillhead House and Tivoli House opened in 1969). The station itself, built by Maxwell Fry, was threatened with demolition to make way for Margate's 'station in the sky' connecting directly to the towers and shopping district. A new high speed rail line would reach Waterloo Station in under an hour.

This project was put on hold as the town's economy declined. The development was finally shelved after the recession of the 1970s. Only Arlington house remains.

**Fun should again be the priority on the seafront**

**Sun Deck No.2 (overleaf)**

Following a succession of heavy storms that caused significant damage to the original Edwardian building, the Sundeck closed its doors in 1985. A plan by Australian media tycoon and new owner of TVam, Kerry Packer, envisaged its solid structure as a suitable base for the East Kent helipad. This never came to fruition and the structure was bought by the local group Save Our Sundeck.

Further neglect during Packer's ownership led to the heartbreaking decision to demolish the Edwardian superstructure and a competition was held to design a replacement. Foreshadowing the appeal of health and wellbeing as a driver for Margate's resurgence, the winning design saw the creation of pavilions based on Epicurus' notion of the three pillars of happiness; friendship, productivity & peace. Adopting a playful post-



modern design, the three new pavilions took the form of three ice cream cones, each with a separate use in line with Epicurian philosophy. A social cone, an arts cone and a meditation cone.

**Triumphal Arches No.3**

Along with many other towns and cities in the 19th Century, Margate erected temporary triumphal arches for royal visits and other celebratory occasions. Although this tradition largely died out, it was rekindled in Margate when an arch was constructed in a striking post-modern design to celebrate the 1985 visit of the Queen. Since then, triumphal arches have become something of a Margate tradition.

Following a surprise referendum in 1994, which John Major called at short notice in an attempt to stifle back bench criticism, Britain's place in Europe was cemented with a whopping 52% majority for the Stay campaign. This led to a dramatic shift in the outlook of consecutive governments and much of the press, seeing Britain celebrating its place in Europe.

To showcase the contribution of Margate's diverse European population and the large number of projects supported by EU institutions, Thanet District Council decided to commission a neon installation on the High Street echoing the 19th Century tradition of Triumphal Arches. The spectacle was unveiled by the Polish Minister for Europe on a visit to Margate on Europe Day (9th May) 2019.

**Cecil Square should be a vibrant focus for the town**

**Cecil Square No.4**

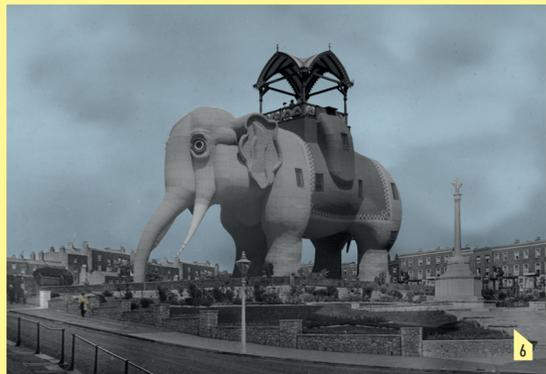
Cecil Square was the first development in Margate built outside the historic centre. Its development marks the point at which the small fishing village started its journey towards the seaside town it would become. The Georgian square, completed in 1769, originally included the Assembly Room, the Royal Hotel, as well as 'large houses for fashionable families'.

The Hippodrome, which took their place, was demolished in 1967 to make way for the new District Council offices. In 1993 bold new plans for Margate included the revamp of Cecil Square based on the layout of a similar square in Ostend. This scheme was shelved but later a small raised flower bed was added to the central traffic isle.

In 2019 a new plan involved installing two biospheres covered in photovoltaic glass. In summer the project would generate sufficient renewable power for the council offices and local businesses. The indoor space would create a winter garden containing a variety of tropical plants and insects as well as leisure and co-working space. The plan is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors per year and be particularly popular in the winter months when visitors have typically stayed away.

**The Jetty No.5**

The first pier built in Margate opened in 1824 and was known as The Jarvis Landing Stage. This allowed larger boats to carry passengers from London. The Jetty was instrumental in Margate's evolution as a seaside town prior to the arrival of the railways. The Jarvis Landing Stage was replaced by an iron pier designed by Eugenius Birch, opening in 1855. The Jetty also developed as a pleasure pier hosting a Tea Room, Ballroom and an early camera obscura.



The pier survived for over a century until 1976 when it was closed due to safety concerns. It was severely damaged in the North Sea Storm surge of 1978 and the final remains were removed in 1998.

Planning permission was granted for a proposal to replace the pier with an inexpensive pontoon for the launch of the Turner Contemporary in 2011. Tragically, during another severe storm, the pontoon became unmoored and floated into the Queens Channel shipping lane causing serious damage to the yacht Eclipse. The owner successfully sued for damages. The pier was impounded by the Port of London Authority and later destroyed.

**Margate should be a splendid resort**

**Trinity Square No.6**

The imposing Holy Trinity Church, built in 1825, formed the centrepiece of Trinity Square. This Georgian square marked the start of Margate's expansion towards Cliftonville, a new development for the more affluent inhabitants and summer residents of Margate. The new church was necessary to accommodate the "great invasion of Margate by the Londoner, at that time just beginning" according to historian Hugh Mersey Walton.

In 1951, to coincide with the Great Exhibition, a gift was made to the town of Margate from the town in New Jersey of the same name. The gift was an exact replica of their attraction Lucy the Elephant, an early example of animal-shaped architecture. The Elephant had been an attraction in Margate, New Jersey since its completion in 1881. It was to be a symbol of friendship between the two Margates.

After the Holy Trinity Church was demolished due to bomb damage it provided one of the few sites large enough to accommodate the new attraction. Standing at 20m high and weighing approximately 90 tonnes, it housed a restaurant, viewing platform and an office.

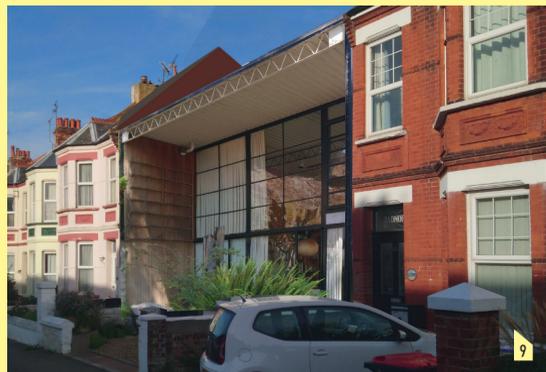
The structure eventually proved popular and stood for over three decades, with visitors being able to enjoy cream teas with views of the harbour just visible to the north. It fell into disrepair as tourists abandoned the Kent Coast for the Spanish Riviera. Though all traces are now gone the original Lucy the Elephant still stands in Margate New Jersey.

**Cliff Railway No.7**

The cliff railway built as part of the Clifton Baths complex in 1912 is the world's shortest funicular railway. The funicular consisted of a single car traveling along a 21m track from the clifftop to the promenade below. It ceased running in 1978, precipitating the demise of the Lido Swimming Pool which was decommissioned a few years later.

When Dreamland reopened in 2015, restoration of the lido complex was also planned. The owners of Dreamland approached the artist Carsten Holler who had recently exhibited at London's Hayward Gallery. The sculpture Isometric Slides was purchased for the site, allowing visitors to slide from the clifftop directly into the Lido swimming pool. An escalator was installed in place of the funicular to carry visitors back to the upper level. The installation proved incredibly popular.

In 2018, the stainless steel tubing buckled when temperatures reached -15C during an uncharacteristically cold winter. The escalator mechanism was unable to cope with the sand blowing off the beach below and



required frequent servicing. Both Slides and Escalator were removed to be overhauled and should be reinstalled by spring 2020.

**Margate is close to the continent**

**Newgate Gap No.8**

Newgate Gap is one of 32 gaps along the coast of North Thanet. These man-made cuttings allow access to the seashore and were originally used by local farmers to collect seaweed before the advent of artificial fertilisers.

Newgate Gap is the largest of all the gaps and was also used to smuggle contraband goods ashore. Being a convenient distance outside Margate, it became increasingly known for smuggling and towards the end of the 18th Century a 'prevention post' was set up there.

Later it was used for coastguards who had their station at the cliff top.

In 2021, the Frontier Engagement Team leased the vacant land to build one of several manned lookout points across East Kent to combat the increasing number of migrants fleeing from famine. The policy caused significant loss of life and drew widespread condemnation from a compassionate public. The building design chosen by the Home Office did not help to ingratiate the lookout point with Cliftonville residents.

**Environmental improvements are needed in a number of places**

**Warwick Road No.9**

Toward the end of WWII Doreen Maddison from Newcastle upon Tyne, whilst serving in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, had been posted to RAF Manston as part of 406 Canadian Squadron.

*'On arrival we found the drome to be huge with Free French, Polish, Oh! A real mixture of personnel from various countries. Remember too Manston is in direct line to Germany and it wasn't very pleasant at night in a huge empty hotel right on the front at Clifton listening to the doodlebugs doodling overhead.'*

After the war Doreen settled in the area with the wish to make her home amongst Cliftonville's terraced streets. A combination of bomb damage on a site at nos 48-52 Warwick Road and a chance reading of Arts & Architecture magazine inspired Doreen to build her home from scratch. Maddison House was built on the site using factory-made components developed as part of the war effort.

Maddison House became recognised across the globe for its innovation and playfulness with influence evident in many contemporary homes. Regrettably it was demolished in 1999 and replaced with two replica Victorian terraces.

Margate Reimagined brought to you by Transit Collective in partnership with Simon Cole, RL-a and Margate Stanza; and is part of the Margate Festival 2019. All material © the artists / Doreen Maddison. With thanks to BBC People's War.  
 www.margate-reimagined.co.uk