

In Mumori

by Pif-Paf, R&D proposal

In Mumori is Pif-Paf's new project in development over 2026 for launch over 2027 and 2028. In Mumori will be a substantial sculpture of a Mother which can be played on by children and a nurturing space to hold conversation and activities with and between carers. It is about celebrating a marginalised and undervalued role.

Imagine diverse audience, play, tea, honest words, things Mums haven't said out loud before, laughter, care and definitely surprises.

In 2026 we are building partnerships to Action Research what this sculpture will look like and do on the street and how we will hold which conversations and relationships between Mums and carers.

The touring piece will be for daytime and after dark light events and libraries and other indoor spaces.

The **R&D** will involve a life size sculpture and a choice of activities that we will take to different groups and events - a real offer to participants that also develop In Mumori. Both the conversations and a large touring play structure need a lot of thought.

Since starting to talk about this project we have never had the same conversation twice. We know this project has many many pathways that we need to explore before doing it justice.



Why is Pif-Paf making In Mumori

In Mumori is led by our Co AD Eleanor Hooper and it means many things to us that initial conversations show resonate with peers and audiences.

- It is about sculpture and voice in public space - shining a light on the undervalued work of the carer - for which the Mother is the archetype and which falls disproportionately on marginalised people.
- Its about what Mum and Carer leave behind when they take on this role, as well as the gift it is a loss - saying this without shame .
- It starts - and holds - conversations with Mums and Carers. It celebrates the power of the carers body -
- It's about how the Mum and Carer do get clambered on in many ways - but It's also about the child's right to this full body play.

Timeline

- Early 2026 - build partnerships for multiple applications for support
- Summer 2026 - build a small - as in human life size Mum sculpture - mobile, inspiring and safe to be clambered but much more mobile.
- Deliver at least 4 Action Research activities with a wide range of carers
- Build further partnerships for a full ACE NLPG application - to start build in Early 27 for previews across late 27 and early 28
- continue Action Research of full touring project - developing at previews in spring 2027 before launch in Summer 2027



Early proposal maquette with example adult apx 1m80 high - a “planar” form - wrapped and curved, timber on steel frame. Audience will be able to lie in the mother’s Arms and climb on and up surfaces



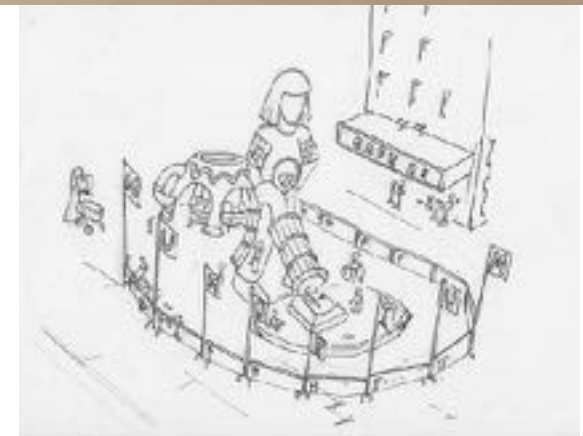
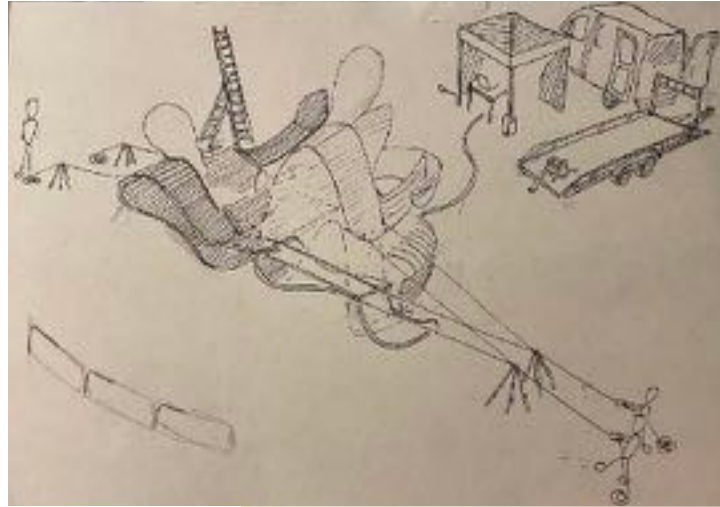
Using our engineering/fabrication skills and light and sound tech we could develop a planar form that can be played on and react to play with light and sound - both in speakers and haptic drivers in the sculpture

R&D

- What does the theme mean to people, how is this art not counselling,
- Training in hosting and facilitating sharing circles and pairing people off
- What are "the rules"? How do we balance ritual and participation
- What does ritual mean - do we build in elements/anchor/guide rails - something bigger than the individual to carry their burden.
- How many people can we welcome in and look after. Is there another symbol or story or something from lessons from TOAST ?
- Is there an archetypal story or food/drink around ritual. What is personal story sharing in this context.
- What lessons from Right to Play do we use and what understanding of parents and children - holding space for young people. different needs of different ages
- How do we not force conversation, gently facilitating and chatting
- work with core team, look at training in facilitation, diversity?? develop
- what are these
- find a master story to build out from -
- look at temples, framework for the the participatory/happening at the hour or two hours,

Development Pathway Drawings

Eleanor Hooper's conceptual drawings and the design pathway - scale is much reduced from these. Set up sketch is useful, carrying panels into place and using ropes and ingenuity to raise rather than machinery.



Current way forward. As we hope to enter R&D we will be open to all possibilities but as a way of communicating our thinking we like this proposal - it gives many ways to interact and is feasible for a small team to tour and maintain. On the image of the Mum's back there is a much smaller scale child to envisage what a larger sculpture might feel like.

In MumoriM Mood Board



Tom Otterness - playful public art, approaches to slides and



Rose Jaffe - contemporary USA



Niki De Sainte Phalle - themes of woman and Mother



timber/steel hybrids of La Machine/

Pif-Paf's skills journey building to In Mumori

Pif-Paf's early Lantern puppets - sculptural form and illumination, mixed effects,



Sculptural aerial circus equipment and construction - touring playgrounds for adults, engineering, rig and de-rig, mixed materials for all weathers



Right To Play 2024/25 - a necessarily pared back touring playground. In this project we learnt a great deal about touring play equipment - best practice, guidelines, regulations, safety, risk, matting, parental accompaniment as well as a summer long installed version



Interactive installations - latterly in timber, this work has been at impressive scales and very tourable, working with the most sustainable of timber supplies and crafting the work at Pif-Paf's home base. The work has given us years of experience in touring ambitious structures safely and integrating sound light and participation



We have learnt how to welcome whole families - what each