Donna Lynas MBE
8 January 1967 – 22 January 2021

It seems that it’s time that we had a collective hard think about what we want the future to look like and accept that relentless growth, innovation (and exploitation) is not going to work anymore. That it really is time to re-think absolutely everything; a chance to make things better maybe.

Donna Lynas, March 2015

Online Memorial
Friday 23 April 11am–12 noon
A celebration of the life of Donna Lynas, late Director of Wysing Arts Centre

Part One
Hosted by Harold Offeh, Artist and Wysing Trustee
Contributions from
- Gideon Pain, Donna’s husband
with remembrances from Mona Hatoum and Willie Doherty
- Margot Heller, Director, South London Gallery (2001–)
with actions by Marie Cool, Fabio Balducci and an extract from On Kawara’s
Reading One Million Years read by Marcia Farquhar and Tom McCarthy
- Helen Cammock, Artist
- Adam Christensen, Artist
- Jesse Darling, Artist

Part Two
Music provided by
- Imran Perretta, Artist
- Philomène Pirecki, Artist
- Paul Purgas, Artist

During this second part of the memorial, guests are invited to share memories of Donna in the chat room, to reconnect with old friends or to reflect privately.

I once read a neat description of how a bird’s specialised functionality – using the right eye for smaller, more detailed local information and the left eye for more global, contextual focus enables birds to hold this dual attention simultaneously.

I think this extraordinary capacityillustrates Donna’s leadership of Wysing Arts Centre. She never missed an opportunity to imagine and relentlessly pursue unique visions.

Donna was an artist herself and she imagined what a world would be like in which all schools, hospitals or public facing institutions had an artist in residence, such is the depth of artists’ contribution to society, to understanding and social cohesion.

Donna led the strategic direction of the Centre, its conditions for experimentation, growth and inclusion and something extraordinary has and is flourishing there. You can’t create those conditions overnight, it takes years of determined listening, iterating and building. Donna had a deeply held commitment to ensure that artists Wysing supports must reflect the diversity of the society in which we live and address the urgent concerns and challenges we face.

Donna is survived by her husband Gideon and two daughters Freya and Dora.