

Artistic Evaluation – Visual Arts

Organisation/Venue: MODERN INSTITUTE

Title of Event: MONICA SOSNOWSKA

Type of Event: (eg exhibition/workshop/screening/lecture) **EXHIBITION**

Date of Visit: SAT 6 MARCH 2004

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named below. It has been prepared by either a Specialist Advisor or a Council Officer 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 it is Core Funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

The report may be made available to Scottish Arts Council Officers, Council and Committee members, and Specialist Advisors as appropriate. It will be taken into account in assessing the work of the organisation in relation to applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Council to report on the overall performance of its Core 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 attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation
- **Competent** – routine rather than especially interesting
- **Good** – well conceived and executed.
- **Excellent** – conceived and executed to a high standard.

This form is available electronically. Please word process/type response.

Assessment will depend of nature of event/exhibition reviewed but we anticipate it should take between 30 - 45 minutes to fill this form in.

1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the **artistic quality** of the event

1.1 Vision and Imagination:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	X	

Monica Sosnowska's installation at Modern Institute was a very ambitious project which worked successfully within the context of the space and surrounding environment of Modern Institute.

The site specific nature of this exhibit worked well within the context of Modern Institute's programme.

1.2 Clarity of Communication:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	X	
Excellent		

The level of communication was appropriate to the nature of the installation.

You are also asked to assess the **strengths and weaknesses** of the event with specific reference to the following:

1.3 Artist's Work - please include:

- quality of ideas
- skills in execution
- have you seen the work of this artist/these artists before (particularly in relation to new work, or second productions)

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	X	
Excellent		

I have seen an exhibit by this artist once before but found this work to be far superior in scope and presentation. It was appropriate to the space, related to the context of the surrounding area well and was installed to a high standard. To see a site specific work of this kind transform Modern Institute space in this way was unexpected, thus even more remarkable.

1.4 Curatorial Vision/Selection:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	X	
Excellent		

The show worked well within the context of Modern Institute's exhibition programme – again partly because I did not expect to confront such an ambitious installation which overtook the entire space.

Please also indicate, as far as you are aware, if the event:

has been originated by the exhibiting organisation **X**

hired a collaboration

part of a festival artist led

(Please tick above as appropriate)

1.5 Standards of presentation – please include:

- use of equipment
- use of space
- overall layout/hang

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	X	

The ambition of the gallery, the use of the space, the presentation of the work and the level of skill by the installers was excellent. The artists careful consideration of the space, site and surrounding landscape and its relation to the final nature of the structure was also excellent.

1.6 Please indicate the range, quantity, clarity, tone and level of Interpretative information/material provided at the venue:

- wall panels
- labels
- catalogue
- leaflets
- artists CVs

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		On entering the gallery you encountered the structure without warning or information, after navigating through the work you emerged into a space within the gallery where information on the artist was available. This was a clear and concise introduction to the artist, explaining her concepts and the connotations behind the work on exhibit and her background.
Poor		
Competent		
Good	X	
Excellent		I feel this level of interpretation material good and appropriate for the work and the venue.

1.7 Please indicate the number of visitors/participants at the time of your visit:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		
Very Poor		0 – the gallery was actually closed on the day of my visit, with a member of staff allowing me access.
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.8 Please indicate the audience reaction – to include:

- time spent
- interest
- activity
- visitors' book comments

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		As I was alone I feel unable to select a rating, however in discussion with the member of staff I was told that the previous nights opening had been a hit with children – which would be understandable.
Poor		
Competent		There is no visitors book.
Good		
Excellent		

1.9 Please indicate how appropriate you think the work was for the audience:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	X	

Again, this artist was an appropriate choice for this venue but the ambitious nature of the install contrasted with my expectations in a positive way to make this an excellent exhibit for the audience.

1.10 Please indicate events available and groups targeted:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	X	
Good		
Excellent		

None was evident.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| workshops | | pre-school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| artist's talks | | primary | |
| discussion groups | <input type="checkbox"/> | secondary | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | students | |
| | | over 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | over 60 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(Please tick above as appropriate)

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and by the venue. Please answer, where relevant, with reference to the checklist below adding any other comments/observations you may have.

2.1 Was the venue suitable for the event?

YES

2.2 Information/Interpretive material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc) range, quantity and clarity

GOOD - SEE 1.6

2.3 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the Event (leaflets, posters, etc)

- range, content and when and where available. Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Please also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised. Comment on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information.

GOOD – The only problem was that there was no opening hours on the card that I received

2.4 Accessibility of the venue

GOOD

- ease of payment (if applicable)

N/A

- location

COMPETENT

- external signposting

GOOD | Signage was on the door with contact details

- internal directional signing

COMPETENT

- access and provision for disabled people

POOR | But this is due to the nature of the work which would make the exhibit a problem to some visitors with disabilities

- opening hours/ timing of event

COMPETENT

- attractiveness for children/families

GOOD

2.5 Customer service

- quality and efficiency of staff (eg welcoming, informed)

EXCELLENT

The member of staff allowed me access on a day when the gallery is closed and was well informed and discussed at length the exhibition and programming strategy and future programme.

3. Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding (if applicable)

Following is an extract from the Scottish Arts Council's conditions of grant for funded organisations:

“The company should acknowledge Scottish Arts Council funding in press releases, at launches, on all published materials (including leaflets, brochures, programmes, posters, notices display and exhibition materials, websites and advertising). Acknowledgement of the Scottish Arts Council grant must also be made in any secondary or indirect products arising from the revenue funding such as recordings, publications, video, broadcasts, and computer programmes etc. “

Please comment on whether the above conditions of grant were met, including use and prominence of the Scottish Arts Council logo on the company's website.

I did not see the SAC logo

4. Scoring

Overall Rating. Please rate the event overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – that is the particular strengths and weaknesses.

Overall Rating <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: This exhibition was an ambitious project in which the artist contextualised the work within the fabric of the environment to a much more successful conclusion than I had seen in her work previously. The curatorial vision, professionalism of presentation and sheer hard work undertaken by Modern Institute made this an exciting and innovative exhibition.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	X	

Name: Elizabeth McLean
Date: 08 March 2004

Advisor X
(Please tick above as appropriate)

Scottish Arts Council Officer