



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 Gallery- Trongate 103
Title of Event :	Ourselves and Others
Type of Event:	Exhibition
Date of Visit:	15.10.2009
Overall Rating:	Good

This was the inaugural exhibition at Project Ability's new space at the new Arts Centre at Trongate 103.

Project Ability works with individuals with various disabilities including mental health and enables and supports these individuals to discover, nurture and further their art.

Ourselves and Others was an exhibition exploring human relationships and experiences with work that placed an emphasis on exploring notions of portraiture. The exhibition showcased the work of 14 artists who work at Project Ability. The work addressed the themes of domestic relationships through various and diverse media, including drawings, paint, print and photography.

The work was well installed and consistently held the pristine, purpose built space well.

Name: Steve Hollingsworth	Date:
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 	Good	<p>There were a total of 28 works by 14 artists who work at project ability and are supported by professional artists to extend their ideas and practices. Some artists had several works-Carole Lee exhibited 9 framed drawings. There was a great diversity in the way the various artists had tackled the complex and very personal aspects of domestic relationships through portraiture. I was struck by several of the artists work-John Fitzpatrick had a very evolved artistic language and his work was very interesting in the way he juxtaposed images with an abstract geometric language. Jan Platun exhibited a photograph (a Polaroid) held up against a parkland-father and daughter-Many of the works had a melancholic air and this work in particular seemed to address the way photography can never fully bridge memories of past and present. There was a great diversity of styles and artists at different stages of development- it provided a thought-provoking visit.</p>
<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. 	Good	<p>This was an ideal showcase of work made by artists supported my project ability and showed the diversity of work produced there. It ideally suited Project Abilities intentions in assisting people with various disabilities find and develop an artistic voice though being supported by the professional artists Project Ability employs.</p>
<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>This was a successful exhibition and it related exactly to all information I saw regarding the exhibition.</p> <p>The theme of 'ourselves and others' was well chosen in holding the exhibited works together under an appropriate title.</p> <p>The work was all made at Project Ability and developed from the support given to artists supported at the organisation.</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>This is a brand new space at the new Arts Complex- Trongate 103. The work held the space very well and with sensitivity to each individuals work.</p> <p>There was an information panel outside the gallery that provided brief information on the show. Work was labelled.</p> <p>A visitors book was available that had many favourable comments.</p> <p>I don't believe there were any other activities to accompany the show. Due to the personal nature of the work and ethos of Project Ability this perhaps wouldn't have been appropriate.</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																
<p>Location and suitability of the venue for the event</p> <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>The exhibition was at the new Arts Complex of Trongate 103. Very close to the centre of Glasgow and on busy Argyll street the space is very accessible and easy to locate, with several transport routes in the immediate vicinity</p> <p>The spaces were purpose built with Project Ability in mind. The space was pristine and ideally suited the exhibited works.</p>																
<p>Information/ interpretive material at venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there programmes, posters and displays about the event? Is there information on the venue's website? 	<p>There was information regarding project ability at reception on the ground floor and in the gallery itself. The reception desk in the gallery was unstaffed on my visit.</p> <p>There was also information on Project Abilities website http://www.project-ability.co.uk/</p>																
<p>Publicity/ pre-publicity</p> <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>There were several websites with information.</p> <p>Project ability publishes several leaflets that provide information on its activities. Information is appropriate and easy to understand. This information is available both on the website and from leaflets available in Trongate 103 and in the gallery itself. SAC is acknowledged on all material.</p> <p>http://www.project-ability.co.uk/exhibitions/ourselves-and-others</p> <p>http://www.glasgowgalleries.co.uk/project_ability.htm</p> <p>http://whatson.seeglasgow.com/Event9774</p> <p>http://www.list.co.uk/place/605-project-ability/</p>																
<p>Signage and signposting</p> <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>When in Trongate 103, there is a staffed reception desk at ground floor level to provide information and directions. Signposting is also clear.</p>																
<p>Access and provision for disabled people</p> <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>no</td> <td>Audio description</td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Captioning</td> <td>yes</td> <td>Lift/ramp</td> <td>yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accessible toilets</td> <td>yes</td> <td>Accessible marketing materials eg website or alternative formats eg large print, Plain English</td> <td>yes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes/No		Yes/No	BSL interpretation	no	Audio description	no	Captioning	yes	Lift/ramp	yes	Accessible toilets	yes	Accessible marketing materials eg website or alternative formats eg large print, Plain English	yes
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<p>Customer service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How was the quality and efficiency of staff (invigilators etc) If possible, comment on how responsive they were to the needs of disabled customers? 	<p>Staff were helpful at ground level to 103 and addressed every visitor. I didn't speak to anyone in the gallery. Someone who was a wheelchair user was being shown around the space whilst I was visiting.</p>																

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.