



**Granville Arcade:
empty spaces and
meeting places**

Alice Angus

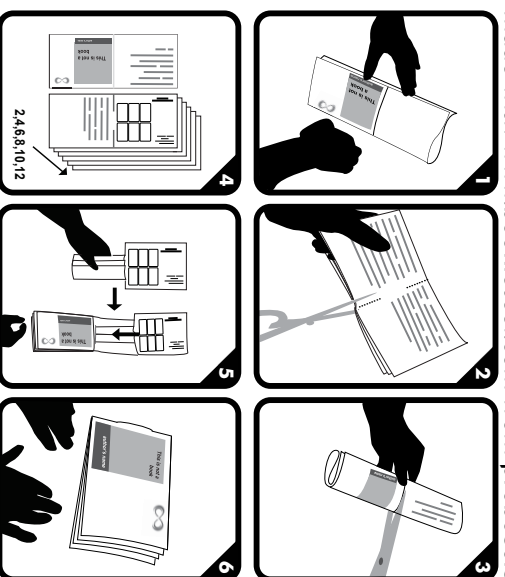




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Week long project exploring Granville Arcade in Brixton Market. A drawing commission to respond to the EmptyShops Tour, with the Empty Shops Network, created by artist Dan Thompson.
<http://proboscis.org.uk/1496/with-artiststandmakers-com-in-brixton-village/>

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The tour has been organised by the Empty Shops Network, with the first event happening just a week after the project was conceived at a meeting of organisations involved in bringing empty shops and spaces into use.

The tour is supported by the Meanwhile Project, and the Brixton event used a space provided by the Space Makers Agency. After Brixton, the tour will visit five further towns, with dates in Shoreham by Sea, Coventry, Carlisle and Durham.

Granville Arcade, February 2010

In February 2010 I was lucky enough to be commissioned by artist Dan Thompson to spend a few days in Granville Arcade, Brixton Market, responding to the first leg of Dan's [artistsandmakers.com](http://www.emptyshopsnetwork.com) Empty Shops Network Tour to six towns across England.

I joined Dan, Jan Williams (Caravan Gallery), Steve Bomford, Natasha Middleton and podcaster Richard Vobes, for lively discussion and to create new work on site for an all day event on the Saturday, you can hear Richard Vobes podcasts about the empty shops on the Empty Shops Radio, <http://www.emptyshopsradio.com/>

This year we've (Proboscis) been involved in several projects that have looked at the issue of common space and how its changing alongside the implications of huge shopping malls, department stores and the privatisation of public space. It was good to have the chance to stay in one place for a few days drawing, talking to stallholders and getting to scratch a little below the surface, seeing the flows of life. It was a real pleasure to be in a place where the character of it is created by the people using it to trade and to socialise. There was an almost constant sound of conversation, laughter and music and the smells of all the food being cooked or sold.



