

Cara Macwilliam - Avenue to the Arts

Dates show meaningful periods, the numbers are the age I was whilst doing the job.

(1986)14 Shop Assistant in a meat shop - sacked because I wouldn't kiss the owners 18 year old son, Manchester - Became vegetarian after this.

15 Clerical work at dad's office, Electrical Contractor, Manchester

16 Shop Assistant Manchester

17 Dropped out of College (A levels)

17 Full Time work - Clerical Assistant at shop workers union, USDAW. Manchester

18 Cleaner & Waitress South of France - left the UK with £100 in my pocket and no work visa, worked illegally - (before we were part of the EU)

19 Waitress - Manchester

(1992) 20 Waitress - Euro Disney, Paris

20 Recreation Assistant - Euro Disney, Paris

21-25 Stable Lad & Horse Handler - Euro Disney, Paris

25 Waitress - Les Landes & South of France

25 Call Center Adviser, Manchester

26 Account Manager, Manchester

26 Bar Staff / Deli Assistant

27 TEFL Course & Qualified, Manchester

(1999) 27 -30 TEFL Teacher , Java & Bali

30 ESOL Teacher, Manchester

30-32 Senior TEFL Teacher , Java

32 ESOL teacher & Call Center Advisor, Manchester

(2006) 33 - 49 (present) Sick & Unable to work - Became dependent on benefits, have been sick for 15 years, housebound for 8 - So I've personally been in a lockdown since 2013.

(2018) 46 Started my art practice, I'd loved art at school but my GCSE teacher was awful and knocked my confidence really badly. I used a lot of art in my teaching practice, and had always been an avid exhibition goer and would spend all my free time going to galleries, watching art films, theater, music. So to finally be back doing what I love has been so good for me, incredibly healing on a psychic level. I'd love for this to move to a sustainable career for me to be able to manage through illness if possible. And if not it's still good for me in terms of internal well being.