

## **SPRING 2023 UPDATE**

### **2022/23 Sir Denis Mahon Sculptural Project Grant**

#### **Awardees**

#### **Alfie Biro Sidford – BA Fine Art**

Since receiving the Sir Denis Mahon Sculptural Project Grant at the beginning of this year, I have been making work that charts the highs and lows of the community gardens I have been part of around London. Working with found objects like my Jersey tree cabbage stems, traditionally in the 19th c. grown both to feed a Jersey cow through the winter, before being dried and employed as a sustainable walking stick, alongside laboured metal and glass that the grant has given me the freedom to be experimental with. By the culmination of my degree, I will join a very small club of cabbage walking stick crafters, making canes that will be adorned with decorative glass handles and silver feet.

When applying for the prize, I intended to make sculptural works informed by the feminist historically referenced works of Leonor Antunes that explored my Irish heritage, creating work that bridged the gap between the surviving tales of my family and those lost in transit. Whilst this is still true, the loss of a second community garden in twelve months prompted a pivot in my focus. Folklore and memory are still central to the work I have made, work that exists imbued with a sense of nostalgia, and gardening and associated labour and materials remain central. I see my work, exploring the lost garden on the ancient pilgrimage route of Old Kent Road, as a fitting evolution to sculpture that explored my great grandfather's own trials and tribulations as an immigrant gardener in London in the early 20th century.

Images:







