



ARTISTIC EVALUATION: Visual Art and Crafts

This evaluation is intended to represent an objective aesthetic judgement. **Specialist advisors and officers should avoid making judgements based on their own personal tastes and preferences wherever possible.**

Artist: GROUP SHOW

Venue: PROJECT ABILITY/COLLINS GALLERY

Title of Event : MYSCAPE

Type of Event: VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

Date of Visit: 16th FEBRUARY 2010

Overall Rating: VERY GOOD

(Please rate the event overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – ie the particular strengths and weaknesses. If the management of the event affects the overall enjoyment of the event, please comment, but the overall rating should be based on the artistic merit of the event.)

Name: Fiona Jardine

Date: 18th February 2010

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Specialist Advisor

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named above. It has been prepared by either a specialist Advisor, or an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated on the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and to the management of the venue, if the venue is core funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

The report will form evidence for the Artistic Leadership and Public Engagement sections of the Quality Framework and be taken into account in assessing the work of the producing company in relation to future applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Joint Board to report on the overall performance of its funded organisations.

Evaluators should enter their rating under each section, explaining briefly their reason for the rating with reference to their comments under each section. Ratings should be given in accordance with the following:

Very poor- standard falls well below what is acceptable.

Poor - not well conceived and executed

Satisfactory

Good - well conceived and executed

Very Good – well conceived and executed to a very good standard

Excellent – Inspiring and executed to an exceptionally high standard

1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, with particular reference to the strengths and weaknesses of the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
<p>Vision and imagination of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of ideas, execution of work and installation if you have seen other work of this artist(s) before, please comment on any relevant comparisons 	EXCELLENT	The quality of work on show from the 17 artists invited to present work in the exhibition was without exception interesting, personal and “committed”. The curation mixed sculptural works with collages, paintings and drawings etc. meaning that there was an engaging variation in “pace” for the visitor.
<p>Curatorial/ programming vision/ selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does it fit within the artistic vision of the organisation? If the event is part of a Festival, please say how it contributes to the overall programme. 	VERY GOOD	The exhibition reflects the interests of Project Ability very well, and the co-presentation with Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde is an intelligent pairing – individually, the Collins Gallery and Project Ability attract differing peripheral audiences (even if their “core” is similar). Each presentation could also operate as a stand alone.
<p>Success of event against stated aims of exhibition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does it relate to information contained in the programme, the website or other printed material? How well did it communicate the artistic themes? How did the event originate eg from the exhibiting/ producing organisation, from the artist or from commission? <p>Education events – see ¹below for definition</p>	GOOD	<p>The exhibition related well to website information printed introduction, though it was difficult to discern whether/what work was made specifically FOR the exhibition or was selected FROM work already existent.</p> <p>Although the work on show was pleasingly divergent, there is a popular connection between autistic artistic practice (specifically drawing) and architecture (through Stephen Wiltshire) and it may have been insightful to plug into this in (the introduction) more directly and provoke the passing viewer. (I did not read the publication so it may be that this was addressed in the critical essays).</p> <p>The event originated from the participating organisations.</p>
<p>Quality of Public Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of space and overall layout/hang? What interpretation or support materials were available? Were labels/maps available and how appropriate were they? Was a Visitor Book available or opportunities for audiences to comment/interact? What were the comments like overall? What activities were available to enhance the experience of the event eg workshops, artist’s talks, discussion groups programmes, on line info? 	GOOD	<p>The exhibition was very well installed and lit; printed maps and a general introduction readily available.</p> <p>The Visitor Book in Project Ability carried very positive comments.</p> <p>Artist talks and a “First Thursday” at Project Ability were listed on the striking flyer produced for the exhibition.</p>

¹ Education is a bridge between artform excellence and increased access and participation, and it is people centred. Providing opportunities for learning and progressing in an artform or using an artform to address other, non-artistic, outcomes are equally valid; in either case a high quality strategic approach is required in order to benefit the participants and the organisation. Delivery can be through workshops, post/pre-show discussions, outreach work, etc aimed at any age group.

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations. Please try to view the venue and the services, and interpretative material as though you had never visited it before eg if you did not know the venue's location, how easy would it be to find your way there, and to find your way around once you had arrived?

Criteria	Comment																
Location and suitability of the venue for the event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route? Are the spaces clean? How suitable was it for the exhibition? 	<p>Project Ability: Very easy to find, on a main transport route; spaces clean; suitable for exhibition.</p> <p>Collins Gallery: Less easy to find, slightly off main transport routes; spaces clean; suitable for exhibition.</p>																
Information/ interpretive material at venue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there programmes, posters and displays about the event? Is there information on the venue's website? 	Information was freely available on site and on line.																
Publicity/ pre-publicity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What leaflets, posters, websites, did you see the event listed in? What publicity materials are produced? Is it easy to understand/appropriate to the intended audience? Where can you get the information? Is there Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding²? <p>Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event and comment on the company/organisation's website.</p>	<p>The exhibition was well listed in locally and nationally. Flyers were strikingly coloured and well distributed. Introductory information was easy to understand – perhaps it could have been a bit more in depth (see above). Information is available online / at venues. SAC funding is acknowledged. Project Ability's website is easy to negotiate and attractive. Collins Gallery's website is easy to negotiate but a bit blank.</p>																
Signage and signposting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the entrance clearly marked? Is there clear internal directional signage? Is there Braille signage or signage for audio loops? 	<p>Project Ability: Entrance clearly marked; clear internal signage; did not see Braille or audio loops.</p> <p>Collins Gallery: Entrance clearly marked and separate entrance for wheelchair users indicated; clear internal signage; did not see Braille or audio loops.</p>																
Access and provision for disabled people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please insert yes/no in the boxes to reflect what you notice about the venue/event <p>Please add in any additional comments below the table</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes/No</th> <th></th> <th>Yes/No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BSL interpretation</td> <td>N</td> <td>Audio description</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Captioning</td> <td>Maps</td> <td>Lift/ramp</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accessible toilets</td> <td>Y</td> <td>Accessible marketing materials eg website or alternative formats eg large print, Plain English</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes/No		Yes/No	BSL interpretation	N	Audio description	N	Captioning	Maps	Lift/ramp	Y	Accessible toilets	Y	Accessible marketing materials eg website or alternative formats eg large print, Plain English	Y
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Customer service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How was the quality and 	Satisfactory at both venues.																

² In press releases, at launches, on all published materials (including leaflets, brochures, programmes, posters, company's website, notices display, exhibition materials, websites and advertising, recordings, publications, video, broadcasts, computer programmes etc.) Where the event is publicised in the programme brochure of another organisation (eg venue, gallery, etc) then SAC acknowledgement should appear against the particular programme entry for this event.

Criteria	Comment
efficiency of staff (invigilators etc) • If possible, comment on how responsive they were to the needs of disabled customers?	

3. Organisation's Comments (optional)

This is the organisation's opportunity to respond to points raised within this assessment. Please do not feel obliged to fill this section in. In the spirit of the Quality Framework, we would ask that any comments are self-evaluating, providing an insight as to why, if there is, a major disagreement of response between the organisation and the evaluation, in a constructive way.

This will not alter the rating given by the assessment, but will allow the organisation the opportunity to give their opinion/feedback. The Scottish Arts Council reserves the right to edit comments if they are deemed to be libellous or defamatory.

As the Scottish Arts Council implements the Quality Framework internally, we intend to publish artistic evaluations on organisations that we support regularly on our website. The final artistic evaluation, including the organisation's response will be published on a quarterly basis on our website.

Please keep your response to max 500 words. If we do not hear from you in 15 days, we will assume that you do not want to respond.