

We Walk The Line at Firstsite

by Wivenhoe Creatives Team | Feb 26, 2017 | Review



By Deborah Talbot

We Walk The Line is a social enterprise which aims to get young people into work by training them to be independent baristas – the kinds of skills that may take them way beyond coffee. We Walk The Lines's expansion into Firstsite was the brainchild of Julie Young, Mayor of Colchester, who said at the event yesterday that she was 'bursting with pride' at its arrival at the gallery.

The café will sell ethically sourced teas and coffees, and cakes and snacks made by Colchester-based Good Souls Bakery and Unique Bakes.

There's an air of inclusivity and quiet energy about Firstsite at the moment, led by Director Sally Shaw. Unusually for an arts-based launch event, the conventions of formality were put aside in favour of bonhomie, in-depth conversation and the sharing of ideas.

The event was held in the last days of the Gee Vaucher retrospective at Firstsite. Vaucher is an artist and cultural anarchist from the Crass Collective, and her exhibition and surrounding events continue to humanise and elevate Firstsite to a vehicle for social meaning and cultural change.

Sunday 12th February also saw the return of immensely popular Syrian pop-up café, organised by Colchester Refugee Action, showing that Firstsite is committed to embedding itself in the aspirations of Colchester and beyond.

And there's a whole new exhibition on the way. Zhang Enli: Gesture and Form is on from 11th March to 4th June.



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