



Updated June 2007

ARTISTIC EVALUATION

It should be noted the views expressed in this evaluation are intended to represent, as far as possible, an objective aesthetic judgement. Specialist advisors and officers should avoid making judgements based on their own personal tastes and preferences.

Artist/Company: SSW / Ganghut

Venue: SSW, Lumsden

Title of Event: Launch of Ganghut Project Space / inaugural exhibition by Euan Taylor/Inefficient solutions

Type of Event: Launch

Date of Visit: 15/11/08

Overall Rating: 5

(Please rate the event overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – i.e. 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.)

My overall rating is 5. This is an excellent outcome from SSW working over a long term period with artist collective GANGHUT. The Ganghut Project Space is a permanent architectural structure that illustrates an intriguing development in Ganghut's aims and practice. The group must also be commended through their collaboration with DRAW Architects that they took on the majority of the actual build. The Ganghut ethic and project space has already shown success in the results of the first residency, Euan Taylor. His installation was launched at the same time as the Project Space.

For SSW who has no exhibition space on site, the Ganghut Project Space provides a different kind of space to produce and show work in.

Over the course of the year it will be interesting to see the interpretative methods Ganghut and SSW use to communicate the outcomes of this first series of residents and commissions.

Name: _Jenny Brownrigg_____ Date: _30/11/08

Specialist Advisor

Please circle the relevant title

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 at the end of 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

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:

- 1 - Very Poor** – standard falls well below what is acceptable.
- 2 - Poor** – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.
- 3 - Competent** – routine rather than especially interesting.
- 4 - Good** – well conceived and executed
- 5 - Excellent** – conceived and executed to a high standard.

1. Artistic Assessment

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

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
All	Vision and imagination of work - Quality of ideas, skills in execution; if you've seen the work of this artist(s)/ company before, please comment on the comparison.	5	Ganghut have always seen the environments they build as a major part of what happens in their activities. In the past I visited the Ganghut camp built in Spike Island, Bristol, a kind of barracks where the group lived, worked and held live events within. I was also a visitor at the Ganghut Gala day in Lumsden (2007). Here in a field by SSW the group built structures including stage, watchtower, gateway and float that denoted areas of activity for the Gala Day. The Ganghut Project Space re-configures and re-builds materials and structures from the Ganghut Gala Day. It is the group's most ambitious project to date. Rather than a temporary structure this is a collaboration with DRAW Architects, to create a permanent project space. In the first year Ganghut will curate a programme of residencies and commissions here, for artists to use the project space as their studio and event space if appropriate.
All (if relevant)	Curatorial/ programming vision/ selection Please indicate how the event originated eg from the exhibiting/ producing organisation, artist-led or commissioned. If the event is part of a Festival, please say how it contributes to the overall programme.	5	SSW has developed a successful working relationship with Ganghut over a longer period of time, a previous highlight being the Ganghut Gala day in Lumsden in 2007. The launch of the Ganghut Residency space is an excellent outcome, combining the ongoing support of SSW and the richness of its context, with the growing ambitions of this group of artists.

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
All	<p>Success of event against stated aims - in the programme or other printed material, including how well it communicated the artistic themes.</p> <p>Education events – see ¹below for guidance</p>	5	<p>Ganghut as a collective have always seen it as an important aim to draw in other artists to show work or perform as part of Ganghut core activities. The Ganghut Project Space is a physical embodiment of this, as they will curate a year-long programme of artist residencies and commissions to take place there.</p> <p>Written material was on the website and on information sent out via email prior to the event.</p> <p>The inaugural artist in resident, Euan Taylor, who also was involved in the building work of the Ganghut Project Space, showed the culmination of his work at this launch. Taylor, a DJCAD 2008 graduate, has focused on building large-scale sculptural installations out of lo-fi materials that can be traversed in some way by the audience. His work for Ganghut was a cabin, built on top of the tower part of the Ganghut Project Space. The work showed a mature and ambitious development in his practice. Reached by a exterior staircase he had built up the Ganghut structure, many people climbed up to get their bird's eye view from it.</p>
All	<p>Performers/tutors - technical standard, performance skills and ability to communicate and engage.</p> <p>Where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.</p>		n/a
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc		n/a
Theatre	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions. Relevant to classics where the original has been substantially changed.		n/a

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.

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Theatre, Dance	Direction - Concerns issues of interpretation, casting and presentation.		n/a
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.		n/a
Dance, Theatre	Design – costume, set, lighting. Take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue and, where appropriate, the touring schedule.		n/a
All	<p>Quality of Presentation/Engagement</p> <p>Performing Arts - technical presentation of the production (eg lighting and sound cues, etc).</p> <p>Crafts/Visual Arts - Use of equipment, space and overall layout/hang</p> <p>Education events - relevance/ appropriateness of presentation and teaching methodology (one to one, group, child centred); details of participant group and activity, including genre.</p>	5	The Ganghut Project space, whilst embracing the Ganghut aesthetic, materials and colours, is a successful collaboration with DRAW Architects to be a structure that can last. It is also a successful outcome of the engagement this group of artists has had with the SSW organisation and Lumsden community over a two-year period. Sited within the SSW yard, it provides another type of facility for SSW where work can furthermore be exhibited.
All	<p>Audience</p> <p>Performing Arts - appropriateness of the production for the audience/participants; estimate the size and reaction</p> <p>Crafts/Visual Arts – time spent, interest, activity, and visitors' books comments, number of visitors/ participants at the time of visit</p> <p>Education/learning – pre-event involvement, participants/ schoolteachers reaction, understanding, commitment, enthusiasm, number involved, etc</p>		At the Ganghut launch, over a 5-hour period, I would approximate that there were around 100 attending. Most of the audience stayed for at least two hours, many for the entire afternoon. The audience included an MFA group from Greys School of Art, Aberdeen; and minibuses that had been put on by the organisers bringing people from Aberdeen and Dundee.
All	Additional Interpretative activity – what activities were available to enhance the experience of the event eg workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups? Please indicate age-groups targeted.		n/a
All	Outcomes of education activity – what learning/skills development took place? What did participants take away with them? Are education resources being provided for follow up work? Is it strategically linked to the curriculum (formal or informal)?	4	In the run-up to the launch a group of MFA students from Greys School of Art, independently curated a project based on their interaction with Ganghut and their observations of the group as they undertook the build. The output took the form of a presentation and exhibition within the

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
			Ganghut Project Space.

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
Suitability of the venue for the event	SSW was an entirely suitable venue for this event. The organisation amongst its activities is predominantly an artists' residency and has excellent experience of residency and commissioning. It will be able to cater to the needs of the Ganghut Project Space residents and continue to provide support to Ganghut in this new venture.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	Each Ganghut Project Space residency and commission will be featured on the website.
Publicity/ pre-publicity –leaflets, posters, websites, etc. What is produced, is it easy to understand and where can you get the information? Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event and comment on the company/organisation's website.	Pre-publicity took the form of distributed posters and emails through SSW networks, Yahoo email groups and other organisation's information networks including DJCAD Exhibitions Department and Dundee City Council. Publicity and pre-publicity was also on SSW website.
Ease of booking and payment	n/a
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	SSW has a rural location in the village of Lumsden. The nearest railway station is Huntly, a 30-minute drive away. The most realistic option of travelling to Lumsden is by car.
External signage and signposting	The Ganghut building, located in SSW's yard, has the Ganghut insignia clearly external to the Ganghut Project Space.
Internal directional signage	SSW is very much a working building, comprising of studios, foundry and living spaces. It has no internal directional signage. The Ganghut Project Space is compact so does not require internal directional signage.
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	There is a ramp up to the entrance of Ganghut Project Space and the doorway is wide enough for disable access.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	The launch timing was appropriate.

Criteria	Comment
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	The Ganghut artists and SSW hosted this event efficiently and the atmosphere was friendly.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ²	SAC funding was acknowledged on all print and publicity.

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.

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.